

Our Matchless King

Isaiah 9:1-7

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Introduction:

Today in our Sermon series in Isaiah, we come to chapter 9.

- Truly, this is one of the many high points in Isaiah's prophecies!
 - You will recall that back in chapter 6, Isaiah's call to serve as a prophet was reinforced by a vision he had of God's holiness.
 - Isaiah was told that he must keep on declaring God's word to His people even though the more he preached, the worse they would get!
 - There would be such a turning away that at the end of his ministry,
 - the remnant of those who were still listening to him and heeding God's Word would only be a tenth of the nation.
 - It was to be a hard ministry.
 - Already, Isaiah was seeing this hardening occur...
 - In chapter 7, he came with God's gracious word to Ahaz,
 - A prophetic word promising that the coalition he was so afraid of would be destroyed and would not bring harm to him,
 - and offering him a sign—any sign in heaven or earth—to back it up...
 - But instead of Ahaz receiving the good news,
 - he hardened himself and refused the sign—utterly rejecting the help of the LORD and choosing rather to trust in Assyria.
 - Isaiah promptly pronounced against this wicked response and told the King that the Assyrians in whom he trusted would bring the very destruction he feared upon the nation...
 - Yet, Isaiah also had a promise for the people of faith who remained in Judah—
 - He declared that God Himself would give them a sign...
 - not for Ahaz' benefit, but for the benefit of those who believe...
 - The sign was that a virgin would conceive and bear a son and that His name would be called Immanuel— which means God with us.
 - This virgin-born child would be God with us...
 - Even though destruction and sorrow were coming,

- the seed of the woman promised of old would still come and crush the serpent's head and bless the nations of the earth at last.
- And then last week in chapter 8, we saw how Isaiah was told to bring the news of what God was going to do to all the people...
 - and how Isaiah asked the LORD to "bind up the testimony and seal the law" to his disciples...
 - This was a prayer that the remnant would receive the word
 - and admonished them to do so.
- And you will remember that the chapter ended with a strong warning about what would happen to those who refused to receive the word of the LORD... to believe...
 - The doleful consequences were presented in verse 21 & 22:
 - Isaiah says of those who reject the word of God:
 - Isa 8:21-22: They will pass through it hard pressed and hungry; and it shall happen, when they are hungry, that they will be enraged and curse their king and their God, and look upward. Then they will look to the earth, and see trouble and darkness, gloom of anguish; and they will be driven into darkness.
 - It is a picture of despair for those who have rejected the Lord...
 - When they are brought to misery, they will look to heaven and find no help and then to earth and find nothing but darkness and gloom of anguish—
 - They will be driven into darkness...
 - What a dreadful prospect awaits those who reject the LORD.
 - What a dark future for the nation of Israel who rejected the LORD.
- But look—
 - In chapter 9, Isaiah presents a glorious turn around!
 - He says that God is going to send light where there was darkness!
 - He uses the gloom and despair into which Israel will fall as a springboard to present the glorious appearing of the Messiah and of His kingdom!
 - You see, Isaiah begins by describing the change in the people's condition brought about by the coming Christ in verses 1-5.
 - Then He gives us a full description of Christ in verse 6, showing us how He alone is pre-eminently qualified to bring about this change...
 - And then in verse 7, He describes to us the glorious kingdom that Christ establishes!

- My brothers and sisters,
 - This is one of the most marvellous descriptions of our Lord Jesus Christ in the Bible...
 - It is written for us!
 - It is written for us that we may see the glory of our LORD Jesus and understand what we have in Him!
 - I am delighted to present this to you today that you may come to appreciate even more of the fullness of what we have in Jesus Christ.

