

## Jesus is a BETTER GIFT

Text: Isaiah 9:1-7

Isaiah – 700 years before Christ – SAW that Jesus is BETTER: John 12:41

### The SIGNS of JESUS' KINGDOM:

- 1) **REDEMPTION:** Isaiah 9:1. Cited in Matthew 4:15
  - a) **A NEW King changes EVERYTHING:** Matthew 4:13–14, 17
  - b) **A DYING King changes everything FOREVER:** Hebrews 9:12. See also: Ephesians 1:7
  - c) **A FOREVER King changes everything FOR EVERYONE who trusts in His REDEEMING LOVE and POWER:** Revelation 21:5  
See also: Revelation 21:1-4
- 2) **LIGHT:** Isaiah 9:2. Cited in Matthew 4:16.
  - a) **We LIVE in a SPIRITUALLY DARK world:** Isaiah 8:22
  - b) **We SEE the need for LIGHT, like Zechariah, who was longing for the fulfillment of God's PROMISED LIGHT:** Luke 1:78–79.  
See also: Psalm 36:9; Isaiah 42:6, 49:6; Luke 2:29-32
  - c) **Jesus IS the LIGHT we long for:** John 8:12. See: John 1:4-5, 9
  - d) **NATURALLY, we HIDE from THE Light:** John 3:19
  - e) **SUPERNATURALLY, by God's grace, we are DRAWN to the light – JESUS:** 2 Corinthians 4:6
- 3) **JOY:** Isaiah 9:3
  - a) **Joy AVAILABLE to EVERYONE:** Luke 2:10
  - b) **Joy EXPERIENCED by those who LONG for a new KING:**  
Matthew 2:2-3, 10
  - c) **Joy FULFILLED as we HEAR and OBEY King Jesus:** John 15:11

### The BLESSINGS of JESUS' KINGDOM:

- 1) **FREEDOM:** Isaiah 9:4. See Judges 7
  - a) **FREEDOM to serve GOD without FEAR:** Luke 1:69-71, 74–75
  - b) **FREEDOM FOREVER:** Hebrews 2:14–15
- 2) **PEACE (WHOLENESS and COMMUNITY):** Isaiah 9:5. See also: Isaiah 2:4; Micah 4:3; Zechariah 9:10
  - a) **HE defeats CONFLICT:** Psalm 46:9–11a
  - b) **HE brings WHOLENESS:** John 14:27
  - c) **HIS peace REIGNS – in our HEARTS and COMMUNITY:**  
Colossians 3:15

The GIFT of JESUS' KINGDOM: Isaiah 9:6

- 1) **A HUMAN and DIVINE CHILD for YOU:** Luke 2:11
- 2) **God's SON:** John 3:16. See also: Psalm 2:7-9; Romans 8:32; Heb. 1:2
- 3) **WONDERFUL COUNSELOR:** 1 Cor. 1:18–21. See: Isaiah 11:2, 28:9
- 4) **MIGHTY GOD:** Acts 2:22–24. See also: Isaiah 10:21; 11:2-5; Jeremiah 20:11, 32:18-19
- 5) **EVERLASTING FATHER:** John 14:9. See also: Isaiah 63:16; 64:8; John 10:30, 17:11, 17:22
- 6) **PRINCE OF PEACE:** 2 Corinthians 5:19ab

*“Look at Jesus. As the Wonderful Counselor, he has the best ideas and strategies. Let's follow him. As the Mighty God, he defeats his enemies easily. Let's hide behind him. As the Everlasting Father, he loves us endlessly. Let's enjoy him. As the Prince of Peace, he reconciles us while we are still his enemies. Let's welcome his dominion.” – Ray Ortland*

The EXTENT of JESUS' KINGDOM: Isaiah 9:7b

- 1) **TIMELESS:** Luke 1:31–33. See also: 2 Samuel 7:12-13, 16; Isaiah 11; Jeremiah 23:5; Daniel 7:13-14
- 2) **LIMITLESS:** Matthew 28:18
- 3) **BOUNDLESS:** Habakkuk 2:14. See also: Isaiah 11:9

The CERTAINTY of JESUS' KINGDOM: Isaiah 9:7b

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### Gospel In Life Questions

- 1) **BELIEVE:** WHAT TRUTHS did God REVEAL to me through His Word today about HIM and/or MYSELF?
- 2) **ASSESS:** HOW do these truths ENCOURAGE and/or CHALLENGE (convict) ME?
- 3) **PROCESS:** WHY is this message GOOD NEWS (GOSPEL) to ME today? (CONNECT the GOSPEL story to MY present story)
- 4) **CHANGE:** WHERE will I APPLY (BELIEVE, REPENT, DO) this message in MY own life this week?
- 5) **PROCLAIM:** WHO does God want ME to share these truths with this week?