

Anticipated Present Realities of Jesus
November 18 – December 30 2012, Week Two of Seven
“The Dawning Light of the ‘Wonderful’ Rule of Jesus”
Isaiah 8:16 – 9:7, Nov 25 2012

Focus for Week Two

Sometimes, the evil we see around us and in us makes it hard to see the light of Jesus; at least, it is can be hard to see how the light of Jesus shines in the darkness. This morning, we are paying attention to this “present rule of Jesus,” anticipated by Isaiah. In Isaiah 8:16-9:7, we see that Jesus’ “wonderful” rule is like a light dawning in the darkness.

Summary of “Time of Reflection” and Message

1. Time of Reflection: **The Light of Jesus Shines IN the darkness**
 - Jesus. God’s eternal, royal Son. Shared as 2nd person of Triune God in the creation of the universe. Sent by God the Father into history to be born of a woman, demonstrating God’s love for humanity, dying for human sin. He defeated death by his resurrection and now rules with present authority until all God’s enemies have been destroyed, including death. He will then come again to complete his work of making ALL things new.
 - In Isaiah 9:1-2, Isaiah speaks about this “dawning light shining in the darkness; in Matthew 4:12-17, this prophecy of Isaiah is fulfilled in Jesus.

2. Summary of Message
 - **The Danger of Disconnection**
 - a. Last week, looked at prophecy of Isaiah 7:14 that God gave to evil king Ahaz, who did not want the sign: Immanuel, God with Us.
 - b. As we see such evil (i.e. darkness) around us and in us, it can overwhelm us. We can fail to see or believe that the presence of Jesus impacts this darkness.
 - c. **Two responses to this danger from passage of focus**
 - 1) **The nature of light; shines in darkness** -“The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned” (Isaiah 9:2)
 - a) The light of Jesus shines in darkness
 - b) This process happened in Isaiah. The light of Jesus shining in Isaiah led him to see God’s holiness, his sin, God’s forgiveness; it led him to submit to God’s sending him with his light into the darkness around him.
 - 2) **Response of Isaiah in 8:16-18** (“I will put my trust in him. Here am I, and the children the LORD has given me”), **fulfilled by Jesus in Hebrews 2:10-13**
 - a) The author of Hebrews assigns these words to Jesus. Not only is Jesus the light shining in darkness but he transforms us by his light that we might shine with him.

- b) As his light shines in us, he is not ashamed to call us his brothers and sisters; it is HIS work in us, not our own holiness, for which he is “not ashamed.”
- **The Real Darkness into which Jesus is a Dawning Light**
 - a. People consulted mediums and spiritists instead of God (8:19).
 - b. People failing to consult God; they have “no light of dawn” in them (8:20).
 - c. The darkness included physical distress (8:21a)
 - d. This darkness led to anger such that the people cursed king and God (8:21b)
 - e. The eyes of the people see only distress, darkness, fearful gloom (8:22a)
 - f. The people are “thrust into utter darkness” (8:22b)
 - **The Dawning Light of Jesus**
 - a. **Where does he rule?** He rules in the same places where the people experienced gloom, where they were humbled by God, where they were walking in “deep darkness” (9:1-2).
 - b. **What are results of his rule?** More people experienced this light; joy increased; there was rejoicing before the Lord (note: remember, temple worship had been stopped by Ahaz); the yoke of oppression was shattered; there was no more need for battle. (9:3-5)
 - c. **How does he rule?** His purposes are wonderful; he displays the power of God; he shows compassion without end; he champions peace; justice and righteousness last (9:6-7).
 - d. **When is this rule?**
 - 1) The immediate, partial fulfillment of this prophecy was Hezekiah (see ‘for further study,’ #5)
 - 2) Jesus displayed the beginning of this rule from his birth, through his ministry, in his death, resurrection and ascension (e.g. Matthew 4:12-17).
 - 3) Jesus promised the complete culmination of his rule when he comes again (see Isaiah 11:6-9).
 - 4) Jesus promised and now displays his present, authoritative rule, shining in the darkness in the ways prophesied in Isaiah 9 and 11.

