

“The Gift of Light”

New Hope Community Church

December 10th, 2017

Isaiah 9:1-7 / John 1:9-12

A. The Presence of Divine Light Would Penetrate All of Life (Is 9:1-5)

1. Assurance that the gloom of the past need not **rule** the future (1)
 - A miraculous change from contempt to **honor**
 - There is clearly a **spiritual** fulfillment of this prophecy
2. Assurance that light will shine upon people in the **midst** of darkness (2)
 - There is no promise that the darkness will be **removed**
 - "I do not ask You to take them out of the world, but to **keep** them from the evil one." (Jn 17:15)
3. Assurance of the potential with this light of unspeakable **joy** (3)
 - Population will again **increase**
 - Joy will flow from the **presence** of the Lord
4. Assurance of **ultimate** freedom from all oppression (4,5)
 - Reminder of the two-fold scope of prophecy — the **near** & **far**
 - As at the Battle of Midian — **300** vs 135,000 (4) (Judges 6,7)
 - A time when war will **end** (5)

B. The Presence of Divine Light Would Bring A Strong Reaction

(Jn 1:9-12)

1. Jesus brought light to **every** human being (9)
 - He was **life** (v 4)
 - He was **righteousness**
 - He was **truth**
 - He had power over His own creation (10)
2. He was not **recognized** (5,10)
3. He was **rejected** by His own people (11)
4. “Men **loved** the darkness rather than the Light, for their deeds were evil” (Jn 3:19)
5. Yet He offers light that leads to a **relationship** (12)

Reflection

If we say that we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth; but if we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin. **1 John 1:6,7**

As we celebrate the gift of Light that came into the world on Christmas, what does this verse identify as benefits of walking in that light?

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Discussion Questions

- 1) What is the absolute darkest place you have ever experienced?
- 2) Read Isaiah 9:2. Light shining in darkness is a common, vivid description of God’s truth piercing spiritual darkness. Can you think of a time when you truly experienced this in your life?
- 3) Read Isaiah 9:3. The prophet speaks of unspeakable, victorious joy from the presence of the Lord coming to Israel. How was this fulfilled in the coming of Jesus when in fact the political environment did not change for Israel?
- 4) Can you give testimony to experiencing the joy of the presence of the Lord in your life when the circumstances did not change? Please share this experience.
- 5) Read John 1:9-12. In what sense did Jesus enlighten every person if in fact as verse 11 says, the world did not know Him, and as verse 12 says, His own did not receive Him?
- 6) Verse 12 offers through Jesus a relationship with God -- the purpose for which we were created. Why, then, do so many people ‘love the darkness rather than the Light’ (Jn 3:19) when this clearly does not fulfill the empty hole in their spirit? Can you remember experiencing this before you were a Christian?