

A Light in the Darkness

“The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned. ...For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.” (Isaiah 9:2,6)

I have often wondered what it must be like to live in Alaska during the winter months, when the sun barely comes above the horizon. In Barrow, the northernmost town in Alaska, the sun actually does not rise above the horizon at all for a full 67 days. Intense joy must abound from people who have been in darkness for so long when the minutes of daylight increase dramatically as spring returns.

Isaiah talks about a people who were living in a land of darkness. This darkness was even harsher than living without sunlight. This was the darkness of the sin that controlled them—a spiritual darkness. The people in this passage were God's people of Israel, who continued to be a rebellious nation against the LORD Almighty. Their hearts were darkened by their own selfish deeds and desires. They lived sin-filled lives that did not reflect love for the God who had rescued them from their enemies time and time again.

Yet Isaiah has good news for these people. They “have seen a great light...a light has dawned.” Isaiah is prophesying that Jesus is coming to be this light. His salvation would be the light in their dark, sin-tainted world. No longer would they walk in darkness. Because of Jesus' life, death and resurrection, all their sins would be forgiven. He would light their path to heaven.

My own sin darkens my path. My path becomes so dark that I can no longer see my way. I spiral downward into depths of darkness as I continue to rebel against my God in my sins of gossip, lies, anger and selfish pride. These sins threaten to destroy my joy, my faith and my walk with God.

But Isaiah has good news for us, too. We have seen a great light, on us a light has dawned. This light is the same Jesus that Isaiah prophesied about so long ago. Jesus has come for you and me, to save us, to free us from our sin-darkened world. He was born so helpless as a baby in a stable, and yet he is our great Helper and Savior from sin, death and the devil. Our Prince of Peace has brought us out of darkness into his glorious light. Feel joy abound as you meditate on the light in your life—Jesus, the Light of the world!

Prayer:

Father, forgive me for the times I have let sin darken my life. Keep me from temptations which lead me down a dark path towards hell. Send your holy angels to guard and protect me that I may walk in your ways and be a reflection of your Son. Thank you for the best gift I could ever receive, the gift of Jesus, my Light! Amen.

For Further Reading:

Isaiah 9:2-7; 1 John 1:1-7; Luke 2:1-20

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