

To Us a Child Is Born - Isaiah 9:1-10:4

Topics: Accountability, Anger, Burdens, Darkness, Death, Enemies, Evil, Good News, Government, Honor, Humility, Injustice, Joy, Judgment, Justice, Leadership, Light, Messiah, Oppressed, Peace, Pride, Punishment, Repentance, Righteousness, Self-righteousness, Wealth, Zeal

Open It

- * 1. What positive associations do you have with light?
- 2. What are some of the injustices in our society that you have noticed and care about?

Explore It

- 3. Although he had been preaching God's judgment (particularly on the kingdom of Israel), what total reversal did Isaiah foresee in the future? (9:1)
- * 4. What contrasting images did Isaiah use to set the scene of his prophecy? (9:2)
- 5. To what situations did Isaiah compare the joy that will be Israel's? (9:3)
- 6. What did Isaiah predict God would do for Israel, causing her to rejoice? (9:4-5)
- * 7. How does Isaiah describe the Ruler who will be provided by God for His people? (9:6-7)
- 8. When God judged Israel, what erroneous thinking prevailed among the people? (9:8-10)
- 9. What foreign powers did God use to ensure that Israel would not quickly be rebuilt? (9:11-12)
- 10. What refrain did Isaiah use to emphasize the seriousness of God's wrath? (9:12)
- * 11. What choice did the people make about their response to the God-provoked suffering? (9:13)
- 12. How did Isaiah portray the cross-section of society that would come under God's judgment? (9:14-17)
- 13. How did Isaiah portray the depths to which Israel would sink when God abandoned them to their own devices? (9:18-21)
- 14. What sins of the powerful did God single out in His list of judgments? (10:1-2)
- 15. What rhetorical question did God ask the oppressors of His people? (10:3)

Get It

- 16. What attributes of God are apparent in this passage?
- * 17. How is God's promise of the coming child an answer to His anger over our sin?
- 18. How does God intend for us to respond when He corrects or disciplines us?
- 19. How would you explain the Light that came into your darkness?
- * 20. Why might it be dangerous to downplay the seriousness of our situation whenever we encounter hardship?
- 21. How much of the injustice Isaiah condemned in his time do you see in our own time?

Apply It

- 22. What specific injustice in your area of influence can you challenge in the name of God? How?
- * 23. What person do you know who is still "walking in darkness" for whom God would have you pray?