

SBAOC Weekly Update

NEWS & PRAYER REQUESTS

If you have any news, prayer requests, or events that you would like to have included in this update, please email the information to spurgeonassociation@gmail.com or call us at 785-456-8513.

PRINCE OF PEACE: ISAIAH 9:6-7

By Scott Redd

Imagine the country you once cherished now divided, broken, overrun by corrupt leadership, imperiled by vast international powers, and seemingly on the brink of collapse. Imagine the best of your leaders crippled by poor character, indecision, and unwise international alliances. The political and cultural conditions in Jerusalem in the eighth century BC were shaped by these dark concerns and provided the immediate background to the prophecy of Isaiah 9:6-7. The northern kingdom of Israel had turned against her sister to the south, Judah, in an ill-advised coalition with Syria to the north, a coalition that would lead to the destruction of both of its parties at the hands of the Assyrian army. Judah was left alone with diminishing prospects for survival.

Into this dire situation, Isaiah spoke an oracle of hope about a child who would be born to the kingdom and bring national and international restoration to the world.

The passage begins by assuring the southern audience that the northern kingdom will be included in the restoration from exile

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PURPOSE STATEMENT:

We unite as an association of Southern Baptist churches in order to manifest the glory of God above all. We purpose to do this by seeking spiritual awakening and revival by intense prayer and earnest obedience to Scripture. We covenant to strengthen and support one another, motivated and guided by the authority and sufficiency of Scripture, by facilitating faithful preaching of the Word of God, proclaiming the gospel of the risen Lord Jesus Christ to all, making and gathering disciples, planting churches and coordinating unified missions efforts.

"If there is no church... should you not commence one?" C. H. Spurgeon

COMMENTS ON OUR PURPOSE STATEMENT

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“But the blessed truths of the gospel are now unveiled to our eyes, and we are called upon to behold, and to enjoy ‘the light of the knowledge of the glory of God, in the face of Jesus Christ.’ The words of inspiration best express our highly favoured state; ‘We all, with open face, beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image, from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.’”

William Wilberforce

John Wesley said, “When God takes the world out of your heart, He puts the world on your heart.”

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(9:1). The coming restoration will include all the children of Israel, even those tribes of the rebellious northern kingdom (see Ezek. 37:16-17). Even for the north and its capital, Samaria, the darkness of exile will one day come to an end, and the sunrise of restoration and the new king will appear. The gospel of Matthew shows how kingdom restoration comes in the ministry of Jesus Christ (Matt. 4:12-16). He is the light shining in the gloom.

From Isaiah’s perspective, what is important is that this coming restoration will see a reunification of the two kingdoms of Israel under a king in the line of David (see 2 Sam. 7:14). The child’s birth will mark the end of their suffering in exile. The child in Isaiah 9 is the new king who will inaugurate the restoration period for the people of God after the long years of exile.

Isaiah 9:1-7 evokes a coronation ceremony in which royal titles are read aloud before an audience of subjects and dignitaries. In this case, each title depicts the superlative characteristics of the new regent that will serve him as he establishes his future kingdom as the light that replaces the darkness of the coming exile.

Wonderful Counselor. The meaning of this title might seem obscure to a modern audience. A counselor in this case involves a master of wisdom and its teachings. This sage-counselor would have served in the court of the king, who in turn ruled as the head of the judiciary for the land. The restoration king, however, will excel in all areas of wisdom, much like Solomon of old, but himself will be a counselor of miraculous proportions whose counsel is accompanied by affirming wonders (Matt. 12:42; Luke 11:31; 1 Cor. 1:24). As such, he will resolve the problem of the poor leadership of old (Isa. 3:3).

Mighty God. This title indicates that the king will be identified with the divine sovereign from whom his authority is derived. This king will not be like Israel’s first king, Saul, who was “little in his own eyes” (1 Sam. 15:17), an insecurity that caused him to lead the nation toward his own ends and not the ends of the Lord. The restoration king will be identified with the sovereign divine king from whom he, and every other worldly power, receives his authority on earth (Matt. 28:18).

