

**Scripture:** Ten Commandments (Ex. 20) – Isaiah 7:1-16 & 9:1-7  
**Singing:** 261:1-3 – 140:3 – 243:1-4 – 124:2 – 448:1, 4

INTRODUCTION: *WORLD PEACE: A VAIN DREAM OR A SOLID TRUTH?*

- A. For the world: a *vain dream because they refuse to give what causes war*  
*Peace can come only where there is no more sin. War in the world cannot cease so long as there is war in the heart. As Jesus indicated, wars, conflicts and rumors of both will be with us, along with the poor, until the end.* (S. Fergusson)  
(Is. 57:20-21)
- B. For the church: a *solid truth promised and realized in Jesus Christ*  
(Is. 11:6-10; 35; 65:17-25)

### **The Tidings of Hope (1)**

I. In the Person of Christ II. In the Names of Christ

III. In the Government of Christ

#### **I. THE TIDINGS OF HOPE IN THE PERSON OF CHRIST**

- A. The ‘darkness afflicting the land’ is the reality unchanged today
1. Is. 7:1-2 & ‘Chapter 2023’ are perpetual fulfillments of Ps. 83:4-8
  2. Yet the reality of this war is much closer home: *our hearts is a battle scene*
    - a. if unsaved, you are occupied territory
    - b. reason for this occupation
    - c. hopelessness of this occupation
- B. Yet Isaiah saw rising of ‘great light’ (vs. 2) in the scenes of war (5-6)
1. The ‘appearance of light’ merges into ‘appearance of a Person’ (vs. 6-7)
  2. In Is. 65:1 this Person calls us “*I said, Behold Me, Behold Me!*”
- C. Behold the *Child born and the Son given* of God’s prophecy
1. Jesus is a real Person: *He is a child born*
    - a. He was a child of flesh & blood like all
    - b. Yet He was a child *unlike* us all: Luke 1:34
    - c. He became a man likewise unlike us all: Is. 52:13-53:12
  2. Jesus also is God:
    - a. He is *Immanuel – God with us* (Is. 7:14; John 3:13)
    - b. He is *given* (John 3:16)
  3. This real Person Jesus Christ is *light & hope of the world*

a. The Gospel is the *announcement of a Person Who is able to save*

- the Gospel is not about a *method of salvation*

- the Gospel is about a *Person Who saves*

D. Behold what else Isaiah proclaimed about this Child and Son

1. He is has not *just* come or was *just* given

2. He has come and was given *unto us*: for unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord (Luke 2:11)

a. don't exclude yourself through unbelief

b. instead draw near to Him in faith of His promises:

- He is gracious Savior: Ps. 12:5 Is. 42:3, 16

- He is almighty and good Lord: Ps. 72