

# Light in Darkness

Isaiah 9:1-7

Grace Fellowship Church / Pastor Brad Bigney / Dec. 20, 2020

## I. What Should We Do in the Midst of Darkness Like What We've Seen This Year?

### A. Don't Try to Deny that the Darkness Exists

Christianity is far more realistic than so many of the slogans and philosophies that are drummed into us through commercials, songs, and epithets. Christianity says that things are bad and even worse than you know when you consider where the world is headed without Jesus Christ.

Apart from the glorious news of Jesus Christ, this world would just continue to spin into further gloom, distress, and darkness that leads to ultimate destruction.

Without Jesus, all people can do is work hard to become less aware of reality, but reality has a way of relentlessly creeping back in.

Christianity never denies the depth of our darkness. Instead, it declares the Good News of what God has done for us in His Son.

**2 Corinthians 4:6** “For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.”

### B. Don't Expect to Find Answers in the Dark

The glorious light of Isaiah 9 shines even brighter when you see the confusion and darkness leading up to it in chapter 8. The people in Isaiah 8 were facing all sorts of crushing social, psychological, and economic problems:

**Isaiah 8:21-22** “They will pass through it hard-pressed and hungry; and it shall happen, when they are hungry, that they will be enraged and curse their king and their God, and look upward. <sup>22</sup> Then they will look to the earth, and see trouble and darkness, gloom of anguish; and they will be driven into darkness.”

When you turn away from God, you don't just fail to get answers. It's worse than that; you get answers that drive you further into darkness while you think you're getting help.

Leading philosophers and thinkers—such as Nietzsche, Freud, and Darwin—found little joy and comfort in the philosophies they proposed. You can hear the despair in Charles Darwin's personal lament:

“Up to the age of 30 or beyond it, poetry of many kinds...gave me great pleasure...Formerly pictures gave me considerable, and music very great, delight. But now for many years I cannot endure to read a line of poetry...and found it so intolerably dull that it nauseated me. I have also almost lost any taste for pictures or music...My mind seems to have become a kind of machine for grinding out general laws out of large collections of facts, but why this should have caused the atrophy of that part of the brain alone, on which the higher tastes depend, I cannot conceive...The loss of these tastes is a loss of happiness, and may possibly be injurious to the intellect, and more probably to the moral character...”

~ Charles Darwin, *The Life and Letters of Charles Darwin*

God is the very essence of good and God is the essence of life. Without Him, you lose the ability to taste goodness or life as your world becomes darker and your taste becomes bland.

### C. Don't Get Sucked into the Confusion and Fear of This Darkness

**Isaiah 8:12-14** "Do not say, 'A conspiracy,' concerning all that this people call a conspiracy, nor be afraid of their threats, nor be troubled. <sup>13</sup> The LORD of hosts, Him you shall hallow; let Him be your fear, and let Him be your dread. <sup>14</sup> He will be as a sanctuary, but a stone of stumbling and a rock of offense..."

When it gets darker, confusion abounds and it's easy to get sucked into conspiracies, rumors, and threats that only increase your level of dread and heighten your feeling of panic.

This passage tells us to do 2 things:

1. Fear God more than those who you think can do us harm.
2. Go back to His Word more than anyone else you're listening to.

**Isaiah 8:13** "The LORD of hosts, Him you shall hallow; let Him be your fear, and let Him be your dread."

Instead of fearing conspiracies and threats, fear God. Remember that you're in God's hands and nothing can come into your life that doesn't first come through His hands as the sovereign God of the universe.

**Isaiah 8:19-20** "And when they say to you, 'Seek those who are mediums and wizards, who whisper and mutter,' should not a people seek their God? Should they seek the dead on behalf of the living? <sup>20</sup> To the law and to the testimony!..."

## II. Where Can We Find Light in the Midst of So Much Darkness?

**Isaiah 9:2** "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in the land of the shadow of death, upon them a light has shined."

This was the unexpected flash of Jesus taking on flesh and breaking into our world by stepping down into our darkness to save us!

This is a great year to see and receive Jesus! The darkness of our world only makes the glorious light of Jesus more attractive.

**Isaiah 9:6** "For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given..."

**Ephesians 2:8-9** "For by grace are you saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, <sup>9</sup> not of works, lest anyone should boast."