

A Light Has Dawned

Isaiah 9:6-7

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9 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 greatness 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.

Four things set Isaiah's announcement apart:

1. This announcement is sent really early.
2. Isaiah announces a royal birth.
3. The baby has four different names, each telling us what he will do.
4. These names belong only to God.

Darkness as a Metaphor

The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned (Isaiah 9:2)

1. Evil and Suffering
2. Ignorance/Blindness

Light as a Metaphor

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. ² Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters. ³ And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. ⁴ God saw that the light was good, and he separated the light from the darkness. ⁵ God called the light "day," and the darkness he called "night." And there was evening, and there was morning—the first day (Genesis 1:1-5)

1. God creates light as an antidote to darkness → God is the source of goodness
2. Light gives order to creation and makes life possible → God is the source of life
3. God's very speech ushers in light → God is the source of wisdom

Four Distinct Names

1. Wonderful Counselor → He is our supernatural source of wisdom—a wisdom far and above that of human wisdom
2. Mighty God → He is divinely strong and powerful; our warrior who can fight our battles
3. Everlasting Father → He is our protector who deeply loves us and will never leave us or forsake us
4. Prince of Peace → He is our shalom who brings a sense of deep well being and a peace like no other