

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 . . . Come and see.

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 hope (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 was 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 joy (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 joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory*

2 Cor 7:4 – Paul said that even in midst of his affliction he was *overflowing 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 suffering (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 awe (v6)

His coming as a child was so subtle, so quiet, so under the radar

That in itself inspires awe – that God would choose 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 security (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

Close

Building – beam, floor, Commitment Sunday

PwtP's - tonight

Invite a friend next week . . . Is 11 – King of Kings