

Son of David, Have Mercy on Us | Advent of the King

Son of David in Isaiah

11.27.22 (Advent Week ONE)

Isaiah 9.1-7 But there will be no more gloom for her who was in anguish; in earlier times He treated the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali with contempt, but later on He shall make it glorious, by the way of the sea, on the other side of Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles. ² The people who walk in darkness Will see a great light; Those who live in a dark land, The light will shine on them. ³ You shall multiply the nation, You shall increase their gladness; They will be glad in Your presence As with the gladness of harvest, As men rejoice when they divide the spoil. ⁴ For You shall break the yoke of their burden and the staff on their shoulders, The rod of their oppressor, as at the battle of Midian. ⁵ For every boot of the booted warrior in the battle tumult, And cloak rolled in blood, will be for burning, fuel for the fire. ⁶ For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; And the government will rest on His shoulders; And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷ There will be no end to the increase of His government or of peace, On the throne of David and over his kingdom, To establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness From then on and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will accomplish this.

Isaiah 16.5 A throne will even be established in lovingkindness, And a judge will sit on it in faithfulness in the tent of David; Moreover, he will seek justice And be prompt in righteousness.

Isaiah 22.17 'Behold, the LORD is about to hurl you headlong, O man. And He is about to grasp you firmly ¹⁸ And roll you tightly like a ball, To be cast into a vast country; There you will die And there your splendid chariots will be, You shame of your master's house.' ¹⁹ "I will depose you from your office, And I will pull you down from your station. ²⁰ "Then it will come about in that day, That I will summon My servant Eliakim the son of Hilkiyah, ²¹ And I will clothe him with your tunic And tie your sash securely about him. I will entrust him with your authority, And he will become a father to the inhabitants of Jerusalem and to the house of Judah. ²² "Then I will set the key of the house of David on his shoulder, When he opens no one will shut, When he shuts no one will open. ²³ "I will drive him like a peg in a firm place, And he will become a throne of glory to his father's house. ²⁴ "So they will hang on him all the glory of his father's house, offspring and issue, all the least of vessels, from bowls to all the jars. ²⁵ "In that day," declares the LORD of hosts, "the peg driven in a firm place will give way; it will even break off and fall, and the load hanging on it will be cut off, for the LORD has spoken."

Today begins the season Christians often use as a time of spiritual preparation to celebrate the arrival or approach or coming of Jesus Christ into the world: The Season of Advent.

Having just finished a series on the life of King David, we don't want to waste our "Davidic" thinking but rather to draw on it to see the unfolding of God's fantastic promises that He made to David, especially the promise that the House of David or "Son of David" would reign forever.

What does that signify? How can that possibly be fulfilled and WHAT does the Bible mean when it identifies Jesus of Nazareth (born in the City of David – Bethlehem) what does it mean that Jesus Christ IS the long-

awaited Son of David? People addressed Jesus by that name (Mat 9.27) David's name appears in the first verse of the New Testament and in the last paragraph of the NT (Rev 22.16). There must be something very special about David and the promises God made to him. So, while David is still in mind, it's important that we trace these promises all the way to that little garage (stable) in Bethlehem – maybe we'll see something we've failed to see about Him who's BOTH Son of God and Son of David.

Today (and next week) we'll look at the Prophet Isaiah (700BC) and what he says about this mysterious Figure. In today's passages we'll look at the situation facing this great prophet (Isaiah) and how that situation can only be remedied by the King we welcome (once again) into our lives as we observe His Advent:

- 1) **Surface Solutions for Deep Problems**
- 2) **Deep Solutions for Deep Problems**
- 3) **Using the Deep Solution on OUR Deep Problems**

In Isaiah's day, the nation was facing a comprehensive crisis. The previous chapter (8) tells us that people didn't know what to do. Some were looking to mediums and fortunetellers to get answers. Assyria was the ruling empire and Assyria had already conquered the Northern tribes of Israel... and it was inevitable that they would come South and take Judah and Jerusalem (where the Temple and the CENTER of Jewish religion was).

