

The Beginning of the Story of the Nativity

Isaiah 9:1-6

A Great Light Dawns

INTRO: Isaiah prophecies of a coming revival. The Transjordan had been broken by God for its idolatry and pagan practices. The land lay northeast of Jerusalem and to the east of the Jordan: Zebulun, Naphtali, and Galilee of the Gentiles. They dwelt in darkness, consulting spiritists, mediums, and the dead for answers. But darkness was to reign no more—a Deliverer would come.

I. The People Sitting in Darkness (Is. 9:1-4; Mt. 4:16)

- A. Darkness is characterized by the absence of light
 - 1. It can be physical
 - 2. More often it is spiritual
- B. To seek answers and guidance outside of God is to sit in darkness and the shadow of death.
- C. Israel was once a great nation of light, but in due time she turned away from God.
- D. What is the darkness of our day? Where do we seek knowledge and guidance?

II. God will send a Great Light

- A. Matthew 4:23-25 The ministry of deliverance
- B. Luke 2:30-32 Simeon's testimony
- C. Luke 1:78-79 The prophecy of Zacharias
- D. Luke 3:4-6 The Forerunner John (cf.: Isaiah 40:3-6)

III. A Son is Given (Isaiah 9:3-7; John 8:12)

- A. Isaiah prophecies of a coming King
- B. Jesus declares that He is the Light of the world (John 8:12)

CONC: Are you dwelling in darkness? You say, "Of course not. I have trusted Jesus Christ as my Savior."

Yes, but do you follow His ways?

Are you living in the light as He is in the light; in fact as *He IS* the Light.

Do you employ worldly wisdom?

Do you seek counselors and advisors other than God?

Do you love the world?

If any of these things is true of you, then you are sitting in darkness and you cannot hope to see things clearly as they really are.

Jesus is the Wonderful Counselor, the Mighty God, the Prince of Peace. He will give you Divine guidance. He can do anything you need done. He will give you His peace in the midst of troubled times. Come out of the darkness into His marvelous light and follow His ways with all your heart and mind, soul and strength.