



From Despair to Hope- Mighty God

Advent: Momentum- Isaiah 9:1-7

Advent 1 - From Despair to Hope - "Mighty God"

Advent 2 - From Turmoil to Peace - "Prince of Peace"

Advent 3 - From Sorrow to Joy - "Wonderful Counselor"

Advent 4 - From Indifference to Love - "Everlasting Father"

Advent 1 - From Despair to Hope – "Mighty God"

A. Quest for a Glorious Leader (v.1)

But there will be **no gloom** for her who was in anguish. In the **former time** he brought into contempt the land of **Zebulun** and the land of **Naphtali**, but in the **latter time** he has made **glorious** the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations.

Isaiah 7:2b

"...the heart of the people shook as the trees of the forest shake before the wind."

Isaiah 7:14

"Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel."

Tim Keller- Counterfeit Gods

Johan Huizinga: "We live in a world possessed, and we know it."

Maximilien Robespierre: "What is the goal towards which we are heading? The peaceful enjoyment of liberty and equality...The terror is nothing more than prompt, severe, inflexible justice."

Problem= Culture Solution= Reforms

Problem = Sin Solution=God

Isaiah 8:22

"And they **will look to the earth**, but behold, distress and darkness, the gloom of anguish. And they will be thrust into thick darkness."

Isaiah 9:1a

"... In the **former time** he brought into contempt the land of **Zebulun** and the land of **Naphtali**..."

A. Quest for a Glorious Leader (v.1)

But there will be no gloom for her who was in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, **but in the latter time** he

has made **glorious** the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, **Galilee of the nations**.

Big Idea:

Christian hope is the only hope that is not futile because it is grounded in Jesus Christ.

B. It's Jesus who Gives us Hope (v.2)

"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."

Matthew 4:13-16

¹³ Leaving Nazareth he went and lived in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, ¹⁴ so that what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: ¹⁵ 'The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles --¹⁶ the people dwelling in darkness have seen a great light, and for those dwelling in the region and shadow of death, on them a light has dawned.'

B. It's Jesus who Gives us Hope (v.2)

"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."

Hope: Hebrew- Yachal- to wait expectantly!

C. It's Jesus who Lets us Rest in His Might (v.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."

Creation	Genesis 1-2
Enoch's translation	Genesis 5:24
The Worldwide Flood	Genesis 7-8
Confusion of languages at Babel	Genesis 11:1-9
Isaac conceived by old Abraham and Sarah	Genesis 21:1-7
Burning bush doesn't burn up	Exodus 3:1-4
Moses' rod changed into a serpent	Exodus 4:3-4, 30
River turned to blood	Exodus 7:14-25
Pillar of cloud and fire	Exodus 13:21-22
Crossing the Red Sea	Exodus 14:21-31
Bitter waters sweetened	Exodus 15:23-25
Daily Manna	Exodus 16:14-35
Water from the rock in Rephidim	Exodus 17:5-8
Amalek defeated	Exodus 17:9-13
Earth opens and swallows Korah and Co.	Numbers 16:32-34
Brazen serpent healed many	Numbers 21:5-9
Balaam's donkey speaking in human voice	Numbers 22:21-35
Jordan River supernaturally divided	Joshua 3:14-17

Fall of Jericho	Joshua 6:6-20
Sun and Moon stood still	Joshua 10:12-14
Elijah fed by ravens	1 Kings 17:4-6
Widow's oil and meal supernaturally increased	1 Kings 17:12-16
Widow's son raised from dead	1 Kings 17:17-24
Sacrifice consumed by fire	1 Kings 18:38
Rain in answer to prayer	1 Kings 18:41-45
Captains destroyed.	2 Kings 1:9-12
Jordan River divided by Elijah's mantle	2 Kings 2:7-8
Elijah translated to heavens in a chariot of fire	2 Kings 2:11
Jordan River divided by Elisha	2 Kings 2:14
Naaman cured of leprosy	2 Kings 5:10-14
Syrian army defeated	2 Kings 6:18-20
Sennacherib's army destroyed by an angel	2 Kings 19:35
Three men delivered from fiery furnace	Daniel 3:19-27
Daniel delivered from lion's den	Daniel 6:16-23
Preservation of Jonah in the belly of fish	Jonah 2:1-10

Big Idea:

Christian hope is the only hope that is not futile because it is grounded in Jesus Christ.

1. Admit that you are Powerless!

2. Turn your Fears into a Prayer Factory.



From Despair to Hope- Mighty God

Introduction

This advent, we will spend time in Isaiah 9:1-7. Israel & Judah had experienced a series of bad kings and were feeling despair and gloom. Into this darkness, God promised a great light! Read Isaiah 9:1-7.

1. Today we will explore the momentum of going from **despair to hope** because of this child born to us, the **"Mighty God"**. Share of a time when you felt helpless and realized that you couldn't control what was happening.

2. Discuss the "former times" (v. 1) how Israel & Judah kept putting their hope in an earthly king. What happens when our trust is placed in earthly leaders? Now discuss the "latter time" when Jesus arrived in Galilee. What did God do to orchestrate the arrival of Jesus?

3. Read Matthew 4:13-16, which is the fulfillment of v. 2. How does the "light" of Jesus give you hope today? What difference does it make to know that God directed the exact details of the arrival of His Son. How does placing your hope in Jesus change your outlook? Discuss.

4. Read Isaiah 9:6 again.

Discuss the significance of the humanity of Christ ("child is born"), the sovereignty of God ("given"), and the deity of Christ ("Mighty God"). How do these attributes help you to move from despair to hope? Share examples of your journey in this.

Application

Take a few minutes to pray quietly and admit to God that you are powerless. Now turn your fears into prayer. Tell Him what you are afraid of, and deposit that into His care. Now share some of these prayers with the group, as you feel led.