



QUESTION TIME!

What's your favourite
Christmas song?



**WHAT'S
COMING UP**





BAPTISM
DEC 20th



OFFERING

Almighty God,

Upon the cross, sorrow and pain and every dreadful, tragic consequence of sin was overcome.

Today we remember all those who have joined in that sacrifice for peace and justice.

We give thanks for the bravery of men and women who have served for harmony and love.

And in a world that is still torn and broken we declare that Jesus is Lord.

That hope overcomes despair,
That joy overcomes sorrow,
That peace overcomes hostility,
That love overcomes hate.

From the tomb, the promise of eternity emerged in a resurrected Christ.

Grace was poured into the hearts of all those who suffer, mourn and



Christ Is Coming Again



Isaiah 9

The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness,
on them has light shone.

3 You have multiplied the nation;
you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you
as with joy at the harvest,
as they are glad when they divide the
spoil.

4 For the yoke of his burden,
and the staff for his shoulder,
the rod of his oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.

5 For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle
tumult
and every garment rolled in blood
will be burned as fuel for the fire.

6 For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given;
and the government shall be upon his shoulder,
and his name shall be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

7 Of the increase of his government and of peace
there will be no end,
on the throne of David and over his kingdom,
to establish it and to uphold it
with justice and with righteousness

Darkness v Light

This passage is a hopeful passage, prophecy given by Isaiah, before Jesus. When shared with Israel at the time, it was understood to be the hope of a time when God's triumph meant that they would return Israel to earthly glory. To a kingdom triumphing over other nations.

But in Jesus' return, there's a deeper beauty and glory of what God is doing. And that's what we're going to look at, a little in this passage.

1. There are different analogies in this passage, and they're pointing to the same thing.

The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who dwelt in a land of deep
darkness,
on them has light shone.

darkness, light.

lack of knowledge

lack of clarity

lack of truth

living a lie.

revelation, understanding, truth,

The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who dwelt in a land of deep
darkness,
on them has light shone.

active.

walking, dwelling.

living, getting on with life, making
movements.

passive,

seen a great light. they're not causing
the light but there's a light.

shone. again, done towards them,

Walking in darkness / Light seen
Dwelling in darkness / Light on them

4. Living. And then discovering
what? Discovering a truth about life.
discovering a truth about their
situation.

5. When you don't know you're
in darkness, when the light shines, it
changes your circumstances, your
purpose. You can't live for the same
thing anymore, you have to clean up.

6. Living in filth and squalor, and
then discovering that Jesus is doing
something different



Are you still living in darkness?
Are you still walking in darkness?

Do you accept the light?
Do you acknowledge the light?

4. Living. And then discovering what? Discovering a truth about life. discovering a truth about their situation.

5. When you don't know you're in darkness, when the light shines, it changes your circumstances, your purpose. You can't live for the same thing anymore, you have to clean up.

6. Living in filth and squalor, and then discovering that Jesus is doing something different



Growth
Harvest
Spoils (Loot)

Growth, Harvest, Spoils

You have multiplied the nation;
you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you
as with joy at the harvest,
as they are glad
when they divide the spoil.

Multiply a nation
Increase it's joy?

How do you multiply a nation. And
increase joy.

Actually, having a child is how you
multiply a nation. It adds number. It
also is how you increase it's joy. It
doesn't just add joy to yourself, but
the addition itself creates joy.

Whether you adopt, or have your own,
there is real, increase of joy.

You have multiplied the nation;
you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you
as with joy at the harvest,
as they are glad
when they divide the spoil.

harvest
divide the spoil.

Harvest — the joy that comes from
harvest, is

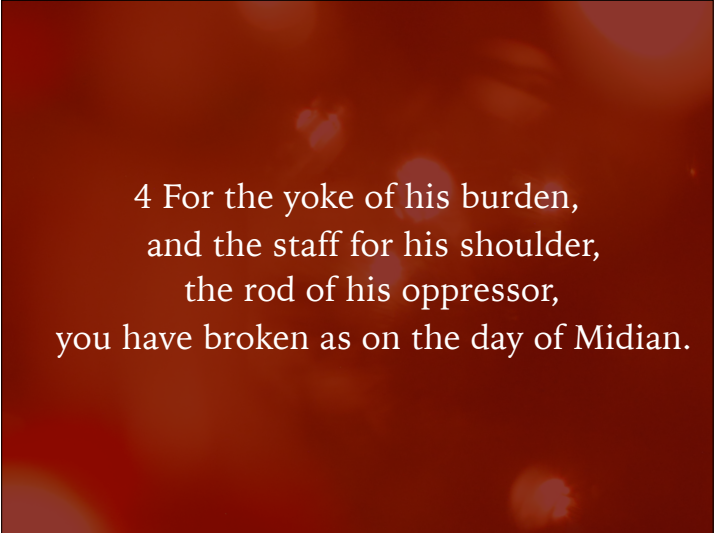
1. provision, security, safety
2. hard work,

Spoils of war

1. treasure, victory, triumph
2. security, safety, peace



3 4's.
Three For's.
For what?



4 For the yoke of his burden,
and the staff for his shoulder,
the rod of his oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.

Because of oppression.
Because of burden.
Because of punishment/abuse

God has broken the yoke of the
burden, the staff of his shoulder, the
rod of his oppressor.

Judges 6-7

>For whenever the Israelites planted
crops, the Midianites and the
Amalekites and the people of the East
would come up against them. 4 They
would encamp against them and
devour the produce of the land, as far
as Gaza, and leave no sustenance in
Israel and no sheep or ox or donkey.
5 For they would come up with their
livestock and their tents; they would
come like locusts in number—both
they and their camels could not be

5 For every boot of the tramping warrior
in battle tumult
and every garment rolled in blood
will be burned as fuel for the fire.

Instead of death and war, there's
peace, victory.

Instead of war taking away life, family,
destruction, it is turned around to
demonstrate triumph, new beginning.

War is over.

Psalm 46:9

> Psalm 46:9 He makes wars cease to
the end of the earth;
he breaks the bow and shatters the
spear;
he burns the chariots with fire.

6 For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given;
and the government
shall be upon his shoulder,
and his name shall be called
Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

This invincible figure striding
across the world stage, taking
gracious command, expectation of
what he will achieve.

For to us — a child is born/a son is
given

Given to us. Given for us. Not
because we deserve it, but there's a
miraculous graciousness from God —
a provision.

And when they read this, they thought
it was hope in an earthly king. But it is
so much more.

This isn't just king. This is God.
Wonderful Counsellor.
Mighty God.
Everlasting Father.
Prince of Peace.

7 Of the increase
of his government and of peace
there will be no end,
on the throne of David
and over his kingdom,
to establish it and to uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time forth and forevermore.
The zeal of the LORD of hosts
will do this.

Zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.
The Zeal of the Lord of hosts.
Passion, earnestness.

And we think that zeal is for us.
And it is.
But it's zeal for God's glory. For us
also to see that he is God.
We submit to him.
We submit to his light.



HOPE

Renew hope.
This promise.
It was for the Saviour to come.
Jesus, is the fulfilment of the
prophecy.
It is his kingdom come.

And so we come again, and say,
HOPE.
Jesus,



We follow Christ.

Jesus, shine your light.

Teach us your victory.

Increase your governance.

Proclaim your peace.

The arrival of Christ, his revelation.
He brings light into the darkness