I. So first, see the change in our condition that is described here.

- This happy reversal is described in the first five verses of chapter 9!
- A. The covenant people are here described as being delivered out of the miserable condition of darkness and despair into which they were going to fall...
- In the first two verses he says:
 - Isa 9:1-2: Nevertheless the gloom will not be upon her who is distressed, As when at first He lightly esteemed The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, And afterward more heavily oppressed her, By the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, In Galilee of the Gentiles. The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; Those who dwelt in the land of the shadow of death, Upon them a light has shined.
1. As we saw in chapter 8, Assyria was going to completely wipe out Israel and come all the way up to the neck of Judah—leaving only Jerusalem to remain...
 - a. This was the darkness to which the LORD would bring His covenant people because of their rejection of His Word of grace.
 - It is described as gloom and distress... as people walking in darkness and dwelling under the shadow of death.
 - Is it really any wonder that those who refuse the word of salvation should be brought into such a state of despair?
 - b. Isaiah focuses in on the northern tribes of Zebulun and Naphtali because they were the first to be taken by the Assyrian invasion in 734 and 732 BC.
 - As such, they were hit the hardest...
 - This invasion was the beginning of God's exile of the entire covenant people which was culminated about a century and half later when Jerusalem fell to Babylon in 586 BC...
 - Though the people were able to return to the land after that,
 - they never truly regained their independence and the royal house of David was never restored...
 - And so as Isaiah the prophet looks into the future,

- he sees the covenant people as a whole as distressed, oppressed, walking in darkness, and under the shadow of death.
2. But it is to such a people that Isaiah sees the light dawning...
- a. He sees the light dawning in the very place where the darkness first began...
 - in the northern tribes of Zebulun and Naphtali
 - the very place where Christ began His ministry...
 - Matthew points this out in his gospel...
 - In Matthew he says:
 - Matt 4:12-17: "Now when Jesus heard that John had been put in prison, He departed to Galilee. And leaving Nazareth, He came and dwelt in Capernaum, which is by the sea, in the regions of Zebulun and Naphtali, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying: "The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, *By* the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles: The people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, And upon those who sat in the region and shadow of death Light has dawned." From that time Jesus began to preach and to say, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.""
 - b. These are wonderful words!
 - The many years of darkness and distress are coming to an end!
 - God's light is breaking forth to bring salvation and peace!
 - It was the coming of Christ that brought all the difference!
 - This was the dawning of light that would spread into the entire nation and from there to all the nations of the earth...
 - Not that the nation of Israel as a whole or the nations of earth embraced the light,
 - but the light was here and it shined to them all...
 - and a great multitude has indeed come out of darkness to the light of the LORD that first began to shine in Galilee.
3. Learn from this that until Jesus comes, we are all in darkness and distress...
- a. Apart from Christ, we are without hope and without God in the world...
 - Sin has dominion over us and there is no way we can free ourselves...
 - We are under God's wrath and curse with no way to secure our own pardon.
 - We were cut off from our glorious creator in whom alone true happiness and blessing can be found.

- You need to see that there is no more miserable condition than this...
 - You need to see this clearly so that you will flee to Christ if you have not done so... (O that the light would break into your darkness).
 - and so that you will be filled with greater gratitude than ever before if you have already come to the light.
- b. Understand of course that when we speak of the coming of Christ to bring us light,
 - we speak on the one hand of an event in history to occurred 2000 years ago when He became flesh and dwelt among us and was then crucified and raised again...
 - that is what Isaiah is talking about here of course...in this prophecy...
 - But understand on the other hand that we may speak of the light breaking forth into our darkened hearts as individuals and nations...
 - Something that happens when we learn of how Christ came and of what He did and are ourselves brought from darkness to light...
 - In this way, His coming 2000 years ago can be understood as the light coming to the entire church of God from the beginning of the world to its end...
 - For that event in history is what benefits all those who believe whether they lived before the event, like Isaiah, or after it.
 - And so if any one is to emerge from the darkness, he must embrace Him as He was then revealed 2000 years ago—
 - as the one who came from heaven to be crucified for our sins that we might obtain pardon and obtain eternal life through faith in Him.

B. What joy there is when His salvation comes to us!

1. The gloom is driven away and the light comes!

- a. First, because the nation is multiplied...
 - There is an increase in the number of believers...
 - When Jesus came, it did not always seem that way because so many rejected him...
 - But truly there were many in Israel who had not believed the promise concerning Him in a saving way who began to believe when He came...
 - And it was from that time that the nations began to turn to Him...
 - The true seed of Abraham—believers—was multiplied greatly by His coming.

