

## *“Jesus Christ: The Great Light”*

### *1. Notice Christ as the Great Light shining in the darkness – 9:1-2*

Nevertheless the gloom *will not be* upon her who *is* distressed, As when at first He lightly esteemed The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, And afterward more heavily oppressed *her*, *By* the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, In Galilee of the Gentiles. <sup>2</sup> The people who walked in darkness Have seen a great light; Those who dwelt in the land of the shadow of death, Upon them a light has shined. (Isaiah 9:1-2 NKJ)

#### *1. This is certainly a reference to Christ – Matthew 4:12-17*

Now when Jesus heard that John had been put in prison, He departed to Galilee. <sup>13</sup> And leaving Nazareth, He came and dwelt in Capernaum, which is by the sea, in the regions of Zebulun and Naphtali, <sup>14</sup> that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying: <sup>15</sup> "The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, *By* the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles: <sup>16</sup> The people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, And upon those who sat in the region and shadow of death Light has dawned." <sup>17</sup> From that time Jesus began to preach and to say, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." (Matthew 4:12-17 NKJ)

#### *2. It is important to understand the darkness, gloom described here:*

*A. The Hebrew word for darkness in 9:2 means literally “deep shadow”*

*B. It is poetical and refers to an intense darkness, the kind of darkness we say we can “feel”*

*C. Here people are said to “walk” in this darkness, which implies this to be a characteristic of their lives – Ephesians 2:1-3; Colossians 1:13*

<sup>2</sup> in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, (Ephesians 2:2NKJ)

He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed *us* into the kingdom of the Son of His love, (Colossians 1:13 NKJ)

3. This "darkness" describes the inward spiritual state of Israel / but not only them but all of us, it describes the plight brought about by sin!

4. Yet a Light shines:

A. In place of calamity God's people will see a Light of Peace – Isaiah 45:7; Luke 1:79

I form the light and create darkness, I make peace and create calamity; I, the LORD, do all these *things*.' (Isaiah 45:7 NKJ)

To give light to those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death, To guide our feet into the way of peace." (Luke 1:79 NKJ)

B. In place of death, God's people will see a Light of Life – Job 33:30; John 8:12

To bring back his soul from the Pit, That he may be enlightened with the light of life. (Job 33:30 NKJ)

Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, "I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life." (John 8:12 NKJ)

C. In place of ignorance, God's people will see a Light of Knowledge – 2 Corinthians 4:6

For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to *give* the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. (2 Corinthians 4:6 NKJ)

D. In place of sin, God's people will see a Light of Salvation – Psalm 27:1; Isaiah 49:6

<A Psalm of David.> The LORD *is* my light and my salvation; Whom shall I fear? The LORD *is* the strength of my life; Of whom shall I be afraid? (Psalm 27:1 NKJ)

Indeed He says, "It is too small a thing that You should be My Servant To raise up the tribes of Jacob, And to restore the preserved ones of Israel; I will also give You as a light to the Gentiles, That You should be My salvation to the ends of the earth.'" (Isaiah 49:6 NKJ)

ii. *Notice what this GREAT LIGHT CHRIST accomplishes:*

1. *The nation is enlarged, primarily because the Gentiles are brought in – Isaiah 9:3; Ephesians 2:11-22*

You have multiplied the nation *And* increased its joy; They rejoice before You According to the joy of harvest, As *men* rejoice when they divide the spoil. (Isaiah 9:3 NKJ)

For through Him we both have access by one Spirit to the Father. <sup>19</sup> Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, (Ephesians 2:18-19 NKJ)

2. *Joy is increased – Isaiah 9:3b “And increased its joy”*

You have multiplied the nation *And* increased its joy; They rejoice before You According to the joy of harvest, As *men* rejoice when they divide the spoil. <sup>4</sup> For You have broken the yoke of his burden And the staff of his shoulder, The rod of his oppressor, As in the day of Midian. <sup>5</sup> For every warrior's sandal from the noisy battle, And garments rolled in blood, Will be used for burning *and* fuel of fire. (Isaiah 9:3-5 NKJ)

- A. *Like the joy of harvest - :3*  
B. *Like the dividing of spoil - :3*  
C. *Because of the end of oppression - :4*  
D. *Because of the end of war -:5*  
*BECAUSE –*

iii. *Notice the more specific description of Who this Great Light Christ is:*

For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. <sup>7</sup> Of the increase of *His* government and peace *There will be* no end, Upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, To order it and establish it with judgment and justice From that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this. (Isaiah 9:6-7 NKJ)

1. *A Child is born – John 1:14*

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth. (John 1:14 NKJ)

2. *A Son is given – John 3:16*

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. (John 3:16 NKJ)

3. *"His Name will be called" – names are meaningful, full of truth*

4. *Wonderful Counselor –*

---- MARVELOUS, SURPRISING, STRANGE, ASTONISHING b obsolete : MIRACULOUS  
His counsel will be STRANGLY Wonderful! – Isaiah 55:8-9

"For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways," says the LORD.<sup>9</sup> "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts. (Isaiah 55:8-9 NKJ)

5. *Mighty God – Hero / Savior God – 1 Timothy 2:5*

For *there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus,* (1 Timothy 2:5 NKJ)

6. *Everlasting Father – Christ is eternal – John 1:1-2*

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.<sup>2</sup> He was in the beginning with God. (John 1:1-2 NKJ)

7. *Prince of Peace – Sovereign over our welfare / Able to bless – Psalm 1*

8. *His Government and Kingdom –*

Of the increase of *His government and peace There will be no end,* Upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, To order it and establish it with judgment and justice From that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this. (Isaiah 9:7 NKJ)

*A. It is Eternal - :7; Daniel 2:44-45; Daniel 7:27; Psalm 2; Revelation 17:14*

"And in the days of these kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people; it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever. <sup>45</sup> "Inasmuch as you saw that the stone was cut out of the mountain without hands, and that it broke in pieces the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver, and the gold-- the great God has made known to the king what will come to pass after this. The dream is certain, and its interpretation is sure." (Daniel 2:44-45 NKJ)

*B. It is the throne of David – 2 Samuel 7:12-16; Psalm 89:1-37; Matthew 1:1*

*C. It is SURE – Isaiah 9:7b, Matthew 6:10*