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UPCOMING CONFERENCES & EVENTS

Southeast Founders

Conference—January 3-5. Grace Baptist Church in Cape Coral, Florida. Theme: *Do Justice — Love Kindness — Walk Humbly*. Speakers include Voddie Baucham, Josh Buice, Tom Ascol, and Jared Longshore. Early registration pricing through Dec. 6. Go to founders.org/events/ for information.

True Church Conference—

January 14-17. Grace Life Church of the Shoals, Muscle Shoals, AL. Theme: *Honoring the Excellency of Jesus Christ*. truechurchconference.com

Deep South Regional

Founders Conference—January 24-26. Bethlehem Baptist Church in Laurel, MS. Theme: *The Doctrine of Sanctification*. Main Speaker: Conrad Mbewe. Go to founders.org/events/ for information.

Southern Baptist Founders

Conference Midwest—February 26 & 27, 2019. First Baptist Church of Fenton in Fenton, MO. Theme: *Reformation in Today's Churches*. Speakers include Dr. Thomas Nettles & Dr. Owen Strachan. <https://sbfcmw.wordpress.com>

Saved By Faith Youth Camp—

June 17-21, 2019. Webster Conference Center, Salina, Kansas. Speaker: Dr. Jim Orrick. For more info go to www.sbfyckansas.com or email trinitybaptistwamego@gmail.com.

Encouraged to Endure

Conference—July 25-27, 2019. Second Baptist Church, West Frankfort, IL. Speakers: Joseph Mahlaola, Larry McCall, & John Snyder. Worship Leader: Tom Clay.

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Everlasting Father. This title involves another feature of the throne: the king as the father of the nation. Christians will remember that the fatherhood of God is the primary theme in the prayer that Jesus teaches to His disciples (6:9). In the prayer, the believer is encouraged to pray to God as a Father whose kingdom will come and whose royal will ought to be done in the earthly as well as heavenly realm. In Isaiah 9, “father” language is not meant to connote close intimacy as much as the reverence with which one regards the king (John 10:30; 14:9-10).

Prince of Peace. This last title refers to the abundance and wholeness of the restoration kingdom to come. The title “prince” is not necessarily a title of lesser authority in the government than “king” but rather includes a larger group of ruling officials. Not only will the coming son of David be king, he will be a ruler who ushers in a period of *shalom*—peace—of welfare and community wholeness for the kingdom. Justice will be done. The poor and the oppressed will be given rest. And each will live fully and wholly toward their God-ordained vocations (John 17:20-23; Gal. 3:27-29; Phil 1:6).

For the prophet Isaiah, the assurance of this restoration kingdom and her king provided a great cause for hope and celebration. His were dark times, and they were going to become darker still, but the Lord in His “zeal” (9:7) would not allow the darkness to last forever. We have much in common with Isaiah’s audience. The longer God seemed absent in the grim realities of exile, the more audacious was the claim that a restoration king was coming. Our claim that the King is returning is likewise bold, but we know the King of whom Isaiah was speaking. We have known Him, and He is coming back for us, and His return will be glorious.

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PRAYER MEETINGS FOR SPIRITUAL AWAKENING AND REVIVAL

- Fellowship Baptist Church in Onaga, Kansas—5:00 pm on Sundays
- Trinity Baptist Church in Wamego, Kansas—8:00 pm on Saturdays

The Spurgeon Baptist Association of Churches is an association of Southern Baptist Churches that are united to manifest the glory of God above all. We set out to do this by seeking spiritual awakening and revival by intense prayer and earnest obedience to Scripture. As an association of churches we are bound in mutual covenant to strengthen and support one another - motivated and guided by the authority and sufficiency of Scripture - by facilitating faithful preaching of the Word of God, proclaiming the gospel of the risen Lord Jesus Christ to all, making and gathering disciples, planting churches and coordinating unified missions efforts.

We are a non-geographic association seeking to include any like-minded body of believers so that together we might better fulfill the great commission of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Our intent is to lean on His instruction and not our imaginations so that He is honored in all that we do. We welcome churches who adhere to the confessions of faith accepted by Southern Baptists throughout their history, including, but not limited to, the Second London Confession (1689) and the Baptist Faith and Message.



Baptist Association of Churches