

The Incarnation of Jesus Christ Outline

Isaiah 9:1-7

Introduction: The birth announcement

- A. Great news! This is the announcement of a baby who will be the One who displaces the darkness in the world and replaces it with light.
 - B. This passage is about Jesus and about God. It doesn't tell us to do ANYTHING, here, God does it all.
 - C. A child will be born to US! A son will be given to US.
 - D. This is about who Jesus is and who He is for us.
- I. With the child comes a new kingdom.
- A. The birth of Jesus and His kingdom are connected.
 - 1. Jesus will “shoulder” his new kingdom.
 - B. This will all happen through the zeal of the Lord of host (V. 7).
 - C. All of human history has been an issue and battle between good and evil.
 - 1. Context of Isaiah—Israel will become an extremely dark place. The Assyrians will be invading their lands (8:21-22).
 - 2. Zebulun and Naphtali were the darkest of places. But God promises the darkness to end and the people will see a great light.
 - a. Jesus began His ministry in the region of Zebulun and Naphtali (Galilee).
 - 3. The promised light does not come for 700 years... “*the acceptable time*”.
- II. What's in a name?
- A. Names in the Bible usually carry great meaning—their character, mission.
 - B. The New Testament names for Jesus.
 - 1. **Jesus**—His saving name, “Jehovah saves”.
 - 2. **Christ**—His “strong” name, being anointed by the Holy Spirit to carry out His work.
 - 3. **Lord**—His sovereign name. “He is Lord over all the earth.”
 - C. The names for Jesus in Isaiah 9.

1. **Wonderful Counselor**—Incomprehensible counselor full of wisdom.
 2. **Mighty God**—Warrior like God.
 3. **Eternal Father**—Cares for His children.
 4. **Prince of Peace**—Peace with God, peace in the soul.
- D. There will be no limit to His kingdom.
- III. How all this will be accomplished.
- A. Not by the Lord of hosts.
 - B. But by the “*zeal*” of the Lord of hosts—the Lord of “armies”.

The challenge

1. For eight days “live in the light”!
 - turn off the news and all unedifying distractions.
 - Read God’s word (plan below).
 - Pray, meditate on God’s word,
 - Share joy and happiness with others.
2. Come Saturday night to our Christmas Eve Communion Service and celebrate together!
3. Comes on the Lord’s Day and worship our Savior in His amazing incarnation!
4. Stir up some zeal of your own!

Don’t just read words. Pull out key words. Look up definitions. Take your time, let them soak into you! Understand them.

Monday—Read Matthew 1:18- 2:12

Tuesday—Read Luke 1:1-45

Wednesday—Meditate on Mary’s words in Luke 1:46-56

Thursday—Read Luke 1:57-80

Friday—Read Luke 2:1-20

Saturday—Christmas Eve candle light communion.

Sunday—Glorious Christmas morning! The incarnation of our Lord and Savior!

The Incarnation of Jesus Christ Pastoral Notes

Isaiah 9:1-7

Many of you know who Larry King was... he passed away two years ago after a lifetime of interviewing the famous, interesting and “great” on both television and radio... estimated that he interviewed over 50,000 people during his career.

Towards the end of that career, Larry King was interviewed... one of the questions he was asked was *if you could interview anyone throughout history who would you want to interview?*... in fact... he was asked to list his top ten choices... number one was a bit of a surprise in that King was a Jew...

Number one was Jesus Christ...the interviewer asked King “*what question would you ask Jesus?*” ... King said, and I paraphrase a bit... “*The question I would ask Jesus would be was He really born of a virgin... because IF he was born of a virgin... that would be the event that would define history*”.

Larry King never got to interview Jesus Christ... but I could answer that question for him... “*Yes, Jesus was born of a virgin.. and yes... that was a defining event in all of history....* I could spend much time giving example after example of how Jesus Christ... His birth... has defined all of history.

