Series: Vintage Christmas

**God has given us a child.**

Isaiah 9:3-7 December 18, 2016

1. God’s gift brings us joy.

a. God’s gift is a gift of joy.

* V.3 *you have increased its joy*
* Luke 2:10 *And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people.*
* Matthew 2:10 *When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy.*

b. God’s gift is a celebration of our relationship with Him.

* V.3 *they rejoice before you*
	+ It’s a picture of a religious feast in the temple court.

c. God’s gift is like the celebration of His provision in our lives.

* V.3 *as with joy at the harvest*

d. God’s gift is like the celebration of a great victory.

* V.3 *as they are glad when they divide the spoil.*
* Psalm 119:162 *I rejoice at your word like one who finds great spoil.*

Q. Christmas is the promise of joy. How have you experienced that joy? How can Christians lose that joy? How can we regain the lost joy that God promises us?

Q. Isaiah pictures the joy of the people by saying “they rejoice before you,” as they did when they made peace offerings as a celebration of their relationship with God. How does this differ from the other things that make people ‘happy?’

Q. How does the joy of the harvest and the joy of dividing the spoils of war picture the joy God brings in our lives? i.e. Why did God pick those two images in particular as a description of His gift to us?

2. The joy comes from the relief God brings.

a. God offers relief from our burdens, oppressors and conflicts.

* V.4 *the yoke of his burden*
* V.4 *the staff for his shoulder*
* V.4 *the rod of his oppressor*
* V.5 *For every boot … every garment … will be burned*

b. God’s relief is compared to the great victory at Midian.

* V.4 *you have broken as on the day of Midian.*
* Judges 7:19 *So Gideon and the hundred men who were with him came to the outskirts of the camp at the beginning of the middle watch, when they had just set the watch. And they blew the trumpets and smashed the jars that were in their hands.*

c. God brought relief from Assyria, picturing his ultimate salvation.

* Isaiah 10:24 *Therefore thus says the Lord GOD of hosts: “O my people, who dwell in Zion, be not afraid of the Assyrians when they strike with the rod and lift up their staff against you as the Egyptians did.*
* Isaiah 37:36–38 *And the angel of the LORD went out and struck down 185,000 in the camp of the Assyrians. And when people arose early in the morning, behold, these were all dead bodies. Then Sennacherib king of Assyria departed and returned home and lived at Nineveh. And as he was worshiping in the house of Nisroch his god, Adrammelech and Sharezer, his sons, struck him down with the sword.*

Q. Why would God compare His salvation to the breaking of a yoke of slavery or a rod of oppression?

Q. What is similar about the victory over Midian and the way we receive the salvation that God offers?

Q. The victory over Assyria would have brought great relief to the people. They would have rejoiced in God’s help and seen the victory as a partial fulfillment of the promise of Isaiah 9. What would have also caused them to hope for something more though? i.e. In what way is that fulfillment only partial?

3. The joy comes through a child.

a. The solution is a child.

* V.6 *For to us a child is born*

b. The child is a gift.

* V.6 *to us a son is given*

c. The child is a ruler.

* V.6 *the government shall be upon his shoulder*

d. The child is a supernatural adviser.

* V.6 *his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor*

e. The child is a powerful hero God.

* V.6 *his name shall be called … Mighty God*

f. The child is an eternal father, a new Abraham.

* V.6 *his name shall be called … Everlasting Father*

g. The child is a leader of peace.

* V.6 *his name shall be called … Prince of Peace*
* Psalm 119:165 *Great peace have those who love your law; nothing can make them stumble.*

Q. What would the promise of a child signify to Israelites who thought they might be wiped out at any moment by the powerful Assyrians?

Q. Did you learn anything new about Jesus from the names that were given to Him in Isaiah’s prophecy?

Take time to thank God and worship Jesus for the incredible salvation He has provided us with.

**Notes:**