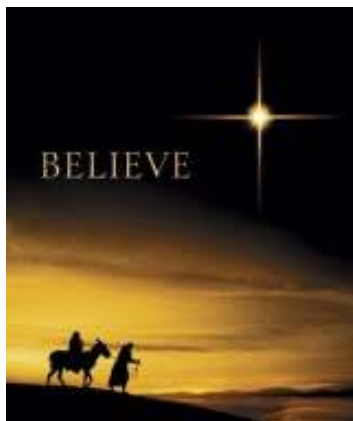


## We Have Seen A Great Light



### ***The Darkness Was Great The Light Was Greater***

“Now when Jesus heard that John had been put in prison, He departed to Galilee. And leaving Nazareth, He came and dwelt in Capernaum, which is by the sea, in the regions of Zebulun and Naphtali that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying...”

*Matt 4:12-14 (See Isa 9:1b-2)*

**Introduction:** Isaiah’s prophecy of the coming Messiah is one of the clearest in the Old Testament. Matthew quotes it in his Gospel to denote the significance of Jesus ministry in and around Galilee and Capernaum.

#### **A. In The Dark :1-2; (See also 1 John 1:5-9; Psalm 139:23-24)**

1. Throughout the ages mankind has walked in gloom, darkness, and the shadow of death.
2. This means walking under the influence and power of sin.
3. This prophecy specifically concerns the inhabitants of Galilee in the times of the Messiah but also all who are apart from Christ.
4. The phrase ‘**the shadow of death**’ is significant in Hebrew poetical writing. (See *Psalm 23*). The shadow represents fear, misery, calamity and death. But the light will dispel the darkness including the shadow. (See below)

#### **B. In the Light :2-7**

1. The first advent  
Jesus incarnation [birth] brought the ‘light’ of salvation and the ‘light’ of understanding to those who believed. :2
  - a. A child is born (humanity) :6a
  - b. A Son is given divinity) :6a
2. The second advent  
“*The government will be upon His shoulder...*” looks forward to the Messiah’s second coming (second advent).
  - a. Verses :3-5 also look forward to the second coming of Christ when joy will be fully restored and all implements of war will be destroyed.
3. Living in the light  
Living in the ‘light’ is living in the ‘name’ of Messiah-God. Jesus the Messiah is our
  - a. Wonderful Counselor—living in His wisdom
  - b. Mighty God—living under and by His might
  - c. Everlasting Father—Our first and last life-source
  - d. Prince of Peace—‘Sar-Shalom’ Living in His peace

### Isaiah 9:1-7

**:1** Nevertheless the gloom will not be upon her who is distressed, as when at first He lightly esteemed the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, and afterward more heavily oppressed her, by the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, in Galilee of the Gentiles.

**:2** **The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; Those who dwelt in the land of the shadow of death, upon them a light has shined.**

**:3** You have multiplied the nation and increased its joy; they rejoice before You according to the joy of harvest, as men rejoice when they divide the spoil.

**:4** For You have broken the yoke of his burden and the staff of his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, as in the day of Midian.

**:5** For every warrior's sandal from the noisy battle, and garments rolled in blood, will be used for burning and fuel of fire.

**:6** For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called...

**Wonderful Counselor,  
Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father,  
Prince of Peace.**

**:7** Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end, upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, to order it and establish it with judgment and justice from that time forward, even forever.

**The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.**