

For Unto Us a Son is Given

A Prayer for Salvation

By Mary Kane



"And it came to pass in those days that a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This census first took place while Quirinus was governing Syria. So all went to be registered, everyone to his own city. Joseph went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed wife, who was with child. So it was, that while they were there, the days were completed for her to be delivered. And she brought forth her first born Son, and wrapped Him in Swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn."

Please read Isaiah 9:2-7a.

Please fill in the blanks:

"The people who _____ in _____ have seen a great _____."

One of my favorite things to do is to take walks—all kind of walks! I love to take a "memorize-scripture-walk" by myself in the freshness of the early morning, whenever I have a chance. When my boys were little, almost every morning, I enjoyed going on stroller-walks through the neighborhood. I packed Erik and Scott in the double stroller in their jammies and we were off. Now, I like to walk with my husband when we both get home from work. We discuss the events of the day and current happenings in the lives of our boys while we walk. My favorite walk, however, is when our two grown sons join us and we walk as a family. Whether I walk by myself, with family or friends, I always have a destination in mind. I never just leave the house to walk randomly, without an end in mind. The same principal applies to our lives. Be it good or bad, we will all end up wherever we plan to "walk."

The word used for *walked* in verse 2 is *halak* which means *to go, to come, to walk*. This word is also means *to live, a manner of life*. In addition, *The Brown–Driver–Briggs Hebrew and English Lexicon* states that *halak* also pertains to *ones relationship with God...of mode of life, action...of particular path of one’s life*. So, we learn from this definition that the Hebrew people walked not in a physical darkness, but in a spiritual darkness.

My Bible software also states that *halak* means to *exercise and be conversant, to lead and to haunt*. Have you ever been “conversant” in the ways of darkness or “led” someone else down the path of darkness or worked out plans of darkness? Like many of you, I unfortunately have experienced all of these things, but we have hope because “the people who walked in darkness have seen a great Light!” God never wants us to stay in our darkness and sin.

According to John 8:12, what is this great light?

And whoever follows Him shall what?

My Savior is the Light of the World and has redeemed me from the darkness! I am a new creature in Christ Jesus! Because of His Mighty grace and power in my life I’m walking a new path.

Please look up Isaiah 35:8 to find out the name of the new path we are able to walk when we accept Christ as our Savior. Please write the whole verse in the space provided.

How is this verse encouraging to you?

I love this verse because it states that on this road, the Highway of Holiness, it’s impossible for even a fool to go wrong, as long as she stays on the path. There is hope for a woman like me!

Go back and look at Isaiah 9:2 again.

Please note the two opposing concepts contained in verse 2.

It is heartening to know that when Jesus comes into our lives, He changes everything; He can make us exactly opposite of what we used to be. Darkness becomes light, weakness becomes strength and fear becomes courage. When Jesus comes into our lives, we are changed into what God had always intended us to be and He receives all the glory! Think of what you perceive to be your worst fault. Know that God is able to change your worst fault into your greatest strength.

What has God completely changed in you since you've become a Christian?

What would you like Him to change about you at this point in your life?

Instead of being _____ , I can become_____.

First, you have to be *willing* to be changed; you'll have to be willing to humble yourself, pray and spend time in His Holy Word. If you're serious about changing, please take a moment and ask Him to change you into the image of His Son.

Please record your prayer below:

According to verse 3, what increases when we decide to follow Jesus?

Now, please read verse 4 to find one of the reasons why we can have great joy in Jesus.

Before I came to know Jesus I was greatly oppressed by the enemy. I lived in daily fear that he was out to destroy me. That fear was waiting for me each morning when I awoke, tormented me throughout the day and besieged me fiercely at night. After I became a Christian, those fears gradually disappeared and have been replaced by peace, contentment and joy. I am deeply grateful for the freedom from fear that I have in Christ.

