

OPEN BIBLE CHURCH

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SERMON TITLE The Gift of Christ

SERIES

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KEY SCRIPTURE Isaiah 9:1-7

SYNOPSIS God's gift in Christ keeps on giving today.

HIGHLIGHTS



☞ The Gift Christ

Isaiah 9:1-7

Nevertheless, there will be no more gloom for those who were in distress. In the past he humbled the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the future he will honor Galilee of the Gentiles, by the way of the sea, along the Jordan — 2 The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned. 3 You have enlarged the nation and increased their joy; they rejoice before you as people rejoice at the harvest, as men rejoice when dividing the plunder. 4 For as in the day of Midian's defeat, you have shattered the yoke that burdens them, the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor. 5 Every warrior's boot used in battle and every garment rolled in blood will be destined for burning, will be fuel for the fire. **6 For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. 7 Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end.** He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the Lord Almighty will accomplish this.

This is a classic scripture which prophesied the coming Messiah a little over 700 years in advance. With phenomenal accuracy, Isaiah predicted Christ would come through childbirth. In theory, the Messiah could have been an angel, or he could have been God without a human side, but Isaiah accurately prophesied his birth. Jesus, our Savior, was born a human being, so he understands and identifies with us.

Isaiah said, “to us a son is given.” Here is one of the earliest references to gifts being associated with Christ’s birth. At Christmas time we share gifts and we often associate that gift-giving with the wise men bringing gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. But, here we see that the original idea of a gift came from God himself. He gave us his son. When you understand the concept of salvation, you appreciate what an incredible gift it was.

Verse 6 goes on to describe this gift with various names he would be called.

☞ **Wonderful** – he fills us with wonder and he does wonders. The word here refers to things that are unusual, beyond human capabilities, which cause amazement. This is a reference to his miraculous abilities. Indeed, Jesus performed some of the greatest miracles in all history. He fed 5,000 with two fish and five loaves. He healed the blind, the mute, and the lame. He walked on water and calmed a storm. He cast out demons and raised the dead. And, ultimately, he, ☞ himself, rose from the dead and is living today. **He still does miracles today.**

☞ **Counselor** – You may have a friend that you love and respect, but their advice isn’t always so great. You may know someone else who has great advice, but isn’t really that good of a friend. ☞ Jesus is the ideal blend of both, making the perfect counselor **who helps with our problems and guides us.** Whatever decisions you may be struggling with, he has the perfect answer.



☞ **Mighty God** – he is powerful and strong. He is the one who created everything. This is also one of the first declarations of the deity of Jesus. He was fully God and fully man – a concept we can hardly understand, yet supported by numerous scriptures. Jesus is Mighty God and ☞ **nothing is too difficult for him**. Whatever your problem, he is powerful enough to handle it.

☞ **Everlasting Father** – he is the source of all life and being. He is the author of salvation and ☞ thus gives us everlasting life. He also looks after us as a perfect father, **protecting, providing, and preparing us for all that lies ahead**. He is always watching over you.

☞ **Prince of Peace** – he makes peace between God and man; he rules in peace; he gives peace to those who trust him. **When you're in distress, he can bring you peace.**

Now that we have a better understanding of who he is, the rest of the chapter becomes clearer.

☞ **Because of Jesus...**

Verse 1 – darkness and despair are only temporary. Those times in life when everything is a mess; when you can barely see past the next five minutes; when your heart and mind are ☞ running wild – those times are only temporary. Jesus can deliver you from that. **There is hope in the Lord, Jesus Christ.**

Verse 2 – people in darkness will see a great light. Here's another precursor to Christmas traditions. People have lights up all over the place – on the Christmas tree; in the window; on the mantle; hanging from the eaves. These are symbols of Jesus, the light of the world.

John also referred to Jesus as light in 1:9... The true light that gives light to every man was coming into the world.

☞ Biblically, light is closely related to **life and happiness**. It also speaks of **blessing and prosperity**. We even use the word "light" as a metaphor today. You might "shed some light on the subject," giving an understanding of why and how something happened. In a troubling situation, you might "see a light at the end of the tunnel." You might acknowledge that you've "finally seen the light," coming to a realization of the truth. You might see something "in a new light," meaning a new perspective with greater understanding.

Jesus is the light, and as such, he does all of these things. He gives understanding; he helps us see the truth; he gives a better perspective on life; and he gives hope for a better future.

