

Lighthouse Bible Church

December 22nd, 2013

Isaiah 9: 1 – 7

Scripture Reading: Matthew 4: 12 - 17

‘This is no ordinary Child’

Stand – Read – Pray

As you know, we have taken a break from the book of John to focus on different aspects of the Christmas season and the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Two weeks ago we looked at the promised Seed of the virgin birth by tracing the Seed of the woman promised in Genesis 3: 15 to the birth of Jesus Christ in Luke Chapter 1.

This morning I would like to go back into the Old Testament in our passage in Isaiah and see in more detail the prophecy and promise of the birth of the Messiah, Jesus Christ because it was no ordinary birth as we have seen and He is no ordinary baby as we will see.

The interesting thing about this passage is that what Isaiah said some 600 years before the birth of Jesus coming as a light into a dark world, really parallels our day today.

You see many celebrate Christmas, the birth of Jesus, with a sense of happiness and merriment, when in actuality when you look around at our world today, there isn't much to be merry about, especially when it comes to the true Christ of Christmas.

The birth of our Savior is now commercial big business that the world can capitalize on this time of year and while doing so can camouflage His birth with all the trappings of Christmas. It is at this time in the life of America that we need the true Christ of Christmas more than ever, much like the people in the time in which Isaiah was writing; because they like us are a God mocking, materialistic, idolatrous, self-indulgent, sinful world.

Isaiah promised a Savior would come and when He came His own people, **John 1: 11** what, **they received Him not**. And they are still not receiving Him today. Instead, they take the one time of year, the one day of the year to celebrate His birth, and turn it into a materialistic celebration of self-indulgence and mockery of God and idolatrous worship of things.

This is the kind of world that Isaiah was writing to when he writes of the promise of a special child being born in Isaiah 9: 6 that can save the world, the promised Redeemer. Let me give you just a little history to bring us to where we are in Isaiah 9.

Back in Isaiah Chapter 7 God, through the prophet Isaiah, denounced king Ahaz for his idolatrous, sinful life of following after other Gods. He instituted the worship of the God Molech in the valley of Hinnom near Jerusalem. He erected a statute of Molech and at the base of the statue he had a furnace in which children, young children, could be offered as a sacrifice to this god. **Psalm 106: 35 - 38** says **they mingled with the Gentiles and learned their works; they served their idols which became a snare to them. They even sacrificed their sons and their daughters to demons and shed innocent blood...**

By the way, the apostle Paul said in **1st Corinthians 10: 20** **the things which the Gentiles sacrifice they sacrifice to demons and not to God and I do not want you to have fellowship with demons**. You see, idolatry, the worship of other Gods, is worshipping and fellowshiping with demons.

In **Psalm 96: 5** it says **all the gods of the nations** or peoples **are idols**. That word idol when translated into the Greek version of the Old Testament from the Hebrew is the word *daimonia* which means demons.

This, along with all the mediums and wizards and fortune tellers, is what was going on in the time of Isaiah's writing that really parallels our time today. Although today, we sacrifice our children in a more discreet way, in the womb with the act of abortion; albeit it is just as painful for that young life. And the idols we worship are not wooden or metal but money or self or sports figures or movie stars or any number of things ... and the wizards and mediums that whisper and mutter are seen in horoscopes, palm readers, witchcraft, spiritism, the occult and the like... we are no different.

It is against this backdrop of vileness and sin and evil and anti-God sentiment, that we live in today, that Isaiah was writing when he writes about the promise of a coming Savior who would be born into the world. Isaiah writes in **Isaiah 7: 14** **the Lord Himself will give you a sign; behold the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son and you shall call His name Immanuel.**

That message that Isaiah preached to a dark dying world then, is the same message we preach today to a lost, dark, decaying, dying world as well. **There is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior who is Christ the Lord** as **Luke 2: 11** says. So let's set the scene as we look at this passg.

Isaiah says in Verse 19 of Chapter 8 that they seek those who are mediums and wizards who whisper and mutter. He says the nation of Israel, much like today, was preoccupied with the occult practices and trying to contact the dead, and he says 'should not the people be seeking after God'.

And when they don't seek after God and His law and testimony, Verse 20 says, it is because there is no light in them. They are lost in darkness and sin.

Then the result of not believing in or seeking after God or the testimony of His Word, Verse 21 says, 'They will pass through it hard pressed and hungry and it shall happen ... they will be enraged and curse their king and God and look upward.'

