

# Isaiah 9:2-7 | A Global Ruler

Written by John Fox | 9.24.2023

Text: Isaiah 9:2-7

FCF: Pride, Fear, Oppression

VFT: Hope, Faith, Humility

Shaft: Jesus is the promised boy who is the ultimate ruler

## INTRO

### Post-Men's Retreat Encouragement

Note to honor Nick, Joe, Zack, & Myeong in their leadership of the recent Men's Retreat. Express encouragement for the readiness of our men to engage in relationships and spiritual leadership.

### Isaiah & The Need for a Ruler

If you haven't noticed yet, we are ramping up for another presidential election year. And the propaganda is flying! I'm probably more in tune politically than I've ever been in my life, for better or worse. A key theme that always emerges during this time is people searching for someone to put their hope in.

### Series Recap

Providentially, this is a big theme in Isaiah. By way of reminder, we are in a preaching series going through key selections of Isaiah. As we pointed out, Isaiah is often called the 5th gospel because it has so many christological references. And today, again, Jesus is clearly in view.

Thus far, we have seen our need for a Messiah and the lawsuit God has leveled against humanity for forsaking Him in [chapter 1](#). In [chapter 6](#) Isaiah was confronted with God's holiness and his people's sinfulness as he was sent to preach a message of repentance to them that they would not accept. Last week in [chapter 7](#) we heard the prophecy of a boy who would be born of a virgin who would be God with us (Immanuel), and today the news of that boy reemerges.

Why is this important? For the people of Isaiah's day, it was because they lived in a war torn world where politics and fear ruled the day. It's always been easy for people to put their trust in figures of state, inordinately. And mankind has always sought a form of government that would be perfect. But we've had enough history by this point to know that the problem is us.

[Winston Churchill Quote](#)

Winston Churchill, the British Prime Minister during WWII once said, "Democracy is the worst form of government, except for all those other forms that have been tried from time to time."<sup>1</sup>

It may be humorous, but the truth is that we need a perfect ruler for an unruly people. And that leads us to our main point for this morning.

## Main Point

**Main Point:** Jesus is the global ruler we all need.

**Points:** Why? Four reasons:

1. He is the light in the darkness (v.1-2)
2. He is the source of joy (victory) (v.3-5)
3. He is the Promised Boy (v.6)
4. He is the Davidic King (v.7)

### 1. He is the light in the darkness (v.1-2)

#### Isaiah 9:1-2

1 Nevertheless, the **gloom** of the distressed land will not be like that of the former times when he humbled the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali. But in the future he will bring honor to the way of the sea, to the land east of the Jordan, and to **Galilee of the nations**.

2 The people walking in darkness  
have seen a great light;  
a light has dawned  
on those living in the land of darkness.

#### 1) Gloom & Darkness

I find the beginning of this passage difficult to understand. And I think it is for most of us for two reasons: **1)** Part of this is due to **not being intune with the contextual difficulties of the day**. Let me give us a refresher. Isaiah prophesied under four kings: Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah. As we saw last week, Ahaz (the king of the Southern Kingdom- Judah) feared the alliance of two world powers, Israel & Syria (Aram).

#### SLIDE | The Kingdoms of Israel & Judah

Isaiah told King Ahaz to trust in the Lord and Judah would be saved, however he did not, so God gave a sign of the impending judgment that would be executed by the much greater world powers of Assyria & Babylon.

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<sup>1</sup> Davis, Andrew M. *Christ-Centered Exposition Commentary*, 62. Originally quoted from *By Himself*, 574.

## SLIDE | The Assyrian & Babylonian Empires

As you can see, these new world powers dwarfed the threats of Israel and Syria (Aram). Gloom and darkness weren't an over exaggeration. However, 2) the main reason I believe this passage and language doesn't relate with us is because **we simply haven't suffered to this extent.**

### EXAMPLE | Granddad's Freezer

People who have lived in darkness appreciate the light. As an example, consider people you know who lived through The Great Depression. If you look in my granddad's freezer you will find batteries and coffee. Why? People who grew up in the depression experienced a time of darkness and so appreciate the incredible prosperity we now enjoy.

#### 2) A light from Galilee

The truth in the first two verses tell us this: to the extent that you experience darkness is the extent that you are grateful for the light. For God's people who would soon be sent off to exile and subjugation, the news of a dawning light would have been a ray of hope.

It is in this enduring context that Jesus steps onto the scene in the NT. After John the Baptist, his forerunner, had been arrested we read this.

#### Matthew 4:13-17

13 He left Nazareth and went to live in Capernaum by the sea, in the region of Zebulun and Naphtali. 14 This was to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet Isaiah:

15 Land of Zebulun and land of Naphtali,  
along the road by the sea, beyond the Jordan,  
Galilee of the Gentiles.

16 The people who live in darkness  
have seen a great light,  
and for those living in the land of the shadow of death,  
a light has dawned.

17 From then on Jesus began to preach, "Repent, because the kingdom of heaven has come near."

Jesus fulfilled this prophecy, beginning with Jesus's ministry in Galilee! The light of God's grace in Jesus has dispelled the darkness of sin, shame, and death.

**Jesus is the global ruler we all need because he is the light in the darkness. And this light is greater than mere economic prosperity or safety and security. Jesus brought with him a spiritual light that is greater than any other blessing.** Special Note: Our western world has largely enjoyed living in the benefits of this light, but is now turning back to darkness.

