

The Prophecy About the Birth Of The Messiah

Scripture: Isaiah 9:1-7

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I. Introduction

Whereas there is presently gloom and distress, there will come a time when there will be happiness, joy, and salvation.

Isaiah gives three reasons for this joy:

First, The rod of the oppressor will be broken.

Having experienced the heavy taxes imposed by the Assyrians, freedom from oppression would have sounded great, and yet a lot more calamities would wash over the people of Israel before this would happen. Samaria would be destroyed, the people would go into exile, and even the southern kingdom of Judah would be assaulted up to the point of extinction, but saved at the last moment by the Lord.

Second, Warfare will be eliminated.

Even the very elements of warfare will be done away with. I wonder if some people in Isaiah's time would have shrugged their shoulders and blown Isaiah off as just another false prophet, as one who promises pie in the sky without accounting for the reality that they are encountering every day.

Third, The promise of a Child- a future King.

This last reason may have even aroused more critics of Isaiah: what could a child do against this mighty foe. Good Kings had been part of Judah and yet they all eventually had to yield to the mighty power of the Assyrians, and yet this exactly what God had promised to Adam: the seed of the woman would crush the head of the serpent (Gen.3:15). This is exactly what he promised Abraham: through his offspring all the families of the earth would be blessed (Gen. 12:3). This is also what

the Lord had promised through the prophecy of Jacob given to Judah: The scepter will not depart from Judah, nor the ruler's staff from between His feet, until He to whom it belongs shall come and the obedience of the nations shall be His.

II. The Prophecy about the Birth of the Messiah

1. Verse 1.

Zebulun and Naphtali were two of the twelve tribes of Israel. The Territory of Zebulun was west of the sea of Galilee. (Joshua 19:10-16). The territory of Naphtali was north of Zebulun (Joshua (19:32-39). These two areas were the first to fall when the Assyrians attacked. A vast number of inhabitants became prisoners in Assyria. The foreigner along the coast refers to the former Zebulun. the country across the river Jordan refers to the former Naphtali. The region north of Naphtali became the international Galilee. In the very area where the Assyrians first attacked. God promises to cause a complete change of the situation. The inhabitants will have done nothing to deserve this change. It is God's free gift.

2. Verse 2.

In deep darkness is a powerful description. It describes the feeling of people who had long been prisoners in a foreign land. They could see no possible hope, ever again. The people felt enormous relief as if a very heavy weight had gone from their shoulders.

3. Verse 3.

The people are enjoying a new prosperity that is like celebration of a harvest after a tough summer or like celebration after a victory after a battle. But the prosperity is secondary to the fact that it is God who has multiplied the nation and God who has increased its joy. It is God who is the focal point of their celebration. Just as it is God whom we give thanks on Thanksgiving Day. The fact that God has given them cause for celebration means they can expect a good future as well as a good present. God will provide for them tomorrow as well as today.

4. Verse 4.

A yoke is a wooden device laid across the shoulders of an ox or two to plow a field or pull wagons. An ox could accomplish a lot of work in a day. A good farmer would try to keep him healthy. A bad farmer would work him to death. Israel under the Assyrians was like that ox.

5. Verse 5.

As we said previously, turning swords into plow shares. There will be no more need for war.

6. Verse 6.

There will be no need for no more war because for us a child is born. He will be called wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, everlasting Father, Prince of peace. This first coming, Meek as a lamb.

7. Verse 7.

His government and peace will have no end. He will reign on Davids thrown. He's in the lineage of David, the tribe of Judah. First he came as a humble lamb, (this time He will come as a roaring Lion.) This will be the second coming. The zeal of the Lord will accomplish this.

III. Conclusion

Remember what Isaiah said: For to us a child is born, Jesus was born for us. He came to be our redeemer. He came to set us free from slavery and the burden of sin, shortcomings, and meanness. He came to take the oppressor away from our shoulders. He came to bring a solution for our sins. He carried those sins on the cross. He wants to be our miraculous Counselor, our mighty God, our everlasting Father and our prince of peace. Let us invite Him, embrace Him and adore Him.