

Title

## He is Here: In the Dark

### Isaiah 9:1-7

**Topic:** Christmas security  
**Subject:** What do you do when you need security?  
**Complement:** When you need security, look to the Child (MI).  
**Purpose:** The listeners will seek Jesus for their security.  
**Meditation:** Isaiah 7:14  
**Reading:** Isaiah 9:1-7

#### Introduction

Christmas

1. Interest: How are you doing today? (Has anybody asked you—*really* asked you?)

Merry  
Christmas

a) It's Christmas time so everyone is supposed to be upbeat and say, "Blessed Christmas to you" or at least "Merry Christmas."

Candle

b) But we all know full well that this time can be one of the darkest times of the year—and maybe we're not so merry after all.

(1) The week that more people die than any other is December 25-January 1.

(2) Do you need light in your darkness today?

Break

2. Need: Do you need light to break through your darkness today?

a) Do you need to be rescued from the dark of seemingly extra doses of stress?

b) Do you need freedom from the medications that enslave you? Like coffee?

c) How 'bout deliverance from concerns about your family—your job—this church?

d) Does anyone here need light during just plain apathy or discouragement?

Rudolph

e) Maybe you relate to Rudolph, whose friends *used* to laugh & call him names!

f) It hits in December as much—if not more—than any other time of the year.

Need  
security

3. Subject: But what do you do when you need security? That's our question for today. Where do you find security when life is dark? We are in our Christmas series called "He is Here" to see how God breaks into our darkness.

Our Series

Life in  
Israel

4. Background: Today we're going to look at people who had a whole lot more stress than most of us are experiencing.

Map  
(auto)

a) Let's journey to the 8<sup>th</sup> century BC when Isaiah ministered to a stressed-out Judah. Isaiah lived during a time of great discouragement and upheaval in Judah:

(1) Assyria was the major threat to the northeast as it expanded its borders.

- (2) Syria and Israel stood next in line for destruction. Fearing an Assyrian attack, they asked Judah to join a 12-nation coalition against Assyria.
- (3) After Judah refused to join the coalition, Israel joined forces with Syria to fight against Jerusalem (Isa. 7:1-2; 734 BC).
- (4) But, rather than trusting the Lord, Ahaz sent a lot of money to Assyria for help (2 Kings 16:7-8).
- (5) Assyria essentially said, “Thanks for the money. I was going to conquer them anyway, but I’ll accept pay for it too!” Assyria attacked Damascus in Syria and put King Rezin to death (2 Kings 16:9; 732 BC).
- (6) But the “deliverer” Assyria was also the aggressor! This nation had already caused Israel to pay tribute for 9 years (743-734 BC).
- (7) Judah had more stress than we do since their very existence was threatened!

Where to turn?
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• Egypt? • Kiss
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b) So the question came, “Who should Judah trust for security?”

- (1) Should Judah look to Egypt and join the 12-nation alliance against Assyria? Pharaoh was powerful, so should they kiss up to him?
- (2) Or should Judah look to Assyria to protect them from Syria and Israel?
- (3) Who should they rely upon? Some suggested mediums (read 8:19).
- (4) Other people in Isaiah’s day were looking to the *dead* for signs [read [8:19-22](#)]. But there’s no security in this!

19
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20-22
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Need security?
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5. Transition: Rather, to know where to find security, Isaiah 9:1-5 says that...

MP I.
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**Security is often found in the strangest places (1-5).**

**[Don’t trust the usual sources of deliverance.]**

A. Look to Galilee
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1 Map
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2 Sunset
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Camels
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A. Judah shouldn’t look to the big powers but to Galilee (1-5).

1. Instead of the darkness and gloom of those trusting mediums in the previous verses [8:19-22], God promises light and joy in the humiliated Galilee ([1-2](#)).
2. The typical place Jews looked for deliverance certainly wasn’t Galilee.

a) Isaiah says this area of the Jewish tribes of Naphtali and Zebulun was *humbled in the past*—trampled by caravans and armies as it was on the main trade route.

b) What is the “way of the sea” (1b)? This is the name of the main highway that connected Egypt and Assyria through Israel, mostly by the Mediterranean Sea. Deliverance surely wouldn’t come from this *pagan highway*—would it?

Map Trade Route
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Not Galilee • fortresses
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c) They thought of security in terms of *fortress cities* like Jerusalem, Samaria, or the key city of Megiddo—but Galilee had no major fortresses!

• Gentile
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d) Galilee was the *Gentile area* of Israel. And of all places, one would never expect to find the Messiah in Nazareth—Nazareth was the headquarters of the Roman garrison in the days of Jesus!

e) Jews were looking *anywhere* for security but Galilee! If this church was attacked it would be unlikely to look for deliverance in Punch Bowl cemetery!

Blessings
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• Enlarged (3a)
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3. Yet God's deliverance in Galilee will result in wonderful *blessings* (3-5).

a) The nation will become larger (3a).