They must've been very nervous. Some told themselves they were safe because God would NEVER allow His Temple to be taken (but they were very wrong).

Others wanted to enter military alliances with Egypt or Babylon. Others wanted to just surrender before it came to war: *"Let's send a ton of money to Assyria and hope the tribute money will appease the enemy."*

And as we've seen in our David series, it's NOT that God is against practical solutions but often these answers are only focused on the immediate, surface symptoms and never get down to the root causes. Remember, David saw enemy armies ramping up for war and he issued a census...a count of all the battle-ready men so he could draft/conscript a standing army (like other nations had) but his efforts were a way to avoid God.

And here again, some of these things were evil (like consulting psychics and mediums) and others were just practical... but all were being done in an attempt to be like other nations and NOT depend on God.

In our own day, a lot of people are looking for political solutions to our society's deep problems. And there ARE certain actions that local, state and federal governments can do but we always have to be wary of a superficial fix applied to a deep problem. Whatever the problem – if it's crime or inflation or abortion or immigration or fentanyl deaths or mass shootings, it's always necessary to ask, "Why? What's causing these societal ills? How can we get to the roots?"

This goes for personal and family issues as well. Why can I not save money? Why am I and my spouse not as close as we used to be? Why can't I seem to communicate with my child? Why do I get so angry? Our tendency is to avoid the "WHY-questions" and just focus on the symptoms.

But for Israel this was especially bad because THIS was the only nation in the history of the world that was founded by God. Their national charter was God's Law. They were priests for the world, the mediator-nation. They HAD to be in right relationship with God because that relationship was the ROOT of their national life and identity.

The deep problem facing Israel at this point in her history OF WHICH foreign relations (Assyria) ignorance in decision-making (consulting psychics) and fear about their future... for Isaiah, this deep national crisis ALL fits into ONE DEEP WORD: "darkness". Verse Two: *"The people who walk in darkness..."*

One Isaiah scholar wrote, "Their manner and course of life, their very existence, is one that is in the darkness. Darkness without and darkness within, ignorance, distress, misery and sin." (E.J. Young; Vol 1, p. 324)

Toward the end of David's life, we saw that he went dark, when he avoided God. God weaned David (over a lifetime) weaned him away from surface solutions that David could control. He began to see that sin is deep darkness... David came to see that he could not produce light! Light could only come from God (Psalm 36.9).

The Israelites in Isaiah's day had not learned that and for generations they tried to apply shallow fixes to the deep problems summarized in that word: darkness.

In the final reading we meet a man who was the Prime Minister to King Hezekiah, a man named Shebna. His darkness was so deep that he couldn't even see how lost he was. He conducted himself in the same business-as-usual way we saw last week (in the clergymen in Jesus Christ's day). Shebna was using his position to build a family mausoleum in the mountains (a shrine to himself). He had private chariots and drivers. He ignored the ills of society that he might have helped to fix. He was a taker.

God says, *"I'm going to crumple you up and throw you away...depose you from office... and put into office, My servant Eliakim ("set up by God")*. This man, Eliakim, was an excellent public servant. He became like a father to the people in Jerusalem. He was shown to be trustworthy. People knew they could depend on this new Prime Minister so they did!

He was like a hook in the wall, like a PEG you could rely on. People started to depend on him more and more... Pretty soon, this guy was doing everything. It was a time when government in Jerusalem was really functioning well and everyone was happy with the man "set up by God" ...but eventually... Eliakim broke.

Maybe he died of exhaustion or had a nervous breakdown or whatever... but everything came crashing down. He's only human... I mean... what can one person do? How much could he bear? He's only a man and he can't make light...can't get to the roots. Even great government can only do so much.

And that's why Isaiah must have delighted to get the message from God: *"The people who walked in darkness will see a great light, those who live in a dark land, the light will shine on them."* (9.2)

This One will multiply the nation. He'll bring in other nations (Gentiles will be added to the true Israel) and everyone will be glad right down to the roots! That word is repeated (v. 3-4) – great joy and relief like at harvest, gladness as when one has a windfall.

This Light-Bearer will set people free from inner darkness and liberate God's people from oppression.

