

OPEN BIBLE CHURCH

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SERMON TITLE

The Gift

SERIES

DATE

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KEY SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 9:1-7

SYNOPSIS

God offers us the ultimate Gift.

HIGHLIGHTS



☞ The Biblical Christmas story:

Sequence:	Luke 1; Matthew 1; Luke 2; Matthew 2
Luke 1:26-38ff	Gabriel visits Mary
Matthew 1:18-25	Angel visits Joseph in a dream
Luke 2:1-20ff	Jesus born; shepherds visit
Matthew 2:1-12ff	Magi visit; family escapes to Egypt

☞ The Gift

John 3:16

16 "For God so loved the world that **he gave** his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life

Romans 6:23

23 For the wages of sin is death, but the **gift** of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

☞ Isaiah 9:6-7

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 increase 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.

This is a classic scripture which prophesied the coming Messiah a little over 700 years in advance. With phenomenal accuracy, Isaiah predicted Christ would come through childbirth. In theory, the Messiah could have been an angel, or he could have been God without a human side, but Isaiah accurately prophesied his birth. Jesus, our Savior, was born a human being, so he understands and identifies with us.

Isaiah said, "to us a son is given." Here is one of the earliest references to gifts being associated with Christ's birth. At Christmas time we share gifts and we often associate that gift-giving with the wise men bringing gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. But, here we see that the original idea of a gift came from God himself. He **gave** us his son. When you understand the concept of salvation, you appreciate what an incredible gift it was.

Verse 6 goes on to describe this gift with various names he would be called.

☞ **Wonderful** – he fills us with wonder, and he does wonders. The word here refers to things that are unusual, beyond human capabilities, which cause amazement. This is a reference to his miraculous abilities. Indeed, Jesus performed some of the greatest miracles in all history. He fed 5,000 with two fish and five loaves. He healed the blind, the mute, and the lame. He walked on water and calmed a storm. He cast out demons and raised the dead. And, ultimately, he, ☞ himself, rose from the dead and is living now. **He still does miracles today.**



☞ **Counselor** – You may have a friend that you love and respect, but their advice isn't always so great. You may know someone else who has great advice, but isn't really that good of a friend. ☞ Jesus is the ideal blend of both, making the perfect counselor **who helps with our problems and guides us**. Whatever decisions you may be struggling with, he has the perfect answer.

☞ **Mighty God** – he is powerful and strong. He is the one who created everything. This is also one of the first declarations of the deity of Jesus. He was fully God and fully man – a concept we can ☞ hardly understand, yet supported by numerous scriptures. Jesus is Mighty God and **nothing is too difficult for him**. Whatever your problem, he is powerful enough to handle it.

☞ **Everlasting Father** – he is the source of all life and being. He is the author of salvation and thus gives us everlasting life. He also looks after us as a perfect father, **protecting, providing, and preparing us for all that lies ahead**. He is always watching over you.

☞ **Prince of Peace** – he makes peace between God and man; he rules in peace; **he gives peace** to those who trust him. **When you're in distress, he can bring you peace**.

Now that we have a better understanding of who he is, the rest of the chapter becomes clearer. **Because of Jesus... Verse 1 – no more gloom for those who were in distress**. Those times in life when everything is a mess; when you can't see past the next five minutes; when your heart and ☞ mind are running wild - Jesus can deliver you from that. **There is hope in the Lord, Jesus Christ**.

☞ **Verse 2 – people walking in darkness have seen a great light**. Here's another precursor to Christmas traditions. People have lights up all over the place – on the Christmas tree; in the window; on the mantle; hanging from the eaves. These are symbols of Jesus, the light of the world. John also referred to Jesus as light in **John 1:9**... The true light that gives light to every man...

Biblically, light is closely related to **life and happiness**. We even use the word "light" as a metaphor today. You might "shed some light on the subject." In a troubling situation, you might "see a light at the end of the tunnel." You might acknowledge that you've "finally seen the light," realizing the truth. You might see something "in a new light," meaning a new perspective with greater understanding. Jesus is the light, and as such, he does all of these things. He gives understanding; he helps us see the truth; he gives a better perspective on life; and he gives hope for a better future.

☞ **Choral Group – Light of the Stable**

Verse 3 – You have enlarged the nation and increased their joy. Historically, God watched over Israel and prospered them. He repeatedly delivered them from the hand of their enemies, and in response, the people rejoiced. Jesus still does the same today. He watches over you and delivers you over and over again, even when you don't realize it. But, when you see what he has done in your life, it should lead to rejoicing. Without Christ, we are lost and destined for doom. But ☞ because of him we can have hope and peace and life. So, we have **joy** and rejoice!



Verse 4 – the yoke is broken, burdens are lifted and oppression is overcome. This all speaks of the **freedom we have in Christ**. We were slaves to sin, but Christ has set us free and we are no longer slaves – not to fear; not to sin; not to the devil. We are free. Jesus keeps on bringing freedom and deliverance today. **Whatever may be holding you back or keeping you bound up, can be broken through the power of Jesus, whether it be doubt, discouragement, bad habits, or temptation.** Christ can free you from all of these!

Verse 5 – the tools of war will be burned. In other words, the battle is over. Jesus has won.

Colossians 2:15

15 having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.

☞ Since Jesus has won the ultimate victory, he can give us **victory** in our battles. Whatever the struggle, he can lead you to success. That sinful temptation which keeps on cropping up can be overcome through Christ. That bad habit you want to get past can be defeated once and for all through him. That doubt, discouragement, and depression can all be conquered through Christ.

Verse 7 – Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end. This is a prophetic view of the eternal rule of Christ. He is returning soon, and when he does, the earth will come under his fair and just rule, bringing peace which will never end.

☞ **When you make Christ the Lord of your life, he gives peace.** Who doesn't want that? His peace transcends understanding. **Philippians 4:7.** In other words, even when troubles are all around, you can be at peace. It doesn't make sense, but you have the peace of Christ in all circumstances.

Since our eternal destiny is settled, we can be at peace in the storms of this life. Of course, this peace is connected to his government. When you give your life to Christ, surrendering to his leadership, and allowing him to govern you, he gives peace. **Romans 8:6.**

Jesus is the Ultimate Gift. In fact, **Romans 5** talks about The Gift. In that chapter it also describes our heritage ever since Adam has been nothing but sin, hopelessness and death. But The Gift of Christ brings new life, forgiveness and right standing with God to those who receive it. God offers us The Ultimate Gift, but we have to receive it.

Because of the Gift of Christ, we can experience all that he is. His wonderful miracles are available to us today. His caring counsel and guidance are ours every day. His mighty power for whatever we face is still working today. His provision and protection are constantly with us. His perfect peace, which is beyond human understanding, is ours as we surrender to his leadership in our lives. All of this and more is ours through the Gift of Christ, if we receive it.

☞ **If you need a miracle or guidance, provision or peace, receive the Gift of Christ. This is where it all begins. Have you invited Jesus to be the governor of your life? If not, I urge you to receive the Gift of Christ today. If you have, then open your heart for even more of Christ. He's the gift which keeps on giving and giving.**