



FIRST
SONGS OF
CHRISTMAS



1 Peter 2:9

But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.

Romans 13:12

The night is nearly over; the day is almost here. So let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light.

- The darkness

- The darkness
- The hope of Christmas described

- The darkness
- The hope of Christmas described
- The hope of Christmas explained

- The darkness
- The hope of Christmas described
- The hope of Christmas explained
- Now what?

Isaiah 9:1-2

Nevertheless, there will be no more gloom for those who were in distress. In the past he humbled the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the future he will honor Galilee of the

Isaiah 9:1-2 (con't)

nations, by the Way of the Sea, beyond the Jordan— The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned.

THE DARKNESS THEN...
(in Isaiah's time)

THE DARKNESS THEN...

(in Isaiah's time)

- God's people were oppressed
- Many were choosing to be unfaithful

THE DARKNESS NOW..
(in our time)

What circumstances in your life are causing you to feel surrounded by darkness at present?

ADVENT REMINDS US...

- We are wandering in the darkness

ADVENT REMINDS US...

- We are wandering in the darkness
- We are called to wait on God, but also to wait with God in our present darkness.

ERRORS WE CAN MAKE WHILE WANDERING IN THE DARK...

- We try to control the waiting away
- We try to console ourselves in the waiting

Isaiah 41:10

So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

Matthew 28:20

“...And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

Isaiah 9:1

Nevertheless, there will be no more
gloom for those who were in distress.

We are unfaithful, but God is faithful.

We are sinful, but God reaches out save us from our sin.

We are in darkness, but God provides the light.

In the past there was gloom, but God promises glory in the future

Isaiah 9:2

The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned.

WE ALL HAVE TWO OPTIONS:

- We can look at our world and find only hopelessness and shattered dreams and conclude God has forgotten us.
- We can choose to remember God's past mercies, his present grace, and his future promises.

What are you doing to
remember God's past mercies,
His present grace, and His future
promises?

Isaiah 9:2

The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned.

Matthew 4:12-14

When Jesus heard that John had been put in prison, he withdrew to Galilee. Leaving Nazareth, he went and lived in Capernaum, which was by the lake in the area of Zebulun and Naphtali—¹⁴ to fulfill what was said through the prophet Isaiah:

Isaiah 9:3

You have enlarged the nation and increased their joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as they are glad when they divide the spoil.

Isaiah 9:4

For as in the day of Midian's defeat, you
have shattered the yoke that burdens
them, the bar across their shoulders,
the rod of their oppressor.

Isaiah 9:5

Every warrior's boot used in battle and every garment rolled in blood will be destined for burning will be fuel for the fire.

Isaiah 9:6

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.





As the Wonderful Counselor, he has the best ideas and strategies. Let's follow him. As the Mighty God, he defeats his enemies easily. Let's hide behind him. As the Everlasting Father, he loves us endlessly. Let's enjoy him. As the Prince of Peace, he reconciles us while we are still his enemies. Let's welcome his dominion."

~ Ray Ortlund ~

NOW WHAT?

Remember...

NOW WHAT?

Remember...

Who God is and what God has done, is doing and has promised still to do.

Isaiah 9:7

Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end. 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. The zeal of the LORD Almighty will accomplish this.

GOD IS DOING A NEW THING
THROUGH JESUS.

GOD IS DOING A NEW THING THROUGH JESUS. THIS MEANS...

- We can experience peace with God
NOW.

GOD IS DOING A NEW THINGS THROUGH JESUS. THIS MEANS...

- We can experience peace with God NOW.
- We will experience the 'not yet' part of God's promise.

Revelation 21:4

He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.

God is the one who is setting
all things right and making all
things new; and he's doing it
for our good!



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