## 2. He is the source of joy (v.3-5)

### Isaiah 9:3-5

3 You have enlarged the nation  
and increased its joy.

The people have rejoiced before you  
as they rejoice at harvest time  
and as they rejoice when dividing spoils.

4 For you have shattered their oppressive yoke  
and the rod on their shoulders,  
the staff of their oppressor,  
just as you did on the day of Midian.

5 For every trampling boot of battle  
and the bloodied garments of war  
will be burned as fuel for the fire.

Joy in this passage is unequivocally linked to rescue from oppression. It's victory over God's enemies and freedom for His people.

### 1) Midian & Gideon

The key example for what this joyous victory looks like is tied to **Judges 6-7**. It's a fascinating story you can read for further study, but it serves as a previous example of God's salvation that was miraculous. In short, God's people turned from Him, then he gave them over to be ruled by the Midianites, then the people prayed to God for rescue and he sent Gideon. Gideon was the weakest man from the weakest clan and a coward, nonetheless, God used him to lead 300 men to rout an army of 135,000 men.

The joy of the Israelites in this case is an ear-splitting, life-changing celebration of people who have been oppressed and then gained freedom with an entirely new way of life in front of them. The enemy has been defeated, so let the celebration begin!

### Example | Return of the Jedi & Ewoks

It may be a bit hokey, but this is why we love scenes like at the end of the Return of the Jedi where all the Ewoks on the moon of Endor are dancing and singing with the survivors of the rebellion. The Evil Emperor was dethroned and peace secured! **Colossians** says it this way.

### Colossians 2:14-15

14 He erased the certificate of debt, with its obligations, that was against us and opposed to us, and has taken it away by nailing it to the cross. 15 He disarmed the rulers and authorities and disgraced them publicly; he triumphed over them in him.

Jesus is the global ruler we all need because he is the source of joy and victory by his defeat of God's enemies on the cross. Christian, have you forgotten this joy?

### 3. He is the Promised Boy (v.6)

#### Isaiah 9:6

6 For a child will be born for us,  
a son will be given to us,  
and the government will be on his shoulders.  
He will be named  
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Eternal Father, Prince of Peace.

Isaiah certainly speaks of Jesus as the light and the source of joy, but the main prophecy here relates to Jesus as the Promised boy.

#### 1) The Promised Boy

In talking of the son who would be born to rule the world we should immediately hear overtones of Genesis 3:15.

#### Genesis 3:15

15 I will put hostility between you and the woman,  
and between your offspring and her offspring.  
He will strike your head,  
and you will strike his heel.

Here God promised the solution to the fallout of sin and its effects would be to send a Promised Boy to crush the head of the Serpent, but who would at the same time be stricken. This promise reoccurs throughout redemptive history and this is one of those passages. We see here that this boy will be able to carry the weight of total rule. There are four phrases that qualify him for this.

#### 2) The Fourfold Titles

**First** this boy will be the Wonderful Counselor. This means he is supernatural in his counseling or provides supernatural counsel..<sup>2</sup> This should make us think about Solomon, the wisest man, but that is only one aspect of this boy.

**Second**, this boy will be Mighty God. He is mighty as a warrior general but at the same time, God.

**Third**, this boy will be called Eternal Father. This isn't a reference to the trinity, rather, it's a way of saying he is concerned for the helpless and disciplines his sons in a paternal way.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> Motyer, J. Alec. *The Prophecy of Isaiah*. Pg. 102.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

**Fourth**, this boy will be the Prince of Peace. Whatever peace previous rulers have brought about, no matter how good, have never lasted. We should be very careful when we think about the peace we currently enjoy in America. Why? Because it's not the eternal peace Jesus will bring with his kingdom. Do you remember what Jesus said when he first saw his disciples?

### **John 20:19**

19 When it was evening on that first day of the week, the disciples were gathered together with the doors locked because they feared the Jews. Jesus came, stood among them, and said to them, "Peace be with you."

Jesus is the global ruler we need because he is the boy God promised would come to end the enmity with God and bring an everlasting peace.

## 4. He is the Davidic King (v.7)

Lastly, we see that Jesus is qualified to be the global ruler because he is the Davidic King.

### **Isaiah 9:7**

7 The dominion will be vast,  
and its prosperity will never end.  
He will reign on the throne of David  
and over his kingdom,  
to establish and sustain it  
with justice and righteousness from now on and forever.  
The zeal of the Lord of Armies will accomplish this.

The upshot of this Promised Boy is that he brings with him a Kingdom. The biblical language says he will sit on the throne of his Father David. This is a reference to God's covenant with David in **2 Samuel 7** where God promised that his descendant would have an everlasting throne.

And there is no end to the expansion of this kingdom. Think about the map at the beginning of this sermon and how massive the other nations were in relation to Judah. All nations and kingdoms combined will be, and are now being, dwarfed by the inescapable kingdom of God that Jesus is ruling from. Let's end the sermon today hearing about Jesus's resolve.

### **Motyer Quote on Zeal**

"Zeal is that 'jealousy' which is a component of all true love and preeminently of the Lord's love. His love will brook no rival and is provoked by disloyalty. It is equally, however, the power of love moving the Lord to make his people's cause his own and the passionate commitment of his nature to fulfill his purposes for them. All this zealous determination is that of Yahweh, the exodus-God, whose nature it is to save his people and overthrow his foes. It is backed by divine omnipotence and pledged to achieve *this*, the advent and kingdom of the Messiah."<sup>4</sup>

## CONCLUSION

**Main Point:** Jesus is the global ruler we all need.

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<sup>4</sup> Ibid, 103-104.