

Sermon 1: Christ Our Only Hope: Isaiah 9:6-7

Text: Text: Isaiah 9:6-7 "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this..."

Introduction:

- Imagine a day where there will be no death, sickness, poverty, suffering, war, or injustice.
- I am not talking about a medical advancement that eliminates sickness and death; or an economic system that removes, laziness, greed, and theft; or a justice system that eliminates crime.
- Some families cannot even enjoy a meal during the holidays without someone creating controversy.
- People naively believe that society can reform itself by human effort.
- Our best efforts have never and will never remove evil from the hearts of people or the curse of sin from this world.
- Such a world is an impossibility without this passage.
- Such a world is not just a dream, because it will one day be reality.
- It will come through one the action of one Man who will take this broken world and will make all things new.
- By His power, it will be restored to its original glory, beauty, and perfection.

Summary: There is hope, no matter the brokenness of our lives and circumstances because of Christ.

Proposition: God wants us to find hope in Christ.

Truth 1: Judah was a broken nation:

- **Isaiah is a heavy book with many dark themes.**
- **It is also a book with some of the most encouraging passages in Scripture.**
- **It vividly paints a picture of the painful realities of a fallen world and the future hope of God's salvation to helpless people found only in Christ.**
- **Immediate context: 8:13-9:1** "Sanctify the LORD of hosts himself; and let him be your fear, and let him be your dread. And he shall be for a sanctuary; but for a stone of stumbling and for a rock of

offence...many among them shall stumble, and fall, and be broken, and be snared, and be taken...they shall fret themselves, and curse their king and their God, and look upward. And they shall look unto the earth; and behold trouble and darkness, dimness of anguish; and they shall be driven to darkness..."

- **They had no reverence for God:**
 - "Sanctify the LORD of hosts
 - let him be your fear, and let him be your dread
- **They stumbled over Him:** a stone of stumbling and for a rock of offence...many among them shall stumble, and fall, and be broken, and be snared, and be taken
- **This rebellion brought deep spiritual darkness:** they shall look unto the earth; and behold trouble and darkness, dimness of anguish; and they shall be driven to darkness..."
- **Opening to the book: Isaiah 1:2-4;18-19** "Hear, O heavens, and give ear, O earth: for the LORD hath spoken, I have nourished and brought up children, and they have rebelled against me. The ox knoweth his owner, and the ass his master's crib: but Israel doth not know, my people doth not consider. Ah sinful nation, a people laden with iniquity, a seed of evildoers, children that are corrupters: they have forsaken the LORD, they have provoked the Holy One of Israel unto anger, they are gone away backward..."
 - **They were rebellious children:** "I have nourished and brought up children, and they have rebelled against me..."
 - **They had less sense than an animal:** "The ox knoweth his owner, and the ass his master's crib: but Israel doth not know, my people doth not consider..."
 - **Their sin was highly offensive to God:** "Ah sinful nation, a people laden with iniquity...they have forsaken the LORD, they have provoked the Holy One of Israel unto anger..."
- **What was going on in Israel at that moment?**
 - Ahaz was King in Judah and was evil and spineless.
 - The northern tribes entered into a military alliance with Syria against the Assyrians and pressured Ahaz to join them.
 - He refused the alliance because he feared the Assyrians and in this moment of weakness, God sent Isaiah to warn him not to enter into an alliance with Assyria.
 - Rather than obeying the warning, he compromised and agreed to make Judah a vassal state to Assyria.
 - Not only was he weak as a king, but he was also very corrupt.
 - Baal worship was rampant.

- Ahaz was not simply passive in these practices.
- According to 1 Kings 16, he was so debased that he offered his own son as a burnt sacrifice and replaced the alter in the temple with a pagan replica to appease his Assyrian lords.
- **Despite this description, there was hope 1:18** "Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool..."
 - **God did not abandon them:** "Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD..."
 - **God confronted their most significant problem:** "Though your sins be as scarlet... though they be red like crimson..."
 - **He promised it would be addressed:** "They shall be as white as snow... they shall be as wool..."

