

# **JESUS: OUR GIFT OF HOPE**

By Mark Beard

## **Text: Isaiah 9:6-7**

George Iles wrote, “Hope is faith holding out its hands in the dark.”

“Today is the first Sunday in Advent. The chancel colors are not the red of Santa's suit, the green of freshly cut trees or the white of snowy tinsel, but the somber purple of mourning, waiting and reflection. For we may not be able to hear the child unless first we have lived through the dark hours. That's why Advent is an important time of preparation.”

### **I. GOD THE FATHER WRAPPED OUR HOPE UP IN THE PERSON OF JESUS CHRIST (v. 6).**

#### **A. He came as our greatest gift in the form of a child.**

*“For to us a child is born, to us a son is given...”*

#### **B. His destiny was to rule an eternal kingdom.**

*“And the government will be on his shoulders...”*

The prophet then leaps ahead to the Kingdom Age when Messiah will reign in righteousness and justice from David's throne. God had promised David that his dynasty and throne would be established forever (2 Sam. 7:16);

and this is fulfilled literally in Jesus Christ (Luke 1:32-33; Zech. 9:9), who will one day reign from Jerusalem (Isa. 11:1-5; Jer. 23:5-8; 30:8-10). This kingdom is called “the Millennium,” which means “one thousand years.”  
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**C. His character was and is incomparable.**

*“And he will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.”*

**II. GOD THE FATHER PLACED ALL OF HUMANITIES’ HOPE FOR THE FUTURE IN JESUS CHRIST (v. 7).**

**A. His kingdom will have no limits and no end.**

*“Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end.”*

**B. His kingdom will be established on righteousness and justice.**

*“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.”*

**C. His kingdom will not fail because of the “zeal” of the LORD.**

*“The zeal of the LORD Almighty will accomplish this.”*

## **CONCLUSION**

An old pioneer traveled westward across the great plains until he came to an abrupt halt at the edge of the Grand Canyon. He gawked at the sight before him: a vast chasm one mile down, eighteen miles across, and more than a hundred miles long! He gasped, "Something musta happened here!"

A visitor to our world at Christmas time, seeing the lights, the decorations, the trees, the parades, the festivities, and the religious services, would also probably say, "Something must have happened here!" Indeed, something did happen. God came to our world on the first Christmas. —James S. Hewett, Illustrations Unlimited, Tyndale, 1972, p. 86.