

Advent According to Isaiah: From Darkness to Light

Isaiah 9:1-7 // Pastor Rob // 12.6.20

"But there will be no gloom for her who was in anguish..." This is how our passage for today begins. Isaiah ministered during a dark time in the nation of Judah. Yet into the midst of that darkness comes light. It's kind of God's thing to bring us from darkness into light, from sorrow into joy, and from bondage into freedom. He does this through the coming of the child King who will reign with justice and righteousness forevermore. Once again Isaiah helps us understand the advent of our Lord.

Handout:

Read [Isaiah 9:1-7](#). This is an *otherworldly* passage. What first stands out to you?

There was a long season of darkness before the light came. Why is it important to understand that sometimes we have to wait through the dark to get to the light? (How is this clear from the context of chapters 7-8?)

How does [Matthew 4:13-16](#) help us understand what Isaiah is saying here?

What does the coming light bring to the people according to v3-5?

Of the four names given in v6, which one means the most to you and why?

Discuss this quote:

Isaiah, therefore, saw his prediction of darkness begin to be fulfilled but, as always, we have to decide what reading of our experiences we are going to live by. The darkness and distress are real but they are neither the only reality nor the fundamental reality. In any given situation we can either sink into despair or rise to faith and hope. -J. Alec Motyer

Are you looking more to the light in this season or to the dark? Discuss and pray that we might choose light—the greater reality which is Jesus—in this dark season!