

Isaiah 9:1-7 – “A Great Light has Come”

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Isaiah 9:1–7 - 1 *But there will be no gloom for her who was in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he has made glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations. 2* *The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone.*

3 *You have multiplied the nation; you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as they are glad when they divide the spoil. 4* *For the yoke of his burden, and the staff for his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. 5* *For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult and every garment rolled in blood will be burned as fuel for the fire. 6* *For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.*

7 *Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.*

Intro: Have you ever taken one of those tours of a cavern in which the tour guide demonstrates how dark darkness is by turning out the lights for a few moments? What did you feel in that moment? A sense of unease, perhaps? A moment of uncertainty? Maybe even a small wave of panic? “What happens if our guide can’t find the switch again? How could we ever find our way out if the electricity suddenly failed and we were left in the darkness forever?” Darkness causes us to stumble; it keeps us from finding our way out of the gloom and leaves us with no direction home. Fortunately, God has prepared a cure for darkness: He has called forth the Light!

Proposition: In the birth of Jesus, God sent His everlasting Light into our world of darkness.

I. The Gloom of Darkness Dispelled – The people of Isaiah’s day were facing a crisis. A terrible enemy, Assyria, was threatening invasion and the brunt of the attack would fall on the northern kingdom, Israel. The attack would be so savage that Israel would be completely overrun; it’s capital, Samaria, destroyed; its people killed or carried into exile. All this darkness would happen to them because of their sins. Into this darkness, Isaiah brought a message of hope. The people who walked in darkness would see a great Light: Messiah would come. And come He did! Jesus was born in Bethlehem but grew to maturity in

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“Galilee of the Gentiles,” the very land where God’s harsh judgment for the people’s sins had fallen with great severity. The coming of the Messiah would change their darkness into light.

II. The Joy of Light Announced – When Messiah came, God would do a wondrous thing: He would not only restore His people; He would cause them to multiply and fill them with joy. The coming of the Light would cause greater celebration than the joy they felt at the harvest, or the joy they knew when their armies triumphed over their greatest enemies. The coming of the Light would bring joy for three reasons:

- Their enemies would be defeated – The yoke of oppression that constantly threatened them would be cast away forever.
- The weapons formed against them would be burnt up – The weapons of oppression, degradation and punishment would be burnt up forever.
- A Son would be given – A ruler like no other would be given. A Son. The Son of God would rule over them forever.

III. The Kingdom of Righteousness Established – The Light would bring in eternal justice, righteousness and peace. Finally, a ruler would come who cannot be bribed. One who will not be unjust. One who treasures right words, acts and outcomes toward God and man. The peace our sad planet lost so long ago in the Garden will finally be restored when the Light comes once again.

Conclusion: Off course, you and I are waiting for that Light’s arrival today, aren’t we? Yes, He came once, two thousand years ago bringing peace to hearts that would receive Him. But that’s not enough, is it? This present world is still in darkness, waiting for the Light to return once again. Waiting for the final visitation of the Prince of Peace, who is coming once again, and this time to remain forever. Are you ready for His return? When He comes, the Light will finally arrive in all its fullness, never to depart again. Gloom dispelled! Light proclaimed! Kingdom established! Come Lord Jesus!