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Message Outline

Great Expectations
Isaiah 9:1-7

Matt Murphy
December 8, 2019

Surprises about the Messiah ...

- Will come from Galilee.

- Will be a counselor and a warrior.

- Will bring about everlasting peace.

So what?

Allow yourself to be surprised.

Looking Back

Great Expectations
Isaiah 9:1-7

Matt Murphy
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Often times, our expectations surrounding Christmas are outsized and unrealistic. We picture the perfect Christmas tree, perfect Christmas Eve meal, perfect experience with our family... and all too often reality under-delivers. There is one area at Christmas time where the reality is better than the expectations, and that's JESUS. But exactly how did (and does) Jesus not meet expectations, and how is He better than what Israel (and what we) expected?

Thinking It Through (agree/disagree consider/contemplate)

"Look at Jesus. As the Wonderful Counselor, he has the best ideas and strategies. Let's follow him. As the Mighty God, he defeats his enemies easily. Let's hide behind him. As the Everlasting Father, he loves us endlessly. Let's enjoy him. As the Prince of Peace, he reconciles us while we are still his enemies. Let's welcome his dominion." – Ray Ortlund

(Jesus) would be the final king whose reign would result in increasing peace forever. Most governments increase through war, but this one would grow through peace. He would be an eschatological figure, yet He would be a Davidic king—the perfect Davidic descendant who would accomplish for Israel all God intended in justice and righteousness (cf. 2 Sam. 7:12-17). This would happen because Yahweh of armies Himself would bring it to pass for the welfare of His people (cf. 37:32). It is, therefore, certain of fulfillment. – Thomas Constable

Working It Out

1. Do you think that there is a gap between what people tend to expect and what they tend to experience at Christmas time? Why or why not?

2. Read Isaiah 6-7. What phrases or words stand out to you?

3. Of the four names given to the Messiah in these verses, which one do you think would have stood out most to Isaiah's original audience and why?

4. Of the four names, which one is the greatest comfort or encouragement to you right now in your life?

5. The application Matt brought from the message was "allow yourself to be surprised." Do you think being surprised by the wonder and hope of the Christmas story is difficult for you or not? Why?

6. How can you practically make time to be present to God in this season, asking Him to help you be open to the beauty and wonder of the coming of Christ?