

# Ancient Hope to a Living Hope – Isaiah

Isaiah 9:1-7

“A King who's coming” – December 15, 2019



## Introduction

When Ahaz, the king of Judah (the southern kingdom of a divided nation), faced the threat of Israel and Syria, God promised him and Judah salvation. All he had to do was trust God and take Him at His word ([Isaiah 7:4-9](#)). Instead of trusting God, Ahaz made an alliance with the Assyrian Empire. Soon, Assyria would come and wipe out Israel and Judah, but they'd keep expanding and wipe out Ahaz and Judah too ([Isaiah 8:6-8](#)). Trust anything or anyone *other* than God for salvation and in the end it will not save...it will destroy you. But if and when we fail to trust God, when we blow it, is all hope lost? In Isaiah 9, we see the power of God's grace to overcome our sinful failure and offer new hope if we will turn and trust Him.

## Pray

Before you begin, take some time to ask God to help you understand His word, to reveal what needs to change in you, and for the grace to follow Him in response. To help, use [Psalm 119:33-40](#) as a prayer for God to open His word up to you.

## Sermon Outline

- I. God's grace creates new hope (9:1-3)
- II. God chooses the weak to shame the strong (9:4-7)

## Read & Discuss

- 1) Read [Isaiah 9:1-3](#)

God disciplines those He loves (Heb. 12:6); He brings low the proud that He may lift them up. After bringing low His people for their arrogant rebellion, He speaks of a day when He will lift them up and give them new hope. In short, He will turn shame into glory (v1), darkness into gloom (v2), and gloom into joy (v3). God is the one creating this hope, meaning we receive it as a gift – not work to earn it. When will this be? When will God turn darkness into light? When Jesus came on the scene seven centuries *after* Isaiah, He came 'o give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace' (Luke 1:79). How is Christmas (the announcement of Christ's arrival) the basis of our hope as Christians? When we've failed to trust God; when we've *blown* it like Ahaz had in Isaiah 7 where does Isaiah 9 point our attention to find this hope?

Additional Reading: John 8:12, Isaiah 42:16, Philippians 2:1-11

- 2) Read [Isaiah 9:4-7](#)

After *describing* this hope, Isaiah explains *how* God creates this hope. The conjunction 'for' marks the start of v4, 5, and 6 providing us three reasons this hope is possible. First, because

God relieves us of our burden ([v4](#)), second, because he makes wars to cease ([v5](#)), and third, because God sends a child ([vv6-7](#)). God chooses the weak things of the world to shame the strong that no man may boast in himself, but boast in God (see [1 Cor. 1:18-31](#)). So, just as Gideon was an unlikely deliverer in the days of Midian, but victorious (see Judges 6-7), so too God will send a Deliverer *greater than* Gideon to rescue us. He will bring peace both between God and man as well as people at odds with each other. At the center of God's plan, the One God will use to bring about this salvation is a child. In the eyes of the world, this child may appear weak and even foolish ([Isa. 53:2-3](#)) but He will be the King to end all kings – the King to deliver God's people. The four names listed in v6 show both His character and the work He will accomplish. Pause to consider these names again. What does Isaiah show us about this Savior in reminding us He is *the Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace*? How does seeing the glory of King Jesus affect how we live today and think about the challenges of tomorrow?

Additional Reading: Matthew 11:28-30, Hebrews 2:14-15

### **Prayer of Response**

- 1) After hearing God's Word, what sin do I need to *confess*? From what do I need to *repent*?
- 2) How should my life be lived this week based on what I have heard? What should I *understand, believe, desire, or do*?

Spend time praying together in response to God's word asking for His help and greater faith to follow Him in the week to come.

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**\*Next week's sermon text: we turn to Isaiah 52:13-53:12 "A King who Suffers"**