Come and See the Promised One – Is 9:1-7

Good to be back; Glad for the break but we really hate to be away
Starting our Christmas series this morning – Come and See
Ever been coming off airplane and seen someone holding a sign like this? (**Mr Smith**)
Who am I? Limo driver, looking for someone I don't know
Why do they do that – because they don't have a clue what the person looks like
They know they're coming, but they don't know who to look for

That's how many people were just before the coming of Christ 2000 years ago
They knew, or at least hoped, that a *Messiah* would come – a deliverer/savior
But most of them didn't have a clue as to who to look for
There were a few, however, who did – one of whom was Philip, one of the 12 disciples
He knew what Moses said about the Messiah in the Law; How the prophets described him
What the Psalmists said – he couldn't wait to see him
When he finally did, couldn't wait to invite others to do the same
Which is exactly what he did in **Jn 1:45-46** – the basis for our series
We have found him of whom Moses in the Law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph . . . <u>Come and see</u>.

That was the message then, and it's still the message today – come and see . . .
The Promised One; King of kings; Son of God; Christ the Lord
Thankfully, many of you have; And many of you want to
You may not know what Moses said about him in the first 5 books of the OT
Or how the Prophets described him; Or that the Psalmists even spoke of him at all
But you're *looking*
If that's you, I want to assure you of something – though you may not know *him*, he knows *you*
And he's waiting for you to trust him with your whole life; And to live for him
My prayer is that you will do that this morning if you haven't already

Others of you have come, and you're pretty skeptical or scared
Scared of what he will require of you if you put your faith in him
Or maybe you've become calloused to the whole "Jesus thing"
Because of that, you wouldn't recognize him in a crowd if your life depended on it
Unfortunately it does
If that's you, can I encourage you, since you've already come . . .
To put your guard down for the next 30 minutes, and take a look at the Promised One as foretold in the pages of Scripture?
You have nothing to lose, and everything to gain

That said – look at Is 9; one of the great Messianic prophecies
As the weeks go by, eventually make our way back to the book of Luke by Christmas
Before we dive in, want to give you some background re Messianic Prophecy

Background

First – the formal title Messiah (capital M) refers to the Promised One, set apart by God to save and deliver his people
Comes from the Heb word "masiah"; Gr = Christos; English = Christ
So Messiah = Christ; Eventually it became a proper name for Jesus
No longer did they refer to him as *the* Christ or *the* Messiah; But simply – Christ

Second – great deal of overstatement that goes on when dealing with Messianic Prophecy
People tend to over-spiritualize passages that may or may not refer to the Messiah
When I use the term Messianic prophecy, I'm referring to those passages where the OT author *directly* describes the Messiah or the glorious age he would usher in . . .
Passages that the original audience would have recognized as Messianic prophecies, because they were so far beyond the human realm of capability

There are at least 65 *direct* Messianic Prophecies in the OT (give next week)
There are many other passages that refer to the Messiah as a *type* or by implication – like the tabernacle that foreshadowed Christ, but didn't explicitly refer to him
All that to say, the OT is rich with descriptions of the Promised One
The One we know as Jesus
One of those rich descriptions or Messianic Prophecies is found in **Is 9:1-7**

Isaiah was saying that at some point in the future –
Hope will dawn; Joy will increase; Oppression will cease; Peace will reign . . .
All because a Promised One, a Messiah, will be born
One who is God in the flesh, with all his wisdom, power, love, and peace (6)
One who would reign forever with justice and righteousness (7)
One put in place by the zeal/passion of God himself (7)
No wonder Philip was so excited; No wonder he urged Nathanael to come and see
They had found the One of whom Isaiah spoke . . .

