

Week 2 - Isaiah 9:7

I hope you have enjoyed getting started this past week on memorizing these verses about Jesus! I know this is a busy time for everyone and so often we say things like, "We need to stay focused on the real reason for the season." I heartily agree! One of the best ways to discipline your mind to stay focused on Him during the month of December is to be memorizing scripture about Him as we move through these days of celebrating His birth. This past week Isaiah 9:6 has ministered to my heart in great ways as I considered Jesus, my greatest gift. I am sure it has blessed you as well. This week we move on to memorizing Isaiah 9:7, which continues to describe the gift of Jesus to us. Let's look closely...

Isaiah 9:7 - Verse 6 concluded by telling us many of the titles that Jesus can hold in our lives if we will receive Him. Verse 7 moves from titles to more explained descriptions. I love the first phrase, **"of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end"**. Remember last week we memorized **"the government would be on His shoulders"** and we looked at that in 2 ways:

1. Jesus has all authority
2. Jesus carries on His shoulders the guilt of our responsibility to God's justice system

Verse 7 then tells us that **"of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end."** I just love that. You know what that tells me; there is absolutely nothing that He can't handle in my life. Nothing is going to come up that He can't work in. There is no end to His authority, no end to His bearing the weight of my sin, no end to the peace that He can bring. It can increase and increase but never run out! Will we receive a better gift this Christmas? I think not. More than likely, by next year, most of what we receive this Christmas will be pushed to the side. Jesus, our most precious gift, will never grow old or fade away or not be relevant to our lives. There is no end to Him. Is there a place in your life where you think God can't rule or can't bring peace? As you memorize this verse remind yourself that there is no end to His government or peace!

The next phrase is closely connected to the history of God's people and the promises of God. **"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."** For a quick history lesson here, God had made a promise to King David that someone from his family line would rule on the throne of God's people forever. As you study the line of kings that proceeded after David, the faithfulness of God comes front and center. Over and over again God had every right to take the throne from David's line but God is faithful to what He says and He will move mountains to keep His promises. That is why it is so important that Jesus be born through the family line of David. And... he was. In just a few weeks, we will be memorizing some verses in Matthew chapter 1. These verses will make that even more clear. God is faithful to what He says even when we are struggling. Don't forget that!

As you can see, verses 6 and 7 are packed with powerful statements and God concludes this announcement of Jesus with another powerful statement at the end of verse 7! I love the word "zeal". Here God tells us, **"the zeal of the Lord Almighty will accomplish this."** Sometimes do

you feel like you just can't keep up with all that God wants to do in your life? Don't worry! God is zealous about the mission of His Son Jesus. We are not responsible to bring it about, we just cooperate with God and it is His zeal that moves His work along in our lives. We can rest in that. God is zealous about saving us, about bringing us wisdom, counsel, peace and power. We will at times lose our motivation but God will not. It is His zeal that will accomplish His purposes in your life!

God has made His announcement of His most precious gift, Jesus!