Road to heaven
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(1) Typically we think that we must go to Heaven for real blessing. However...

Exp. Judah • Ezek. 47-48
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(2) This is an earthly scene. Ezekiel 47–48 give the future borders of Israel more clearly in fulfillment of this text.

Joy (3b)
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b) Jews will be filled with joy like the fun of enjoying the harvest of the crop—like us getting our paycheck! or like dividing plunder after battle (3b).

Harvest
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Wealth
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Peace (4)
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c) Other nations will no longer oppress Israel (4).

Slavery (4a)
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(1) Israel was enslaved in Egypt...

Gideon (4b)
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(2) But then they will be delivered like Gideon defeated the mighty Midianites!

(3) This peace is addressed in many other texts:

Isa. 11 Wolf
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(a) Isaiah 11:6-7 says even the animal kingdom will be at peace.

Boy & Lion
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(b) A little boy will lead a lion!

Baby Lion
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(c) Even lions will be tamed!

Isa. 65:20
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(d) Isaiah 65:20 says people over 100 will still be young!

Isa. 2
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(e) Isaiah 2 notes God's law coming out of Zion, or Jerusalem.

Rebuilding
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(f) Rebuilding the earth will bring...

Renewal
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(g) A totally renewed earth!

Uniforms
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5
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d) Military uniforms will be destroyed, as nations won't need them anymore (5).

Map
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4. Were verses 1-5 fulfilled in the first century or is the fulfillment yet future?

• 13
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a) Verses 1-2 are quoted in Matthew 4:13-15 as fulfilled by Jesus centering His ministry on the Sea of Galilee in the region of Naphtali and Zebulun. So, at least verses 1-2 were fulfilled which promised a Deliverer from this region.

• 14-15
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• Isa. 9:3- 5?
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b) But verses 3-5 promise Messiah's yet unfulfilled victory over Judah's enemies.

(Yet Israel sought security in the wrong places—alliances, money, etc. Like Israel ...)

Where's  
your secure

B. We shouldn't seek security in the wrong places now either.

• Govt

1. Countries often trust political and military strength. This provides little security.

Reindeer

a) Americans have long found security in their *democratic* system—but the 2000 election complexities showed that democracy is a false hope [read slide].

• Military

b) I once heard someone boast, "Our country's *defenses* are so superior that we could wipe out nations far bigger!" That's security in the wrong place!

• Allies

c) As Israel looked to its *allies*, we too can make the same mistake—but it's vain.

2. Even here at church we can often rest on false sources of security.

• Organized

a) I'm glad to see us organized. But unless we submit to God's more difficult issues of the heart, we could only have more organized but miserable people!

• Leaders

b) In our leadership transitions it's easy to put false hope in what we see—"Well, at least \_\_\_\_ (fill in the blank) is stable."

(1) But this again is a false sense of security as what we are strong in now can easily be lost or become a cause for disunity.

(2) Even if the church is united, we can lose it in conflict by competing over resources as if we aren't one family.

• Savings

c) We can equally trust in our church bank account for security.

(1) In my trips to Mongolia, Vietnam, Nepal, and Sri Lanka in recent years, I've noticed something amazing about the church in these poor countries—it's often stronger than the church in wealthy nations like the US.

(2) Sometimes I wonder if it would be better to have no savings at all so that we'd have to fall back on our Real Source of Security!

What...  
Security?

(So what do you do when you need security? If security is found in strange places but these are not our finances or strengths, where do we look? Where is this strange Source of Security? Verse 6-7 tell us...)

MPI

MP II.

**When you need security, look to the Child (MI).**

**[Our Ultimate deliverance is in a Baby!]**

Babies  
Rule?

A. What would you say if I told you to trust a baby ruler?

1. Babies don't rule, do they? Of course not! They *drool*, but they certainly don't rule!

Crybabies

2. But you say, "Well, you haven't been to my house!" Maybe not. But, come to think of it, I've had baby boys rule in my own house—three of them!

- a) They decided when to have milk and my wife obliged. (We didn't like noise!)
- b) Each baby also decided when he wanted his diaper changed—Susan and I jumped to the task before it got any worse.
- c) They each also expressed a number of emotions in a rather “unembarrassing” manner—at least it didn't embarrass them! Pretty soon we began to see who ruled the house—and some people say children are born without sin! I'm not sure what you call these people, but they sure aren't called parents!

Think ahead

Cocoon

(Of course, you know I'm saying this in jest. You have to think of the potential of a baby in the future—just like a cocoon has potential to become a butterfly. This text is about a Baby who is a *real* ruler...)

SP A Rule

B. The One who will meet all of Israel's needs is a Child who will rule (6-7).

6

1. He will be born a *child* (6a).

a) How much is a baby worth?

(1) The Nov 2000 *Straits Times* reported that “Britain has just published its first set of generational accounts, showing at what ages a person is considered a benefit and a liability to the state.”

(2) A newborn is valued at \$62,500; A person at age 30 is worth \$275,000, and a 60-year-old pensioner is assigned a value of *minus* \$180,000.

