



Sermon Series: Christmas: The Birth of Jesus
Sermon Title: The Light in Our Darkness
Scripture: Isaiah 8:11-9:7
Pastor Chris Fritz
Sunday, December 13, 2020

INTRODUCTION

I. THE DARKNESS BEFORE THE DAWN

Isaiah 8:11-15 -

1) Jesus (God, the Lord of Hosts) will either be your Rock of Refuge or your Rock of Stumbling.

Note: This term “sanctuary” appears 75 times in the Old Testament; it usually refers to the place where God dwells; it is often used to speak of refuge and safety for those who trust in God.

*“Hebrews tells us that our God is a consuming fire and cautions us, therefore, to worship Him with reverence and awe. No, God isn’t safe - but He is good. And we must keep both these truths in mind if we are to understand and practice the fear of God. Even His goodness leads us to a proper fear of God when we truly understand it.” (Jerry Bridges, *The Joy of Fearing God*)*

Isaiah 8:16-22 -

2) There is no light, no hope, no rescue, no life apart from God!

Note: Isaiah 8 shows us the ugly stubbornness of our sinful hearts, and it shows us what we rightfully deserve for our sin and rebellion.

Isaiah 9:1-2 -

3) The gloom and darkness of our sin is forever dispelled by the presence of a glorious Light that appeared and revealed itself in northern Israel (the region of Zebulun, Naphtali, Galilee).

“And leaving Nazareth He [Jesus] went and lived in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, so that what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: ‘The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles - the people dwelling in darkness have seen a great light, and for those dwelling in the region and shadow of death, on them a light has dawned.’ From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, ‘Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.’” (Matthew 4:13-17)

Isaiah 9:3 -

Note: Those who walk in God's Light will ultimately experience fullness of joy! (verse 3)

John 15:11 - "These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full." (John 15:11)

Isaiah 9:4 -

Note: God breaks oppression and sets His people free in a most unexpected way! (verse 4)

Isaiah 9:5 -

Note: Verse 5 describes a final victory to end all wars! (verse 5)

Isaiah 9:6-7 -

4) This One (The Light!) meets us at our true point of need, accomplishing what only God can do!

"For to us a Child is born, to us a Son is given..." (Isaiah 9:6a)

"For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord." (Luke 2:11)

Questions for Further Study, Reflection, and Application...

1. How did God respond when Adam & Eve sinned? What did He do? What does this teach us?
2. What are people afraid of today? What are you afraid of? What does it mean to "fear the Lord"?
Why does God command Isaiah (Isaiah 8:12-14) to not fear as others do but to fear Him?
3. How does "the light" of Isaiah chapter 9 counter and contrast "the darkness" of Isaiah chapter 8?
4. What's the connection between Matthew 4:13-17 and Isaiah 9:1-2?
5. In what ways does Jesus fulfill what Isaiah described in Isaiah 9:6 (Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace)?