

November 29-30, 2025

Title: Promises for Christmas, Pt 1: “Hope in the Darkness” – Isaiah 9:1-7 & John 1:1-14

Big Idea: Hope in Christ as your light in the Darkness

Read Isaiah 9:1-7. What is challenging or surprising?

What do you think stood out most to the original audience? What stands out to you?

I. The promise of HOPE in the midst of darkness (vv.1-2).

Isaiah writes in that time about a historical deliverance, but also on the Messianic deliverance through a prophetic perspective. How does this speak to the way Christians must hold present suffering and future hope together?

Isaiah describes Israel as a people walking in “gloom,” “anguish,” and “deep darkness.” Where do you see forms of darkness (spiritual, emotional, cultural) showing up in your life right now?

Israel’s darkness stemmed from misplaced trust—in nations, politics, and false spirituality. Where are you tempted to place your hope or security today instead of in the Lord?

II. The HOPE God gives is miraculous (vv.3-5).

Isaiah links the breaking of Assyria’s yoke to “the day of Midian.” Look back at that story in Judges 7. What is the significance of referring to that day in our passage in Isaiah 9?

In verse 3, Isaiah compares the coming joy to two very different pictures: the steady, growing abundance of harvest, and the sudden rush of dividing the spoils after a battle. When you look back at seasons when God has restored joy after hardship, has it felt more like a slow, growing harvest, more like a sudden ‘spoils-of-war’ breakthrough? What made the difference?”

III. The source of HOPE is a child (vv.6-7).

The passage emphasizes that the coming kingdom will be upheld not by our zeal but by God’s zeal. How does that reshape the way you think about and approach obedience, holiness, and perseverance?

Where have you seen Jesus already being ‘Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace’ in your life or at Good Shepherd this year?”

IV. Jesus is the fulfillment of HOPE in the darkness.

Read John 1:1-14. What stands out to you?

John promises that those who receive Christ become children of God. How does your identity as God’s son or daughter speak into your fears, grief, or shame?

“Next Step” Takeaways – Discuss and pray through the following:

• **With God as His FAMILY:**

- What practices (Scripture, prayer, community, confession, worship, service) help you keep your eyes on the Light rather than on the darkness?

• **With Others as His SERVANTS:**

- How can we, as a church family, help one another walk in hope rather than fear or despair in this season?

• **On Mission as His MISSIONARIES:**

- Where is God calling you to bring the light of Christ into the “dark places” of your workplace, family, or relationships?