This is a picture of distress and anger that gets directed to those in authority and the ultimate authority, God because they don't want to hear the message from God that Isaiah is telling them. So in their anger, they begin to curse they very God who can relieve their distress and provide they daily provisions. That is true despair and a hopeless condition to be in and yet many in Isaiah's time and in our time today are in that very place because of the rejection of God and Christ.

We have removed the Christ from Christmas. We pass laws that say you can't have a Nativity scene in your yard. We have removed God's law, the 10 commandments, from public places. We are removing 'in God we trust' from our money.

So where does someone who does not believe in God or abide by His words turn, where do they look to when they are not willing to look upward? Verse 22 tells us. 'Then they will look to the earth and see trouble and darkness and gloom of anguish and they will be driven into darkness'.

If you are not going to look up, you then look down and that is what they did and that is what our world does today 'they will look to the earth'. When you eliminate God, what else do you have to look to?

So like those people of Isaiah's time, we too become preoccupied with the earth, the environment, ecology, the oceans, the lands, the animals, global warming and all of those things that become our God that can never replace looking up to the living God.

What happens when you look to the earth? Verse 22 goes on to say 'and they see trouble and darkness, gloom of anguish and they will be driven into darkness'. That sounds just like our world today, and do you want to know something, most people are satisfied with trouble, gloom, anguish and darkness because **John 3: 19** says **men love darkness rather than light because their deeds are evil continually.**

It is to that generation in Isaiah's time and it is to this generation today, 2013, that Isaiah is writing about the promised Light that will come into the dark world and the light that we are to proclaim as we celebrate the Light of life in the birth of Jesus. Then look at Isaiah 9: 1 – 2.

Isaiah 9: 1 - 2: Isaiah says there is coming a time when the land of Zebulun and Naphtali and beyond the Jordan and Galilee will no longer experience the gloom of anguish and darkness. Because the people that walk in darkness, in the shadow of death have seen a great light that has shined on them. This is a promise of hope for a dark world and it is the coming of the Messiah, Jesus Christ.

And by the way, that is the same promised hope that we share with a lost, dark, dying world today. The hope of the gospel of Jesus Christ and His virgin birth, His sinless life, His crucifixion on a cross and substitutionary death for us and His raising from the grave to conquer death and His eventual return that **2nd Corinthians 4: 4** calls **the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ.**

Verses 3 – 5 is the result of the coming kingdom of the Messiah. Not only in the nation of Israel's deliverance from the Assyrians and Babylonians but it's ultimate deliverance from and ultimate peace in the millennial kingdom when Christ comes back.

Actually, Verses 3 – 5, could be the 2nd Christmas, where there will be true peace on earth and good will towards men when Christ is ruling and reigning on the earth as **Zechariah 14, Matthew 24, 1st Thessalonians 4 and Revelation 21** all tell us He will.

And then we see in **Verses 6 – 7** the reason that we celebrate Christmas today and that is because of the Child that was born and came into the world as the light of the world, the Savior of the world. He is no ordinary child.

To many people today, Jesus is acknowledged as a real person, a good teacher, a great man, an incredible influence, but they would rather keep Him in the manger as a little baby and they don't believe or won't acknowledge Him for who He truly is and how Isaiah presents Him here. By the way He is described as no other child is ever described. Look at verse 6.

For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given. This speaks of the humanity of Jesus Christ as God in human form, as the God man as we have seen in John. Isn't that what **Philippians 2: 7 – 8** says? **He took on the form of a bondservant and coming in the likeness of man and being found in appearance as a man He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.**

God became a man through the seed of the woman that we saw 2 weeks ago so that He could, in all points, experience the pain, suffering, and death for all humanity, by being one of us.

Then it says **unto us a Son is not born but given**. This is God's gift to mankind **John 3: 16** says **for God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son**. So Jesus was not only human He was deity, He is God, as we saw in **Isaiah 7: 14 Immanuel**, and He had to be, as we have seen.

Only the God-man Jesus could be the sinless sacrifice that could appease the wrath of God for our sins by becoming sin for us and dying in our place as the punishment for our sin.

How many times did God the Father say 'this is My beloved Son'. This was no ordinary Child or Son. This was the One who was virgin born, conceived of the Holy Spirit, who is the Light in a dark world, who brings hope from despair and gloom and anguish, who is the Savior of the world. He was the One promised from Genesis 3: 15 to Revelation 22.

