

The Story of Promise

Isaiah 9:1-7*

Our journey continues as we trace God's plan of redemption through history. In this survey of select scriptures God provides the careful reader with testimonies of His grace fulfilled in the Messiah. Genesis 3 sets the stage for the first Christmas pageant, while in Genesis chapter 22 we are given four signs pointing to the coming Christ. Isaiah 7 foretells the coming of this baby born to a virgin. And now in Isaiah chapter 9 we receive the consuming identity of this child. Christmas is a continuation of God's redemptive plan—a plan that was in process at the very beginning of time and can be traced throughout the entire Bible.

In 733 B.C., Tiglath-pileser III besieged Damascus, invaded the region of Galilee, including Zebulun and Naphtali, and incorporated it into his kingdom (2 Kings 15:29) in fulfillment of God's Word. "Gloom" and "distress" result from oppression and separation from Yahweh's covenantal love. But the Lord will graciously turn humiliation into glory. How? By the coming of the Messiah of David (9:1-7). Although the northern tribes had rejected David's dynasty in favor of Jeroboam (1 Kings 12:1-20), their salvation will come from the very one whom they rejected. The new era will be characterized by great joy. The Messiah will free his people from their enemies and bring the actualization of the Davidic ideal.¹

- *This Child will dispel the darkness (1-2)*

- *This Child will provide deliverance (3-5)*

- *This Child will display dominion (6-7)*

**& HE WILL
BE CALLED
Wonderful Counselor,
MIGHTY GOD,
Everlasting Father,
PRINCE OF PEACE.**
Isaiah 9:6

○ Lord, there can be no goodness in us, if you withdraw yourself.

No wisdom can benefit us, if you cease to guide us.

No strength can preserve us, if you no longer defend.

No purity can be secure, if you do not guard it.

No watchfulness of our own can protect us, if you do not keep watch.

If you abandon us, we are soon lost and perish.

But if you come to us with your grace, we are lifted up to live again.

We are weak, but you make us strong.

We are cold and dull, but by you are we set ablaze.

-Thomas a Kempis, *Imitation of Christ*

*These notes are prayerfully prepared to aid, not replace, your personal study of God's word.

¹Walter A. Elwell, vol. 3, *Evangelical Commentary on the Bible*, Baker reference library (Grand Rapids, Mich.: Baker Book House, 1996, c1989), Is 9:1.