

Day 1 || A God Of Action

The Big Idea: The Bible shows God's eternal plan to save His children from the consequences of their sins.

Read Isaiah 9:6-7 and Luke 1:26-33

- **6** For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. **7** Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the LORD Almighty will accomplish this. (*Isaiah 9:6-7*)
- **26** In the sixth month, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, **27** to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. **28** The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you." **29** Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. **30** But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favor with God. **31** You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus. **32** He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, **33** and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end." (*Luke 1:26-33*)

This passage in Isaiah is probably pretty familiar, right? It's one of those passages we hear a lot at Christmas. And because of this, we can easily kind of pass over its importance.

Take a second, slow down, and let this awesome truth sink in.

Isaiah 9:6-7 was written by, you guessed it, Isaiah. Now, Isaiah was one of God's chosen messengers. We call these guys prophets. Isaiah was passing along God's words at a time when God's chosen people, the Israelites, had completely turned their backs on God. God's people had stopped counting on God and His promises. God had given them tons of warning, but they hadn't listened. So, Isaiah's message was one of coming judgment. (Which probably didn't make him very popular at parties.)

However, because God is who He is, even His message of judgment carried hope. **Isaiah 9:6-7 is all about hope.** It's about a hopeful future, one in which God once and for all provides a way out from under the weight of our sins.

Fast forward something like 700-800 years and you see this message of hope coming to life in Luke 1:26-33. *The little baby God was forming in Mary's stomach?* He was the same promised savior Isaiah was writing about in Isaiah 9:6-7.

Long before God sent Jesus to this earth, He knew the plan. In fact, God's sending His own Son to live and breathe and walk this earth was *always* the plan. God has always known that Jesus would be the answer to a perfect relationship between God and His children. Which is great news for you and me. But to see this plan come to life, Jesus had to come to earth. **And that's what Christmas is all about.**

THINK ABOUT THIS . . .

- **God has had a plan to redeem you from the consequences of your sins for all eternity. How does that help you trust Him with your worries, concerns, and future?**
- **Take a moment to pray to God, thanking Him for being a God of action who works in the world, the lives of His followers, and your own life!**