

## He is... LIGHT Isaiah 9.2

### Introduction

- **Advent is a word derived from Latin meaning “coming” or the arrival**
  - However, Christmas is not simply about a birth but about a coming. God had planned for the arrival of his Son before he even created the Earth (Revelation 13:8) – Tim Keller
  - It is the incarnation
    - The Birth of a child heralds a change
- **So who is this child? He is.... LIGHT**
- One of the first indications of the Christmas season is the appearance of lights. Lights on trees, candles in windows, radiance everywhere. The Christmas lights of New York City delight even blasé residents. Everything seems to be wrapped in millions and millions of stars. This is appropriate, because December 25 follows the darkest time of the year in the Mediterranean world and Europe, where Christmas celebrations took shape. But the lights are not just decorative; they are symbolic.
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[Read Isaiah 9:1-7](#)

### Body

#### Jesus (the Light) breaks through our darkness (9:2)

- The people who walked in darkness. Scripture recognized the darkness that we walk in and confronts us with the reality that we all walk in darkness.
  - Our darkness begins with our sin. We all have sinned. The wages of sin is death. Another result of our sin is what the Bible describes as darkness, blindness, and oppression.
  - Have you recognized your personal darkness?
- Not only does the Lord know your darkness He recognizes and understands the depth of your darkness.
  - Isaiah uses two different words here for dark. The first describes a general wondering in dark (**My storying of hitting my leg in the dark**).
  - The second word utilized by the prophet Isaiah **צְלִמּוֹת**. **Deep darkness. Thus it is the strongest word in Hebrew for darkness.**; It describes the darkness of eyelids tired from weeping (Job 16:16), the thick darkness present in a mine shaft (28:3), the darkness of the abode of the dead (10:21f.; 38:17), and the darkness prior to creation (Amos 5:8). Emotionally it describes the internal anguish of one who has rebelled against God (Ps 107:10–14; cf. 44:19f. [H 20f.]).
    1. Are you struggling with a deep darkness today? Eyelids tired from weeping? Feeling as if you fell into a mineshaft? Are you in internal anguish or depression?

- God understand this reality → The world is a dark place and we will never find your way or see reality unless Jesus is our Light.
- The Christian and Christmas message is that “those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned!”
- Are you ready to see a great light?
- Are you ready for God to shine upon you? He is the Light that breaks and breaks through our darkness of sin and the depths of great darkness that we live.

### Jesus does not provide light HE IS the LIGHT (9:2)

- **We must not fool ourselves into thinking that Jesus is another good source of light in our lives. He is the only source of light we have to draw upon.**
- John 8:12 Then Jesus spoke to them again: “I am the light of the world. Anyone who follows Me will never walk in the darkness but will have the light of life.”
  - John 9:5 As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.”
  - Jesus wants you to know that He is the light you need, he is the light you desire, he is the light that gives you life.
    1. His words comfort us not in saying he was the light or he will be light. He was I IS = eternity. Church! World! Your light has come. Morning has dawned on a dark night and His name is Jesus!
- **We know that Christ is THE light because when Jesus died on the cross the sun failed.**
  - Luke 23:45 because the sun’s **light** failed. The curtain of the sanctuary was split down the middle.
  - God often uses His creation to reveal His character.
  - What was the failing/darkening of the Sun revealing about the Sun of Man? Revealing about this Christ Child?
    1. The sun shows us the true source of light. It was as if the sun was saying “I am a cheap imitation”
    2. Without Christ the sun lost its purpose
    3. The sun was showing that judgment had come.
    4. Even the Sun (our source of light) needs The Light.
- **There will be a day when the world will be FULLY illuminated by the glorious radiance of Jesus Christ.**
  - Now we have a glimpse. One day we will fully see.
  - Rev. 21:22 I did not see a sanctuary in it, because the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb are its sanctuary. 23 The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, because God’s glory illuminates it, and its lamp is the Lamb. 24 The nations will walk in its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it. 25 Each day its gates will never close because it will never be night there.
- Oh that we would remember: HE is not a source of light (sun) the SON of man IS THE LIGHT.

