

## • Isa 9:1-7 Mike Taylor 29.11.15

### ▼Intro — A light that will never go out?

#### ▼On Wednesday - Manchester United Social Media Campaign

- GEORGE BEST DIED 10 years ago — held mobile phones alight in the stadium
- social media campaign - there is a light that will never go out.

#### ▼this is what his sister said about him:

- During the darkest days of the Troubles in Northern Ireland, George brought a shining light to so many people.

"It's very humbling to know that this light has never gone out or even dimmed.

- what sort of claim is that — a light that will never go out.?
- are we able to say that of anyone, really?

#### ▼Nebuchadnezzar

- we remember, of course the king of Babylon in Daniel 3 - nebuchadnezzar who built a statue 30 metres high for people to worship — O King, Live Forever.
- who's pride preceded a fall
- and how often have the most powerful in history been forgotten quickly; the once mighty...

#### ▼olympics

- and even in more recent history;

#### ▼who are these people and what do they have in common?

- Melanie Schlanger  
Iain Jensen  
David Smith  
Malcolm Page.

- all won gold for Australia at the London Olympics.

#### ▼conclusion

- what a claim to make, a light that will never go out. Who would make such a claim.
- It brings us to our passage this morning in Isaiah.
- Where God promises that a light will shine in darkness.

### ▼Reading Isaiah

#### ▼2 great catastrophes

- assyrian campaign 734-722 BC [Israel Destroyed; Judea ravaged; Jerusalem sieged but saved.

- ▼ babylon 586BC [jerusalem & temple destroyed]

- like WWI & II; before and after not concerned about the middle.

- ▼ 8th century prophets

- ▼ social oppression. corrupt leadership. forgotten Torah.

- 1:4, 15-17

- consequences of earlier decisions under David, Solomon, Rehoboam, and failure to repent.

- msg now is that salvation comes through judgement.

- remnant; hope; Jesus at centre.

## ▼ 9:1-7

- ▼ Context

- Assyria threat. Syria/Damascus and Israel want Judah to join in rebellion against Assyria.
- Judah rightly rejects; So Syria and Israel threaten to attack Jerusalem and replace the king with one of their own.
- Judah asks Assyria for help which brings great problems later.
- 7:1-7

- ▼ Children

- God's answer is the promise of a child — a son.

- ▼ children play a big part in these chapters 7-9.

- threat is that the davidic king will be replaced by a son of Tabeel — 7.6
- then promise of Immanuel — a son who will be God with us. The promise of God's quick deliverance, if they would trust in him and not men.

- ▼ then ISaiah's two sons

- ▼ 7.3 Shear-Jashub (NIV MARGIN)

- a remnant will return.
- warning with promise—salvation through judgement. life through death.

- ▼ 8.3-4 Maher-Shalal-Hash-Baz

- the spoil speeds; the prey hastens.

- syria will be destroyed. God is promising deliverance. trust in him.
- ▼ 8.18 they are signs.
  - but unheeded in the darkness.
- ▼ preparing us for the promise of the son.
  - ▼ why promise a son?
    - at least because it says no one alive can do it. Wait for God. Don't trust in men.
    - how God works. ultimately sends his own son. Its always what we've been waiting for since Eve, Abraham etc.
    - Jesus coming as the son takes on our weakness/humanity/brokenness — not just coming in for a 'short-term mission trip' but taking on our natures that he might save those very natures truly.
- ▼ A promise
  - of light; of hope; of salvation.
  - ▼ 8:23-9:5
    - darkness and oppression
    - but light and relief.
    - joy, peace and abundance
    - joy in God himself.
  - ▼ Galilee - first part of Israel to be attacked by Assyrians.
    - restoration from the beginning; as is hinted at by the birth of a saving child;
    - promise of complete restoration - national reunification when this son of david will come.
    - a light will shine; in the darkness - bringing change, salvation and restoration.
    - why - v. 6 a child is born.
- ▼ A New leader
  - v6-7
  - reason for the light; hope; is a child.
  - ▼ same child as ch.7 God with us — now see more about being divine.
    - his nature in vv. 6
  - the effects of his coming in v.7
  - ▼ the promised David's son.
    - eternal kingdom. true peace. peach = shalom.

- remember problem a corrupt leadership. civil fighting, oppression, lack of justice, idolatry — God’s solution is to send a king who will so utterly transform the nation by transforming the people, that this will no longer be a problem again.
- who can this king be?

#### ▼ Jesus

- Mat 4:12-17
- Jesus is the light and his word is the light.
- why light; hope; salvation; peace; justice ? for to us a child is born; God provides a new leader; a new type of king; one of us, but God himself.
- a leader who doesn’t disappoint but brings justice and peace because he embodies his message
- how often do our hoped in leaders disappoint, and yet we long for a strong leader.

▼ listen to what Elizabeth Farelly wrote [in a recent article in the SMH](#) about Malcolm Turnbull, although she is generally left wing, she seems to hope that he’ll serve as PM for some time. She says,

- Malcolm speaks to us not as a rabble of blithering chimps wanting their buttons pushed but as grownups, capable of considered argument, reasoned reflection and conscientious decision. For Australia, this is huge
- I never considered politics terribly important in a "comfy bloody country" like ours (to quote Bob Hawke from Keating!), where everyone will eat tomorrow and the parties are virtually indistinguishable. Certainly it never seemed to matter much who was in charge.
- But I was wrong. Who knows why, but people take their lead from leaders. The worst effect of the Abbott years was the way intellectual thuggery became normalised. Trickle-down ethics.
- To have an intelligence of this kind leading Australia is a shift of immense significance
- Deriving from something that, at risk of sounding naive, you may almost call goodness, it gives Malcolm the potential to be not just a practical leader, in the usual way, but a moral one; a leader of minds.

▼ Well— what about it? will this light never go out?

- because of the nature of this king — God himself eternal.
- the nature of his kingdom.

- but why don't we see it—his kingdom is not of this world. He brings peace now, but not fully until the end.
- ▼ the promise, though, is that this light will continue to shine, through his disciples.
  - Phil 2:12-16
  - how— as you bring peace in your relationships and workplaces
  - as you share that same gospel
  - as you live with this one as your king
  - as you work for justice and to free oppression
  - as you love and care for your neighbour
  - as you point ppl to the king of kings and prince of peace.
  - we understand and know peace, and can bless our friends and society with it — through forgiveness, confession, apology and love.

## ▼ Conclusion

- ▼ we have a light that will never go out
  - the prince of peace, risen from the dead; ruling forever, bringing peace and justice and love.
- ▼ he invites us to radiate like him, as we follow him in taking up our crosses, of giving up our lives to serve those around us in love.
  - he shines his light through his disciples as they share their faith and point their family and friends to Jesus; just as he was a light by bringing the truth.
  - so let the light shine; and go on shining.
  - latimer and ridley.
  - Latimer is supposed to have said to Ridley, "Be of good comfort, and play the man, Master Ridley; we shall this day light such a candle, by God's grace, in England, as I trust shall never be put out.