

Wonderful Counselor Isaiah 9:6-7

INTRODUCTION

We take a break from our study of 1 Samuel to focus our attention on Christmas...Advent. **Advent is a special time of preparation as we prepare our hearts for Christmas and focus our attention on Jesus who is the reason the season even exists.** There are many distractions that can keep us from seeing Jesus, but when you prepare your heart you will see Him everywhere, and you will have many occasions to worship, thank and praise Him and to share your faith in Him with others this Christmas season

The Scriptures are clear when it comes to Christmas...the Incarnation, especially the Old Testament. Beginning with the book of Genesis and running thru the book of Malachi, God unfolds for us the drama of redemption and the true essence of Christmas. It paints for us step by step and stroke by stroke a portrait of God's Messiah, the Christ of Christmas.

Please turn in your Bible to **Isaiah 9:1-7**. The year was approximately 725 B.C. The northern kingdom of Israel faced an ominous and perilous situation from the north an evil and aggressive Assyrian empire was growing and expanding and ready to attack a morally bankrupt and militarily weakened Israel. Indeed in 722 B.C. Israel would be sacked, overrun, and crushed in humiliating defeat.

The danger for Israel and for us under every shadow is to so focus on the darkness that God is overlooked. As we begin chapter 9, the Word of God is given to Isaiah. He has just warned king Ahaz of Judah to not compromise to the demands of the Assyrians. **But Ahaz overlooks God.** It's arrogant. It's self-destructive. **It's a hostile act toward the LORD.** But thank God that grace is not just an ideal, or a word to soothe our consciences. God is the LORD who is ever so gracious.

I. As the Wonderful Counselor, Jesus is _____

A. He _____ the gap between ____ and ____
(1 Timothy 2:5)

B. He _____ our struggles
(Hebrews 4:14-16)

II. As the Wonderful Counselor, Jesus is _____

A. His _____ is _____ (Isaiah 11:2)

B. His _____ is _____ (Psalm 23:1-3)

III. As the Wonderful Counselor, Jesus is available

A. Thanks to the _____, He is _____
with you (John 14:16-17)

B. He will never _____ you nor _____ you
(Matthew 28:20)

CONCLUSION/INVITATION

What can we take with us this morning? Here are some takeaways from our study:

- 1) _____ to Jesus with all your struggles and all your sin.
- 2) _____ to Jesus through the Word of God.
- 3) _____ with Jesus thanks to the presence and power of the Holy Spirit.