The One who offers <u>hope</u> (v1-2)

The time was 733BC
The Assyrian armies were just starting to invade northern Israel **(OT map #11)**
It seemed as though their doom and gloom (8:22) would overtake the people of God
Things looked pretty bleak and hopeless

Despite that, Isaiah says in v1 . . .
1 – *But there will be no gloom for her who <u>was</u> in anguish* – in the long run, the cloud of hopelessness over God's people wouldn't last; it wouldn't go on forever
He [God] *brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and Naphtali* – Zeb and Naph were 2 of Jacob's sons that became 2 of the 12 tribes of Israel
The land apportioned to them was the land right around the Sea of Galilee in the northern part of Israel (**map**)
The people in that area were the first to be exposed to the scorn/hatred (contempt) of the invading Assyrian armies who came in from the North; Geographic thing

Has made – What he says won't happen for 733 years, but he uses a past tense verb
In Hebrew it's called a "prophetic perfect" – what is being prophesied is so perfectly certain, it's referred to in the *past* tense
He has made glorious . . . Galilee of the nations – God would someday shine on Galilee and the people who suffered there

2 – They *walked in darkness . . . and dwelt in deep darkness* – they lived apart from God's blessing and favor, in a death-like gloom of wickedness; the shadow of death
In the midst of that, a *great light* will shine – a light of hope, deliverance, salvation
800 years later, Matthew quotes this passage from Isaiah, identifying Jesus *as* the great light, who fulfills this Messianic prophecy – turn to **Mt 4:12-16**
Matt confirms that Jesus *is* the Promised One who offers the hope Isaiah spoke about

Philip had it right
He was looking for the light who offered hope, and Jesus was the One
John 8:12 – *I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness* [hopelessness, despair]*, but will have the light of life.*
If you're walking in despair, darkness . . .
Jesus has come to offer you hope, life, and the light of righteousness
Embrace him this morning

Read v3 – Not only is Jesus the Promised One who offers hope, he's also . . .
The One who brings <u>joy</u> (v 3)
3 – *You have multiplied the nation* – again using the past tense to refer to a future reality
The Promised One will multiply the people of God; he will save many
With that salvation/multiplication comes increased joy

Joy like that at the harvest or when the spoils of conquered people were divided up
Joy like when you get a bonus or receive an unexpected tax refund from the IRS
The point is – the Promised One brings joy of every sort, and to its *fullest* extent
Do you realize the Bible contains *hundreds* of references to our joy as God's people
171x's joy is used in the Bible; Doesn't include other words like gladness, happiness
Ps 4:7 – *You have put more joy in my heart than they have when their grain and wine abound.*
1Pe 1:8 – *Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with <u>joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory</u>*
2 Cor 7:4 – Paul said that even in midst of his affliction he was <u>*overflowing*</u> *with joy.*

If you don't have joy, you don't have Jesus
Not saying that believers don't have bad days or rough times
A joyless Christian is a contradiction of terms
If you profess Jesus as your Lord and Savior, but live a miserable, sour-faced life – something's wrong
Take an honest assessment of your life
Consider the depths from which you've been saved/raised
Search the Scriptures to regain an appreciation for God, and what he's done for you
Get on your knees and ask him to restore unto you the *joy* of your salvation
Don't miss the joy that Jesus brings – get back to the One you love . . .

The One who relieves <u>suffering</u> (v4-5)
4 – *his* refers to the people of God; *you* – the Messiah
God promises through Isaiah that the Messiah would relieve our suffering
The suffering of our burdens – emotionally and physically
The suffering of persecution and hostility from those who oppose you
The suffering of war and bloodshed on a national scale (5)

Jesus came to relieve us of that, just like God relieved Gideon and his people from the suffering caused by the Midianites 600 years earlier
At that time, against insurmountable odds, God used 300 unlikely men (from guess where – Zebulun and Naphtali) to overthrow 135,000 in the Midian army
And in so doing, he relieved the people of Israel of their suffering (Judges 6-8)
Point is – here in Isaiah's prophecy, God, through his Messiah, can and will relieve us of our suffering, against all odds

