

Isaiah 9:1-7

I remember when I was a child, it was so great and happy when my parents promised me something and came true. There was one time that my parents promised they would take the whole family out to a whole day beach activity of swimming and eating. I waited impatiently for that day to come. On that day, there were transportation obstacle and had light rain, but they brought us out as promised. I was very happy, and the family enjoyed that day. As we grow older, we often lose our enthusiasm and joy. We study Isaiah chapter 9 today, and learn about God's promise and fulfillment. It shall encourage you and give you hope and joy even though the situation surrounding you is not good.

1) Prophecy the Messiah

a. Background

Isaiah chapter 9 is a continuation of chapter 8. Chapter 8 has prophesied God's punishment that filled the view of destruction and gloom for the Israelites. Isaiah 9:1 stated "there will be no more gloom for those who were in distress. A bright view has been introduced. Isaiah 9:2 stated "... those living in the land of deep darkness, a light has dawned."

b. The coming of a Messiah

The first few verses of chapter 9 prophesying the coming of the Messiah. That coming of the Messiah will be a great joy to His people including you and me, because the burden and stress of them will be lifted (vs. 4). The word Messiah in Hebrew means "anointed one", and the Greek word for it means Christ. Kings in those days are anointed by Priest. These verses prophesying the coming Christ which is the ultimate king. That Messiah will save the Israelites, but they had a different image of the ultimate Christ and King.

2) The names of the Messiah

Isaiah 9:6 described that Messiah. We learned that prophecy came true because Jesus Christ is that Messiah (Christ). (Read Luke 2, John 1:1-11 and John 3:16). Isaiah 9:6 stated "... to us a son is given" and John 3:16 matched that. Gal. 4:4-5 states the same.

The names of the Messiah describe His character.

a. **Wonderful Counselor**

Wonderful means extraordinary, marvelous or very special in a good way. Counselor is someone that helps and guides you. This Messiah is a marvelous counselor that guides you and advises you for all your life needs.

b. **Mighty God**

Mighty means all powerful. He is powerful enough to defeat all including Satan and sin. The Messiah is mighty in a way that He knows our fears and needs, and able to help us and safeguard us. Through His power, we can conquer our problems like resist temptation and withstand trials. When the Messiah comes, the Mighty God is with His people (Immanuel).

c. **Everlasting Father**

He is our forever father. Father is someone that loves you and always care about you. He has the best for you always. The Messiah is one that loves and cares for you forever. He is a father that means authority. Thus, this compassionate Messiah is also your Lord (see Psalm 103:13). Father also protects as stated in John 10:28-30.

d. **Prince of Peace**

The Messiah brings the final peace between God and people. It is through redemption by Jesus' death and resurrection for our sins so that we can united with God again. He gives peace to those belongs to him as we live on earth following Him. (John 14:27, Matt. 11:28)

Also, the final peace will eventually happen at end time where He will reign over all the earth. Therefore, we wait for the fulfillment of the final peace while we live in this world full of sins and pains.

3) Promise came true

The prophecy came true because the promise of the Messiah has been kept. Jesus arrived as son of man. (Matt. 1:18-23, Luke 2:1-21). It is a great joy – now we have the redemption through Jesus' death and resurrection, we can know God through learning Jesus' life on earth and His teaching, we have the peace, hope and protection in His care, etc.

4) The Messiah reigns forever in righteousness

Isaiah 9:7 gives us hope for the end time. It stated there will be no end for His government and peace from that time on and forever. (I Cor. 15:23-25)

In conclusion, today is similar to the situation in Isaiah 8 where God's judgement and punishment will come. We see virus/plague type of sickness, fire burning in a whole continent, full of poverty, injustice and anti-Christ in the world that might signal the end time will come soon. But, Isaiah 9 gives us great joy because this first part of the great prophecy of a Messiah has been fulfilled. We were so happy when a simple promise came true when we were kids. Now, we Christians shall be even more joyful and thankful for this great promise came true, even though the events surrounding us are terrible. Our wonderful counselor, mighty God, everlasting father and prince of peace is with us. Moreover, we can joyfully wait for the continuation of the promise for the end time where it will have Forever Peace under the reign of the almighty and righteous God.