

**Christmas**  
*Good News in Troubling Times*  
(Isa. 9:6)

**Introduction:** Today, we are celebrating the Advent candle of “Hope” – which celebrates the prophecy the coming Messiah! The Old Testament is full of prophecies about the coming Messiah. Our text today is only one of them – but it illustrates the great hope we have in Christ’s coming!

**I. Our hope is centered in a Wonderful Counselor:**

**A. Isaiah lived in a time of national turmoil** - Assyria, a new and rising world power had already threatened Judah.

1. Israel, the Northern kingdom was already gone – crushed by the Assyrians.
2. Yet in this dark time – Isaiah saw a glimmer of hope! (He prophesied about it (Isa. 9:2).

**B. Isaiah then gives a strange prophecy about a child being born (v.6)** Isaiah’s faith in God sees the child as if He were already there.

1. Doesn’t it seem hollow sometimes when people encourage you with words...
2. But it is this faith in dark times that bring to light this truth and gives us real hope! (Prov. 12:26; Mt. 6:27f.; Phil. 4:6; Ps. 37:5-7; 1 Pe. 5:7)

**C. Isaiah announces God has the answers to Judah’s troubles**

1. His title shall be wonderful, counselor –
2. Isaiah says God’s solution to our deepest darkest times is Jesus, the wonderful counselor – (Col.2:3)

**II. Our hope is centered in a Mighty God:**

What gives us such hope is not just the wisdom of this wonderful counselor, but

**A. Our hope comes from knowing our counselor is “Mighty God!” –**

1. Isaiah did not just see his hope coming from God his hope came seeing his help was Almighty God! (Ps. 9:9; 23:4; 27:1,5; 28:7; 118:6-9; 121:2; Rom.8:31)

2. Some have said – there is no way Isaiah could have conceived in his mind the incarnation of Christ that he prophesied about here – (2 Tim.3:16)

**B. Today, we see How God brought all this about** – Maybe you don’t know how God is going to work all your stuff out, but you know His word says (Eph 3:20; Mt. 19:26).

**III. Our hope is centered in an Everlasting Father:** We have all seen leaders come and go – the good never lasts.

**A. Isaiah says, “Yes, but to this king’s reign there will be no end!”**

1. “Where is God in the midst of all the evil and tragedy in the world today?” (Ps. 102:26,27; Mal. 3:6a; Js. 1:17)
2. Our hope is centered on the fact that we have an everlasting Father who is the same yesterday, today and forever!

**B. Isaiah calls Him “Father” –**

1. God is the creator of every man, but He is not the Father of every man. (Jn.1:12)
2. But to those who have become the children of God –(Mt. 7:11)

**IV. Our hope is centered in a Prince of Peace:** This was a dark time in Judah. – But it was to this time, Isaiah spoke of God’s “Prince of peace!”

**A. The ways of this world are difficulty, unrest and troublesome** – (Jb. 5:7; 14:1; Eccl. 5:17; 2:23)

**B. This peace does not mean the absence of conflict;** but rather peace in the midst of conflict.

1. Just following Jesus does not mean all your troubles are over or guarantee us peace – (Mt. 10:22,34)
2. Jesus gives us a peace not as the world gives, but He gives to us perfect peace – (Rom. 5:1; Jn. 14:27; Phil. 4:7; Jn. 16:33)

**Conclusion:** It is this peace even in the midst of trouble and turmoil that gives us that ray of hope that drives away the shadows of fear and frustration! Let this Christmas be a celebration of the hope that comes because Jesus came!