

ISAIAH'S CHRISTMAS PROPHECY

Isaiah 9:1-7

If we anticipate Christmas for a few days each Dec., Israel anticipated the arrival of the Messiah for _____
The words, " _____ , "distressed" and "oppressed" in verse 1 draw our attention back to chapters 7-8

I. THE PROPHET LOOKS BACKWARD *Isaiah 9:1*

A. Recent _____ of Judah *7:1, 17*

- 1) After the death of Solomon the northern 10 tribes—Israel—split from the southern 2 tribes—_____
- 2) In Isaiah's time, Judah was ruled by _____ who turned the nation to Baal & burned his children
- 3) Israel & Syria united to defeat Judah's armies & take captives, but they could not conquer _____
- 4) Rather than repent, Ahaz turned to Assyria, but God would bring Assyria against _____

B. God's _____ to Judah *8:11-15*

- 1) In the midst of the death, defeat and terror, the people were troubled by _____ theories
- 2) God told them not to fear conspiracies, but to fear _____ for He is in charge, He offers sanctuary

C. Spiritual _____ of Judah *8:19-22*

- 1) According to v.19, they rejected God and His Word and turned instead to _____ and wizards
- 2) As a result they were hard-pressed & hungry, but rather than repent, they cursed their king & _____
- 3) Their final state: God promised they would "see trouble and _____ , gloom of anguish" (v.22)

II. THE PROPHET LOOKS FORWARD *Isaiah 9:2-5*

A. What Will Happen?

The verbs in these vv. are in past _____ tense; though future, Isaiah saw them as accomplished fact

- 1) 9:2: _____ —after gloom & the shadow of death, there will be a dawning with all that light means
- 2) 9:3: _____ that Isaiah compares to harvest time, which meant so much in an agricultural society
- 3) 9:4-5: _____ —spoil, liberation from conquerors, victory like Gideon's, enemies' weapons burned

B. When Will It Happen?

1 Peter 1:10-12 teaches that the OT prophets tried to figure out how and when their prophecies would be fulfilled, but many prophecies were not fulfilled in the OT era, but in our day, in the _____

1) The _____ Coming of Jesus

Mt.4:15-16 quotes Is.9:1-2 of _____ ministry in Galilee giving light to Jew and Gentile alike

2) The _____ Coming of Jesus

- a) Isaiah 9:3 does not concern Jews and Gentiles, but promises the _____ will be multiplied
- b) Zech.14:1-3 prophesies that at the end of the Tribulation Period the armies of all the nations will besiege _____ but Jesus Himself will return to earth to conquer these armies & deliver Israel
- c) Zech.12:10-13:1 prophesies the repentance & salvation of the Israelites who survive the _____

C. Who Will Make It Happen?

- 1) Isaiah 9:1-5 predicts what will happen, but leaves us hanging with the question, " _____ does this?"
- 2) Isaiah _____ answers this question and will be the focus of the Christmas sermon next Sunday