

## Christmas, 1914

[World War I, July 28, 1914 – November 11, 1918]



1

## The Christmas Truce

<https://www.iwm.org.uk/history/the-real-story-of-the-christmas-truce>



2

## How can you celebrate Christmas and try to kill people at the same time??

- “I remember hearing a German soldier shout out: ‘Tomorrow, you no shoot, we no shoot.’”
- “The following day, British and German soldiers met in no man's land and exchanged gifts, took photographs and some played impromptu games of football. They also buried casualties and repaired trenches and dugouts.”
- Yet this attitude
  - “conflicted with the patriotic aggression needed by both sides.”
  - So... “After 1914, the High Commands on both sides tried to prevent any truces on a similar scale happening again.”

3

## The hope and failure of the “Christmas Truce”

- For a time, shared humanity brought peace over conflict
- But it got swallowed up by the brokenness of humanity

## The best we can do in trouble is temporary gains

- Just a lull (temporary calm) in the fighting and trouble
- A genuine change generally conflicts with things we don't want to lose, or we can't leave
  - Instead of merely dying, sometimes we choose to kill it!

## We desperately need a better hope than this!

and we discover it in Christmas...

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# The Prince of Peace

*Isaiah 9:1–7*

[tiny.cc/cmchandouts](https://tiny.cc/cmchandouts)  
[bib.ly/Isa9.NIV](https://bib.ly/Isa9.NIV)

## *Isaiah 9:1*

Nevertheless, there will be no more gloom for those who were in distress. In the past he humbled the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the future he will honor Galilee of the nations, by the Way of the Sea, beyond the Jordan—

5

## *Isaiah 9:2-3*

<sup>2</sup> The people walking in darkness  
 have seen a great light;  
 on those living in the land of deep darkness  
 a light has dawned.  
<sup>3</sup> You have enlarged the nation  
 and increased their joy;  
 they rejoice before you  
 as people rejoice at the harvest,  
 as warriors rejoice when dividing the plunder.

**Light and great joy!**

6

*Isaiah 9:4-5*

<sup>4</sup> For as in the day of Midian's defeat,  
 you have shattered  
     the yoke that burdens them,  
     the bar across their shoulders,  
     the rod of their oppressor.

<sup>5</sup> Every warrior's boot used in battle  
 and every garment rolled in blood  
 will be destined for burning,  
 will be fuel for the fire.

**Deliverance from injustice and unrighteousness  
 and conflict**

7

*Isaiah 9:6-7*

<sup>6</sup> For to us a child is born,  
 to us a son is given,  
 and the government will be on his shoulders.

And he will be called

Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,

Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

<sup>7</sup> Of the greatness of his government and peace  
 there will be no end.

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.

8

“I put on **righteousness** as my clothing;  
**justice** was my robe and my turban.  
 I was eyes to the blind and feet to the lame.  
 I was a father to the needy;  
 I took up the case of the stranger.  
 I broke the fangs of the wicked  
 and snatched the victims from their teeth.”

*Job 29:14-17*

**Right and good decisions and actions  
 in relationships with God and people**

**Even seeking out the places that are wrong  
 to make them right**

9

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10

*Isaiah 9:1-7*

The **zeal of the Lord Almighty**  
will accomplish this.

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**The Big Idea**

**Genuine**  
**Joy-filled** **Hope** **Never-ending**

**only comes through the birth and life of Jesus Christ**

who will rule as Prince of Peace forever

by the zeal of God Almighty!

Jesus Christ was and is victorious over every attack of evil,  
every human failure, every power of decay and death  
→ By self-sacrifice, humility, love, and righteousness

Now He reigns as Prince of Peace (shalom) forever

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### The Big Idea

**Genuine**  
**Joy-filled** **Hope** **Never-ending**

only comes through the birth and life of Jesus Christ

who will rule as Prince of Peace forever

by the zeal of God Almighty!

Because Jesus Christ reigns, it is the **trouble** that is temporary!

We are awaiting the full expression

- of everlasting peace
- of justice and righteousness
- of love
- by the zeal of Almighty God

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### The Big Idea

Hope

only comes through

Jesus Christ

Meditate, memorize, draw, paraphrase, read about, talk with people, ... **Isaiah 9:6-7** (or start at verse 2...)

When we are tempted to lose hope, or to hope in something else, call this to mind

His people must strive for His peace, righteousness, and justice

→ as an act of worship of our Prince of Peace

→ **“Your Kingdom come, your will be done!”**

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**What gives us genuine, joy-filled, never-ending hope?**

For to us a child is born,

to us a son is given,

and the government will be on his shoulders.

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Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Of the greatness of his government and peace

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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.

The zeal of the Lord Almighty will accomplish this. *Isaiah 9:6-7*