

Faith In The Father

Isaiah 9:1-7

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All human actions are, in one way or another, an expression of faith. Regardless of whether or not a person claims to be religious, actions grow out of the things and people we put our faith in. Faith in a financial advisor will result in certain financial decisions; faith in a personal trainer will result in particular diet and fitness decisions; faith in our ability to get away with evil will result in sinful decisions. Your decision to engage in this week's study is an expression of faith. The resulting consequences of our faith-based decisions will strengthen or weaken our confidence in the object of our faith.

As we have seen in our study of Isaiah, the nation of Judah faced severe judgment for their misplaced faith. But this judgment was not hopeless and would not result in their annihilation. God had made unconditional promises to King David and the nation of Judah (See 2 Samuel 7). In Isaiah 9, it was revealed to these downtrodden and defeated people how incredible their future was, and if they had Faith in God and His promises, even this time of darkness would be filled with hope. For...

Faith In Our Heavenly Father Results In A Life of Hope.

A Light Is Promised (vv. 1-2)

The Assyrian invasion swept down around the Sea of Galilee, laying waste to the territories of Zebulun and Naphtali first. Yet Isaiah prophesied that the very pathway that darkness poured into Israel would be the future pathway of light. Jesus perfectly fulfilled this incredible promise, for following His temptation in the desert, Jesus “withdrew into Galilee” to begin his ministry (Matthew 4:12-16). From there, “the Light” began to shine and spread down into the Mediterranean valley and far beyond.

Blessings Multiplied (vv. 3)

This prophecy would have given much-needed hope to a Jewish family experiencing the judgment of God by the hand of the Assyrians, later the Babylonians, Medo-Persians, Greeks, and Romans—the promise of the multiplication of their population and joy. This was a hope for the future, for their descendants, for the final fulfillment of the unconditional covenant that Yahweh had made to David. The people of God would finally be set free and live in peace.

Freedom And Peace At Last (vv. 4-5)

This coming Davidic king would break the tools of slavery and finally set God's people free. The reference to Midian makes it clear that this emancipation won't be through human might or wisdom but that God alone will receive the glory and recognition. For the story of the Midianite defeat, see Judges chapters 6 and 7. Not only will the tools of slavery be broken, but the clothes of war will be burned, for they will no longer be needed. God's people will experience freedom and peace at last!

The Davidic covenant will be fulfilled in the Messiah, in the reign of the Divine Davidic King.

Reign Of The Divine Davidic King (vv.6-7)

This portion would have been difficult to grasp for those original hearers of this prophecy. Not because of the description of the kingdom, but because of the description of the king! The four titles given to this coming king¹ point to this king being more than a man. This king would be divine! He would be God in the flesh! It is easy for us New Testament readers to see how that will be the case, but for a monotheistic Jew, this reality would have been difficult to understand and have stretched their faith, yet for those who believed, what a hope they would have for the future.

This first coming of the Messiah, Jesus of Nazareth, began the fulfillment of God's promise to David. However, Jesus' offer of the kingdom was met with disbelief and rejection by His own people, so Jesus withdrew the offer of the Messianic kingdom while inaugurating a new, previously undisclosed kingdom. The next coming of the Messiah will be the fulfillment of God's promise to David and His promises to His people in these verses and many others. By God's grace, we Gentiles have been "grafted in" to the people of God, and we who live by faith now have an unshakable hope for the future. Because God has declared it, and God will complete it.

Grace News and Needs

Home Groups: Looking for a way to get connected? Grab a flier to get started!

Connection Team: New ministry starts up today! Say hi on the patio!

Membership Class: 1st Class, Oct 8th @ 10am in the Modular

Crown Financial Management Class: Sundays 8:30-10 am, beginning Oct 8th.

- **Sign up with Jeff on the patio.**

Helping Hands: If you have a need, grab a form from the foyer and drop it in one of the gray boxes.

VOM Needs for September: Financial Donations

For more information on our events and ministries, visit www.gccramona.com

¹ The vast majority of the eighty times the word "Wonderful" occur in the OT, they refer to the Lord, himself and his works. It is the nearest word Hebrew has to the idea of 'supernatural', here bringing a wisdom far above the human: Motyer, J. A. (1999). [Isaiah: an introduction and commentary](#) (Vol. 20, pp. 101–102).