One obvious example is the world’s dating system... All of history has been marked as being either BC... *Before Christ*... referring to all of history up to the birth of Christ... and AD... which stands for the Latin *anno domini* ... which refers to the “Year of our Lord”...Lord referring to Jesus Christ... which begins after the birth and final the completion of Jesus’s earthly life...all history after Jesus is AD.

Of course the secular world has not been crazy about that... so a few hundred years ago introduced BCE... *Before the Common Era*... and CE referring to *the Common Era*... nice attempt... but that dating system still is marked by the birth and life of Jesus Christ!

Interesting that before BC and AD became the dating system... people marked the years by who was in power. Ancient Romans named their years based off of how long a consul or emperor had ruled, while Egyptians similarly counted their years based on the years a king ruled.

The King of Kings was born of a virgin in the year 1!... Your bulletin says I will be speaking on *The Incarnation of Jesus Christ*...which is what we are going to do... It also says “*Selected Scripture*”...which was last Monday... today I’ve selected the Scripture and it is Isaiah chapter 9:1-7... so if you would like to turn there and read with me.

Read Isaiah 9:1-7

This is God's word!...a little different this morning... I want us to bask in the meaning of those words...

Look at it as a "birth announcement"... there have been many babies born recently... notice that?... what else I've noticed is when someone has a baby... they don't say to us... *"well.. we had a baby... oh well"*... *"How was your weekend?"*... *oh not bad... didn't do much... oh... wait.... We had a baby"*...

That's not it is it?... NO!... we just got a picture of our future fifth grandchild after three months in the womb... six months to go and the excitement is building... that future baby will be the center of all conversation with my daughter and son-in law for the next six months and after!... the birth of a baby is a big...huge... deal!

When we send out a birth announcement... everyone who gets one we know will rejoice with us!... Here... God sends out a birth announcement... some 700 years before the birth... and the announcement is one of the most joyous announcements in all of history!... along with the birth of this baby is the cure for the entire world!...the displacement of darkness with light.

You could look at this passage this way... you come home from work... you get the mail... you turn on the news... the news stinks!...always does!... that is verses 1-5.... All is doom and gloom... all is dark... very dark... all is apparently hopeless...

The government is a mess... there's fighting and unrest all over the world... there are no good guys... there is no honest news... it's all dark...and you're blood pressure goes up... you start to get angry... you open a piece of the mail... a letter... it's a birth announcement... not just any birth announcement...

This is the announcement of a baby that will wipe away all that darkness... all the bad news... all the hopelessness... that is verses 6 and 7....6 & 7 is where we will camp but we need the first five verses to put into context what the light of the world came into... a very dark world.

I want us to receive the great news of the birth of Jesus Christ... I want us all to rejoice in Jesus Christ today...this passage is pure 100% gospel... it is completely GOOD NEWS!... **this passage doesn't tell us to do ANYTHING!**

This passage is not ABOUT US... we are the benefactors of what this passage says... but it is not about us... God is not calling out for our help...God is not up there sweating it all out... *What am I going to do... the world has turned in such a mess... I need your help...Please help Me!*

What God reveals here is that He has it all covered... He is in complete control...He's always had a plan... He is sovereign... And even though mankind through the ages have totally messed up this world...and still are... and even though each one of us have failed in many ways in our own lives... God has a rescue plan available for all of us... and it will come to pass... and not by the skin of His teeth....He's got it all.

We are presented here the one thing worth believing in... the One thing we can have confidence in...the One who IS Good News... this is Good news FOR US!...You and me!... notice it says (6) **For a child is born TO US.... a son is given TO US.**

That's you and me... this child... this son....this Jesus is given to US!

Much like what the angel said to the shepherds in Luke **For today in the city of David there has been born FOR YOU a Savior...** In Matthew **Behold the virgin shall be with child and shall bear a Son, and they shall call His name Emmanuel which means GOD WITH _____ US!**

For a child is born to us..... a Son given to US!...HE IS OURS.... I'm going to give you a challenge at the end of this... but start getting your minds wrapped around the idea of having the most amazing Christmas EVER...by wrapping your brains around and embracing the truth in this passage...that will give you the most outrageously great Christmas EVER!