Finally, we arrive at verse 6, perhaps the best known section of Scripture in the Old Testament (OT). This verse reveals the reason that we can have such great hope, freedom and peace, "For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given." To increase our understanding of this verse let's research the meaning of some of the words contained in this verse.

Please fill in the blank:

For unto us a Child is born, unto us a _____ is given.

The word for *Son* used in this verse, which many of you are probably familiar with, is *ben* which means a son, a builder of the family name. Please consider several of the other meanings of the word *ben* and how they apply to Jesus: afflicted, anointed one, appointed to, mighty, servant born, soldier and valiant.

Which of these meanings of the word *Son* means the most to you during this season of your life and why?

Now, please fill in the next blank:

For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is _____.

The Hebrew word for *given* used in this passage is *nathan*. This word is used about 2000 times in the OT and it has three basic meanings: to give, the production of fruit and the presentation of an offering to the Lord.

Jesus was *given* by God so He could be offered back to God, as a sacrifice, to atone for our sins by His death on the cross. Jesus took on flesh and came to dwell among us so that He could go to the cross and die in our place so we could go to heaven. Before I was a Christian I knew that Jesus died on the cross, but I never really stopped to consider *why*. Why come to earth just to suffer and die on a cross? Why not just come to earth and enjoy Himself? What possible explanation is there for Him to leave heaven, suffer terribly and die on the cross? The answer is simple.

Please turn to John 3:16 and write the answer in the space provided:

Now is the perfect time to ask if you have accepted Christ's sacrifice as payment for your own sin. Was there a definite point in time in your life when you remember accepting Christ as your Savior? God's Word



says that all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

We all are in need of a Savior. There is no such thing as being good enough to make it to heaven on your own merit.

Being "better than the other guy" isn't adequate either—we aren't trying to measure up to human standards but the standards of a Holy God. No one has ever measured up to God's standards because we all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. One sin is enough to disqualify us from heaven. The only way to make it to heaven is to accept Christ's death on the cross and be born again. We are born again when we believe that Christ died in our place and ask Him to come into our heart and be our Savior. If you have never accepted Christ for your Savior let me invite you to receive Him now by praying the following prayer:

Dear Father,

I acknowledge to You that I am a sinner in need of a Savior. I have sinned and I accept Jesus death on the cross as payment for my sins. Please come into my heart and be my Savior. Thank You for Your gift

of salvation. Thank You that I am now Your child, covered by the blood of Christ. Amen.

If you have prayed that prayer for the first time, please call someone who you know believes in Jesus or email me and tell me about your experience (mkane@liberty.edu). I'd love to hear from you and welcome you to God's family!

If you just accepted Christ for your Savior or are a new Christian, let's go back to the text and learn a little bit more about our Savior before we close (If you've been a Christian for a while let's build on the knowledge we've already acquired about our Savior).

Please record all the names for Jesus listed in the second half of verse 6:

(Please note that some scholars combine the first two titles for Jesus into one name; "Wonderful, Counselor" becomes "Wonderful Counselor." Of the two interpretations, I prefer "Wonderful Counselor" as it fits with the pattern of the other titles in verse 6.)

Wonderful: extraordinary... marvel...accomplish...hidden things...difficult... miracles...hard to understand thing, to be beyond human power (*BLB*).

Counselor: to advise, to counsel, to make plans. It also means that a person can gain wisdom when they allow themselves to be counseled.

Mighty: warrior, chief, strong, powerful, champion

God: mighty, goodly, power, strong

Everlasting: duration, perpetuity, ever, eternity

Father: father, teacher, one who made us, protector, one we should revere and obey

Prince: lord, keeper, general, governor

Peace: well, health, safety, happy, prosperity, rest

Which do you need Jesus to be for you the most now, a Wonderful Counselor, a Prince of Peace, etc.?

Finally, please write Matthew 1:23.

Whatever you need Jesus to be for you at this time, a Father, a Prince or a Counselor, know that He is more than able and the He is Immanu-el.

Merry Christmas.



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