b. And with this light, joy also came to God's people

- Whenever a people begins to turn to God, they experience the fullness of joy.
 - There is no greater joy than being reconciled with God.
 - To know the freedom of total forgiveness and of God's love and to begin to walk in communion with Him!
- Isaiah describes the joy as like the joy of those who have just reaped a great harvest or brought in great spoils of war.
 - There is the fullness of blessing and of peace!
 - There is great satisfaction among all the people.
 - The gloom is driven away

TRANS> What's more,

2. The power of the oppressor is broken...

- Verse 4 describes the condition from which we are delivered by Christ as that of a labouring animal pulling a burden with a yoke...
 - and beaten with a rod on the shoulder to keep you going...
- Israel's oppression was the result of turning from God to trust in the nations...
 - It is just what is done when we turn from God to follow sin—we are rejecting His counsel to follow the counsel of Satan...
 - and that brings us into bondage...
 - It doesn't matter if we are literally under the oppression of a nation or not,
 - but for Israel, the oppression they were under by Rome was a picture of their rejection of the LORD as their Master.
 - But when we turn to Christ, the yoke is removed and we are set free!
 - Look around—no one who truly serves Christ feels that he is under bondage at all—he is not—he is truly free to be all that he can be!
 - Sin is just like the Assyrian was...
 - He promises to help us if we will give a little to him...
 - And then he takes more and more until we are swallowed up under bondage from which we cannot escape—
 - living an ugly life of under oppression.

- Take the man who give Himself to sexual immorality...
 - He tastes a little, thinking it will make him happy...
 - But the immorality demands more service...
 - So he gives a little more and little more...
 - And the more he gives, the deeper his bondage.
 - Oh, it is a miserable service!

- The bondage to sin and Satan becomes so great that you cannot escape...
 - Only God can deliver you.
 - And when He does, there is great rejoicing...
 - It is as it was in the day of Midian...
 - You remember—God reduced Gideon’s army to make sure that Gideon and all Israel knew that they could not possibly take on the huge company of Midian...
 - So that when God delivered them, all the glory went to Him.

- When God saves you through Christ, you know that you did not save yourself!
 - He is the one that broke the power of sin in your life and brought you to repentance...
 - You were completely helpless under the oppressor and He did it all!

- 3. Service to Christ is just the opposite of service to Satan and sin...
 - Service to sin swallows up your life, but service to Christ sets you free!
 - In this service, we give up ourselves for Him and for others...
 - And the more you give to Him, the more you are enriched and blessed!
 - The more you suffer for Him, the greater your joy and blessing.
 - The more you say “my life for yours” the more you live and the more capacity you have to live.

TRANS> What a happy change in our condition!

- Having described this change and the joy it brings,
 - Isaiah now goes on to describe the person and character of the prince who accomplishes this change...

II. See here how our LORD Jesus is described to us in verse 6

A. First, He is described as “a child born and a Son given” for us...

- vs. 6: “For unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given.”

1. This speaks of both His humanity and His divinity...
 - a. Clearly He is the One Isaiah spoke of in 7:14 when he said that a virgin would conceive and bear a son and call His name Immanuel—"God with us."
 - The coming of this one child was destined to bring the light of God into our darkness so that we might be saved...
 - He is the one that Eve was told would be her seed who would crush the serpent's head...
 - He is the one that Abraham was told would come forth from his body to bring blessing to all the nations of the earth...
 - He is the one that David was told would come of His line to take His throne and remain upon it forever and ever...
 - This is that one child that is spoken of here by Isaiah...
 - b. And here, being called a child born to us,
 - It is reinforced that He will be true human flesh, conceived and born of woman so that He might know us and represent us...
 - If He is to be our King and our priest, He must be one of us.
 - He cannot be an angel or some other kind of being—
 - to help us in the way we need help, He must be true flesh and blood... and so he will be—a child born to us.

TRANS> At the same time, He is called "a Son given"

- c. And being called "a Son given" to us,
 - we see His divinity...
 - For he is one who was already God's Son...
 - He already existed as God's Son before He was born, and God gave Him to us—sent Him from heaven to be born of a woman.
 - Jesus often speaks of Himself in this way—as the one who came from heaven or who was sent from above by the Father.
 - Already when Isaiah gave this prophecy, David had called this son his Lord when he said in Psalm 110,
 - "The LORD said to my Lord..."
 - He is not just a son who is born to David,
 - but He is God's Son who is given to us to be our mediator.

