

Isaiah Chapters 8 & 9

Jesus – the light of the world

As prophesied in Isaiah

Acts 8:26 – 40 – **Philip and the Ethiopian**

“How can I understand the writings of Isaiah?” he asked.

The background story

There were 12 tribes of Israel, descendants of Jacob.

Jacob’s first wife Leah had 6 sons: Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar and Zebulun.

Jacob and 4 sons through two of his maid-servants: Dan, Naphtali, Gad and Asher.

Jacob’s second (and favourite) wife had 2 sons: Joseph and Benjamin.

Each of these sons had children which eventually formed tribes.

Throughout Old Testament history these tribes were always fighting against one another. Eventually they divided into 2 kingdoms:

- The northern kingdom, called Israel (or also called Ephraim after a son of Joseph), which was made up of 10 tribes.

This kingdom eventually falls to Assyria (1 Kings 17)

- The southern kingdom, called Judah, (which was made up of 2 tribes, Benjamin and Judah).

This kingdom eventually falls to Babylon, (2 Kings 25)

God’s chosen people were in darkness, and had been for many years, either making war with one another or in captivity.

They were also in darkness because they had forsaken the laws and ways of God.

Isaiah 8:19 – God’s people are going to mediums, (who practiced magic.)

Isaiah 8:21 – 22 – Even though they are in darkness they refuse to go to God.

This is like the world today. The world is a place of darkness. People will go to anything other than Jesus. People are living without hope.

But as Christians we have the light. Are we living in it, or are we going the way of the world?

Isaiah 9:1 – Despite the gloom and sinful ways, there will be no darkness when the light comes.

Isaiah 9:2 – Light is coming into death’s darkness.

Isaiah 9:3 – Joy is mentioned 4 times. We see a gift mentioned.

Isaiah 9:4-7 – the gift is a child. Through this child God will end oppression. The Israelites are told that war will be ended and they won't have to fight. There is hope.

Isaiah chapter 53 – The answer is Jesus.

What is it like to be in darkness and without the light?

Find the answers in Isaiah 9:6 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 Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

1. To be lost – Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. He is the Wonderful Counsellor.
2. To be afraid – He is the Mighty God. Revelation 19 tells us that God leads an army. He will fight for us.
3. To be alone – He loves us as a Father. As a Christian you have the family of God.
4. To be in despair – We have the Prince of Peace.