These words here in Isaiah are a blood sealed covenant by God Himself... this is reality.... Our part here seems to be to simply fall into God's arms.... Believe it and receive it... and rejoice in it...

Now... this is not about the teachings of Jesus... the work of Jesus on the cross... this is all about the person of Jesus... WHO HE IS... and WHO HE IS FOR US... let's walk our way through this....

1. With the child comes a new kingdom

Kingdom here referred to as government... some think this is saying all governments in history rest on the shoulders of Jesus... that is true... but here we are introduced to a new government....a future kingdom.

First notice in verse 6 there are two semicolons... remember that a semicolon joins together two independent ideas THAT ARE RELATED TO EACH OTHER together... All that is to say... is that **For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us...** is tightly related to **and the government will rest on His shoulders.**

The reason they are attached is that the two thoughts equal a much greater thought... it's like two plus two equals five... what's this means?... when Jesus was born... we know he was born into basic poverty... in a manger... poor Mary and Joseph... born in weakness...

But even though that's the case... there's this baby in a manger... His Kingdom is already established... not physically... but is an inevitability... IT'S GOING TO BE!!... the government...all government will rest on His shoulder...To rest on a shoulder means full responsibility... IT'S ALREADY INEVITABLE!..

Why and how?.... How can this be guaranteed?..... end of verse 7 **the zeal of the Lord of hosts will accomplish this.**

He's a baby.... But His kingdom is already guaranteed by Almighty God...the zeal of God WILL accomplish all this!

You take all of human history... everything BC and everything AD... by the way... human history has not been all about political engagement.... It has not been about strife between the "classes"... it's not been about racial iniquities... or religion infighting... all of human history has been all about GOOD VS EVIL...

That's what is playing out here.... And all of us... every single one of us was born on the evil side...we see all that here...

Isaiah reveals here the very dark world...a very specific time in Israel's history... but it represents all of history... we think it's dark now... it's always been dark...I saw a meme this week that said "*Let's all pray for the world to go back to normal*"...

Now I hear what is being said... the older you get the more you see how much the world is changing... and we long for "those days" when it was better... but the fact is ... THIS IS NORMAL FOLKS!

Isaiah reveals a very dark world... in chapter eight.... Turn back a few verses...Quickly,... If you were with us last summer as we went through the Minor Prophets... you would know something about this time... Israel is a divided kingdom... the Northern and Southern Kingdoms... Isaiah is prophesying to the Northern Kingdom.

The Assyrians are ready to destroy the kingdom...God is going to judge Israel... eventually they are taken into captivity...here Isaiah is describing this future invasion by Assyria... it will be a very, very dark time for Israel...

Adad Nurrari II was one of the treacherous Assyrian emperors had these words etched into his palace wall... listen to these... *I am royal...I am lordly...I am mighty...I am honored...I am exalted... I am glorified.. I am powerful, I am all powerful...I am brilliant...I am lion brave... I am manly...I am supreme, I am noble...*

Let me add to that... If Adad could talk he would say I AM DEAD!
The world thinks it's so powerful... so strong... so in control...

Here in 8:21 and 22 Isaiah describes Israel ...

Read 8:21-22

Dark, dark, world... But through the prophet Isaiah... God makes a proclamation... a promise...

Read 9:1

The one area of the Northern Kingdom that was attacked and tortured the most was the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali... God allowed the invaders to practically destroy these two lands... Zebulun and Naphtali are in Galilee... the sea of Galilee... Here it says that God promised Naphtali and Zebulun to make them “glorious”...

Well... it was Galilee that Jesus began His ministry... bringing LIGHT to the gentiles... the promise goes on:

Read 9:2-3

This promise is for everyone who embraces the light... By the way... everyone Isaiah is talking to here is never going to realize this promise of this amazing child... that happens 700 years later... they will go into captivity or be killed.