- It was necessary for Him to be divine in order that He might fully carry out the work required for our salvation.
- One who was less than God would not have been able to offer a sacrifice that could take away our sin...
 - nor could He have the power to give us life from the dead.

TRANS> And so this child is both human and divine—he is a child born and He is a son given.

2. As such, this one and this one alone is able to bear the full weight of the government of God's people.

- Verse 6 goes on to say that the government will be upon His shoulder!
 - What a mighty shoulder it is!
 - He will take responsibility for a people—all His covenant people—who are, apart from Him, always in darkness and distress without hope...
- This one, who is God and man,
 - is able to bring the whole ruined lot of us from darkness to light...
 - He comes as our prophet—as God to bring God's true word, and as man to speak it to us so we can understand...
 - He comes as our priest—as man to represent us to by His own self-offering, and as God to be worthy to take away all our sins...
 - He comes as our king—as man to live under God's law with a true heart of righteousness, and as God to subdue our hearts so that we will follow Him, and also that He might conquer all our enemies.
- No one else is able to take such a load upon His shoulders!
 - He alone is qualified—He alone is willing...
 - By coming as a child born,
 - He took on this great weight of responsibility, being the Son of God who was given from heaven.
 - His people's shoulders are delivered from the burden when His shoulders accept the burden of rule as our Mediator...
 - He takes our burden and we are set free!
 - What a glorious Saviour.

B. Isaiah goes on to describe Him by what He shall be called.

- These names also speak of His divinity—yet at the same time a divinity that comes among us to bless us...

1. First Isaiah tells us that His name will be called Wonderful (*a1p peh'-leh*)
 - a. This name speaks of Him as the One who is indescribably glorious and excellent.
 - The One who makes us shut our mouth in wondering awe.
 - The One who brings us to our knees in worship.
 - The One who leaves us speechless and feeling very small because we realise there is so much more to Him than we can comprehend.
 - b. This name is always used to speak of divinity.
 - 1) When the angel of the LORD came to announce Sampson's birth to Sampson's parents in Judges 13,
 - they asked:
 - "What is your name, that when Your words come to pass we may honour You?"
 - And the angel of the Lord said to them,
 - "Why do you ask My name, seeing it is wonderful (Peh ley)?"
 - They immediately recognised that this angel was the LORD Himself and began to prepare a sacrifice!
 - And the angel gladly accepted the worship and performed a miracle for them, showing that the angel was in fact the Lord...
 - No angel will accept such worship...
 - And then Manoah said to his wife: "We shall surely die, because we have seen God!"
 - Manoah knew that this was God because He said His name was wonderful!
 - 2) When the Bible speaks of wonders, it speaks of supernatural works of God...
 - of something beyond human ability...
 - When the apostles did signs and wonders, they were doing works that were supernatural.
 - In Psalm 98, when we sing of the wonders he has done, we sing of works that are beyond human ability.
- c. Because Jesus is a wonder, He is able to do wonders that no man can do.
 - 1) When He was among us,
 - He cleansed lepers, gave sight to the blind, healed the sick, cast out demons, made the lame to walk, raised the dead.

- 2) He is also the One who created the worlds by speaking a word,
 - the One who sent the flood upon the earth,
 - the One who will create the world again.

3) This is no ordinary child you see—His name is wonderful!

2. Next, Isaiah says His name will be called Counselor

- a. An earthly king always surrounds himself with many counselors and wise men to advise him.
 - But our Lord Jesus Christ is Himself the embodiment of all wisdom.
 - Colossians tells us that
 - “in Him are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.”
 - There is no piece of wisdom in the whole universe but what is found in Him.
 - He never acts with only partial information,
 - never makes a bad decision,
 - never passes an unjust law,
 - never renders an unjust judgement.
- b. How comforting it is to have a governor with perfect wisdom.
 - There are many governors who never admit to making mistakes,
 - but here is a governor who never even makes mistakes.
 - There is no warrant for you to be uneasy about anything He says or does—
 - When He chastens us, it is just what we need.
 - When He moves us into battle, it is because battle is necessary.
- c. And not only that, but this governor also instructs us—passes His wisdom on to us.
 - When His laws are obeyed, we are made beautiful and perfect.
 - He tells us how to love one another and He guides us into worship that truly honours God.
 - He tells us how to deal with those who sin against us
 - and He tells us how to conduct ourselves at work.
 - He tells us how to love our wives and how to serve our husbands
 - and how to use our money.