Truth 2: God promised to personally reverse Judah's misery: 9:2-7

"The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light: they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined..."

- **Their current misery:**
 - **Darkness:** "The people that walked in darkness..."
 - **Death:** "They dwelt in the land of the shadow of death..."
- **Their future joy:**
 - "They have seen a great light..."
 - "Upon them the light has shined..."
 - "They have joy like those who are in the harvesting season or those who are dividing the spoils of war..."
 - "You have broken the oppressor's rod and burden..."
- **The cause of this reversal:** "For unto us...a child is born..."
 - **The angel to Mary: Luke 1:31-33** "Thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end..."
 - **Zacharias about Christ: Luke 1:68-75** "Blessed be the Lord God of Israel; for he hath visited and redeemed his people, And hath raised up an horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David; As he spake by the mouth of his holy prophets, which have been since the world began: That we should be saved from our enemies, and from the hand of all that hate us; To perform the mercy promised to our fathers, and to remember

his holy covenant; The oath which he swore to our father Abraham, That he would grant unto us, that we being delivered out of the hand of our enemies might serve him without fear, In holiness and righteousness before him, all the days of our life..."

- **Zacharias about John: Luke 1:76-79** "Thou, child, shalt be called the prophet of the Highest: for thou shalt go before the face of the Lord to prepare his ways; To give knowledge of salvation unto his people by the remission of their sins, Through the tender mercy of our God; whereby the dayspring from on high hath visited us, To give light to them that sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace..."

Truth 3: This reversal would establish a Kingdom: "His name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even forever..."

- **It will be a perfect kingdom:**
 - It will have well-ordered peace:
 - It will be distinguished by righteousness:
 - It will never end:
- **It will have a perfect King:**
 - **He will be a perfect man:** "A child is born..."
 - **He will have an absolute rule:** "Government will be upon His shoulders..."
 - **His will govern according to infinite wisdom:** "Wonderful counselor..."
 - **He is the eternal God in human flesh:** "Mighty God..."
 - **He will be a caring Father:** "Everlasting Father..."
 - **His rule will be unrivaled and establish perfect peace:** "Prince of Peace..."
 - **His reign will never end:** "Of the increase of His government there will be no end..."

Truth 4: Judah's problem is a human problem:

- **Their problem and God's grace:**
 - They were broken and stumbling in the darkness
 - Their sin separated them from God, and they could do nothing to reverse that problem.
 - God promised to send them a Savior to reverse their desperate situation.
- **Our problem and God's grace:**
 - **Ephesians 2:3, 12** "We all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others... aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world..."
 - **Ephesians 2:4-9** "But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus: That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus. For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast..."

Truth 5: Judah's comfort is our comfort: "Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this..."

- **Two unbreakable promises:**
 - "Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end..."
 - "The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this..."
- **Two applications:**
 - **Be faithful not discouraged: 1 Thessalonians 5:8-11** "Let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation. For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ...Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another, even as also ye do..."
 - **Do not be distracted by the noise of history: Revelation 21:1-5** "I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first

heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea. And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God. And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away. And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful..."

Final Thoughts:

- **History is messy, and the times we are living through can be overwhelming.**
- **There is hope, no matter the brokenness of our lives and circumstances.**
- **Christ alone is that hope.**
 - He came in the flesh and died for our sins.
 - He rose triumphant from the dead securing that triumph over sin and death.
 - He is seated at the right hand of the Father as a continual testimony to the work that He did for us.
 - He is coming again to establish this perfect eternal Kingdom promised in these verses.
- **Is He your hope?**
- **Have you personalized this message by turning to Christ and placing your faith in His finished work?**
- **Are you living with your feet firmly planted on these stabilizing promises that can never be broken?**