It'll be like the battle of Midian (v. 4) where the fight was won against impossible odds so that everyone could see, "This HAD to be God's doing!" It was when Gideon had to send away all the soldiers but 300 against a massive, super-power army! God wanted no one to think THEY won – but only God.

This Light coming to Israel will render warfare obsolete – all the implements of war will be burned.

And WHAT will this incredibly great, Conqueror look like? Will He be a Saul (head and shoulders above the crowd) or like David or Absalom – handsome and winsome?

No.

"A child will be born... a Son" i.e. the long-awaited Son of David. He will take the government on His shoulders and He will bear it like Eliakim could not. Of Eliakim it will be said, "He's only human!" but of this Child it will be said, "This One is somehow...more than just human... In fact, this Infant will be called, *"Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father and Prince of Peace..."*

People will hang things on Him...He will gain more and more ground, more and more responsibility and like Eliakim... everything will be put on Him; there will be NO end to the increase of His government... It will get right down to our deepest roots – *"justice and righteousness"*.

And just like at Midian when it was undeniable that God won this victory...so here, everyone will joyfully admit, "We had NOTHING to do with this – the zeal of the LORD of Heaven's armies DID this – "the zeal of the LORD of hosts will accomplish this!"

Solomon is said to be the wisest man on earth but this Infant-King is the Source of Solomon's wisdom. He is Wisdom personified. He is Wonder Himself.

This is the True Son of David... this is the True Eliakim, the One "set up by God". AND...He too will break. He will be born to die. He will live, a life of perfect love so that WE, who trust Him, would be credited with HIS OBEDIENCE and He will die that our sins would be paid for, our debt paid by His death.

But unlike Eliakim, death will NOT hold Him. He holds the key to the House of David. He has the key to death and hell. When He shuts, no one will open and when He opens, no one will shut. These qualities are applied to Jesus Christ in *The Book of Revelation (3.7)*.

When He rises from death we know – "THIS is the One ...an Infant, a Man, the God-Man, *Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father and Prince of Peace"*

The One who deliberately buckled under the weight of our guilt (Mat 27.32) and fell into the depths of the earth. He alone can get to the roots of our darkness and shine the Light of Life into our souls. John CH 8: "Then

Jesus again spoke to them, saying, 'I am the Light of the world; he who follows Me will not walk in the darkness, but will have the Light of life.'" (v. 12)

He has the Key to the House of David. He is the truly the ideal and perfect King. None of David's long line of sons could rule... but He, Jesus Christ, rises and ascends into heaven and takes our humanity right into the Presence of Unbearable Light and becomes the Peg that can bear all our burdens and weight.

When we invite Him to rule us, He's able to get to the depths of our brokenness and darkness.

We give Him access to our past, present and future and we depend on Him to save us from our guilt and regret from the past. We trust in Him to govern our present decisions. We rely on Him to usher us into the future, knowing that He is utterly trustworthy. The believer in Jesus Christ is one who's learning to hang everything on Him.

He turns the key that gets Him into all the locked rooms of our motives and the depths of our secret fears, desires, our anger, our shame, our hurts and unforgiveness and our anxieties. But HOW? How does one give Him this access? St. Peter put it this way, *"Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time, casting all your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you."* (1 Pet. 5.6-7)

We die to our lust for control. We give up our God-complex and we say, "Lord, Jesus Christ, Son of David, have mercy on us!" (Mat 9.27) My rulership over my life has not gone so well. BUT YOU, have come to atone, to forgive, to rule us and to fill us with joy and gladness. We know that THIS is not Eden but we trust You to take us there WITH You... and in the meantime, we die with You (we humble ourselves) and You raise us... again and again and again.

And soon... soon and VERY soon... we will sleep and rise with You, the King of Creation, we will rise with You and reign with You for all eternity.

He comes as a Child. He lives as the Light.

He dies as a Lamb. He rules as a King.

He is the Wonderful Counselor.

The Mighty God.

The Everlasting Father.

The Prince of Peace.

Hang everything on the Risen Jesus Christ.

"Thou wilt find thy hopes were just."