This is the One whom people at this time of year and all year long disdain and hate and mock and commercialize and capitalize on and pay hypocritical homage to and would crucify again if He were here today. But to many of us, He is our Lord and Savior and much more as His name says.

He is **the Wonderful Counselor**. In a day when man is searching for wisdom, searching for answers, searching for the meaning of life and solutions to life's problems, all in the wrong places, Jesus is offered as the Wonderful Counselor because He knows everything about you and me.

He knows everything you do, everything you say, everything you think. Wouldn't you want a counselor like that; and not some psychiatrist or psychologist or self-help book to find real life changing answers. And by the way, this Wonderful Counselor is always with you too; He will never leave you or forsake you, right? This is no ordinary child.

He is not only the Wonderful Counselor, He is **Mighty God**. He is God in human form and He is all powerful, He is **mighty**. He has the power and might to defeat sin, redeem mankind, destroy Satan, conquer death, raise the dead, provide the way to heaven and escape the judgment of hell because He is Mighty God. All that power is expressed on behalf of you and me who love Him.

This is the Savior and God we announce to a dark, troubled, sinful world at Christmas time and all year long. That baby in the manger is almighty God and no ordinary child. Then He is described as **Everlasting Father** or better translated the Father of eternity.

He is the Father of all eternal life because He is from everlasting to everlasting God; that is why Jesus said in **John 10: 30 I and the Father are (what) one**. He is, to all who will believe in Him and receive Him, the source of everlasting life. **John 11: 25 I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me though he may die, yet shall he live and whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die**. Jesus said in **John 5: 24 he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life**. + **John 3: 16**.

This is no ordinary baby in a manger, this is the author and Father of eternal life. He holds eternity in His hands. Lastly He is called **The Prince of Peace** and **Verse 7 adds of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end**. Jesus is the Prince of Peace.

Jesus, **Ephesians 2: 14 says is our peace**. Jesus brings about peace in our life and reconciliation with God that our sin and rebellion had broken, through His death on the cross, right. **Romans 5: 1 says therefore being justified by faith we have PEACE with God through our Lord Jesus Christ**. The Prince of Peace can give you PEACE in your hearts as **Philippians 4: 7 says. And the PEACE of God, which surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus**.

Isaiah will later say in Chapter 11 that this Prince of Peace will rule on earth when He returns. **Isaiah 11: 6 – 8** says **the wolf will dwell with the lamb. The calf and the lion together, the cow and the bear together, the lion will eat straw like an ox, a child can play in a cobra's and vipers den.**

Isn't PEACE what people living in a dark, decaying, troubled, gloom filled earth want more than anything? They want peace and council and the power to overcome life's turmoils and eternal life and peace and it is all offered in the person of Jesus Christ. It is no accident that His names fulfill every desire of man because only He can.

He is the Wonderful Counselor that you need in every trial of life, He is the Mighty God who can take you out and snatch you out of every trial and make it victory, He is the Father of eternity who gives to you eternal life, He is the prince of peace who not only plants peace within your heart but makes peace between you and God and shall be with you and bring you to reign with Him in a Kingdom of peace. This is no ordinary child, this is God.

Notice that it says in Verse 6 'for unto us' 'for unto us'. You know who the us are? Isaiah is sharing this hope with the remnant of believers in that time and it is for everyone who has trusted Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior in our time; there is no hope, no peace, no everlasting life, no helper, no wise council for you unless you believe and receive Jesus as your Lord and Savior.

This is no ordinary child, this is the Savior of the world. **Matthew 1: 21** says **and she will bring forth a Son and you shall call His name Jesus for He will save His people from their sins.** Have you been saved from your sins?

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John 1: 11, Psalm 106: 35 – 38
1st Corinthians 10: 20, Psalm 96: 5
Isaiah 7: 14, Luke 2: 11, John 3: 19

Verses 1 – 2:

2nd Corinthians 4: 4

Verses 3 – 5:

Zechariah 14, Matthew 24, 1st Thessalonians 4
Revelation 21

Verses 6 – 7:

Philippians 2: 7 – 8, 4: 7 John 3: 16, Isaiah 7: 14
John 10: 30, 11: 25, 5: 24, 3: 16, Ephesians 2: 14
Romans 5: 1, Isaiah 11: 6 – 8, Matthew 1: 21

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