- When He reveals the glory of His Father and tells us about our inheritance, His words are perfect—we see the Father as He truly is.
 - But perhaps most important of all,
 - He reveals to us the way of salvation.
 - He shows us, ruined sinners that we are, Himself as the way to be reconciled with God.
 - We could not know the way of salvation unless He revealed it to us...
 - And He reveals it to us not only with words,
 - but also by giving us His Spirit to change our hearts...
 - to show us and convince us that we are sinners...
 - to show us and convince us that His way of salvation through is death on the cross is the only way to be reconciled to God.
 - He actually imparts wisdom to us by His Spirit so that we are renewed in wisdom and knowledge to salvation.
- d. How foolish you are to drink from other fountains of wisdom when we have a governor with perfect wisdom.
- He is the counselor...
 - He is the One who brings God’s wisdom down from heaven and makes it accessible to us!
 - He is the logos!
 - No wonder that Isaiah said in verse 2 that the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light!
 - This child is not just wise—
 - He is the source of all wisdom for us!
 - We can dig out the treasures of wisdom from this mine forever and ever.
3. Next, Isaiah says that His name will be called Mighty God.
- a. **Mighty** refers, of course, to His power!
- 1) This particular word is frequently used to speak of military power.
 - The Bible speaks of mighty men of war

- They are valiant men, strong men, men who are able to overcome the enemy.
 - We read, for example, of David's mighty men who broke through the camp of the Philistines to get David a drink from the well of Bethlehem.
 - We read of Benaiah who killed a lion in a snowy pit with his bare hands.
 - Our hearts are stirred when we read of these great warrior and their exploits!
- 2) Every governor or king must surround himself with mighty men...
- He must have an army to defend his territory...
 - He must have police officers to enforce his laws and to establish justice and order.
 - He must provide for the protection of the people he governs.
- b. But for you, Christian, a child is born who is called the mighty God!
- 1) The word *El* is the word that is translated God, and it always speaks of His power, never of man.
- This clearly shows that Jesus Christ is truly God, truly divine.
 - No one else is called **El** but Jehovah Himself.
- 2) Again, what comfort there is to have a governor like this—who is the mighty God!
- He is a governor given to us—born to us in our own flesh!
 - Yet He is the mighty God whose power knows no limit.
- 3) Our Lord Jesus Christ needs no mighty men about Him to uphold His authority.
- He has all power in heaven and earth and judges all men and all nations...
 - Because He is the mighty God, there is no power that is able to resist His power,
 - There is no great army that is able to take one leaf from the trees in His kingdom or even to scratch a stone!
 - He Himself is the source of all power, and no man can move a finger unless Jesus lends Him the strength to do so.

- 4) While He was here,
- Jesus revealed this power when He cast out demons and made them do whatever He told them.
 - He could tell them where to go, He could forbid them to speak...
 - They had no power over Him at all.
 - But I tell you that at no time did He so exhibit His mighty power than when he rose from the dead!
 - We have a governor who can not only defeat every army in heaven and earth by His own power...
 - We have a governor who has power over death!
 - He went to the grave for us with all of our sins upon His mighty shoulders...
 - Sins that would have buried us under God's judgement forever and ever...
 - But all sin's weight could not keep Him in the grave because He is the mighty God.
 - Like Samson who carried the huge gates of the city away when they tried to shut Him in,
 - Jesus burst open the gates of death and hell for us and carried them away!
 - O death, where is your sting!
 - O grave, where is your victory!
 - Our governor, the mighty God, has conquered death and the grave!
 - No king but Jesus is able to conquer death for His subjects...
 - He is our champion and our hero!
 - Before His majestic power every enemy will fall!
- 5) In His wisdom and patience, He does not destroy all our enemies now...
- He is waiting until He has gathered all His people into His kingdom....
 - He will gather His elect first, then He will destroy all our enemies—Satan, and all who are in league with Him...
 - But in the mean time,
 - He urges you not to be discouraged when you face persecution and tribulation.

