



APC Advent Devotional – December 12<sup>th</sup>, 2020

## What do you need for Christmas ?

*Today's Scripture: Isaiah 9:2-7 (NIV)*

“So, what do you want for Christmas ?” is a question we are often asked around this time of year. We usually come up with some ideas for useful/entertaining gifts and later receive the items we suggested along with a new sweater that we didn't. However, one question we are never asked (and also don't tend to ask ourselves) is: “What do you **NEED** for Christmas ?”.

The prophet Isaiah came to ask and answer this exact question. When he witnessed to the people of Judah/Israel in the late 700s BC, the land had long since left behind the peace and prosperity of King David's reign. Instead they had largely rejected God and were heading towards an era of oppression and strife, which would culminate in 70 years of captivity in Babylon.

What the people “walking in darkness” (v.2) needed was **a savior** to take away their burdens (v.4) and bring joy (v.3) and peace (v.5). Not just for a few years, like after Gideon's victory over the Midianites (v.4), but forever. And this came true in the birth of Jesus Christ who is the Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father and Prince of Peace all in one. He is God's gift to us and rules with justice and righteousness (v.7).

Only through him is there forgiveness and eternal peace between God and his people. So when we ask ourselves and others the question: “What do you **NEED** for Christmas ?”, people today with first world problems might say: “a COVID-19 vaccine,” so that everything can be as it was until the day we die. But Jesus offers more than that. His gift is **eternal salvation**. That's a message worth sharing with the world this Christmas.

By Philipp Jaeschke