That bothers some... why did God wait so long?... we don't know really... but we are told later in Isaiah 49:8 that the coming of this child... the coming of light and salvation will be at **an acceptable time...** go to the New Testament... 2 Corinthians 6:2... Paul quotes Isaiah **At the acceptable time I listened to you, and on the day of salvation I helped you...** Right from Isaiah 49... then Paul says **Behold NOW is the acceptable time, behold now is the day of salvation.**

Paul in Galatians says...

Galatians 4:4-7

4 But when the fullness of time had come, the birth of Jesus was providential... it wasn't a fluke... an accident... it was planned and happened exactly how God planned it to... in the exact moment the exact second... just as God planned it...

God wasn't sitting up there all of a sudden worrying about how messed up things were and He had to do something... He was not sweating beads of sweat because the world was not turning out so good... God has it all in His plan...

God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, 5 to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. 6 And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!” 7 So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

The birth of Jesus was providential.... In other words... a part of a long established plan.

700 years after Isaiah's words we're looking at in chapter 9 became the acceptable time... and it has been the acceptable time ever since!... today is the day of our salvation!...the light has come!

For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; and the government will rest on His shoulders...

Jesus brought the light... light has been coexisting with darkness ever since... the light has been victorious over darkness... there is coming a time when the light will completely consume the darkness....

Ray Ortlund...Painted a great picture of this.....This massive army, decked out to the hilt with weapons and armor... set for battle...this represents all of the history of man influenced by Satan...Satan and all his forces...man has always been in battle with God... this is a formidable army.... There is no way we could ever go up against this army.... On the other side...

God walks over the hill with his barely walking child... His Son...that is God's weapon to against this gigantic army... the army looks at the Father and Son... The Father and Son look at the army.... And God says to the army... *"That's all you got?"*

God's answer is a baby born of a virgin in Bethlehem... God knows what we are all up against and He is not afraid... Why should we be?...what He is presenting to us is a whole new world... the birth of Jesus launched a new world... and we all have an invitation to this new world...the Son is given to you! Will you take Him?

I love that the government rests on His shoulders... that says there will be a new politic... this is an entirely new political order... amen!... no more will Trump and Biden run again?...total integrity... no lies...no hidden secrets... total truth... no Fox News or CNN...won't that be wonderful!

2. What's in a name?

Let's look at the names of this child...as we know names are very important in the Bible... they carry with them great meaning regarding the person named...It often reveals the character of the person... their mission in life... In the New Testament... there are three main names for Jesus...

"Jesus Christ our Lord"... **Jesus** is His "saving name"... literally Jesus means "Jehovah saves"... Jesus has come to save His people from their sins...**Christ** is His strong name...that He is anointed by the Holy Spirit... He is anointed with great power... to carry out the work of salvation here on earth.

And **Lord** is His sovereign name... that He is Lord over all heaven and earth if you're not stirred yet...

.... Here in Isaiah there are four names for Jesus and each name becomes a message revealing who Jesus is...why He has come into this world.

Verse 8... **His name shall be wonderful Counselor**... “wonderful” means extraordinary... incomprehensible...”....too good for words...it suggests deity...from out of this world!... Counselor... just what it says... one with great counsel...wisdom...

Jesus not only knows you inside and out...He knows what you need... He understands you... He has the wisdom you need... He can truly help you!... what He has is out of this world... far above Brene Brown or Tony Robbins... Jordan Peterson...He understands us and knows what we need!

Mighty God...That’s a big name!... For those who says the Bible never calls Jesus God, here is one place...Mighty... used as a military term...warrior like...as the mighty God He defeats *all* enemies...

And for us the greatest enemy is death... look how Jesus conquered death... by dying on a cross.... There’s a curious quote from St. Augustine some 1500 years ago... It has come to be known as the “*Devil’s Mousetrap*”...