(3) To put a dollar figure on a baby seems incredible to me. Certainly, my babies were worth far more than \$62,500! Yours too!

b) A baby is invaluable, but do you look to a baby to deliver you from trouble? Imagine me telling you that an invading army is coming, but don't worry—Susan and I had a grandson in 2019 named Jesse, the same name as the father of David, the great warrior of old. He will save us.

Jesse

• Our Deliverer!

Robe

2. This Child will *rule* over Israel (6b).

a) What does it mean that the ‘government will be on his shoulders’ (6)? This figuratively refers to the kingly robe to be worn by the Messiah (*BKC*, 1053).

b) We typically show authority on the shoulders of generals and rulers.

Generals

Character

3. Four *titles* describe this Child's kingly character (6c-f).

a) Wonderful Counselor: Israel (and the world) will finally gladly listen to their leader due to His exceptional authority (6c).

• Counselor

• Listened to

(1) Nowadays Israel hardly listens to its leaders—Barak won by a landslide and was tossed aside. Sharon also won decisively but then had little respect.

(2) But in the kingdom Israel will love to listen to Christ teach God's ways (2:3).

• God
• Power
• Father
• Rule

- b) Mighty God: The world's ruler will be none other than God in the flesh (6d)—the Ultimate Power!
- c) Eternal Father: Christ will rule forever (6e). This refers to...
- (1) His "fatherly rule,"
  - (2) His deity,
  - (3) His relationship to time, not to other members of the Trinity,
  - (4) His eternal kingdom will fulfill the Davidic Covenant where David was promised a descendant who would rule the world forever.

• Prince Peace	• Security
East Gate	

- d) Prince of Peace: Jesus will give us worldwide peace no one else could bring (6f).
- (1) In fact, Jesus will march into Jerusalem's Eastern Gate upon His return.
  - (2) This event the Muslims want to prevent so they positioned a Muslim graveyard in front of the gate (good luck!).

Quotes  
(3 slides)

- e) Putting all these titles together, one author writes... {read 3 slides}

7 (Reign)
• 7a

4. The *reign* of this Child will be unlike any other king (7).

• 7b
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- a) His reign will increasingly become stronger (7a).
- b) His reign will fulfill all the promises to David of a righteous kingdom (7b). No more going from good to bad to good to bad leaders!

• 7c
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- c) His reign will be forever (7c).

(1) Will Christ's rule be eternal (7)? I thought it would last 1000 years (Rev. 20).

(2) It will—but after a 1000-year reign it will be absorbed into the eternal state.

• 7d
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- d) His reign will be accomplished by God's power—not man's (7d).

Relate?
Victory in Christ
Stars

(So, amidst many stresses, God promised Judah a Deliverer as the most unlikely candidate—a Baby! Is our Source of security anywhere else? No, since Jesus is *still* the Mighty God...)

C. Our security is found only in Christ too.

1. Israel sought mediums and the dead, who likely mixed this with astrology. Don't look to the stars—look to the Son (S-O-N)!
2. I wonder if the same could be said of you today.
  - a) Can someone say of you, "Wow! God is really doing a great work in the life of... blank (fill in the blank with your name)."

- b) Are you known as one who is trusting in the deliverance of Christ Jesus today?

(That's essentially what this text is about—or, said differently...)

### Conclusion

MI
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Consider
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1. When you need security, look to the Child (Main Idea). Deliverance is in Christ.
2. Jesus has come to be the light in our dark. He is the one we can turn to for security.
3. The poet said it well... [Poem]

Poem 1
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- a) He was born of a woman...so we could be born of God.

Poem 2
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- b) He humbled Himself...so we could be lifted up.

Poem 3
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- c) He became a servant...so we could be made heirs.

Poem 4
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- d) He suffered rejection...so we could be His friends.

Poem 5
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- e) He denied Himself...so we could receive all things.

9:7 v. 53:3
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4. More and more among us are doing are freely receiving all things in Him! Jewish scholars before Christ couldn't reconcile Isaiah's two seemingly contradictory depictions of the Messiah—reigning king and suffering servant. So, some thought there existed two Messiahs—one to rule and one to suffer. But I assure you that they are one and the same. Jesus died for you so you can reign with him!

• Two Messiahs?
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Titles
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5. Are you resting in this Child? His titles affect you in the most personal ways:
  - a) Wonderful Counselor means that Christ's ability to handle your problems is unparalleled! Pray, "Jesus, I need your *counsel*."
  - b) Mighty God means Christ takes a second seat to no one—He's God Himself! Pray, "Jesus, I need your *power*."
  - c) Everlasting Father means that Jesus can provide security in the form of *eternal* life! Pray, "Jesus, I need your *rule* over my life."
  - d) Prince of Peace means Jesus can bring peace to us as a church and to you as an individual. Pray, "Jesus, I need your *peace*." Are you at peace with the Prince of Peace (evangelistic closing)?

Black
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6. Prayer