Verse 3 – he enlarged the nation and the people rejoice. Historically, God watched over Israel and prospered them. He repeatedly delivered them from the hand of their enemies, and in response, the people rejoiced. Jesus still does the same today. He watches over you and delivers you over and over again. When you see what he has done in your life, it should lead to rejoicing. This time of year, we sing Christmas carols, and probably my favorite is "Joy to the World."



Nehemiah 8:10

☞ **the joy of the Lord is your strength**

Without Christ, we are lost and destined for doom. But because of him we can have hope and peace and life. So, we have joy and rejoice!

Verse 4 – the yoke is broken, burdens are lifted and oppression is overcome.

I remember when my burdens rolled away; I had carried them for years, night and day. When I sought the blessed Lord, And I took Him at His word, then at once all my burdens rolled away.

I am singing since my burdens rolled away; There's a song within my heart night and day. I am living for my King, and with joy I shout and sing: "Hallelujah, all my burdens rolled away!"

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Rollled away, rolled away, I am happy since my burdens rolled away.

☞ This all speaks of the **freedom we have in Christ**. Fellow believers, we were slaves to sin, but Christ has set us free and we are no longer slaves – not to fear; not to sin; not to the devil. We are free. Jesus keeps on bringing freedom and deliverance today. **Whatever may be holding you back or keeping you bound up, can be broken through the power of Jesus, whether it be doubt, discouragement, bad habits, or temptation.** Christ can free you from all of these!

Verse 5 – the tools of war will be burned. In other words, the battle is over. Jesus has won.

Colossians 2:13-15

He forgave us all our sins, 14 having canceled the written code, with its regulations, that was against us and that stood opposed to us; he took it away, nailing it to the cross. 15 And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.

1 Corinthians 15:57

☞ **But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.**

Since Jesus has won the ultimate victory, he can give us victory in our battles. Whatever the struggle, he can lead you to success. That sinful temptation which keeps on cropping up can be overcome through Christ. That bad habit you want to get past can be defeated once and for all through him. That doubt, discouragement, and depression can all be conquered through Christ.

Verse 7 – his government and peace are unending and always increasing. This is a prophetic view of the eternal rule of Christ. He is returning soon and when he does, the earth will come under his fair and just rule, bringing peace which will never end.

☞ **When you make Christ the Lord of your life, he gives unending peace.** Who doesn't want that? His peace transcends understanding. Philippians 4:7. In other words, even when troubles



are all around, you can be at peace. It doesn't make sense, but you have the peace of Christ in all circumstances.

There once was a King who offered a prize to the artist who would paint the best picture of peace. Many artists tried. The King looked at all the pictures, but there were only two he really liked and he had to choose between them.

One picture was of a calm lake. The lake was a perfect mirror for peaceful towering mountains all around it. Overhead was a blue sky with fluffy white clouds. All who saw this picture thought that it was a perfect picture of peace.

The other picture had mountains, too. But these were rugged and bare. Above was an angry sky from which rain fell and in which lightning played. Down the side of the mountain tumbled a foaming waterfall. This did not look peaceful at all. But when the King looked, he saw behind the waterfall a tiny bush growing in a crack in the rock. In the bush a mother bird had built her nest. There, in the midst of the rush of angry water, sat the mother bird on her nest in perfect peace.

The King chose the second picture, "Because" he explained, "peace does not mean to be in a place where there is no noise, trouble, or hard work. Peace means to be in the midst of all those things and still be calm in your heart. That is the real meaning of peace."

This is the kind of peace we have in Christ. Since our eternal destiny is settled, we can be at peace in the storms of this life. Of course, this peace is connected to his government. When you give your life to Christ, surrendering to his leadership, and allowing him to govern you, he gives peace. Romans 8:6

Because of the Gift of Christ, we can experience all that he is. His wonderful miracles are available to us today. His caring counsel and guidance are ours every day. His mighty power for whatever we face is still working today. His provision and protection are constantly with us. His perfect peace, which is beyond human understanding, is ours as we surrender to his leadership in our lives. All of this and more is ours through the Gift of Christ.

*Wonderful, wonderful Jesus is to me,
Counselor, Prince of Peace, Mighty God is he.
Saving me, keeping me from all sin and shame;
Wonderful is my Redeemer; Praise His Name!*

☞ If you need a miracle or guidance, provision or peace, receive the Gift of Christ. This is where it all begins. Have you invited Jesus to be the governor of your life? If not, I urge you to receive the Gift of Christ today. If you have, then open your heart for even more of Christ. He's the gift which keeps on giving and giving.