

Hope in Christ
Isaiah 9:6
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Look at Jesus. That's the best advice ever. It's timely too.

The evil, hurts, and confusion of life are pressing in on us these days. There's nothing new about that, as Isaiah 9:1-5 makes perfectly clear. But sometimes we feel it even more intensely. Christmas season amplifies our emotions, good and bad. There's plenty of joy, and along with that, the angst of family drama and extra stress. And this year, tragic events have filled the headlines and captured our attention. So, what to think? What to do?

Look at Jesus.

This is the lesson of Isaiah 9:1-7 – written to God's people who were living in times of crisis. God had a message for hurting, confused people, who were living in the grip of darkness. His message wasn't a philosophy or a detailed analysis of the problem. His message was the birth of a child.

This is the mystery and majesty of Christmas.

Christmas invites us to look at Jesus. But we must look carefully. Make time for deep reflection on the portrait of Christ given in God's Word. Consider Isaiah's stunning description – promised child; mighty God. How can this be? What does it mean? How should we respond?

Hope is not an emotion. Hope is a conviction. That's why hope can be real even in the midst of deep hurt or disappointment. The hope of Christ is rooted in a particular vision of God, our world, and the meaning of our lives in this world.

The Christmas promise of Isaiah 9:6 is filled to overflowing with hope. So let's pay attention! (:6 Let's look, and listen, and find the reality of Christ for each of our lives this Christmas.