

Magnificent Intervention

Week of November 29

In 1843 Charles Dickens penned a moving story about a man who had become deeply hardened by hurt, selfish choices, and greed. In [A Christmas Carol](#), Ebenezer Scrooge is a hard man, enslaved by the things of this world, and now the darkness of his soul is quickly propelling him towards a bitter, lonely death. On Christmas Eve he is given a chance to see his life from heaven's eyes. He is visited by three spirits and divinely shown his past, his present, and the reality of his future if his heart remains unchanged. He is given a magnificent intervention.

The ghost of Ebenezer's late business partner, Jacob Marley, is the first to show up and announce the spirits' visitations. Trembling Scrooge says, "You were always a good friend, Jacob, and a good business man." To which, Marley shrieks, "Mankind was my business!" But in life when Marley had a chance to do good – he didn't. For Jacob Marley, whose spirit is doomed to roam the earth in chains, it is now too late. In pain, Jacob declares: "But it's not too late for you, Ebenezer." Scrooge is about to see what his purpose has been all along. What will he do with such an intervention?

Read Isaiah 9:1-7

Isaiah declares: "The people who walk in darkness will see a great light. For those who live in a land of deep darkness, a light will shine" (v2). Think for a moment about this glorious attribute of our God – In His mercy, He comes after us and gives us a second-chance.

1. How has God's light pierced through the darkness of this world?

When has the light of Christ pierced through the darkness for you? What was the response of your heart?

How is the current condition of your heart—are you leading others to the light of Christ, or are you indifferent these days?

It's not hard to quickly become indifferent to the deep soul needs of those around us. Everyday we come in contact with people at home, in the workplace, in the marketplace, on the streets who are surrounded by dark circumstances.

2. What moves you to compassion?

How can you be more intentional about seeing the needs of other – and then responding?— name one way in the space below.

Commit this one step in prayer. The Lord is more than willing to help you and I be generous and compassionate. The question is, are we willing to do it, are we willing to change?

The Plain Truth states: "The Prince of Peace not only saves us from darkness, but calls us to take His light to the ends of the earth." The LORD wants to give His people a second-chance – not only so that we are saved, that we are redeemed by His love – but so that we become a conduit of His light and love to a lost world. There comes a time when we must get over ourselves, our hurts, selfish ways, and greed. Heaven has a bigger purpose for our lives than bowing to the gods of this world— achieving titles and degrees, position and power, amassing great wealth, and making a name for ourselves.

3. What does Isaiah 49:5-6 have to say about the purpose of God's people?

How do you respond to this fact: At the end of the day, the Lord "owns" our life, our life's purpose, our talents, our gifts, the very breath in our lungs? It's all His – His to give, His to take away. What would you do if everything you value, everything that defines you, was suddenly removed?

Isaiah shouts: "For a child is born to us, a son is given to us. The government will rest on His shoulders. And He will be called: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace" (Isaiah 9:6). Christ is the light this world so desperately seeks. The government will one day "rest on His shoulders" – Christ came to make all things new, complete. "He will rule with fairness and justice from the throne of His ancestor David for all eternity" (v7).

4. In closing, respond to the four titles of our Lord, as declared in Isaiah 9:6. When has the Lord been "Wonderful Counselor" to you?

How is the Lord "Mighty God" in your world today?

What significance is His being "Everlasting Father" making in your life right now?

How are you finding Christ to be "Prince of Peace" for you personally?

After being given a second-chance Ebenezer Scrooge declares: "I'm not the man I was! I'm not the man I was!" The LORD says, "Come now, let's settle this"...though your sins are like scarlet, I will make them as white as snow. Though they are red like crimson, I will make them as white as wool" (Isaiah 1:18). God is working a magnificent intervention for you and me. Are we willing to face reality, change, and become a new person who is all about spreading the light of Christ?

Magnificent Intervention

Text: Isaiah 9:1-6

The Plain Truth:

The Prince of Peace not only _____ us from _____, but calls us to take His _____ to the ends of the earth.

His very names indicate our need for intervention and the rescue he will bring:

And He will be called:

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____
- 4) _____

One Year Bible Reading

Nov. 29: Daniel 6:1-28, 2 Peter 3:1-18, Psalm 119:129-152, Proverbs 28:21-22

Nov. 30: Daniel 7:1-28, 1 John 1:1-10, Psalm 119:153-176, Proverbs 28:23-24

Dec. 1: Daniel 8:1-27, 1 John 2:1-17, Psalm 120:1-7, Proverbs 28:25-26

Dec. 2: Daniel 9:1-11:1, 1 John 2:18-3:6, Psalm 121:1-8, Proverbs 28:27-28

Dec. 3: Daniel 11:2-35, 1 John 3:7-24, Psalm 122:1-9, Proverbs 29:1

Dec. 4: Daniel 11:36-12:13, 1 John 4:1-21, Psalm 123:1-4, Proverbs 29:2-4

Dec. 5: Hosea 1:1-3:5, 1 John 5:1-21, Psalm 124:1-8, Proverbs 29:5-8

November 28 & 29, 2015