

March 11<sup>th</sup>, 2018

## A Great Light in the Darkness

Focal Passage: Isaiah 9:1-7 (ESV)

### BIBLE IN A YEAR READING PLAN

Mar 4 Duet 14-16	Mar 8 Duet 28-29
Mar 5 Duet 17-20	Mar 9 Duet 30-31
Mar 6 Duet 21-23	Mar 10 Duet 32-34
Mar 7 Duet 24-27	Mar 11 Joshua 1-4

**Cross References:** *Psalm 51:5, Ephesians 2:1, Romans 3:10-12, Romans 3:23, 2 Corinthians 4:3-4, Matthew 4:12-16, 2 Corinthians 4:6, Ephesians 2:8-9, Hebrews 2:14, John 1:1,14, 1 John 4:2, 2 John 7, Galatians 4:4-5, Revelation 2:27, 19:15, Psalm 119:105, John 17:17, 2 Corinthians 5:21*

### FOUNDATIONAL TRUTHS OF THE PASSAGE:

- We all walk in great darkness (V. 2).
- Christ shines light into the darkness of our souls, resulting in great joy and peace (V. 2-7).
- We have an eternal hope (V. 7).

**Lesson Idea:** *By the power of God through Christ, we are freed from darkness, and brought into marvelous light.*

### 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.*

### DISCUSSION:

- **V. 1**  
-The end of chapter 8 speaks of the “**gloom**” and “**darkness**” the people would face because of their wickedness. This chapter begins with a glimmer hope. What is the “**latter time**” referred to here? What is “**glorious**” about it?

**Note:** *The New Testament applies this “glorious” day to the time of Jesus’ first advent (Matthew 4:12-16).*

- **V. 2**  
-According to Scripture, who lives in darkness? (*Psalm 51:5, Ephesians 2:1, Romans 3:10-12, Romans 3:23, 2 Corinthians 4:3-4*)

-What (or who) is the light that has shone in the darkness?

**Note:** *It is important to consider that God shining light into darkness through His son Jesus Christ was a work completely of His own initiative. The fact that God has shed light on our sins and that we can now walk in light is not something that we have earned or caused (Ephesians 2:8-9). Paul likens God’s work in*

salvation to the miracle of God speaking, and light being created (**2 Corinthians 4:6**). This prophesy should be a reminder to us of the hopeless state of darkness we were all in before God graciously gave us Light.

- **V. 3-5**

-What is the source of joy?

-How has knowing God through Christ increased your joy?

-Why is the victory that Christ will win over the powers of darkness likened to, "**the day of Midian**"? (**Judges 6-7**)

**Note from Exalting Jesus in Isaiah:** "The joy is likened to the day of Midian's defeat, a famous story from the era of the judges, when Gideon defeated the overwhelmingly oppressive Midianites without a sword in his hand. At that time Israel was powerless to save itself and it was enslaved by the Midianites. God caused the terror of the Lord to come on them when the light from Gideon's scant "army" of three hundred men ripped through the darkness. The evil forces of Midian turned on themselves and imploded, destroying one another. As a result, the "oppressive yoke and rod on their shoulders, the staff of their oppressor" was shattered (**V. 4**), and all trampling boots and bloodied garments were destined for the fire (**V. 5**). In the same way, the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ has defeated Satan's seemingly unbreakable yoke of sin and death. Satan's dark kingdom has been routed by implosion – Satan turned his evil weapon of death on Jesus and by killing Him destroyed his own kingdom. And we who have been enslaved by Satan through fear of death have been released to serve God in joy (**Hebrews 2:14**)."

- **V. 6**

-How can Christ be called both "child/son," and "Mighty God?" What does this tell us about the incarnation?

**Note:** In verse 6, we see Jesus referred to in both natural and supernatural terms. **Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.** Jesus is not just a counselor, He is the Wonderful Counselor. He is not simply mighty as a worldly warrior, He is Mighty God. He is not only a

prince like the princes of this world, He is the Prince of Peace. He is not a temporary earthly father with shortcomings, but rather He is the Everlasting Father. Each of these titles mingle the natural with the supernatural, reminding us of a foundational doctrine of the Christian faith: The incarnation, in which Christ was revealed as both fully God, and fully man (**John 1:1, 14, 1 John 4:2, 2 John 7, Galatians 4:4-5**).

-What does it mean for that "**the government shall be upon His shoulders**"? (**Revelation 2:27, 19:15**)

**Note:** Too often Christians fret over the political climate of the day. We place our hope in certain parties or world leaders. These verses remind us not only that God currently controls political structures (**Romans 13:1**), but that one day, Christ will reign over and judge all the nations of the world, and He will bring peace (**See also V. 7**).

-How is Christ a Wonderful Counselor? How do we receive counsel from Christ? (**Psalms 119:105, John 17:17**)

-Jesus is referred to as "**Mighty God**." Why is the full deity of Christ such an important truth for us to grasp and believe? (**2 Corinthians 5:21**)

-It is strange to hear Jesus referred to as a "**father**." In what ways does Jesus exhibit fatherly love to His followers? (**Isaiah 40:11**)

-As the "**Prince of Peace**," one day, there will be peace among the nations, as Christ reigns for all eternity. How does Christ bring peace to you presently?

- **V. 7**

-What does this verse tell us about how the reign of Christ will be established and upheld? How does this relate to our salvation? (**Philippians 1:6, Jude 24-25**)

**APPLICATION:**

- ✓ What does this passage teach us about God?
- ✓ How might those truths encourage and strengthen you this week?