- In John 16:33, He says:
 - John 16:33: In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.

4. Next, Isaiah says that His name will be called Everlasting Father

- a. At first, it may seem a little confusing to call Jesus the Father because we know Him as God the Son, the only begotten of the Father...
 - But Isaiah is not referring to His relationship within the Trinity, His place in the Godhead...
 - He is referring to His relationship with us.
 - And to us, He is a father.
- b. And what is a Father?
 - A Father is one who gives you birth and who then takes you under His care and protection...
 - He is one who provides for you and instructs you and encourages you.
 - He makes your needs to be His own needs so that if necessary he will even lay down his life for you.
- c. Sadly, today, it seems that most people have a pretty bad relationship with their fathers...
 - But I think almost everyone wishes that they could have a good relationship with them...
 - To have a wise father's love and care and support and protection and advice is something every child desires.
 - But the chief characteristic of most fathers is that they cannot be depended upon.
 - Even the best earthly fathers become old and cannot continue by reason of death...
 - but most of them are not even there for you while they live.
 - But Jesus is not like that.
 - He is the Everlasting Father who supports His children, loves them, provides for them, and blesses them forever and ever!
 - When you are threatened by the transitory nature of this life,
 - remember that Jesus Christ is given to you and His name is Everlasting Father...

- As Isaiah goes on to say in verse 7, of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end.
 - He is there blessing His people forever and ever.
 - You will never be forsaken by Him if you belong to Him.
5. Finally, Isaiah tells us that His name will be called Prince of Peace.
- a. God the Father is called the God of peace, God the Son is called the prince of peace.
 - What a marvellous name this is!
 - The word **Peace** in this verse translates that Hebrew word **Shalom**.
 - It is such a rich word...
 - Not only does it speak about all that we think of when we think of peace—harmony, absence of conflict and trouble, reconciliation...
 - It also speaks about the fullness of blessedness, happiness, wholeness, perfection.
 - It is that marvellous condition of being filled up so that you lack absolutely nothing!
 - so that you are all that you ought to be!
 - and so that you have that absolute fullness of life and blessing.
 - b. Every prince has his territory, his inheritance, the place that is allotted to him...
 - and he is the prince of that territory.
 - But Jesus is **not** the Prince of Wales or the Prince of Egypt or the Prince of some other territory like that...
 - Jesus Christ is Prince of Peace...
 - Peace is His inheritance from the Father.
 - For all eternity He lives in Peace with God the Father in absolute blessedness and glory.
 - But now that He has been given to us—to us a Child is born, to us a son is given...
 - this Prince of Peace brings us into His glorious kingdom of peace...
 - He gives us an inheritance in Peace—Shalom!
 - In fullness of God's blessing.

TRANS> What an extraordinary child this is to be born to us!

- Truly He is given from heaven by God!
 - to us! for us!
 - The people who otherwise live in darkness!
 - Oh let us come to Him and receive Him!
- And what is the result of having this child born to us and this Son given to us?

III. The result is that He establishes a glorious kingdom for us...

- **A kingdom that Isaiah describes in verse 7**
 - **A kingdom that we are brought into through faith!**
- A. It is glorious because it is a kingdom that constantly increases and that never ends.
1. This is brought out twice in verse 7...
 - First, in that it says
 - “of the increase of His government of peace there will be no end...”
 - Secondly, in that it says that it is to established
 - “from that time forward, even forever.”
 2. This is totally uncharacteristic of all other kingdoms...
 - a. They may increase mightily for a time and they may attain to great heights of glory,
 - but they all fall—they all come down...
 - b. The kingdom that Jesus establishes is a kingdom that endures forever...
 - The king remains and the kingdom remains for all eternity.
 - This was the promise that was made to David...
 - In 2 Samuel 7:12-13, the Lord said:
 - 2 Sam 7:12-13: "When your days are fulfilled and you rest with your fathers, I will set up your seed after you, who will come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever."
 - This promise is repeated by David and by the LORD again and again...
 - David knew that he would die, but he would have one who would come from His body that would live forever and would also reign forever!
 - Jesus is that one who ever lives!

- Jesus' promise to all who come to Him is the promise of eternal life.
- If you reject Him as your prince, you will surely die.
 - Whatever you are living for and pursuing must come to an end unless it is the kingdom of Jesus Christ.

