

Messiah: Light in the Midst of Darkness

Text: Isaiah 9:1-2

Date: 9-27-20 @ 10:30 am

When we face fearful times, we must remember that God is the Lord of Hosts and that He will fight for us, He will deliver us, and He will win the victory in the end.

The glory would be fulfilled then when the very presence of God was in their midst!

Yet hope remained! Darkness would not be the end of the story. While the sinners would be destroyed and remain in eternal darkness, the believing remnant would place their hope in the future light. The all-encompassing gloom would someday pass away.

Whereas Zebulun and Naphtali represent the first two areas to bear the full force of the Assyrian invasion (or represent the northern kingdom as a whole), they would also be the first to experience the great light that would burst forth after a long period of darkness.

The answer to man's sin came through the Light of the world and the glorious gospel bound in our Savior. Instead of darkness and death, light and life would appear. Jesus said that He is the life (John 14:6; John 1:4).

The people of this area then were living in darkness inside (ignorance, distress, misery, and sin) and out (Assyrian invasion). **The light of the Lord Jesus would allow these people to throw off their yoke of bondage and set them free both physically and spiritually.**

Isaiah prophesied clearly of the Answer to the nation's spiritual problems: Immanuel!

he ultimate fulfillment of this prophecy is yet to come although Isaiah didn't know that in his day. This will come at Christ's 2nd coming as He comes to establish His righteous kingdom (9:3-7).

When the nation of Israel will be enlarged, joy itself will increase. When God does His work of magnifying His own people, the only result can and will be joy. Those who receive the blessings of God are those who have true joy in their hearts.

Those who rejoice in God's work is the highest form of joy. The chief end of man is to glorify God and enjoy Him forever (Heidelberg Catechism Q/A #1). It is only when God has done His magnifying work of salvation that people truly have joy before Him as they should.

Truly they would walk in the glorious light of freedom (John 8:31-36; Gal. 4:8-9; 5:1).

God will win the victory in convincing fashion. Humans would offer no help in changing the direction of mankind. The victory over bondage would truly be won by God alone. I am so glad to know and trust in the cross work of Christ. The Victory would be won by Immanuel, the Christ-child and thus all of God's people would be delivered from their oppression. **There is no worse slavery, no worse burden, no worse yoke then the enslaving presence and effects of sin in our lives.** Only One person could set us free, and we are free indeed. Truly no man could have won that victory for freedom.

Ultimate fulfillment rests in the future. Isaiah's message pointed to a future time when peace would sweep the nation and the world (2:1-4). What a glorious time this will be. No more bondage. Peace. No more calamity or fighting. Hosea 2:18; Zech 9:10.

Ye dwellers in darkness with sin-blinded eyes, The Light of the world is Jesus!
Go, wash at His bidding, and light will arise; The Light of the world is Jesus!

How does Isaiah 9:1-5 apply to me?

1. Our lives do not have to remain in spiritual darkness.
2. The only way that light can pierce darkness is through the truth of God, His plan, and His word.

What does this passage reveal about the character and nature of God?

1. God's plan always involved His Son.
2. We can continually see the sovereign hand of God on His people.
3. God's lovingkindness is imprinted in this text.

What are some "call to action" truths from Isaiah 9:1-5?

1. We must develop a continual heart of praising God for His wonderful gift of the Lord Jesus Christ.
2. We must see that God continually takes from the ashes of this world and refines those who believe to become more His Son. God accomplishes His will using broken people.