

## Isaiah 9-1-7

### Introduction:

The Christmas season is a time of great joy for many.

There is the joy of being with family and friends...

The joy of holiday foods? (honey hams, peppermint mochas, Costco peppermint bark)

The joy of giving gifts

Even better the joy of receiving gifts.

The joy of receiving a Christmas bonus...

All of these things bring joy! But eventually the joy fades. Then it is back to work, broken relationships, messy diapers, unfulfilling jobs, family dysfunction, and poor health.

Joy seems so elusive for so many of us!

All of us long for lasting joy!!! How do we get it?

This brings us to the OT book of Isaiah. In chapter 9:3 Isaiah describes a level of joy that few people experience.

**Isaiah 9:3 (ESV) — 3** You have multiplied the nation; you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as they are glad when they divide the spoil.

In the 8<sup>th</sup> century BC, Isaiah promises that the people of Israel will experience incredible joy in the future. But what is the source of this joy?

The birth of baby Jesus. But why will baby Jesus bring so much joy? Isaiah gives us five reasons. Let's look at each one.

**First, baby Jesus will be a great king!**

**Isaiah 9:6–7 (ESV) — 6** For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder,

This is a promise. Over 700 years later this promise came true when baby Jesus was born. Jesus was born right where Isaiah said he would be born in verse 2. Then he grew up to become the greatest king the world has ever known.

Jesus inaugurated his kingdom when he came the first time and he will consummate his kingdom when he returns. In the meantime, everyone who bows the knee to king Jesus is a citizen of his kingdom.

**Maybe your thinking, “How is this good news that leads to great joy?” I don't want to be ruled by anyone, I want to do what I want to do!!!**

**Let's keep reading-**

**Isaiah 9:7 (ESV)** — 7 Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

This verse tells us that baby Jesus's rule will have no end. It will grow for all eternity.

We read something very similar in Luke's account of Christ's birth.

**Luke 1:32–33 (ESV)** — 32 He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, 33 and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.”

The rule of king Jesus is a really, really, really good thing. Jesus uses his rule to push back the horrible effects of sin. How does he do this? By dying! In his death he breaks the power of sin, the source of all evil in this world and when he returns, he will complete what he started. This means...

Someday there will be...

No more cancer

No more child abuse

No more aids

No more poverty

No more family dysfunction.

No more brutal dictators

No more ISIS

King Jesus wins in the end. Of the increase of his government their will be no end. Satan and sin will not have the last word.

**Isaac Watts** reminds us that king Jesus, "... came to make his blessings flow as far as the curse is found." Only the king of kings and lord of lords can do this.

This is reason for great joy.... But there is more...

*First, baby Jesus will be a great king.*

**Second, baby Jesus will be a wonderful counselor!**

**Isaiah 9:6 (ESV) — 6** For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Wonderful counselor literally means "supernatural counselor."

In other words, he will be incredibly wise. Which means he can solve every problem known to man.

This wisest man in the Bible was king Solomon.

Speaking of Solomon-

**1 Kings 3:28 (ESV) — 28** And all Israel heard of the judgment that the king had rendered, and they stood in awe of the king, because they perceived that the wisdom of God was in him to do justice. (also see 3:9)

The baby born in the manger would be much greater than Solomon. There is no one wiser than king Jesus. Speaking of Jesus, the apostle Paul writes...

**Colossians 2:3 (ESV) — 3** in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

Jesus is the wonderful counselor full of wisdom.

**Illustration:** Have you ever wondered why self-help books and self-help shows are so popular? People are desperate for help. People are very broken. The self-help industry is a multi billion-dollar industry.

Oprah Winfrey is the queen of self help. According to Forbes magazine she is worth around 3 billion dollars.

Dr. Phil is worth a measly 400 million....

People buy their books and watch their shows because they are desperate for help. They need wisdom for life.

**Application:**

Christmas is a season of great joy because the wonderful counselor has come.

How wise is he?

He planned and now controls every single detail of history

He invented DNA...

He controls the orbits of all the planets in 150 billion galaxies

He created the butterfly and the rainbow

He has a plan to destroy every vestige of evil in creation.

Do you need wisdom for your problems? Jesus can help... he will draw near to you and share his wisdom with you when you draw near to him. This is a reason for great joy.

*First, baby Jesus will be a great king*

*Second, baby Jesus will be a wonderful counselor*

**Third, baby Jesus is the mighty God!**

**Isaiah 9:6 (ESV) — 6 For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**

Some other religions, who respect the Bible, proclaim that Jesus is not fully God...

Isaiah 9:6 says otherwise. Referring to Jesus Isaiah tells us that he will be called Mighty God!

This is astonishing/shocking on many fronts. Isaiah was writing to a Jewish audience who believed that it was blasphemous to worship another human being. Yet Isaiah tells them, very

clearly, that the child who will be born will be called mighty God, implying that he should be worshipped.