TRANS> But there is more that makes up the glory of this kingdom than its eternity...

- Many people are glad when the kingdoms of this world fall because they are oppressive kingdoms that bring sorrow to many—even many of their own subjects...

B. This kingdom is glorious (not only because it endures forever but) because it brings peace—Shalom...

1. Most kingdoms grow by war, this kingdom grows by the spread of peace...
 - This kingdom is advanced not by conquest with human swords and spears,
 - but by the preaching of the gospel of reconciliation...
 - Every since Jesus rose from the dead with the message of reconciliation,
 - of sins forgiven through His blood,
 - He has sent forth His ministers to proclaim the good news to every creature...
 - He has sent them to call all men to be reconciled to God.
 - And all those who are appointed to eternal life hear and believe.
 - In this way, the kingdom keeps on increasing and as it does peace keeps on increasing...
 - Each one who enters the kingdom obtains peace.
 - Ever since our Lord died and rose again with a sacrifice that was accepted for sinners,
 - the light of this gospel has been bearing fruit in the earth as one sinner after another, and one nation after another is reconciled to God.
 - This is the increase that knows no end!
2. That this kingdom is about reconciliation with God is made clear by the words that follow in Isaiah 9:7...
 - a. For we are told that the Son-given is the one who establishes the throne of David...
 - The throne of David was a throne that was all about having a heart after God—

- That was what set David apart as a king...
 - The goal of his reign was to bring about righteousness—a nation with a heart after God.
- Jesus brings about the fulfillment of what David desired to do...
 - He is the one who is able to truly reconcile His people to God.
 - He is establishes the throne of David, as it says, “with justice and judgement, from that time forth even forever.”
- b. The kingdom of justice and judgement is characterised by a people who are delivered from sin...
 - It is a place where we all become what we should be and live in complete harmony with God and with each other...
 - a relationship of maximum giving and maximum receiving.
 - Giving all that we were created to give so that we are contributing to others and to God’s glory everything we ought to contribute...
 - And receiving all that we are capable of receiving so that there is no more emptiness and no more longing.
 - This is Peace...This is righteousness...
 - This the inheritance that Jesus has for you in His kingdom.
 - He is the prince of Shalom and He brings all His people to live in Shalom with Him forever.
 - He is the prince of righteousness and He establishes His people in righteousness forever and ever.
 - This is the kingdom that He has begun and that is being added to daily.
 - This is the glorious kingdom that will continue to increase and that will endure forever...
 - having begun when Jesus came and continuing without cessation forever and ever.
 - It is not a kingdom we are waiting to began...
 - It began with His coming when the light shined in the darkness in the land of Naphtali and Zebulun—
 - and it will continue forever and ever.

Conclusion:

What a glorious change for all who have entered this kingdom—from darkness and despair to a kingdom of peace and righteousness!

- All brought to us by this one child that is born to us—this Son that is given!
 - The incomparable Jesus Christ!
 - There is no other like Him!
 - He is here and He is establishing His glorious Kingdom.
 - Christian, be glad!
 - What an encouragement!

And to top it all off, we are told that it is the Father’s good pleasure to bring all this about.

- Verse 7 ends with the words...
 - “The zeal of the LORD of Hosts will perform this!”
 - Zeal is the word that is sometimes translated jealousy—it speaks of a passionate desire that is stronger than death...
- The Father, is zealous to bring this deliverance from darkness into this glorious kingdom of peace and righteousness about...
 - He is not half-hearted about it—He is burning with zeal to give us this kingdom!
 - What love, what an encouragement...
 - He wants us to be restored and to have the full blessing that Christ brings...
 - He wants to show off His glory in all the universe by reconciling sinners in this world through the provision of His Son!
 - This is what He has purposed to do, and what He does with gusto!
 - Rejoice and be glad!

But how do you enter this kingdom?

- You enter by receiving the light of gospel...
 - You receive what is said about you and your darkness and alienation from God...
 - And you receive what is promised, even the forgiveness of sin and righteousness through the death of King Jesus, our matchless prince!
 - Come and live in the light!
 - Come and live in this kingdom of perfect shalom that will never end!