

The Coming of Christ

Lesson 4

Isaiah 9:1-7

December 24, 2022

The Amazing Baby

INTRODUCTION

The celebration of Christmas would be lacking without song, as George Frideric Handel believed when he so splendidly created his opera, *Messiah*. More notably, Handel relied principally on Isaiah's prophecy to musically announce the coming of Jesus' birth.

But Handel had help from his lyricist, Charles Jennens, whose ingenuity is apparent in his juxtaposition of scripture and its effectual assignment to choral and solo voices.

Messiah overflows with reverent anticipation of the Holy Child's birth in Isaiah's words: "Ev'ry valley shall be exalted" (Isaiah 40:4); "And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed" (Isaiah 40:5); "Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son" (Isaiah 7:14); "The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light" (Isaiah 9:2); and the exultant proclamation from Isaiah 9:6 as appears in the memory verse below.

So, celebrate! Rejoice in the fact that "He shall feed His flock like a shepherd; and He shall gather the lambs with His arm". (Isaiah 40:11, *Messiah*).

Memory verse: "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."—Isaiah 9:6

Pray, and read Isaiah 9:1-7. What questions or observations do you have about this passage?

OBSERVATION: What does the passage say?

1. The Israelites were deported to Assyria (2 Kings 15:29) after He humbled the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali. How will God first honor Galilee in the future? (Isaiah 9:1-2)
2. What is the great light that people see after walking in darkness? (Isaiah 9:2; see Matthew 4:12-17)
3. What event causes increased joy that is compared with rejoicing at the harvest and dividing the plunder? (Isaiah 9:3-6)
4. For what is every warrior's boot and every garment rolled in blood destined? (Isaiah 9:5-6)
5. How long will the final successor to David's throne reign over His kingdom? (Isaiah 9:7)

4. What is Christ's government?
(2 Samuel 7:12-16; Matthew 28:18; Luke 1:32-33)

APPLICATION: How do the passages apply to your life?

1. In Isaiah 9:6, "wonderful" is detached from "counselor" with a comma in 14 of 61 versions of the Bible, including the 1599 Geneva Bible. Since that time, "wonderful" has been treated as a modifier to "counselor" (no comma), which identifies Jesus as an "intelligent, caring advisor". He is so much more than that! Name some of His unrivaled attributes, deeds, and teaching that incite wonder, amazement, and venerating curiosity in you.

2. God has placed upon His yet unborn Son the responsibility to uphold the moral essentials of justice and righteousness. How do you endure each day's news of unrighteousness and injustice? (Isaiah 9:7)

3. Every Advent season brings hope for peace on earth. As of this writing, our nation is not yet militarily engaged in war. Compose a prayer for peace as though our very existence depends upon it.