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The Journey Towards Christmas

Isaiah 9:1-5

I. From Gloom to Glory (v. 1)

A. The _____ of Isaiah (Isa. 9:6-7; 53:6)

B. The _____ time (Isa. 8:11-22)

C. The _____ time (Matt. 4:12-16)

II. From Darkness to Light (v. 2)

A. _____ the great light (Isa. 42:16; 58:8; 60:1; Jn. 8:12)

B. Having the light _____ on you (Gen. 12:3, 7; 13:15; 22:18;
Gal. 3:16; Lk. 2:29-32; Phil. 2:14-15)

III. From Sadness to Joy (v. 3)

A. Increase in _____ (Isa. 26:15)

B. Increase in _____ (Phil. 4:4; Psa. 16:11; 150:1-2, 6;
Ruth 3:7; Psa. 67:5-6)

IV. From Defeat to Victory (vv. 4-5)

A. The Lord has _____ every bondage (v. 4) [Judg. 7:19-21]

B. The Lord _____ every foe (v. 5) [Psa. 18:1-3]

TAKE HOME

- How can tactical defeats ***lead*** to terrific victories?
- If you have seen the great light, how are you ***reflecting*** that light in your daily life?
- Are you still under oppression or are has Christ given you ***victory*** over your enemy?

STUDY QUESTIONS

James 1:22 says, *“But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.”* These questions are designed to help you apply today’s message to your life. We encourage you to thoughtfully answer these questions and discuss your answers with others. For more information about joining a small group that uses these questions as the basis for discussion, prayer, and accountability, please visit our website at placertachurch.com.

1. Read Isaiah 9:1. What is the theme of Isaiah? (Isa. 9:6-7; 53:6) What is the context of the present passage? What is meant by the former time? (Isa. 8:11-22) What is meant by the later time? (Matt. 4:12-16)

2. How can this be a reminder that so many times, the same area of your life that was destroyed can be resurrected?

3. Read Isaiah 9:2. Why did Israel walk in darkness for such a long time? What is God saying He is going to do for them in this verse? (Isa. 42:16; 58:8; 60:1; Jn. 8:12)

4. How did God’s light shine on the Israelites through the Abrahamic covenant? (Gen. 12:3, 7; 13:15; 22:18; Gal. 3:16) How does God’s light shine on you? (Lk. 2:29-32; Phil. 2:14-15)

5. Read Isaiah 9:3. What is going on in this verse? How does the Bible teach that joy is commanded? (Phil. 4:4) Experienced? (Psa. 16:11) And practiced? (Psa. 150:1-2, 6)

6. Read Isaiah 9:4-5. What are these two verses talking about? How did God deliver Israel from Midian? (Judg. 7:19-21) How does verse 5 show how the Lord has vanquished every foe? (Psa. 18:1-3)

7. Read the take home questions. Which one encourages you or challenges you the most? Why? How will you live differently this Christmas season based on what you have learned from this passage?

“Christian joy is a good feeling in the soul, produced by the Holy Spirit, as He causes us to see the beauty of Christ in the Word and in the world.”

- John Piper