

Apply The Word

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Message Info

Title:

The Brightest Light

Speaker:

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Date:

December 13, 2020

Scriptures:

Isaiah 9:1-7

Theme: Lift up your eyes for there is no darkness that can extinguish Immanuel's brilliant light.

Introduction: In Luke 2:8-14, we read the story of the angelic chorus that announced the birth of Jesus to the shepherds. The angels were surrounded by great light as the glory of the Lord was made manifest. In entering the world, the Son of God broke into the darkness in order to save his people.

Isaiah 9 foretold the coming of the light some 700 years in advance, in 2 parts:

1. The promise of a light to dispel the gloom (9:1-5)

The early chapters of Isaiah tell of significant judgment against Israel and Judah for their rebellion against God. God is merciful, but judgment is still coming. After the pronouncement of judgment, chapter 9 brings a welcome word of hope: a light will break into their darkness. The Lord will send salvation.

We can see how God often uses times of great darkness to expose to us our sin and our great need for deliverance. The darker the times, the more the light shines.

We see several aspects of God's light: a) it shines first where darkness first fell; b) God's 'weakness' is stronger than man's greatest strength; and c) when God's light shines, it will be the end of war.

2. The light comes as a child (9:6-7)

When God sends his light, it does not come as we might expect it. When times are dark and our need is great, we might think that we need power and strength; but the Lord raises up a child to deliver his people.

We, too, can presume to tell God how we think he ought to run the world and to order our lives. We think we know what would be best and what form God's deliverance must take.

The Lord sends a child, though a child with tremendous qualities: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. He is a Deliverer of immense power and ability.

Questions:

1. Does your life feel dark or oppressive in any way?
2. Are you trusting God in your struggles?
3. What does faith look like in the midst of hardship? What lies does hopelessness tell you?