

CCH Sermon 2nd Dec 2018 Advent#1 Isaiah 9:6 Good Government

Today we are going to travel back in time, further than the Romans, not as far as the dinosaurs to learn about the people in Isaiah's day.

It's 2750 years ago! The year is 732 BC before Jesus, and the location is Jerusalem.

And you could say that it's a time of **darkness**. Now it's dark in 3 ways...

It's dark in the neighbourhood. I don't mean all the lights have gone out, I mean people are living dark lives. There's fighting, drunkenness, and bullying. God sees it, and he's really upset by it. In fact he's angry.

It's dark in religion. They didn't have churches then, but in terms of organised religion it was dark. Don't get me wrong... there was masses of activity- people hadn't stopped going to the temple. But people had stopped listening to God's Word, and started listening to their own ideas. They just thought they could tick off their religious duties for God, and then carry on how they had always lived.

It's dark in politics. All the leaders were making disastrous decisions, and ignoring God, and while they were scared about the nations nearby who might invade them, they were trusting in one of the superpowers to save them. VOLUNTEER: What do you think they needed?

I tell you what they needed: ENVELOPE 1.....**A ruler**. Not a 30cm ruler. A King. Someone who could make wise decisions. They needed good government.

They needed a ruler who was could bring some light into the darkness.

And wonderfully that was exactly what God promised in this passage.

And today we are going to hear what God promised in Isaiah 9, focusing particularly on v6 as our Advent verse for today.

But before we have our reading. What I'm so excited about, is that this passage is also just what we need. Because we also are in a time of darkness right here today.

It's dark in the neighbourhood. Fighting, drunkenness and bullying. All of those are going on in our neighbourhood, and perhaps some aspects of these in our own homes.

It's dark in religion: church. In some aspects of church life, the church leadership seems to have lost its way and is relying on human ideas rather than God's Word. And so often we who go to church live no better lives than anyone else. They just tick off more religious activities and carry on how they have always lived.

It's dark in politics. Lots of fighting and uncertainty. Different alliances. A whole lot of people are trying to do a good job, and it's great that we prayed for them today, but it's clear that we need God's help with the G20 nations, with Russia, Ukraine, and certainly Brexit. (I won't say the B word again!)

But even more personally, It may even be **dark in someone's life** here today. Something very sad, or very painful is going on for you, and all you can see is darkness. You don't know quite which way to turn, because every road looks hopeless.

Well let's listen to God's word. Alice is going to read **Isaiah 9:1-7 p694** for us. **READING.** Let's pray that we would understand.

Did you see the wonderful news in that passage....? (bibles open p694!) We could sum it up with the word **HOPE**.

- Hope like a **dawn**. V1-2.
- Hope like a **harvest** v3.
- Hope like a military **victory** v4-5.

Why? What is the basis of this hope in this time of hopelessness?
What is God focusing all this hope (for a ppl who don't deserve it?)

Well it all builds up to the FOR in verse 6.

Hope like a dawn/harvest/victory **FOR v6 A child**

Now this is very surprising. You might have thought that if God was going to send a mighty ruler who could sort out darkness in the home, the church, politics, he would send a grown up.

You might think that to have good government you would need a brilliant politician.

But he sends a little child. A baby in fact. The arrival of this child brings the dawning of the new hope. Like a **dawn** like a **harvest**, like a **victory**.

Let's zoom in on the name of this baby in verse...

Do you know that names have meanings?

- **Lucie**- Light. **Katie**- Pure
- **Alexander**- Defender of men! (Birthday).
- **Julia**- Roman name Julius- may be related to God Jupiter
- **Reuben**- Behold a son! After all those girls!
- **Joshua**- Saviour.
- **Anika**- variation of Hannah/Anna- Grace/Favour.
- More= see <https://www.behindthename.com/>

Now when our youngest born she had 5 words on her birth certificate!

This baby has 8 NAMES! And bible names tell you about the person.

Let's dig into them! **Envelopes (hide and seek)! What mean?**

1) WONDERFUL COUNSELLOR

This means **Wise**- supernaturally wise. You want a ruler who is really wise.

▲ Theresa May needs people around her who know the facts, and advise her. Wise.

2) MIGHTY GOD

This means **Powerful**

You want a ruler who is powerful. **Powerful to do what only God can do.**

Bring light where there is darkness. But wow- a baby who is mighty God?

3) EVERLASTING FATHER

This means **kind** and tender.

this king is so kind that he's like a really good dad who cares for his kids.

But sadly human fathers die, but not this one. Everlasting.

He's kind forever and doesn't stop loving.

"Father like he tends and spares us!"

4) PRINCE OF PEACE

Safe Yes- because he brings Peace.

▲ I heard of a teenager in Huntingdon who was getting bullied off the bus. He needed someone around who could bring peace. Stop any kind of fighting. Bring safety/shalom. Complete peace.

Well I wonder if you can who this verse is pointing to?

Verse 1 gives a clue. He will honour **Galilee**. He will spend time there!

Our next Song gives a clue.

SONG: JESUS IS THE KING- actions Ben

Recap: Promising **Hope** like a **dawn/harvest/victory**. Why cos a **child** born: all of these things.

We're going to do something different. Work together to think of stories that show Jesus was like this when. Might like to think of stories done in GSMA, adults Mark 1-2. **Question**.

WISE/ POWERFUL/ KIND/ SAFETY! ***Examples from Jesus life?***

As we wrap up.

[One last thing. V1. Lived in **Galilee**! North part- normally in the line of invaders, would see light! And Jesus the light of the world came. Started his ministry in Galilee. AS we saw him calling fishermen from the lake of Galilee.]

Q: Have you put your hope in him?

Or if honest, relying on making money, being able to make friends. sometimes God takes those away.

- ▶ He must be the hope for our **salvation**. Brought complete peace.
- ▶ He must be the hope for our **nation**. (location) Christmas outreach.
- ▶ He must be the hope for our difficult **situations**. Even death!

AS Christmas 2018 approaches, will you put your hope in **HIM**.

In Christ **Alone** my hope is found. **Let's pray.**