For Further Study

1. Reread Isaiah 6:1 – 8:15, which provides the background to this week’s focus.
2. Read Isaiah 11 with Isaiah 9:6-7 in mind. What do you learn about the “wonderful” rule of Jesus summarized in Isaiah 9:6-7 and expanded in Isaiah 11?
3. Read Isaiah 8:16 – 9:7 and review the summary above. What stands out to you as important for your life right now?
4. Consider places and people experiencing the darkness described in 8:19-22. What are ways the dawning light of Jesus shining in that darkness might shape your prayers? What are longings for the light of Jesus to shine in the darkness that you have?

5. The immediate partial fulfillment of the prophecy of Isaiah 9:1-7 is in Hezekiah; he was the son of Ahaz. About him, we read,

“He did what was right in the eyes of the Lord, just as his father David had done.” (II Chronicles 29:2)

“Hezekiah trusted in the Lord, the God of Israel. There was no one like him among the kings of Judah, either before him or after him. He held fast to the Lord and did not stop following him. And the Lord was with him.” (II Kings 18:5-7)

Read II Kings 18-20 and II Chronicles 29-32 and consider ways this prophecy was partially fulfilled in Hezekiah AND ways it was anticipating Jesus.

* Prepared by Tim Berends

Key Scriptures for Week Two

Isaiah 8:16-18 (NIV 2011)

¹⁶ Bind up this testimony of warning
and seal up God’s instruction among my disciples.

¹⁷ I will wait for the LORD,
who is hiding his face from the descendants of Jacob.

I will put my trust in him.

¹⁸ **Here am I, and the children the LORD has given me.** (quoted in Hebrews 2:10-13) We are signs and symbols in Israel from the LORD Almighty, who dwells on Mount Zion.

Hebrews 2:10-13 (NIV 2011)

¹⁰ In bringing many sons and daughters to glory, it was fitting that God, for whom and through whom everything exists, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through what he suffered. ¹¹ Both the one who makes people holy and those who are made holy are of the same family. **So Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters.** ¹² **He says,**

“I will declare your name to my brothers and sisters; in the assembly I will sing your praises.”

¹³ And again, **“I will put my trust in him.”**

And again he says, **“Here am I, and the children God has given me.”**

Isaiah 8:19- 9:7 (NIV 2011)

¹⁹ When someone tells you to consult mediums and spiritists, who whisper and mutter, should not a people inquire of their God? Why consult the dead on behalf of the living? ²⁰ Consult God's instruction and the testimony of warning. If anyone does not speak according to this word, they have no light of dawn. ²¹ Distressed and hungry, they will roam through the land; when they are famished, they will become enraged and, looking upward, will curse their king and their God. ²² Then they will look toward the earth and see only distress and darkness and fearful gloom, and they will be thrust into utter darkness.

Isaiah 9:1-2 (NIV 2011)

Nevertheless, there will be no more gloom for those who were in distress. In the past he humbled the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the future he will honor Galilee of the nations, by the Way of the Sea, beyond the Jordan—

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

Matthew 4:12-17 (NIV 2011)

When Jesus heard that John had been put in prison, he withdrew to Galilee. ¹³ Leaving Nazareth, he went and lived in Capernaum, which was by the lake in the area of Zebulun and Naphtali— ¹⁴ 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.”

Isaiah 9:3-7 (NIV 2011)

³ You have enlarged the nation and increased their joy;
they rejoice before you as people rejoice at the harvest,
as warriors rejoice when dividing the plunder.

⁴ For as in the day of Midian's defeat,
you have shattered the yoke that burdens them,
the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor.

⁵ Every warrior's boot used in battle and every garment rolled in blood
will be destined for burning, will be fuel for the fire.

⁶ For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given,
and the government will be on his shoulders.
And he will be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

⁷ Of the greatness of his government and peace
there will be no end.
He will reign on David's throne
and over his kingdom,
establishing and upholding it
with justice and righteousness
from that time on and forever.

The zeal of the LORD Almighty
will accomplish this.