The fulfillment of this is both now and yet to come
It's happening *now* in the hearts/minds of those who embrace Jesus as Savior and Lord
As he relieves us of the guilt and pain we suffer from the effects of sin
And it's happening to varying degrees in our physical lives at God's choosing
But the *complete* fulfillment is *yet to come* when Jesus returns and relieves us of all . . .
Suffering, Pain, Bloodshed, Persecution, Strife, Hatred
In the meantime, we rely on Jesus for the strength to endure, fueled by the hope of relief, and the occasional glimpses we get from time to time

V6 – We come to the pinnacle of this Messianic Prophecy (read v6); Take a look at . . .
The One who inspires <u>awe</u> (v6)
His coming as a child was so subtle, so quiet, so under the radar
That in itself inspires awe – that God would chose such an unorthodox way of sending the One who had been promised for 1000's of years
Instead of coming on the clouds with power/glory to rule/reign over all . . .
He came in humility/weakness to *die* for all – that's *awe-some*

The gov't shall be upon his shoulder – He alone carries the burden of his rule and reign
Not as a brutal dictator, but as a Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God . . .
Names in the OT describe a person's character and nature; He piles it on here saying . . .
He's *Wonderful Counselor* – he gives us supernatural counsel, outstripping anything we can comprehend
He's *Mighty God* – it would have been shocking enough to call the coming Messiah *God*, but to endow him with might and strength as well . . . ?
That would have been beyond anything they could have fathomed
If he hadn't already come, it would be beyond anything we could fathom as well
He's our *Everlasting Father* – with all the compassion, protection, love, and discipline that comes with a godly father
He'll always be there – he's *Everlasting*
Giving us peace – freedom from worry/anxiety if we trust him as the *Prince of Peace*

Put those titles together and it stretches our understanding of the Godhead to the limit
Normally reserved for Yahweh – God the Father
But here used interchangeably for both the Father *and* the Son
No wonder Philip invited Nathanael to come and see
No wonder your friend or family member invited you to come and see
They've found the *Awe-some* One who fits this description

Does he reign in your life, as Lord?
Are you familiar with his loving counsel? Have you felt his strength?
Are you resting in his fatherly compassion and protection? Do you know his peace?
If so, I imagine you're in a state of awe; continually – that's called worship
If you haven't experienced that – you're in the right place
I hope you've seen this morning a bunch of people who are filled with *awe* as they worship the Promised One

The One who in v7 . . .
The One who provides <u>security</u> (v7)
Read v7 – that's security
Security because of the rock-solid certainty that his *gov't*, rule/reign will never end

His throne will be over *all* people, just as King David was promised 300 years earlier in 2 Sam 7
This isn't something new, it's just the *how* of God's earlier promise to David
The OT is not a haphazard collection of prophecies
God's promise and plan builds on itself as the OT unfolds

We can rest secure because of the certainty of it

Just in case you think this is too good to be true . . .
Isaiah says, *The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do it this* – the passion of God Almighty will bring this about

Ever run into someone who is really passionate about what they do?
Passionate about selling; Service; Cause – because of that they get things done
"Don't get in his/her way – they're *passionate*"

You've never seen passion/zeal to accomplish something until you've seen the passion of God to save your soul
So passionate that he entered this world as a helpless baby and died for your sins to make it happen – that's passion/zeal
Don't know about you, but that gives me security – that what God says, he will do

That when he says . . .
He will save me and keep me, now and forever – he will do it
Righteousness and peace will be mine – he will make it happen

Summary

Have you seen him – the Promised One who provides security, inspires awe, relieves suffering, brings joy, and offers hope?
Do you *know* him?

The Bible says that he stands at the door of your heart and knocks
It's your choice to let him in – coming and looking from afar doesn't cut it
You have to open the door of your heart and let him in to rule and reign as Lord of life

Prayer of salvation – use my words to express your heart
Raise your hand and look at me
Pray for them