The devil jumped for joy when Christ died; and by the very death of Christ the devil was overcome: he took, as it were, the bait in the mousetrap. He rejoiced at the death, thinking himself death’s commander. But that which caused his joy dangled the bait before him. The Lord’s cross was the devil’s mousetrap: the bait which caught him was the death of the Lord.“

“The devil was conquered by his own trophy of victory. The devil jumped for joy, when he seduced the first man and cast him down to death. By seducing the first man, he slew him; by slaying the last man, he lost the first from his snare. The victory of our Lord Jesus Christ came when he rose, and ascended into heaven; then was fulfilled what you hear read in the Revelation, “The Lion of the tribe of Judah has conquered

Mighty God,... and then **Eternal Father**... that’s a name that troubles some... How can the Son be the Father?... does this unravel the Trinity?... the idea of “modalism” where there is no Trinity... but one god that can change his “mode”..... no...

Jesus takes the role of our earthly Father... the one who takes care of His people... He takes us in as His own... John 14 Jesus says He and the Father are One... **I will not leave you as orphans, I will come to you...**

Prince of Peace...the word Prince means that He is a sovereign...He is a ruler over the realm of the earth... He is a prince that gives peace to His people... There are two kinds of peace Jesus brings... **1. He brings peace with God**... man was at enmity with God through the fall of Adam... and God was at enmity with us... enmity meaning opposed to and even hostile towards...

But Jesus and only through Jesus can that enmity be melted away... In that Jesus paid the price for that original sin and all sin... by dying on the cross... We are now reconciled with God... at peace with God.

2. He brings peace in our souls... That's what Paul was talking about in Philippians 4:7... **And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.**

This peace is for now... Jesus is the Prince of Peace that brings a calmness of heart to all who are His... notice again... all four names is what Jesus brings.... Nothing that we do!... yet He brings it to us!

Now ... (7) **There will be no end to the increase of His government or of peace...** wrap your brains around this... this means this new kingdom Jesus is inevitably bringing... has no limits... it is a kingdom completely unlike our current kingdom...

there will be no insanity... no unrest... no darkness... it will be calm.... Happy... this new empire of grace will forever succeed... now get this... if we enter His kingdom... we will stand while all other kingdoms will crash... Jesus' kingdom goes on and accelerates forever!

Whatever trouble you are going through... whatever crises you are experiencing right now... GONE!... this world is wretched!... it is so broken... and we are so unsatisfied with it... we are so accustomed to disappointment in this world...

Our expectation in this world is that it will not hold up... it will only slide downwards... we are the problem!... here's a silly illustration but here it goes... I love black licorice... now that is controversial in itself!... some of you passionately HATE black licorice.... See how fallen this world is?

Well... you know those big tubs of licorice Vines?.... something like a hundred black Vines in those tubs... I don't do this anymore... I stay away from them... but I would get one of those tubs and eat and eat those licorice vines... I LOVE BLACK LICORICE!!... I'd eat maybe fifty of them... then what?

I hate them!... they make me sick!... Now how broken is that?!... To passionately love something... then you get it and hate it.... that's the fallen human nature of this world!... unfortunately we do that with relationships... with marriages... with family... our possessions... our values... that is this world... we've come to expect it!

Jesus is inviting us to His world that only increases in all good, great things... There will be no increase to His government... to His kingdom that He holds up on His shoulders.... He bears all responsibility... **On the throne of David and over His kingdom to establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness...**

3. How all this will be accomplished.

The last line in verse 7... **The zeal of the Lord of hosts will accomplish this.**

This is an amazing part of the verse... Notice who will do this... it's not the Lord of hosts that will do this... literally... the Lord of Hosts means the Lord of armies... host is armies... But that is NOT who will accomplish all this... it is the “**zeal**” of the Lord of hosts....

What is it that will power all these promises listed here in chapter nine... the passion of God... It is the passion of God that is moving history towards the ultimate triumph in Jesus Christ... It was the passion of God that made the first advent come to past... it will be the passion of God that will bring the second advent to fruition.

