

4.11 A Light In the Darkness

Unit 3: Promises of Hope

Isaiah 9:1-7

Nov 5 & 9

For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Jeremiah 29:11

The Point & Call Back:
God Brings Hope

We continue a journey through the Hebrew prophets with Isaiah 9:1-7. This text is often heard during Advent with a promise of the coming Messiah. Prophetic language can be difficult to understand, and it is important to remember that it is often poetic language and therefore the images should be understood symbolically.

THE SUMMARY: A Light in the Darkness

God's people were experiencing a dark time. Although there is debate about when and who originally heard prophecy, the people Isaiah refers to have experienced difficulty. The darkness in which the people have lived and walked in is not literal darkness, but hopelessness and an experience of separation from God. The prophecy is addressed to a people who have known oppression and violence, and most likely hunger due to famine or destruction of crops. Yet amid this darkness, God promised the coming of a Messiah who would bring light, peace, and joy. This Messiah will bring an ever-expanding and everlasting kingdom defined by justice and righteousness. Christians throughout history have believed that this prophecy's fulfillment began at Jesus' incarnation and will be completed at the Messiah's return as described in Revelation 21 and 22. Both in the spread of Jesus' love here and now and the future coming of God's kingdom, the light of God shines and destroys the darkness.

THE POINT: The prophet promises a new king who will be the presence of God's light in the world.

God sent a prophet to speak a word of comfort to the people living in darkness. Life will not always be full of suffering and oppression. The prophet Isaiah tells the people that God is sending a child, a king.

BIBLE NUTS & BOLTS: The Messiah

This lesson will introduce the meaning of the word messiah which comes from the Hebrew word for "anointed one." Samuel marked David as the new king of Israel by pouring oil on his head – anointing him. Anointing was the way that the Israelites set apart their kings, priests, and prophets for the work God had given them. However, God gave promises throughout Scripture of a coming Servant who would bring salvation to God's people and peace to the world. This Servant was interpreted to be the same as the promised Messiah. This Messiah was revealed in the person of Jesus of Nazareth, who in the common Greek language of the time was called the Christ, which is Greek for "anointed one."

(S&T)

Hope Youth Volunteers

The poor Israelites were living in a time of great darkness and sadness. Maybe you are in a rough season of life too. Isaiah told them of a new king that will be coming and that king is Jesus. He will make all things right. Isaiah told the people it won't always be this hard. He told them that they will be happy again. Maybe you need to hear that too. If you are in a rough season know that it will get better and that we serve a king who sees us and knows us. We serve a King whose kingdom will

never end. So take heart and know that even in the darkest time there is always hope with Jesus.
Thank you for being that light for Hope youth.

Blessings,
The Youth Team