

GraceCity Advent Study

A Holy Night



Week #3

December 11-December 17, 2017

"A Holy King" (Isaiah 9:1-7)

From parting the Red Sea to leading into the Promised Land and to conquering Jericho with only marching and trumpet sound, God repeatedly had shown his protection and faithfulness to His people. Despite all this, the Israelites were a forgetful people, seeking protection from a human ruler, worshipping idols, and failing to remember God's promises. The prophet Isaiah lived during a time of division between the twelve tribes of Israel. In Isaiah 9, the northern kingdom of ten tribes was being overcome by the neighboring Assyrians. Yet, in the midst of impending destruction, Isaiah prophesies of a Holy King that will one day defeat their enemies with finality and will reign forevermore!

Preparation: Read 1 Samuel 8 where the elders of Israel asked Samuel for a king, a request that Samuel brought before the LORD. What were the Israelites' expectations for what a king would do for them? What warnings did Samuel issue about why they may not want a king?

Read: Isaiah 9:1-7

Looking at the text:

1. Isaiah 9:6 names the coming child as Wonderful [Counselor](#), Mighty [God](#), Everlasting [Father](#), and [Prince](#) of Peace. Look up the four nouns in a Bible dictionary (*links embedded*). As for the adjectives, wonderful can imply miraculous, mighty can be valiant, everlasting is above all time, and of peace meaning shalom, nothing missing nothing broken. What understanding do you gain of the coming child and his purpose based on the definitions of these words?
2. How does the passage describe the changes brought about by the arrival of the child?
3. How do New Testament writers declare Jesus as the fulfillment of this Messianic prophecy from Isaiah? (*Consider Matt. 28:18, Luke 1:32-33, John 6:51, Rom. 9:5, Eph. 2:13-16 among others*)
4. In ways similar to Galatians 4:4, how does v. 6 showcase Jesus' divinity and humanity?
5. What does the name Jesus mean? What other names are used for Jesus? (*Consider Matt. 1:21, Matt. 1:23, Mark 1:1, Luke 1:32, John 1:1-4, Rev. 19:16*) How do these additional names help us further understand who Jesus is? How do all these names still fail to describe the fullness of Jesus?

For discussion:

1. How is Jesus what the Israelites needed even though he was not what they expected?
2. What would your expectations be if you were looking for a Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, or Prince of Peace? How does Jesus fulfill and exceed these for us today?
3. We sometimes like to play God. Our prayers become commands for God, and we desire control of others to meet our needs. How does recognizing Jesus as the "King of kings" and "Lord of lords" challenge that perspective? In addition to our self, what other idols do we allow to rule our lives?
4. During Jesus' earthly ministry, many religious leaders dismissed Jesus as they defined him using their own prejudices. (*Consider Luke 5:21, Mark 2:16, Acts 4:1-2*) How do we similarly miss seeing Jesus work in our own lives? How does community aid us in getting a fuller picture of Jesus?

**** Praise God for his love in sending His son, the Prince of Peace. Share how God is working in your life and listen to how he is present in others' lives, too. Ask God for forgiveness for those times we allow other things to be our ruler. Pray that we remember who our King is and what that means for our lives.*

This study has been developed for personal reflection and group discussion. To participate in the conversation, join a GraceCity small group. For more information on times and locations, email smallgroups@gracecitybaltimore.org.

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