

The Message of Christmas brings Hope

Isaiah 9:1-7

God has a message of hope for those who have suffered punishment. God's gift to us is a child who will bring light, joy, peace, and hope to our lives.

Light comes to those living in darkness (1-2)

When we choose our own way, we plunge ourselves into darkness

God can restore the areas conquered by sin

Dawn is a sign that God does not give up on his people

God will lead his people from spiritual darkness into the light (3-5)

The coming of the Messiah will be a day of:

Expansion – God will multiply his people (3a)

Joy – It will be a time of celebration (3b)

Deliverance – It will be a time of victory (4)

Peace – The uniforms of war will be destroyed (5)

God's Christmas gift to us is a child (6-7)

“Child” emphasizes his humanity; “Son” emphasizes his deity

The child will rule over God's people

The child's titles reveal his character:

Wonderful Counselor – He has the best ideas and strategies; Follow him

Mighty God – He defeats his enemies easily; Hide behind him

Everlasting Father – He loves endlessly; Enjoy him

Prince of Peace – He reconciles us while we are still his enemies; Welcome him

The child will have an eternal rule of peace and justice

All of this will be accomplished by God's power

The message of hope reassures us that God will keep his promises in spite of all the terrible, dark circumstances that surround us.

Jesus Christ brings light, joy, peace, and hope to our lives.