

To Us a Son is Given  
Isaiah 9:1-7, Key Verse: 9:6

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1. What was the hope of God Isaiah saw for his suffering people? (1a) How had God disciplined them in the past? (1b; 2Ki15:29b) How would he honor them in the future? (1c,2; Mt4:15,16)
2. Read verse 2. What does it mean to walk in darkness? To live “in the shadow of death”? What has God done for such people? Who is the “great light”? (Jn8:12) How does Jesus dispel the elements of darkness and death?
3. What had been the situation of Israel because of their sins? (8:21,22) How would God restore them? (3-5) (For Midian’s defeat, see Jdg7:25.) What can we learn here about God and his ways of working, and how can this apply to you?
4. What is the ultimate fulfillment of God’s promise to restore his people? (Read verse 6a.) How the news of a newborn child give people hope? Who is this child? (6b) Why did God come to the world in this way? (Lk2:7; Jn1:14) How did this express God’s love and way of salvation?
5. What does it mean that “the government will be on his shoulders”? (Mt2:2; Jn18:37) Read verse 6b. Think about the meaning of each title here and how Jesus fulfills each one. (“Wonderful Counselor”: Jn4:1-26; 8:1-11; “Mighty God”: Jn1:1-3; Mk4:41; Lk7:16; “Everlasting Father”: Heb13:8; Mk2:5; “Prince of Peace”: Lk2:14; Jn14:27; Eph2:14)
6. Read verse 7. What are the characteristics of his reign? How is all this accomplished? What does God’s greatest gift mean to you at this Christmas season?