



Advent is the season of preparation. Everyone participates in preparing during the Advent season. Yet, not everyone prepares in the same way. The world prepares during Advent by consuming the latest and greatest gifts. They are preparing for a time of celebrating the goodness of God's creation without acknowledging God as king and Lord. However, the Christian is to prepare during Advent by waiting, praying, serving and living as a witness to God's reign in this world. Preparing leads to a baby Messiah with the hope His return as Lord of all.

Isaiah 9:1-7 gives a second prediction of the coming Messiah; In vv. 3-5, the prophet looks down the years to the time when Israel would rejoice and when burdens would be lifted.—the time when Jesus Christ would reign as Prince of Peace. Then the prophet jumps from His humble birth to His glorious reign, when He shall rule from Jerusalem and there shall be perfect peace. We can rejoice today and have our burdens lifted because Jesus reigns supreme overall and in all and He is interceding on our behalf to the Father. Jesus, He is the Gift that keeps on giving. Praise Him.....

As you prepare for Advent, reflect upon God's mission which is revealed through Jesus Christ. When we reflect on God's story during Advent, we become attentive to God's plan to redeem and restore the world. As the Bible unfolds from Genesis to Revelation, we are invited to see how Jesus is central to God's rescue mission to earth. As you anticipate the coming Messiah this Advent season, may the peace and joy of Christ reign supreme in your heart this Christmas Season and beyond.

Wishing you a Christ Filled Holiday Season, Blessing on ya! —PD