

Isaiah 9:2-7

2 The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—
on them light has shined.
3 You have multiplied exultation;
you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you
as with joy at the harvest,
as people exult when dividing plunder.
4 For the yoke of their burden
and the bar across their shoulders,
the rod of their oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.
5 For all the boots of the tramping warriors
and all the garments rolled in blood
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.
6 For a child has been born for us,
a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders,
and he is named
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
7 Great will be his authority,
and there shall be endless peace
for the throne of David and his kingdom.
He will establish and uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time onward and forevermore.
The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

The eternal promise of the Kingdom of God to all people who are living through trying times, walking in darkness, that God's coming will turn the land of deep darkness into one of light. God will multiply their exultation and increase their joy. For a new beginning is coming. God's child is its leader, his son given to us on that first Christmas. His authority is God's authority and his kingdom will be one of peace, justice, and love. He will rule from this time onward and forevermore. Therefore, he brings us unquenchable hope. He encourages us to follow his path of justice and righteousness which is his unconditional love extended to all people. His kingdom will encompass all people, all are God's beloved children. Anything less is not his gospel, his good news. Anything less is a false gospel and not God's kingdom or the reign of His Son, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

O Father in heaven, holy is your name, may your eternal kingdom come, here on earth, as it has in heaven. May it come in us and with us as you empower us to know and do your will by and with the steadfast love that your Holy Spirit pours into our hearts. Amen. Amen.

Submitted by Jim Luedeke

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