

**CHRISTMAS ISN'T CANCELED - WE'RE JUST WAITING!**  
**ADVENT DEVOTIONAL**

1<sup>st</sup> Week of Advent – Waiting in Hope

November 30, 2020

Text: Isaiah 9:2-7

Meditation:

The Prophet Isaiah had witnessed the sin of Israel, and Isaiah's heart was broken. The Prophecy was coming true, Israel would be taken captive by Nebuchadnezzar. Yet, Isaiah was sent a message, a prophecy, of hope. The message said, "there are people walking in darkness (v 3) who will see a great light." (note – not a glimmer – but a great light.) The Scripture says we are called to rejoice before God as a people who rejoice at the harvest.

The harvest was symbolic of all the goodness God provided – every grain of wheat, every fruit and vegetable were viewed as a blessing. As believers, their hope and trust was in God for everything. Now Isaiah is telling the Israelites (the believers and the non-faithful) to listen up – "hope is not canceled." Even those who have not been trusting in God (the unfaithful, and those in darkness), are going to see the light, and have hope. A Savior (v 6) is coming, a child will be born, and the government will be on his shoulders. Isaiah is telling them..... Look, I know it seems like things can't get worse- but God has a plan. That plan is Jesus, Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Verse 1 tells us.... There will be "no more gloom for those in distress."

The message was hope! Not in leaders or elected officials, not in new vaccines, but hope in Jesus. Our Savior, Jesus, who has come like the harvest to provide all our needs; and will come again to provide peace and order. Jesus will be all that we need. Christ is all that we need!

Question #1

As you reflect on this year, 2020, have you been filled with hope, or cast down in despair, and walking in the darkness? What do you need to do in your personal spiritual walk this Advent season to come to the harvest, to rejoice, and hope in the return of Jesus Christ?

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Question #2

How will you share the gift of hope with those who do not know the Wonderful Counselor, Prince of Peace?

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Prayer:

Heavenly Father, we praise your name and give thanks for the gift of your son, Jesus Christ. Prepare our hearts to celebrate the hope that was given to us on the first Christmas, that we might live in hope all year. Amen