

Our Messianic Hope

Three Promises about Judah's Messiah that were fulfilled in Jesus Christ

Opening Prayer:

Please take time to pray as a group. Pray for our church, for the kingdom, for one another, and for anything else that God lays on your heart. Also, ask God to open hearts and minds to His Word and guide your discussion.

Key Takeaways:

1. God promised an unmistakable sign: the virgin birth of Jesus
2. Jesus is both fully human and fully divine
3. Jesus came to establish an eternal kingdom
4. The Messiah is the Prince of Peace who will bring ultimate peace to the world

Discussion Questions:

1. The sermon mentioned that God gave an "unmistakable sign" through the virgin birth. Why do you think this was important? How does it set Jesus apart from other religious figures?
2. Reflect on the divine titles given to Jesus in Isaiah 9:6 (Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace). Which one resonates with you most and why?
3. Pastor Joel emphasized that Jesus was not just a good moral teacher, but God in flesh. How does this understanding impact your view of Jesus and your relationship with Him?
4. Discuss the concept of the kingdom of God being "right now and not yet." How do you see evidence of God's kingdom in the world today? What aspects are you still waiting to see fulfilled?
5. The sermon touched on the peace that comes from knowing Jesus. Share an experience where you felt God's peace in a difficult situation.
6. How does the promise of Christ's return and the establishment of His literal kingdom on earth affect how you live your life today?

Practical Applications:

1. Spend time this week meditating on one of the divine titles of Jesus from Isaiah 9:6. Journal about how that aspect of His character impacts your life.

2. Practice sharing the "unmistakable sign" of Jesus' birth with someone who may not be familiar with the Christian faith. How can you explain its significance?
3. Identify an area of your life where you need God's peace. Commit to praying daily for God's peace to reign in that situation.
4. Look for ways to bring a taste of God's kingdom to your community this week (e.g., acts of kindness, promoting justice, sharing the gospel). Share your experiences with the group next time.
5. Reflect on areas of your life where you might be treating your faith as "window dressing." Ask God to help you align your heart with your outward actions.
6. Study the concept of the Holy Spirit's role in Jesus' life and ministry. How can you invite the Holy Spirit to work more fully in your own life?

Closing Prayer:

Thank God for the opportunity to connect in small groups. Ask for His guidance in applying the lessons learned and for the courage to commit to deeper community within the church. Pray that all of us would see Jesus in light of His divine revelation, God in flesh.