

Promised by God > Isaiah 9:1-7

9:1 The one voice worth listening to: what God promises is what He will bring about. We can trust Him even when our own situation looks nothing like what we hope.

9:2-5 What the Lord promises: a time was coming when the lot of His people would not be battle and exile anymore. Even deeper: a time was coming when the darkness of their sins would no longer define their life, but instead everything would be changed and joy would be abundant.

9:6-7 How the promises would be fulfilled: through the arrival of a Child – specifically, through the arrival of Jesus Christ, the Messiah. The King of Kings would rule – and is now ruling – a kingdom marked by righteousness and justice and grace forevermore.

Context: In the midst of the judgment that is being brought upon God’s people, there is a future hope that those who trust Him must hold on to.

Aim: God’s promises often happen on a timeline far different than our own – but this doesn’t make them any less certain. The people of God must see that there is hope even as they undergo the judgment their sins deserve.

Gospel: One is coming who would take away the darkness of sin – the Savior who would rule and reign forever, ushering in a kingdom of peace between God and His people. That person, the New Testament clearly tells us, is Jesus.

Applications: Who you listen to determines where you will find (or if you will find) hope. Will you look to Christ?

Here is how I will apply these truths: _____

Announcements

Pastor Kevin will be out of the office for the next two weeks. If you have a pastoral need during this time, please contact the office and they will connect you with one of our overseers.

Remember that there will be a quarterly meeting immediately following the service next week (October 18). This will be a brief time to give updates on the ministry of the church over the past several months. There will be no potluck, though we don't anticipate the meeting going long.

For anyone who has a bit more margin and availability right now, we have several ministries in the church that are looking for volunteers: greeting and ushering during the Sunday school hour and during the worship service, helping with the weekly DQ mailings, and serving in our church library. Contact the office if you'd like more information on any of these opportunities.

Prayer

Lord, we gather together today in our weakness, yet that is right where we are to be. Your strength is what matters, not our own. Father, we come together as sinners desperately in need of a Savior. So we praise you that Christ – your Son – has died on the cross, and that His death is sufficient to redeem us from our sins and bring us into eternal life. He is the Savior for all who call upon His name – what a mercy that you turn nobody who cries out to Him away.

Jesus, we can add nothing to you, nothing to your glory, but it brings us great joy that you are what you are, and that you are so wonderfully exalted to the right hand of God. Our desire is to more fully and clearly behold your glory, according to your prayer and promise.

And so we pray, Holy Spirit: work in us. Work in those gathered here and watching or reading from home. Change our hearts and minds. Let your grace and mercy to us cause such a change in our attitudes and actions that we would respond with worship. Then, let that worship overflow from this day into the week ahead, with the hope that others who don't yet trust Jesus would see His work in us, and that you would use that portrait to draw them to salvation as well. In Christ's name, amen.

(adapted from a prayer written by John Owen)