### How to live in the light of the SON

- **If He is your light → Live knowing God separates darkness from light.**
  - Gen. 1:3 Then God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. 4 God saw that the light was good, and God separated the light from the darkness.

- If God can call forth light when there was nothing... he can call forth light in my dark life.
  - In Christ I have life. May the Lord pull darkness out of my life and pull me out of dark places.
- **If He is your light → Live knowing that His light drive out Fear**
  - Psa. 27:1 The LORD is my **light** and my salvation—whom should I fear? The LORD is the stronghold of my life— of whom should I be afraid?
  - We are not saved to be scared cats but to be fearless Saints!
- **If He is your light → Live knowing, He calls you.**
  - Eph. 5:8 For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light— 9 for the fruit of the light results in all goodness, righteousness, and truth—
  - He calls you Child if you believe, trust, and follow. He is yours and you are His. Child come home!
- **If He is your light → Shine your light!**
  - John 1:4 Life was in Him, and that life was the light of men. That light shines in the darkness, yet the darkness did not overcome it.
  - Matt. 5:14 “You are the light of the world. A city situated on a hill cannot be hidden. 15 No one lights a lamp and puts it under a basket, but rather on a lampstand, and it gives light for all who are in the house. 16 In the same way, let your light shine before men, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

## Conclusion

**Is. 9:2** The people walking in darkness  
have seen a great light;  
a light has dawned  
on those living in the land of darkness.

- Christmas is not about a birth... its about a coming. The light has come into the world.
- Is He your light?
  - He promises to break your darkness. To forgive your sin. To take away your shame and to make you right before God.
    - A Child is Born... a Son is Given.
  - The Light is given you today. This precious gift is yours if you will receive it today. Will you trust? Will you take a step of faith? This precious gift is yours if you will receive it today.
- How are you shining?
- Not even the sun can take the place of Jesus.
- Church... Shine Well! Shine Bright! Shine so the world will see!!

## Notes

**ADVENT** Word with Latin roots, meaning “**coming**.” Christians of earlier generations spoke of “the advent of our Lord” and of “His second advent.” The first phrase refers to God’s becoming incarnate in Jesus of Nazareth. The latter phrase speaks of Jesus’ second coming. In a second sense “advent” designates a period before Christmas when Christians prepare for the celebration of Jesus’ birth. This practice may have begun in some churches as early as the late fourth century. Advent began as a time of fasting. Sermons focused on the wonder of the Incarnation. By the Middle Ages four Sundays had become the standard length of the Advent season. Since then, Advent has been considered to be the beginning of the church year. See *Church Year; Parousia; Second Coming*.

- **Traditionally the candles on the advent wreath represent:**
  1. **Purple-prophecy/hope**
  2. **Purple- Bethlehem/preparation**
  3. **Pink- shepherd/candle of Joy**
  4. **Purple- angel candle/candle of Love**
  5. **White- Christ Candle (traditionally lit on Christmas eve)**

**Is. 9:1** Nevertheless, the gloom of the distressed land will not be like that of the former times when He humbled the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali. But in the future He will bring honor to the Way of the Sea, to the land east of the Jordan, and to Galilee of the nations.

**Is. 9:2**           The people walking in darkness  
have seen a great light;  
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on those living in the land of darkness.

**צלמָוֹת**. *Deep darkness*. (ASV prefers “the shadow of death” and also has “thick darkness,” “thick gloom”; It describes the darkness of eyelids tired from weeping (Job 16:16), the thick darkness present in a mine shaft (28:3), the darkness of the abode of the dead (10:21f.; 38:17), and the darkness prior to creation (Amos 5:8). Emotionally it describes the internal anguish of one who has rebelled against God (Ps 107:10–14; cf. 44:19f. [H 20f.]). **Thus it is the strongest word in Hebrew for darkness.**

