

THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

ISAIAH 9:1-9

*The people who walk in darkness will see a great light;
those who live in a dark land, the light will shine on them.*

Is 9:2

• God's Irony

- Who were Zebulun and Naphtali?
 - During the period when Deborah ruled as judge of Israel. Judges 4:1-22
 - The enemy leader, Sisera, was slain by a woman.
 - Zebulun and Naphtali were led by a woman.
 - Zebulun and Naphtali, though, fell again under Philistine control.
 - Became part of Phoenicia (Tyre and Sidon.)
 - Later the northern part of Samaria, known as Galilee of the Gentiles.
 - A land of outcasts.
- Although birthright, in Hebrew law, goes to the firstborn, God has chosen to reveal and deliver his will and message through the exiles, outcasts, unwanted, and second born of Biblical history.
 - Ishmael and Isaac.
 - Esau and Jacob.
 - Joseph, the exiled son.
 - Moses, exiled from Egypt.
 - David, the least likely son.
 - Elijah, driven into exile by Ahab.
 - Judah, the least likely tribe, and hated by nations.
 - Galilee, Bethlehem, and Nazareth.
 - Yeshua, or Jesus.

• The Messianic Prophecies of Isaiah.

- Regarding a coming child.
 - 7:14-16.
 - 9:6-7
 - 11:1-10

- The "Servant" passages.

- 42:1-4
- 49:1-6
- 50:4-9

• The Biblical development of the ironic theme.

- The obvious: the fallen creation of a perfect Creator.
- The Law, intended to establish a framework for God's continued benevolence, became the groundwork for God's judgment.
- God's own righteousness, the "pride" of the Hebrew faith, consistently gave way to his love, ignored by the same.
- Prosperity, the "mark" of righteousness, became instead the sign of injustice and apathy.
- The choosing of "second sons": God's rejection of man's expectations.
- "Righteousness" revealed its true character: "Justice."
- The salvation of God addressed more and more to exiles, outcasts, those living in darkness.
- **And this is light**, *To shine upon those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.* Luke 1:79
 - Matt. 5:14, _____
 - John 8:12, _____
 - Eph. 5:8, _____
 - I John 1:7, _____
- **So, why did God do it this way?**
 - This is a hard question! _____
 1. It was the only way: _____
 2. It is the ultimate expression of God's intent: _____
 3. He offered salvation to the most unlikely candidates. _____

• Finally, what is our task?

- Not to _____
- Not to _____
- **But to** _____

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