

# A Light Has Dawned: A Child is Born

Isaiah 8:19-9:7

Key Verse: 9:2,6a

**“The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned...For to us a child is born to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders.”**

1. What was the spiritual condition of the people during those times (8:19-22)? What was the reason for their condition (19-20; compare to 16-17)? And what was the result (21-22)? How do we see this in our times?
2. Read verses 9:1-2. Note the repetition of the imagery of darkness and light (8:20-9:2). How do people walk and live in darkness apart from God? What hope did Isaiah see for those living in darkness, gloom and distress (1-2)? How did God honor Galilee of the nations (1b; Mt 4:12-16)? Why is Jesus the hope and light for all those in deep darkness (Lk 1:78-79; Ac 26:18; Jn 8:12)?
3. What was God going to do for the nation and what was their repeated reaction (3-5)? How does Midian's defeat point to God's deliverance through Jesus (4, Jdg 7:22-25)?
4. Read verse 6. How was God going to overcome their darkness, increase their joy, and give them freedom and peace? What does it mean that “the government will be on his shoulders”? What are the attributes of this king and what does each title mean (11:2; Mk 4:39,41; Mk 2:5; Eph 2:14)?
5. What are the characteristics of his kingdom (7a)? How is all this accomplished (7b)? How has the light of this child dawned on you this Christmas?