As we look back on this promise, 2,700 years later, it is even more mind boggling because we know how Jesus came into the world. He was born to a poor, scandalized, and nervous teenage girl in a stable. Wow!!!

Why is this good news that brings great joy?

If Jesus is not the mighty God, we could not be saved. Jesus had to be fully God and fully man. The first part of verse 6 makes this clear.

For to us a child is born (humanity) to us a son is given (deity- he was given by the Father).

Because Jesus was mighty God, we can have our sins forgiven...

Since Jesus was fully God, his sacrifice was of infinite value enabling him to atone for the sins of all those who would trust him.

Since Jesus was fully God, he was perfect. His perfection was necessary for our justification.

Since Jesus was fully God, death could not hold him when he died, so three days later he burst forth from the grave.

This is cause for great joy.

*First, baby Jesus will be a great king*

*Second, baby Jesus will be a wonderful counselor*

*Third, baby Jesus will be mighty God*

**Fourth, baby Jesus is the everlasting father!**

**Isaiah 9:6 (ESV) — 6** For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Isn't Jesus the son of the father...???? Why is he called the everlasting father?

Jesus is not the father and the father is not Jesus and the Holy Spirit is not Jesus. We believe in Trinitarian monotheism. One God in three distinct persons.

So, what is Isaiah talking about and why does it bring Joy? When Isaiah describes baby Jesus as the everlasting father, he is describing the care and concern of Jesus.

Jesus shows great care for his sheep like a father shows great care for his children.

What do good fathers do? They provide for their children, they show affection to their children, they instruct their children, and they discipline their children.

When baby Jesus grew up, he would do all of these things for his people.



Jesus cares deeply for you and me. So much so He died for us, he rose for us, and he is currently praying for us.

Jesus cares for us like an everlasting father. This is a source of great joy.

But there is more cause for great joy.

*First, baby Jesus will be a great king*

*Second, baby Jesus will be a wonderful counselor*

*Third, baby Jesus will be mighty God*

*Fourth, baby Jesus is an everlasting father!*

**Fifth, baby Jesus is the prince of peace!**

**Isaiah 9:6 (ESV) — 6** For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Let me provide some important background to this passage.

It is the 8<sup>th</sup> century BC.

Isaiah is writing to the people of Israel.

They are in deep trouble.

Look with me at verses 1-2.

**Isaiah 9:1–2 (ESV) — 1** But there will be no gloom for her (Israel) who was in anguish. In the former time he (God) brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali (region of Israel), but in the latter time he has made glorious the way of the

sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations. **2** The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone. (fulfilled in Matt 4:12-17)

The nation of Israel would not stop sinning. As a result, God raised up the nation of Assyria, a brutal blood thirsty people, to discipline Israel. The Assyrians attacked, according to verse 2, in the land of Zebulun and Naphtali. These were regions that belonged to Israel.

But Isaiah promises that the exact same region, the region under attack by Assyria, would be the region where the Messiah would be born. Over 700 years later Jesus was born in the region of Galilee which is another name for the region of Zebulun and Naphtali.

Why does this matter? Jesus is the prince of peace. He brings peace to his people. The nation of Israel desperately wanted peace from their enemies. As a result of the birth, life, death, and resurrection of Jesus the people of God can have peace from their enemies.

We see this in verses 4-5.

**Isaiah 9:4–5 (ESV)** — **4** For the yoke of his (Israel's) burden, and the staff for his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. **5** For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult and every garment rolled in blood will be burned as fuel for the fire.

Jesus is the prince of peace and will bring rest from our enemies.

But Dave, I look around and I see war, terrorism, and blood shed. Yes... I see the same things. What Jesus started with his first coming he will complete with his second coming. He will bring peace when he returns. In the meantime, Christians must work for peace.

### **Application...**

Jesus is the prince of peace. Why is this a reason for joy?

Jesus will bring peace from our enemies... but his peace does not stop there.

Jesus brings peace between God and man

Furthermore, Jesus brings peace to all of life! What do I mean?

The word peace in Isaiah 9:6 is the word Shalom. Shalom means much more than the absence of war. Shalom means universal flourishing and wholeness. When Shalom finally comes all will be made right... because Jesus is the prince of peace someday humanity will flourish in every way possible.

Relationships will flourish

Creation will flourish

Families will flourish

Science will flourish

The arts will flourish  
Music will flourish  
Everything will flourish

This is a reason for great joy!!!

**Conclusion:**

Christmas is a time of great joy because Jesus has come.

*Jesus is the great king*  
*Jesus is the wonderful counselor*  
*Jesus is the mighty God*  
*Jesus is the everlasting father*  
*Jesus is the prince of peace*

Do you know this Jesus? He wants to know you...

How do you get to know him?

Christmas is reason for great joy!!! Let's pray.