

Waiting For You

Waiting for the Prince of Peace
Pastor Derwin L. Gray – December 12, 2017

Open in prayer.

As we walk through this Advent season, it's important for us to slow down and marinate on how Advent teaches us to wait for the Prince of Peace with hopeful expectation.

Read Isaiah 9:1-7 and Matthew 4:16.

- Do you see how Jesus fulfilled this prophecy written 700 hundred years before His birth?
- Note: Date: ca. 733 BC. This date, however, should be taken as a general date and by no means precise. A date of 733 BC would reflect certain conditions surrounding the Syro-Ephraimite War. Assyria's presence as the world's dominant force undoubtedly places the context within the 8th century BC (799-700 BC).
- The poetry of Isaiah 9:1–7 blends elements of thanksgiving and royal psalms to emphasize the ideals of Davidic kingship. Later Christian interpretation has understood chapter 9 as messianic prophecies awaiting perfect fulfillment in Christ's second coming; no historical Davidic king fits the picture of the ideal ruler described here.

Notes: (Barry, J. D., Mangum, D., Brown, D. R., Heiser, M. S., Custis, M., Ritzema, E., ... Bomar, D. (2012, 2016). *Faithlife Study Bible* (Isaiah 9:1–7). Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press.)

Isaiah 9:6 (CSB) identifies several of the Messiah's attributes. Discuss them and the implications for our discipleship. (Jesus living in and through us)

- **Wonderful Counselor** – represents the wisdom of Jesus and his trustworthiness.
- **Mighty God** – represents that Jesus is a warrior God who is a champion of the oppressed.
- **Eternal Father** – represents Jesus' love and protection.
- **Prince of Peace** – represents that Jesus is the one who brings peace (*Shalom*).

Pastor Derwin said, "Because of Jesus, we have peace with God."

- Read Colossians 1:19-20.
- Discuss the implications of these verses regarding what it means in our lives and in creation.

Pastor Derwin said, "Because of Jesus, we can be blessed."

- Read Matthew 5:9.
- According to this verse, how are we blessed?

How do we become peacemakers? Discuss these four practical steps.

- See people as broken image-bearers.
- Seek to understand before being understood.
- Do not make assumptions.
- Go directly to the person.

Soul-tattoo: Become a peacemaker.

Close in prayer.