

Good News Church GA
"Light in the Darkness"
Matthew 4:12-17, Isaiah 9:1-7
by Ray Souza

- **Matthew 4:12-17** – talks about the beginning of Jesus preaching ministry (In human form (flesh and bone) of course, for Jesus have been preaching throughout the ages as the Second Person of the Trinity. He was and is and will be forever the Word in Action!) But now the Word has become flesh and dwell among us. (Moved to our neighborhood).
- **Starting in V.12** – *When Jesus heard that John had been put in prison, he withdrew to Galilee. Leaving Nazareth, he went and lived in Capernaum, which was by the lake in the area of Zebulun and Naphtali – to fulfill what was said through the prophet Isaiah: "Land of Zebulun and land of Naphtali, the Way of the Sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles – **the people living in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned.**" From that time on Jesus began to preach, "Repent, for the Kingdom of heaven has come near."*
- That was a prophecy from Isaiah 9. **Isaiah 9:1-7** –¹ *Nevertheless, that time of darkness and despair will not go on forever. The land of Zebulun and Naphtali will be humbled, but there will be a time in the future when Galilee of the Gentiles, which lies along the road that runs between the Jordan and the sea, will be filled with glory. ² **The people who walk in darkness will see a great light. For those who live in a land of deep darkness, a light will shine.** ³ You will enlarge the nation of Israel, and its people will rejoice. They will rejoice before you as people rejoice at the harvest and like warriors dividing the plunder. ⁴ For you will break the yoke of their slavery and lift the heavy burden from their shoulders. You will break the oppressor's rod, just as you did when you destroyed the army of Midian. ⁵ The boots of the warrior and the uniforms bloodstained by war will all be burned. They will be fuel for the fire. ⁶ For a child is born to us, a son is given to us. The government will rest on his shoulders. And he will be called: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷ His government and its peace will never end. He will rule with fairness and justice from the throne of his ancestor David for all eternity. The passionate commitment of the Lord of Heaven's Armies will make this happen!*
- This is quite a great portion of Scripture. A portion that we bring to mind again and again, special during this time of the year. Christmas time!

- In the beginning of Jesus preaching ministry he declared that the people who walked in darkness have seen a great light. For those who lived in a land of deep shadows – light! Sunbursts of light! Jesus said in **John 8:12** – *“I am the light of the world: he that follow me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.”* This was fulfilled at the first coming of Christ.
- In **John 12:46** – Jesus said: *“I have come into the world as a light, so that no one who believes in me should stay in darkness.”*
- These truths are so significant for the believe and it should be also for the unbeliever. Jesus came to bring light into our darkness. We were all born in darkness, in sin, in ignorance or separation from God and truth.
- **Ephesians 5:8** says that we were once darkness (the embodiment of darkness). **Psalms 51:5** – *“Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin my mother conceived me. Yeah, we were all born sinners, and due to this separated from God and deserving of his punishment. (Romans 3:23; 6:23 and Ephesians 2:1-5).*
- But then, the people that who was walking in darkness has see great light, those who lived in the land of deep darkness, has see a marvelous light! How many here can testify of that!
- And that’s why I love the Christmas season, a season where I am reminded of the Child that was born to us, a Son that was given. He is a Wonderful Counselor, He is a Mighty God, He is Everlasting Father, and He is the Prince of Peace. The government will rest on his shoulders, He will rule with fairness and justice for all eternity!
- We live in a dark world and that’s why we need a Savior full of Light!
- I do understand that for some people, this season of the year can be very tough. Maybe financial strain, family conflict, disappointment, grief from loss, loneliness, depression. And for that I am so sorry! Yes, darkness is real! And for some it is even more!
- And maybe that’s why God has given us this series of message before and during the Christmas season. God loves you and has a provision of Light in the darkness, light for your darkness, light despised your darkness.
- There is this verse in **Job 30:26** that says: *“Yet when I hoped for good, evil came; when I looked for light, then came darkness.”* Anyone?

- **Psalm 22:1** – “God, God... my God! Why did you dump me miles from nowhere? Doubled up with pain, I call to God all the day long. No answer. Nothing. I keep at it all night, tossing and turning.” Anyone?
- Darkness can be so real, but I love how God didn’t hide the experiences and responses of people in darkness in the Bible. God didn’t sugar coat the Bible, it is a raw book, with the beautiful, the ugly and the bad! Why? Because we need so identification. We need to know that we are not alone in the sufferings in this world. Other people go through what we go through, but God is still there! He sees everything! And he cares! He always cares! There is hope, there is provision, darkness is not the end, for there is light in Jesus Christ!
- I believe Christmas is all about Jesus bringing light to our darkness! In the beginning of his preaching ministry, he stated that! The who walked in deep darkness, has now seen, can now see great light.
- **2 Samuel 22:29** – “O Lord, you are my lamp. The lord light up my darkness.”
- **Psalm 18:28** – “My God turns my darkness into light.”
- **Psalm 23:4** – “Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.”
- Let’s never forget that it is in the darkest night, that the light shines brighter!
- Today I want to remind you that there 365 times in the Bible that the term “Do not be afraid” appears. One for each day of the year. Everyday of the year, God is telling us through his Word, “*So do not be afraid, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous hand.*” **Isaiah 41:10**
- Stay in God word! Open and feed your soul! There is always a provision of light there!
- God’s Word will guide you. **Psam 119:105** – “By your words I can see where I’m going; they throw a beam of light on my dark path.”
- **Ephesians 5:9** – “For the fruit of the light (Jesus in your life) consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth.”
- **1 John 2:8** – “Yet I am writing a new command; its truth is seen in him and in you, because the darkness is passing, and the true light is already shining.”