

The Hope-filled Arrival of The Suffering Servant

Reading of The Word

Isaiah 9:2-7

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness on them has light shone.

3 You have multiplied the nation; you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as they are glad when they divide the spoil.

4 For the yoke of his burden, and the staff for his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian.

5 For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult and every garment rolled in blood will be burned as fuel for the fire.

6 For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

7 Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Warm up

Good evening. And thanks again for coming to our Christmas Eve Service.

I realize that for my self, this is my 30th Christmas as a born again, Christ enlightened Spirit filled lover of Jesus.

And after that many years of reflecting and reading and studying the arrival of Christ coming, there have been years of rote acknowledgement, but not quite the affectionate worship of Jesus like some other years.

The other years that are filled with an acute awareness of

- ***How*** grand and merciful that the whole plan of salvation
- and Christ's coming
- and the fullest reason of his arrival
- has humbled me to see my need to be saved,
- filled my longing to be rightly loved
- and truly satisfied to see God actually given the spotlight of glory that He deserves not just on December 25 but everyday.

And now in my midlife as I continue to Love Jesus better than I did when I was younger

I desire to find Jesus Bigger... *Something like Lucy's experience with the lion Aslan.*
(*Aslan is the Christ symbol in C. S. Lewis's Chronicles of Narnia*)

*As Lucy again gazed into his large, wise face. Aslan said,
"Welcome, child," he said.*

"Aslan," said Lucy, "you're bigger."

"That is because you are older, little one," answered he.

"Not because you are?"

"I am not. But every year you grow, you will find me bigger."

I hope that in some way, God will add his blessing to this simple message or even into this very service, His presence that will let us see Jesus as bigger tonight.

Introduction

Looking into the very familiar verses of prophecy in Isaiah, let me give you the :10 second historical context:

This passage is a prophecy regarding what was to come after the Assyrian invasion of Israel and Judah. God's people are told that they will not suffer under judgment forever; He will send a deliverer, a Son of David beyond compare.

So there it is... And found in the prophecy is a ***Hope Filled Arrival of the Suffering Servant*** who will be their deliverer from this exile and judgement.

They have a

HOPE BEYOND COMPARE

Verse 2, 3

Those who were once filled with gloom, darkness, felt like outcasts and forgotten, have no family and feels like orphans will as the result of this arrival have ...according to verse 3, their joy increased. And that joy is expressed here in the word pictures of full harvest and of victory in which the spoils are divided up in rejoicing.

Now this hope is not limited to just the nation of Israel.

In fact look at this quote from Matthew of Isaiah 42:

18 "Behold, my servant whom I have chosen,
my beloved with whom my soul is well pleased.
I will put my Spirit upon him,

and he will proclaim justice to the Gentiles.

19 He will not quarrel or cry aloud,
nor will anyone hear his voice in the streets;

20 a bruised reed he will not break,
and a smoldering wick he will not quench,
until he brings justice to victory;

21 and in his name the Gentiles will hope.”

- Hear carefully this last part “in His name the Gentiles will hope”.
- A clearer word than Gentiles is the word- nations. In His name the nations will hope.
- That is everyone else. We have the hope that his justice and law will be established.
- And as believers today who understanding the fuller story of the Scriptures, we know that Christ as the Messiah and He defeated His and our great enemy through enduring crucifixion. And it was a defeat that was accomplished by God’s power alone much like Gideon defeated the Midianites
- We have the hope for even the future kingdom, will be run by the same grace and justice by which we are saved

But tonight

As we gaze at the surrounding picture of advent in light of this prophesy, **We not only have a hope that is beyond compare.**

We also have a

HOPE BEYOND COMPREHENSION.

“For to us a child is born, to us a son is given...” Isaiah 9:6a

- The verb “born” is consistent with his humanity
- The verb “given” is consistent with his divinity.

This hope filled arrival is not just any chosen human being who is normally born. God chose people like Abraham and David and even Isaiah in their humanity.

But this deliverer this Suffering Servant as revealed in prophesy he is God himself

J.I. Packer- “The Christmas message rests on the staggering fact that the child in the manger was—God”

- Jesus was Fully God and Fully Man

- Jesus is God in the flesh
- The word incarnation means the taking of flesh.

This is a miraculous addition to the Eternal Son of God- the second person of the Triune godhead.