The victory of Jesus Christ in this world will be completely done by the passion of God... His zeal... His passion... His energy... His enthusiasm... you and I will have nothing to do with it... All the healing... all the justice... all the peace... WILL come about through Him.

We aren't to just sit and wait for it of course... we have responsibility to do all the good we can in this world to promote and spread the gospel of Jesus Christ... While we are living in this broken world we have a God given moral responsibility to take care of the broken... the cast aways... the hurting... the hungry... the lost... we are to spread the gospel so others will enter into this great kingdom ... Today we as Christians are more conflicted than ever... living in this world with injustice all around us... values and morality tossed in a dump heap...

It is so easy to get all wrapped up in politics... in causes and issues... to spend most of our free time angry at what's going on in Washington and the rest of the world... what could be great joy in our hearts has turned into vitriol...

Let's realign our hearts with the heart of God... let's defy the gravity of this world that is pulling us down with it... and embrace the joy that is set before us!... God is rejoicing this very day!.... Is God wrong??... Is this a lie? The worse the world gets... the wider Christ's arms are stretched out for us...

Zeal is the fire in the heart of God... the word Zeal is used other places in Scripture... Solomon In the Song of Solomon describes the love that is burning in the hearts of a bride and a groom as “zeal”...

Isaiah 42... this word describes a warrior stirring up his “zeal” for battle... the idea of getting the mind “psyched up”... stir up the fire within... the zeal... the prophet Zephaniah talks about the **fire of his zeal**... GOD IS NOT A PASSIVE PERSONALITY... He is not detached...

In John chapter two... Jesus takes a stand... What was deeply important to Jesus was the beauty, integrity and glory IN this world... and the way I picture it... he found a leather dealer and bought some long strands of leather... He fastened them together... into a whip...

He was serious... John tells us verse 14 **And He found in the temple those who were selling oxen and sheep IN THE TEMPLE...and doves... and the money changers seated at their tables.... IN THE TEMPLE...**

He takes his leather whip and **drove them ALL out of the temple...take these things away, STOP MAKING MY FATHER'S HOUSE A PLACE OF BUSINESS!...** and John reaches back into the Old Testament... Psalm 69...to account for the audacity of Jesus... **zeal for my father's house will consume me.... like a fire...**

It is this zeal that God brings His kingdom to us... It is with this zeal that brings Christ's kingdom all the way from His humble virgin birth to the cross... and it is through the cross that He can grab us... and take us all the way with Him... through His second coming and then through all of eternity!

The zeal of God will accomplish this... and we can join Him...

Next Sunday is our celebration of this great incarnation... I said I have a challenge for you... we know the world is a mess... we know it is dark... but I challenge each one of you as you leave this place this morning... all your focus for the next eight days be all consumed with light...

This may be hard for some of you... I challenge you to turn off the news for the week...avoid the negativity that is so pervasive all around us... replace it with God's wonderful word...with prayer...Focus on Jesus!... Wonderful Counselor... Mighty God...Eternal Father... Prince of Peace!...

I've given you a reading plan for the week on your outline...It won't take as long as getting frustrated with Tucker Carlson!... focus on Jesus this week... what He has done and what He is doing...and what He will do.,

Be with us on Christmas Eve... bring your family and all your friends... share the hour in worshipping our Savior....communing with Him with the bread and the cup... Wake up on Sunday with joy...

Stir up some zeal of your own!

If you're not stirred up yet...I want to pull out all the stops this morning...I'm going to pull out the big guns... if a good black preacher can't do it you have ice in your veins... sit back for the next three minutes and listen to some GOOD preaching from S.M. Lockridge...Calvary Baptist Church, San Diego 52 years ago...you got to love his name... S.M. Stands for Shadrack Meshack...

Let this stir you... then join in singing Joy to the World... and elevate that past Christmas carol to full on worship of our Lord and King Jesus Christ!