- Light used 219 (HCSB) in the Bible
  - **We see in Scripture that it was God that separated light from darkness**
  - Gen. 1:3 Then God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. 4 God saw that the light was good, and God separated the light from the darkness.
  - **It was God who gave his people Light to travel by night**
    - Ex. 13:21 The LORD went ahead of them in a pillar of cloud to lead them on their way during the day and in a pillar of fire to give them **light** at night, so that they could travel day or night.
  - The lamp continually burned in the temple to give light
    - Lev. 24:2 “Command the Israelites to bring you pure oil from crushed olives for the **light**, in order to keep the lamp burning continually.
- Job 29:3 when His lamp shone above my head,
- and I walked through darkness by His **light**!
- **It is His Light that drives our Fear**
  - Psa. 27:1 The LORD is my **light** and my salvation—
- whom should I fear? The LORD is the stronghold of my life— of whom should I be afraid?
- It is the Lord who commands us to shine our light
  - Is. 60:1 Arise, shine, for your **light** has come, and the glory of the LORD shines over you
    - Matt. 5:14 “You are the light of the world. A city situated on a hill cannot be hidden. 15 No one lights a lamp and puts it under a basket, but rather on a lampstand, and it gives light for all who are in the house. 16 In the same way, let your light shine before men, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.
    - Luke 11:33 “No one lights a lamp and puts it in the cellar or under a basket, but on a lampstand, so that those who come in may see its light. 34 Your eye is the lamp of the body. When your eye is good, your whole body is also full of light. But when it is bad, your body is also full of darkness. 35 Take care then, that the light in you is not darkness.
    - John 1:4 Life was in Him, and that life was the light of men. That light shines in the darkness, yet the darkness did not overcome it.
- When Jesus died the light of the sun failed
  - Luke 23:45 because the sun’s **light** failed. The curtain of the sanctuary was split down the middle.
- He Calls us Children of Light

- Eph. 5:8 For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light— 9 for the fruit of the light results in all goodness, righteousness, and truth—
- There will be no sun in heaven
  - Rev. 21:22 I did not see a sanctuary in it, because the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb are its sanctuary. 23 The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, because God’s glory illuminates it, and its lamp is the Lamb. 24 The nations will walk in its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it. 25 Each day its gates will never close because it will never be night there. 26 They will bring the glory and honor of the nations into it. 27 Nothing profane will ever enter it: no one who does what is vile or false, but only those written in the Lamb’s book of life.

John 8:12 Then Jesus spoke to them again: “I am the light of the world. Anyone who follows Me will never walk in the darkness but will have the light of life.”

John 9:5 As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.”

One of the first indications of the Christmas season is the appearance of lights. Lights on trees, candles in windows, radiance everywhere. The Christmas lights of New York City delight even blasé residents. Everything seems to be wrapped in millions and millions of stars. This is appropriate, because December 25 follows the darkest time of the year in the Mediterranean world and Europe, where Christmas celebrations took shape. But the lights are not just decorative; they are symbolic.

Keller, Timothy (2016-10-25). Hidden Christmas: The Surprising Truth Behind the Birth of Christ (pp. 5-6). Penguin Publishing Group. Kindle Edition.

That is, that the world is a dark place, and we will never find our way or see reality unless Jesus is our Light.

How is the world “dark”? In the Bible the word “darkness” refers to both evil and ignorance. It means first that the world is filled with evil and untold suffering. Look at what was happening at the time of the birth of Jesus— violence, injustice, abuse of power, homelessness, refugees fleeing oppression, families

**The Christmas message is that “on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned.”**

**The sun is beautiful. Light is dazzling and gives joy. That is true literally. In places where there are only a few hours of daylight at certain times of the year, many suffer from depression.**

**How, though, can this light become ours? Notice it doesn't just say, "For to us a child is born." It also says, "to us a son is given." It's a gift. It can be yours only if you are willing to receive it as a gift of grace. Verse 5 hints at this too. It speaks of**

**However, Christmas is not simply about a birth but about a coming. God had planned for the arrival of his Son before he even created the Earth (Revelation 13: 8), and like any good writer, he**

**Keller, Timothy (2016-10-25). Hidden Christmas: The Surprising Truth Behind the Birth of Christ (pp. 20-21). Penguin Publishing Group. Kindle Edition.**

**Out in the cold and dark. Jesus was born in the cold and dark stable, but it was only a foreshadowing. At the end of his life, Jesus will cry out, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" (Matthew 27: 46). On the cross he was thrown out into the spiritual darkness**

## **Illustrations**

## **Application**

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