AT THE INCARNATION “WHAT JESUS WAS REMAINED, WHAT HE WAS NOT HE BECAME.”

- In the incarnation, the eternal Son who has always possessed the divine nature has not changed or set aside his deity. Instead, he has added to himself a second nature, namely a human nature consisting of a human body and soul (Phil. 2:6–8). As a result, the individual Jesus is one person—the Son—who now subsists in two natures, and thus is fully God and fully man.

This in many senses is beyond comprehension. Because he is more than the shadow of Superman, he is more than the shadow of Batman. If you think Jesus is like either one of these than you are walking in heresy.

We will never fully comprehend the how of the Incarnation.and the 2 natures IN ONE PERSON THAT ARE “WITHOUT MIXTURE WITHOUT CONFUSION WITHOUT SEPARATION WITHOUT DIVISION”

But...

in accepting the truth of this- what it gives to us is hope.

- Not hope found in life hacks or tenets of theology or personal achieving improvements based on bible quotes.
- Not hope found our own strength and positive believing.
- Not hope found in something that we can comprehend and have in our little boxes.

It is hope found in His name. More precisely hope in His Person

**We not only have a hope beyond compare and hope beyond comprehension
We have**

HOPE THAT WE ARE BEYOND CONFIDENT IN.

Reflecting on the names here in Isaiah...

“and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.” Isaiah 9:6c

- These are not names of wishful titles to someone.
- These are four royal names expressing both divine and human qualities.
- They give us assurance that the suffering servant is indeed Immanuel “God with us”

Consider these four things:

1. The Lord is a counselor. And that corresponds to my need for wisdom and guidance.
2. The Lord is mighty. And that corresponds to my need for strength and power to live my life pleasing to the Lord.
3. The Lord is Father. And that corresponds to my need for firm and gentle care and provision. Especially if I've never known it here.
4. The Lord is peaceful. And that corresponds to my need for quietness and rest and freedom from trouble and agitation.

But that's not all. What makes this hope filled is that

1. His counsel is wonderful. Or in a better word miraculous. The Lord has better advice for your life than anyone. It is amazingly and wonderfully different from the advice of the world.

- That gives hope to those in here that are simple and need wisdom.
- Those who are lost and need a guide.
- Those who are unsure and need advise.

There's hope! It's found in Jesus. He is the most trusted advisor that you could listen to

2. His might is divine. (Mighty God!) There is no greater power in all the universe than his. It will prevail over all his enemies. It is full of hope as we realize that God as a warrior protects and moves and works on behalf of his people... his children.

Speaking of children...

3. His Fatherhood is everlasting. You will never attend this Father's funeral. He will never get old and senile and leave you like an orphan on your own. This is good news for those of you this season that are struggling with your blood relatives and family. Your real family is the Family of God you are not orphans

- As eternal Father he validates your worthy through his love and acceptance of you through Christ

- As Eternal Father he relieves fears of rejection and the fear of outcomes that are the foundations of your worry and anxiety... you are now his Child and are not condemned any longer.

4. His peace is maintained by his princely authority. (Prince of Peace!) The government shall be upon his shoulders as a great prince, and his kingdom will be everlasting peace. Jesus is the leader of peace and offers it to everyone.

God's peace in Christ is offered to the world. But only the "sons of peace" receive it. How do you know if you are a "son of peace"? How do you know if you are part of the angels' promise, "Peace among those with whom he is pleased!"? Answer: you welcome the Peacemaker, you receive Jesus.

Continually cultivate a sense of hope filled amazement that in spite of all your sins God has forgiven you through Christ. It is one way to see Christ as bigger. Be amazed that you have peace with God. It's this sense of amazement, that I, a sinner, have peace with God, that makes the heart tender, kind and forgiving and worshipful.

And by peace I mean not only the absence of conflict and animosity, but also the presence of joyful tranquility, and as much richness of interpersonal communication as you are capable of.

Merry Christmas. Let's pray

Jesus your very name is the hope of all nations. It is the hope of all your people, that today we don't find our saving gracing and living hope in any of our names. But exclusively we find it in you alone. Tonight we are reminded in our final set of worship that you offer hope to the ordinary people. We need the hope found in you, most importantly we need you. Would you draw near now, seal Your message in our hearts and as a result may tears of joy and voices of laughter fill our hearts with worship greater than any gift we receive under the tree tonight and tomorrow. In Jesus Name Amen.