

Avent: Hope

Isaiah 9:1-7 *Christ Brings Hope*

=>Henry VIII wanted a son (too) badly

***Christ is the One who brings hope to all mankind**

I. "Advent"

- A. Advent means "the coming"
- B. The four Sundays before Christmas
- C. Each has a special message of Christmas

II. Prophecy of Hope

- A. Isaiah context
 - 1. Prophecy spans Isaiah 7:1-12
 - 2. Ch 8 ends with dark and discouraging times for the people
 - 3. Prophecies always had truth, mercy, and grace (justice, mercy, grace)
- B. Hope in dark times
 - 1. The Northern tribes were taken over first and longest
 - 2. 2 Kings 15:29
 - 3. Light/hope would come to the north (those who were farther away) first
 - 4. Matthew 4:13-17
 - 5. Victory will be complete and ultimate
- C. Hope comes through a person (child)
 - 1. A child, a son (repetition)
 - 2. Name means identity as well as nature of his being
 - 3. Wonderful Counselor = holy guidance
 - a. Wonderful = overtones of deity (Grogan)
 - b. Counselor = Bad counsel ruined the world but a good counselor will redeem it (Spurgeon)
 - c. Together or not?
- D. Government
 - 1. Jews expected the rule right then
 - 2. Jesus set up the kingdom in the hearts of mankind first (Luke 17:20-21; John 18:36)
 - 3. Ultimately at the end of time (millennium reign)

E. The Lord will be the agent of change

III. Message of Christmas: Christ is the one who brings hope to all mankind