

Isaiah 9:2-7:

*The people walking in darkness
have seen a great light;
on those living in the land of deep darkness
a light has dawned.*

³ *You have enlarged the nation
and increased their joy;
they rejoice before you
as people rejoice at the harvest,
as warriors rejoice
when dividing the plunder.*

⁴ *For as in the day of Midian's defeat,
you have shattered
the yoke that burdens them,
the bar across their shoulders,
the rod of their oppressor.*

⁵ *Every warrior's boot used in battle
and every garment rolled in blood
will be destined for burning,
will be fuel for the fire.*

⁶ *For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given,
and the government will be on his shoulders.
And he will be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.*

⁷ *Of the greatness of his government and peace
there will be no end.
He will reign on David's throne
and over his kingdom,
establishing and upholding it
with justice and righteousness
from that time on and forever.
The zeal of the Lord Almighty
will accomplish this.*

INTRO to series—**Awaiting Advent: The Promises before the Manger:** Long before that silent night in Bethlehem, the Lord was already writing the story of our Savior's birth. God had promised the Advent, or "arrival," of a just and righteous King who would reign forever. Generation after generation waited and watched. They looked for this Messiah King who would bring light into their darkness, peace into their turmoil, and hope into their hearts. This Advent, we'll follow that story—from the ancient promises of the Old Testament to their beautiful fulfillment in Jesus. We'll see Him as the true Light

shining in the darkness, the Shepherd who leads us with love, and the King whose glory reaches to the ends of the earth. Jesus is our Immanuel—"God with us."

INTRO to **Isaiah 9:2-7**: These verses read like a "royal birth announcement", using kingly language to describe God's promised Redeemer—the one who will be called Immanuel—God with us—will also be a just and righteous King. In **Luke 1:26-38** (see below), we learn from the angel who appeared that the child Isaiah prophesied about would be born to her and will be called the Son of God.

I. JOY: God promised a true Light to break through the deepest darkness. (v. 2-5)

-Once again, in the midst of God confronting the darkness of the sin among His people and the impending judgment as a consequence, verses like these remind God's people of the LIGHT of His promises that He would never stop loving them, He would never leave them or forsake them, and that one day a child would be born who would bring true Hope, Love, Joy, and Peace into the world.

II. JOY: God promised true King to bring peace and to reign in justice and righteousness forever. (v. 6-7)

-God's Redeemer King is coming to the world, but He will arrive in the most human way—through the natural birth of a human mother.

Luke 1:26-38: *In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, ²⁷ to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you."*

²⁹ Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. ³⁰ But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. ³¹ You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. ³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David,³³ and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end."

³⁴ "How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?"

³⁵ The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. ³⁶ Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month. ³⁷ For no word from God will ever fail."

³⁸ "I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May your word to me be fulfilled." Then the angel left her.

-In **Isaiah 7**, the Redeemer King is introduced to us as *Immanuel* (God with us). Now in **9:6-7** we learn He will also be called:

- *Wonderful Counselor*

-The promise: He will bring perfect wisdom and counsel to God's people.

-The fulfillment: Jesus Christ was the Living Word of God as demonstrated through His miracles, teaching, and leadership. He holds all power, wisdom, and authority.

John 8:31b-32: *Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. ³² Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."*

- *Mighty God*

-The promise: He will display the full strength and might of the one true God, and through God's power, evil will be defeated.

-The fulfillment: Jesus lived on the earth as Immanuel—God with us—because He is God; and in Him the true light has come into the world to overcome the darkness.

John 1:1-3: *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was with God in the beginning. ³ Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.*

- *Everlasting Father*

-The promise: He will be the Father and head over all. With no beginning or end, He will reign over them forever.

-The fulfillment: Jesus is the true light who has come into the world to overcome the darkness. To all who believe in Him, He gives the right to be called children of God!

John 1:9-13: *The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. ¹⁰ He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. ¹¹ He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. ¹² Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— ¹³ children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.*

- *Prince of Peace*

-The promise: He will come in peace, and He will establish an eternal Kingdom of peace that will never end.

-The fulfillment: Jesus came to bring us peace, not by crushing all those who are against Him but rather by serving, loving, and sacrificing for our salvation and our good. Jesus brings about the possibility of reconciliation between man and God, which also makes possible reconciliation between man and man.

John 14:27: *Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.*

-He will reestablish the Kingdom of David with all of the covenant promises God made to David, but He is more than any human king. His rule will truly be perfect in justice and righteousness forever. (**vs. 7**)

Other Quotes/Resources:

-*post tenebras lux* – Latin phrase meaning: “after darkness, light”

-“The Ancient of Days has become an infant. He who sits upon the sublime and heavenly throne now lies in a manger. He who could not be touched...is now held in human hands.” –John Chrysostom

-“His shoulders will bear the weight of the government of His people, and they will not buckle.” –Andrew M. Davis