

The Promise of a Son to Rule a Perfected Kingdom

Isaiah 9:1-7

I. An end to the darkness (9:1-3)

A. A promised day of light

1. **The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light... upon them a light has shined:** The northern tribes were the first to suffer from God's judgment, so in God's mercy, they will be the first to see the light of the Messiah.

a. Matthew 4:13-16 quotes this passage as clearly fulfilled in the Galilean ministry of Jesus.

B. What is the darkness that the people walked in?

1. Sin

a. darkness is a metaphor for sin

[Romans 1:21](#) For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give thanks, but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened.

[Matthew 6:23](#) "But if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light that is in you is darkness, how great is the darkness!

[Luke 22:53](#) "While I was with you daily in the temple, you did not lay hands on Me; but this hour and the power of darkness are yours."

[John 3:19-20](#) "This is the judgment, that the Light has come into the world, and men loved the darkness rather than the Light, for their deeds were evil. "For everyone who does evil hates the Light, and does not come to the Light for fear that his deeds will be exposed.

C. The promised Son will put an end to sin

1. Daniel 9:24

2. Romans 8:12-13

3. Hebrews 9:26

4. Romans 6:23

D. **You have multiplied the nation and increased its joy**: The ministry of the Messiah would bring joy and gladness to Israel. Jesus said His ministry was like having a wedding party (Matthew 9:14-15). They will rejoice **according to the time of harvest**, the time when the hard work has paid off and the bounty comes off. They will rejoice **as men rejoice when they divide the spoil**, with a celebration of victory, as in the locker room of a championship team.

II. The Messianic Kingdom brings an end to oppression and war (9:4-5)

A. This is a future promise of perfect peace when the Son of man will rule in Jerusalem upon the Throne of His father, David

1. Nations will no longer rise up against each other and they will not learn war any longer (Isaiah 2:4)
2. Righteousness will flow like an unfailing stream (Amos 5:24)
3. In the kingdom life will be perfected (Isaiah 35:5-6)

III. The Divine Son who is also the Son of Man will rule (9:6-7)

- A. Psalm 2:1-9
- B. Daniel 7:13-14
- C. Ephesians 1:20-22

IV. The glory of the Son

A. A Child is born

1. This glorious prophecy of the birth of Messiah reminds Israel that the victory-bringing Messiah would be a *man*. Theoretically, the Messiah could have been an angel. Or, the Messiah could have been God without humanity. But in reality, neither of those options would have qualified the Messiah to be our Savior and High Priest as Jesus was.
2. The mystery of the Messiah's humanity
 - a. There is nothing weaker, more helpless, more dependent than a *child*. Theoretically, the Messiah could have come as a fully-grown man, created as an adult even as Adam was created. But for Jesus to fully identify with humanity, and to display in His life the servant nature that is in God, *made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men* (Philippians 2:7).

B. The Son is Divine

1. A perfect, infinite Being is needed to offer a perfect, infinite atonement for our sins. We needed *Immanuel, God is with us*

2. The *humanity* of Jesus had a starting point. There was a time when humanity *was not* added to Him so the **Son** had to be given, because the Second Person of the Trinity is eternal, and existed forever as the Son, even before adding humanity to His deity.

C. Jesus remains a man eternally and is, properly, the God-man (Acts 7:55-56, 1 Timothy 2:5).

1. He did not relinquish His humanity on His ascension; but He is now a man in a resurrection body, as we will one day have.

2. If Jesus were not fully man, He could not stand in the place of sinful man and be a substitute for the punishment man deserves. If He were not fully God, His sacrifice would be insufficient. If Jesus is not fully God and fully man, we are lost in sin.

V. The Character of the Son

A. **His name will be called:** The idea isn't that these will be the literal names of the Messiah. Instead, these are aspects of His character, they describe who He is and what He has come to do.

1. "In Semitic thought, a name does not just identify or distinguish a person, it expresses the very nature of his being." (Longenecker)

B. **Wonderful:** The glory of who He is and what He has done for us should fill us with *wonder*. You can never really look at Jesus, really know Him, and be bored.

C. The Messiah is our **Counselor:** Jesus is the One fit to guide our lives and should be the Christian's immediate resource as a counselor.

D. The Messiah is **Mighty God:** The God of all creation and glory, the LORD who reigns in heaven, the One worthy of our worship and praise.

E. The Messiah is the **Everlasting Father:** The idea in these Hebrew words is that Jesus is the source or author of all eternity, that He is the Creator Himself. It *does not* mean that Jesus Himself is the Person of the *Father* in the Trinity.

F. The Messiah is the **Prince of Peace:** He is the One who makes peace, especially between God and man.