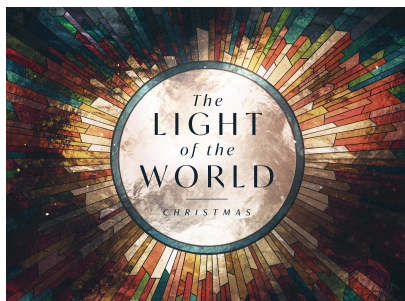


SEQUOIA NOTES

Today's Sequoia Message...

The Promised Light

With Ryan Dawson - Lead Pastor
December 3, 2023



"The world is a dark place, and we will never find our way or see reality unless Jesus is our Light." Tim Keller - Hidden Christmas

John 8:12 "I AM the light of the world. If you follow me, you won't have to walk in darkness, because you will have light that leads to life."

"The pursuit of the good life will not help humanity save itself, nor is democracy alone enough...a turning to and seeking of God is needed...the human race constantly forgets, that he is not God." Vaclav Havel - first president of Czech Republic

- **Humanity can't save itself.**

"Christianity does not agree with the optimistic thinkers who say 'we can fix things if we try hard enough'... nor the pessimists who only see a dystopian future. The message of Christianity is, instead, 'Things are really bad, and we can't heal or save ourselves. Things are really this dark - nevertheless there is hope.'" Tim Keller

- **Despite the darkness in the world and our own lives there is hope today.**

Isaiah 9:1-7 (NLT) Nevertheless, that time of darkness and despair will not go on forever. The land of Zebulun and Naphtali will be humbled, but there will be a time in the future when Galilee of the Gentiles, which lies along the road that runs between the Jordan and the sea, will be filled with glory. **²The people who walk in darkness will see a great light. For those who live in a land of deep darkness, a light will shine.** ³You will enlarge the nation of Israel, and its people will rejoice. They will rejoice before you as people rejoice at the harvest and like warriors dividing the plunder. ⁴For you will break the yoke of their slavery and lift the heavy burden from their shoulders. You will break the oppressor's rod, just as you did when you destroyed the army of Midian. ⁵The boots of the warrior and the uniforms bloodstained by war will all be burned. They will be fuel for the fire. ⁶ For a child is born to us, a son is given to us. The government will rest on his shoulders. And he will be called: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷His government and its peace will never end. He will rule with fairness and justice from the throne of his ancestor David for all eternity. The passionate commitment of the Lord of Heaven's Armies will make this happen!

- **The Promised Light brings life, truth, and beauty.** v. 2

1 John 1:5-6

- **The Promised Light has come in the form of a child.** v. 6-7

- **Jesus Christ is... Mighty God & Everlasting Father.**
- **Jesus Christ is... Wonderful Counsellor and Prince of Peace.**

- **The Promised Light is a gift to be received.** v. 6, 5

Big Idea: Receive the gift of the Promised Light (Jesus) to overcome spiritual darkness.

An age is called "dark," not because the light fails to shine but because people refuse to see it. James Michener

Jesus said... "I AM the light of the world. If you follow me, you won't have to walk in darkness, because you will have light that leads to life."



Sequoia Impact Communities are where we
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Family of Servants on Mission.

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impactcommunities@sequoiachurch.org

The Promised Light

#1 of 4 - December 3, 2023

- 1) What is your favourite Christmas tradition and why?
- 2) Read Isaiah 9:1-7. What is the **Context** for this passage? Who is the writer and the recipients? Where does this fit in the book as a whole? What are the circumstances?
- 3) **Observation:** What “jumps out” in this passages? What interesting details do you observe? What questions come up about the passage? What is the major theme in the passage? What message is communicated?
- 4) **Meaning:** What was the meaning for the original recipients? What meaning is inferred in this passage for us?
- 5) In what way does Jesus Christ fulfill this prophecy?
- 6) Of the four titles given to the Messiah, which one is most significant for you today and why?
- 7) Read John 8:12. What is Jesus saying to us and what are the implications for our IC and our families this Christmas?
- 8) **Application:** How is God speaking to you today through this message and through His Word?
- 9) In what ways do you need to receive the gift of the “Promised Light” to overcome your spiritual darkness?



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