

11/29/20

Isaiah 9:1-2

“Down to Earth: Light at Christmas”

Introduction: Today we are beginning a new sermon series called, “Down to Earth: Light at Christmas”. As we wait for Christmas, today we lit the candle of hope. Our key passage of Scripture is from Isaiah 9:1-2.

“But there will be no gloom for those who were 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 will make glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations. The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness — on them light has shined.”

Context: In Genesis 12, God selected Abraham to be the Father of the nation of Israel. His family grew into 12 tribes that eventually settled in the Promised Land. Benjamin and Judah settled in the south around Jerusalem and the other ten settled in the north. They were all united for many years but when King Solomon died, the ten Northern tribes split off from the two southern ones. The northern tribes became the nation of Israel and the southern became the nation of Judah.



Credit: Sweet Publishing / FreeBibleimages.org

“They will pass through the land greatly distressed and hungry; when they are hungry, they will be enraged and will curse their king and their gods. They will turn their faces upward, or they will look to the earth, but will see only distress and darkness, the gloom of anguish; and they will be thrust into thick darkness.” Isaiah 8:22 NRSV

Types of Dark Days:

1. Dark Days of Distress

David experienced distress in Psalm 61:1, "Hear my cry, O God; listen to my prayer."

2. Dark Days of Disappointments

For example, Job was disappointed. "But when I looked for good, evil came; and when I waited for light, darkness came." Job 30:26 NRSV

3. Dark Days of Depression

"The thought of my pain is bitter poison. I think of it constantly, and my spirit is depressed."
Lamentations 3:19-20

Every one of us are in one of the following three situations of life:

1. Some are headed into dark days
2. Some are experiencing dark days
3. Some have just come out of dark days and are headed into some new ones

1 Samuel 22:29 "You Lord, are my light; you dispel my darkness."

John 8:12 "I'm the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness."

Conclusion: The purpose of Jesus coming to this Earth was to bring transformation of wasted lives into new and fruitful lives. Jesus tells us in John 10:10, "A thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I have come so that they may have life and have it in abundance."