

The Best Gift (1)
“The Promise of the Gift”
Isaiah 9:6–7

Introduction: Christmas reminds us that sometimes the best gifts are the ones we never expected but end up needing the most.

Seven hundred years before Bethlehem, God promised a Light strong enough to break through the deepest darkness — Jesus.

I. Walking in darkness – our need for light:

A. Context of Isaiah’s day

1. Isaiah prophesied in a time of national gloom, fear, and Assyrian threat.
2. Northern Galilee (Zebulun & Naphtali) was invaded and left “walking in darkness.”

Swindoll notes Jesus’ birth also occurred in troubled, fearful times.

3. Into this darkness, God spoke hope.

B. Isaiah’s promise of light “The people who walk in darkness have seen a great light...” (Isaiah 9:2).

1. God promised the Messiah would bring divine illumination.
- Guzik: Isaiah’s promise carries over from the warning of Isaiah 8:22.
2. God promised the first tribes to fall would be first to see Messiah’s light.
 3. Matthew 4:13–16 affirms Jesus fulfilled this prophecy in Galilee.

C. Our dark seasons

1. We all know darkness — illness, loss, loneliness, depression, uncertainty.
2. God promises a light planned for our night seasons.
3. When “driven into darkness” (Isaiah 8:22), God’s Word brings a sure dawn of hope.

II. The promised child and His Kingdom: (Isaiah 9:6–7)

A. The prophecy - “Unto us a Child is born... a Son is given... Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God...”

1. Given seven centuries before Christmas.
2. Long before Bethlehem, God promised a divine King who would bring light and life.

B. Fully human and fully divine - “Child” = humanity; “Son” = deity.

Philippians 2:6–7 — the eternal Son became flesh to save us.

C. His rule and kingdom - “The government will be upon His shoulder.”

1. Isaiah includes both advents:
 - a. First advent: the manger –
 - Daniel 2:44 — Christ’s future earthly kingdom.
 - Isaiah 9:7 — an eternal kingdom of peace, justice, and righteousness.
 - b. Second advent: the King returning to reign.

D. His glorious Names -

1. **Wonderful Counselor** — perfect wisdom and guidance (John 7:46).

2. **Mighty God** — divine power and authority.
3. **Everlasting Father** — eternal care and faithful love.
4. **Prince of Peace** — peace with God (Romans 5:1), peace within (Phil. 4:7), and future global peace.

Cradle, cross, crown — Christmas points to His birth, His sacrifice, and His eternal reign.

III. Jesus – fulfillment of the promise:

A. Long-Awaited Fulfillment -Jesus’ birth in Bethlehem (Micah 5:2) fulfills Isaiah’s prophecy.

- a. Matthew 4:13–16 — Jesus is “the great light” foretold by Isaiah.
- b. Luke 2:14 — Angels proclaim “peace on earth.”

B. Jesus is the Light -

1. Jesus said, “I am the light of the world...” (John 8:12).
2. Believers are called from darkness into His marvelous light (1 Peter 2:9).
Simeon declared, “My eyes have seen Your salvation” (Luke 2:30).

C. Living in His light today - Jesus reigns in heaven but is present with us through the Holy Spirit. Believers reflect His light (Matthew 5:14–16).

Stanley: Christ offers peace in a world of turmoil.

MacArthur: Let the “government of your life” rest on His shoulders.

IV. Hope that trusts God’s promises:

A. God’s faithfulness

1. “The zeal of the Lord of hosts will accomplish this” (Isaiah 9:7).
2. Hebrews 10:23 — God’s promises are faithful and sure.
3. 2 Corinthians 1:20 — In Christ every promise is “Yes.”

B. God’s supernatural Gift

1. Max Lucado: God sent a Savior because our greatest need was forgiveness.
2. Jesus is the gift we needed most — mercy, relationship, and light.

C. Living by Faith -In dark seasons we cling to His promises.

- Hebrews 13:5 — God will never leave you nor forsake you.
- John 1:29 — Jesus took away the sin of the world.
- The God who sent the Savior will finish His work in us.

D. God’s light in us and through us

- 1 John 1:5–7 — “God is light.”
- As we walk in His light, we encourage and shine to others
- We become beacons of hope in our families, community, and world.
Example: like sharing a flashlight in the dark, we share the light of Christ.

Conclusion: Jesus is “the promised gift we needed most.” The cradle, the cross, and the crown show His saving work and eternal reign. **Challenge:** Hold to the hope we have in Him. And be concerned about those walking in darkness — and share your light with them.