

Isa 8:11-9:7 12.20.2020 (20099)
Navigating by the Dawn

- I. It has been a hard year. I'm glad Christmas is here. It brings an eternal perspective. Matt.4:12-17. What is Matthew saying?**
- A. That there is a plan for human history, and it is about a Light in Galilee.
 - 1. The Prophets spoke God's Word, which changes reality, moves the plan of redemption forward. Eph.1:11; Heb.1:1-3
 - B. That Jesus of Nazareth is that Light, prophesied Isaiah 9. Jn.1:1-5
 - 1. *But his authority extended to nature and human illness and spirits! 23-25*
 - C. That the world is in darkness without Him. (Jn.1:1-18)
 - 1. Just like in the original prophecy in Isa.8:11-9:7
- II. In fact, darkness was the context for the original prophecy. 735BC. Judah/Jerusalem. *If you had lived then and walked with God, you would be...***
- A. **Disappointed in your government.** (Represented by Ahaz. 2 Chron.28; 2 Kings 16)
 - 1. Ahaz was a twenty-something Baal worshipper who sacrificed his sons in fire to Moloch, built all kinds of pagan altars in the temple area and around Jerusalem, and made secret and ungodly alliances.
 - B. **Fearful of world events.** (7:1-2)
 - 1. The Assyrians dominate and threaten all the smaller nations.
 - 2. Northern Israel and Syria were trying to force Ahaz into an alliance against Assyria.
 - 3. Intrigue: Ahaz had already made a deal with Assyria to attack his enemies to the north.
- III. Yet the Lord spoke strong encouragement to Isaiah. Isa.8:11-9:7**
- A. Don't let the fears of the world shape your life. 11-12
 - 1. Don't focus on the "conspiracies." No fear or dread.
 - 2. "Isaiah and his disciples are to have no part in a fear-ridden society but to be conspicuous for a different life-style, unmoved by the fears around; a calm in the midst of life's storms and menaces." (Alec Motyer, *Prophecy of Isaiah Commentary*, (IVP 1995), p.95)
 - B. Don't let the voices of the world guide your thinking. 19-22
 - 1. In those days the spiritism that replaced knowledgeable faith.
 - 2. To the instruction (torah) and the testimony—the Word.
 - C. Don't assume that the will of the world is final. 13-17
 - 1. Lord of Hosts = Lord of Armies (angelic armies).
 - a) *He is Holy and His Will is final.*
 - 2. Awe of God and not of the world. (Pr.1:7, 9:10; Mtt.10:28)
 - D. Don't think that the darkness of the world is eternal. 9:1
 - 1. Where the darkness was worst (Galilee, Zebulun/Naphtali)
 - 2. *That's where the light will shine*
- IV. Instead—Navigate by the Dawn, the Galilee Sunrise. 9:1-7**
- A. He has reversed the curse. 1-5
 - 1. The sunrise in Galilee (v.1) has brought...
 - 2. Light (v.2), Joy (v.3), Security (v.4), Peace (v.5)
 - 3. Yes there is confusion and darkness, but God has done something already in the future.
 - B. He has inaugurated His Kingdom. 6-7
 - 1. We know who this King is. He is calling people right now into his light. Acts 26:18.
 - 2. An eternal government resting on His shoulders.
 - 3. It began with his birth, life, death, resurrection, ascension and it continues today metaphysically, spiritually, truly.

The eye of faith looks at all this (darkness) but affirms that, real though it is, it not the real reality. As always, the people of God must decide what reading of their experiences they will live by. Are they to look at the darkness, the hopelessness, the dreams shattered and conclude that God has forgotten them? Or are they to recall his past mercies, to remember his present promises and to make great affirmations of faith? Isaiah insists here that *hope is the present reality, part of the constitution of the now. The darkness is true but it is not the whole truth and certainly not the fundamental truth.* (Motyer, *Isaiah*, p.99)

- V. **He brings everything we long for. It's all in the Names. Five things: 9:6-7**
- A. ***Enlightenment. Wonder Counselor. He opens our minds to ultimate reality. Lk.24:45***
1. He brings a sort of knowledge that changes our thinking and creates trust in Him.
 - a) Wonder = pele = unusual, supernatural, astounding, not normal
 - b) Counselor = ya'ats = give counsel, advise, direct.
 - c) **John 6:63.** The Spirit gives life, not the flesh. My words are spirit/life
 2. His words convey this knowledge by the Spirit.
 - a) *The Spirit and the Word overlap metaphysically. This means that when we are taking in his Word, we are encountering his Spirit.*
- B. ***Relief. Mighty God. He rescues us singlehandedly.***
1. El Gibbor He is a Hero/Warrior/King who wins it all for us.
 - a) The rescue started at the Cross and Resurrection.
 - b) *Sin and Death themselves are defeated by the Hero.*
- C. ***Validation. Everlasting Father. He changes our identity. John 20:17***
1. Jesus Christ is the visible representation of the Father. 14:9
 - a) This is Trinitarian to the core. Jn. 10:30; Mtt.28:18
 2. We become children of God, through being in Him. Jn.1:12-13 (Rom.8; Gal.4)
 - a) *Gives us God's own last name! Takes us from Shame to Honor in Christ.*
 - b) That new identity in Christ the Son makes us precious and pleasing in God's sight.
- D. ***Fulfillment—Shalom. Prince of Peace. He promises the deepest craving of our soul. Jn.14:27***
1. More than the absence of Enmity—the presence of Shalom
 2. The promise of perfect harmony, wholeness, unity, completeness,
 - a) It is “inner peace,” but when more than one person has this inner peace with God, they share relational peace that is what we call love.
 3. He is the commander of Shalom. Sar Shalom. Rom.5:1
 - a) Utter personal and interpersonal flourishing—*He is in charge of this.*
 - b) Health and love to and from God, the self, and others—in that order.
- E. ***Hope. The increase of shalom, justice, goodness (righteousness) forever. 7***
1. Hope = anticipation, confident expectation of something good.
- VI. **Two things to do.**
- A. Seek first His kingdom rather than ours. Matt.6:33-34
1. Come directly to Jesus Christ as the Saving King, alive and at large today.
 - a) It is his righteousness given to us and transforming us.
 2. Live consistently in the light. 1 Jn.1:7.
 - a) All of life open to him and his instruction.
- B. Rest entirely in His work, rather than ours. It is His zeal that does it all. 9:7. Col.1:13-14
1. His enthusiasm for the salvation of his fallen world is greater than ours.
 - a) Zeal: qin'ah = intense care, jealousy or zeal. Strong word.
 2. This is why he became one of us, and singlehandedly dealt with evil and sin.
 3. He is more committed to the kingdom than we are.