

A Christmas Message; The Hope of the World

Isaiah 9:1-7

12/14/08

There are many troubles on this earth and all of them are a result of being fallen people in a fallen world. The troubles of our lives come as the anguish and gloom of darkness. Some people finally come to the point where they cry, "I just can't take it anymore!"

When Isaiah wrote the prophecy we are studying today, it was a dark time for the nation of Israel. But it's interesting that at the darkest hour, God gave the greatest promise. There is no question that these verses give us the greatest promise known to man; that God would send an answer to the darkness.

What's interesting is that the answer to our troubles is found in the name of His Son. In those days, when you named a child, you thought carefully and prayerfully about the name because there was great significance to that name.

Isaiah speaks **of the name that is given** for the One who is the coming hope for the world. We can gain great insight into the purpose and meaning of Christmas as we study His name. And we must also add to that what the angel told Joseph, "You shall call His name, Jesus."

His name was a common name, but His name had a meaning; God saves, "for it is He who will save His people from their sins."

These are insights into the purpose and meaning of Christmas from the meaning of His name.

I. The World is in Anguish

Vs 1 – There will be no more gloom for her who was in anguish

A. The whole creation groans and suffers.

Illus – Reading the newspaper has become an anxious exercise. To read what is happening right now in this world causes many people to groan.

Who would ever have guessed that General Motors, Ford and Chrysler would be facing bankruptcy without government intervention?

Who would have guessed that Merrill Lynch, Washington Mutual, Lehman Brothers and others would fail in 2008?

- 1 The world is groaning under massive burdens of troubles.
- 2 The scripture says that even the creation itself groans.

Romans 8:18-23, For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us. For the anxious longing of the creation waits eagerly for the revealing of the sons of God. For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself also will be set free from its slavery to corruption into the freedom of the glory of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation groans and suffers the pains of childbirth together until now. And not only this, but also we ourselves, having the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our body.

- 3 Most people just groan, but some people understand that the Lord is who the world needs and they groan, they yearn for His return.

Job 19:25-27, For I know that my Redeemer lives, and He shall stand at last on the earth; and after my skin is destroyed, this I know, that in my flesh I shall see God, whom I shall see for myself, and my eyes shall behold, and not another. How my heart yearns within me! NKJV

B. This isn't the way God created it

- 4 When God finished each part of the creation, he declared that it was good.
- 5 There was even lush vegetation at the North and South Poles, with a protective covering over the whole earth so that the harmful rays of the sun were shielded from damaging anything or anyone.
- 6 This is where God first placed man. It was His intention that men would have life and be blessed by God with close relationship.
- 7 When God's Son came into the earth, He came offering life.

John 10:10, The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.

- 8 The problem is that men have turned their backs to God and created their own god.
- 9 There are so many things that people allow in their lives in place of God...
- 10 But will any other god save in time of trouble?

Jeremiah 2:27-28, "Who say to a tree, 'You are my father,' and to a stone, 'You gave me birth.' For they have turned their back to Me, and not their face; but in the time of

their trouble they will say, 'Arise and save us.' But where are your gods which you made for yourself? Let them arise, if they can save you in the time of your trouble;"

II. Jesus is God's Answer to a Broken World

A. He is Wonderful Counselor

11 The scripture tells us that the Lord will do marvelous, wonderful things.

I Corinthians 2:9, Things which no eye has seen and ear has not heard; and which have not entered the heart of man, all that God has prepared for those who love Him.

- He is filled with all wisdom; He gives good counsel.
- We have been reading in the book of Leviticus that God asked Israel to be distinct from other nations by *living in accord with the judgments and statutes of God.*

Illus – It's just like when our teenagers recognize how wise we are and rise up and call us wonderful counselors.

Isaiah 40:13-14, Who has directed the Spirit of the Lord, Or as His counselor has informed Him? With whom did He consult and who gave Him understanding? And who taught Him in the path of justice and taught Him knowledge and informed Him of the way of understanding?

1 His wisdom is to be followed.

Luke 6:46-49, "Why do you call Me, 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I say? Everyone who comes to Me and hears My words and acts on them, I will show you whom he is like: he is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid a foundation on the rock; and when a flood occurred, the torrent burst against that house and could not shake it, because it had been well built. But the one who has heard and has not acted accordingly, is like a man who built a house on the ground without any foundation; and the torrent burst against it and immediately it collapsed, and the ruin of that house was great."

B. He is Mighty God

- Vs 6 – "the government will rest on His shoulders."

Illus – There are many forms of government, but they all have problems. There is only one government that will succeed. That is the one that rests on the shoulders of Jesus Christ.

- He has power over all things.

- 1 He turned the water into wine, calmed the storm, and has authority over demons.

Luke 8:25, And He said to them, “Where is your faith?” They were fearful and amazed, saying to one another, “Who then is this, that He commands even the winds and the sea, and they obey Him?”

- 2 They fell back in the Garden when He said, “I am.”

App – Life is heavy and it is when we recognize Him to be our “Mighty God” do we then turn to Him to help us carry it.

And He would ask the same question of us, “Where is your faith?”

- 3 But He is the Mighty God who is also the Everlasting Father. In other words, he has the best in mind for you as your Father.

C. He is the prince of peace

- 4 It’s interesting that at the time of the birth of Christ, there was what was called “**Pax Romana**” meaning, ‘the peace of Rome.’
- 5 But the peace was only because a cruel dictator crushed all nations and kept them in slavery.
- 6 In other words, there was peace on the outside, but there most certainly wasn’t peace on the inside.
- 1 But true peace will only come when we are made right with God.

Colossians 1:19-20, For it was the Father’s good pleasure for all the fullness to dwell in Him, and through Him to reconcile all things to Himself, having made peace through the blood of His cross; through Him, I say, whether things on earth or things in heaven.

John 14:27, “My peace I leave with you, my peace I give you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Do not let your heart be troubled, nor let your heart be fearful.”

Illus – We love the nativity scene and have several displays. We have made it so beautiful with everyone there at the same time, which probably wasn’t exactly accurate (our kids even put salt and pepper snowmen there once, but this is still true -- only those who come to Him will find Him.

Who actually belongs at the cross? Those who are being changed.

Forms of Government

Anarchist communism advocates the abolition of the state, private property and capitalism in favor of common ownership of the means of production,

Libertarian socialism is a group of political philosophies that aim to create a society without political, economic, or social hierarchies, this equality and freedom would be achieved through the abolition of authoritarian institutions that own and control productive means as private property,¹ in order that direct control of these means of production and resources will be shared by society as a whole.

Aristocracy is a form of government, which rule is established in through an internal struggle over who has the most status and influence over society and internal relations. Power is maintained by a hereditary elite, from a caste, class or family (dynasty or even some individuals).

A **dictatorship** is usually defined as an autocratic form of government in which the government is ruled by a dictator.

A **gerontocracy** is a form of oligarchical rule in which an entity is ruled by leaders who are significantly older than most of the adult population.

Kakistocracy, Government under the control of a nation's worst or least-qualified citizens.

A **kleptocracy** (*root: rule by thieves*) is a term applied to a government that extends the personal wealth and political power of government officials and the ruling class (collectively, **kleptocrats**) at the expense of the population.

A **monarchy** is a form of government in which supreme power is absolutely or nominally lodged in an individual, who is the head of state, often for life or until abdication, and "is wholly set apart from all other members of the state."^[1]

Representative democracy is a form of government founded on the principles of the people's representatives.^[1]