

International Bible Lessons Commentary
Isaiah 9:2-7

International Bible Lessons

Sunday, August 12, 2012

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The **International Bible Lesson** (*Uniform Sunday School Lessons Series*) for **Sunday, August 12, 2012**, is from **Isaiah 9:2-7**. **Questions for Discussion and Thinking Further** follow the verse-by-verse *International Bible Lessons Commentary* (formerly, *Bible Lesson Forum*) below. **Study Hints for Thinking Further** discuss the five questions below to help with class preparation and in conducting class discussion; these hints are available on the **International Bible Lessons Commentary** website. For additional **International Bible Lesson Commentaries**, see the complete and comprehensive **International Bible Lessons Commentary Index**. The weekly **International Bible Lesson** is posted each Saturday before the lesson is scheduled to be taught at **<http://InternationalBibleLessons.org>** and in ***The Oklahoman*** newspaper.

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Isaiah 9:2-7

(Isaiah 9:2) The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who

lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined.

The verses in this lesson reveal prophetically the result of the coming of the Messiah, Jesus of Nazareth. These promised blessings are fulfilled spiritually in the life of everyone who trusts in Jesus as Lord and Savior. Someday, after Jesus returns visibly in power, every person will see the physical fulfillment of what God promised He would do through the Messiah. When Jesus Christ came into the world, God's light or truth shined on those in spiritual darkness; those who lived and walked in the land of spiritual darkness, and all who saw the light came to trust in the truth of God and believe in Jesus Christ. When Jesus came, He was "a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel" (Luke 2:32). In Jesus was "life, and the life was the light of all people" (John 1:4). Perhaps referring to this verse from Isaiah, Jesus explained, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life" (John 8:12).

(Isaiah 9:3) You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder.

When Jesus was born, some righteous people expected His coming. In addition to the parents of John the Baptist and Jesus (to whom the angel spoke

and the Holy Spirit bore witness), the Bible notes Simeon and Anna expected His coming in their lifetimes (see Luke 2). All of those who saw Jesus the Messiah soon after He was born rejoiced at His birth. The number of people who began to live righteously in the kingdom of God was multiplied through Jesus' public ministry, and people began to rejoice as Jesus taught and worked miracles, even as those who attended His birth rejoiced. People rejoiced and still rejoice at the benefits of trusting in and following Jesus. Isaiah says that people rejoice when they have a good harvest and when they defeat an enemy in battle and can divide the valuables they have captured. Isaiah mentioned these two situations as examples of the way people would rejoice enthusiastically at the coming of the Messiah, which people did during and after Jesus' life on earth.

(Isaiah 9:4) For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian.

During His ministry on earth, Jesus freed people from slavery to sin, from the overwhelming power of the world's temptations, from fear (including the fear of death), from bondage to Satan and demonic powers. He cast out demons and healed diseases. He taught people how to obey God, and after He ascended into heaven He sent the Holy Spirit to help His followers do God's will. Jesus still bestows these blessings on

His followers. When Jesus returns in power to Earth, he will break the power of all oppressors. “On the day of Midian,” God defeated the Midianites with only 300 Israelites (see Judges 7). God received the glory for this great victory over Israel’s oppressors. Similarly, when He returns, Jesus the Messiah will defeat all those who oppress the people of God.

(Isaiah 9:5) For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

After Jesus returns, all weapons of war, all the tools that warriors use to invade and oppress others, and all the wasted destruction or waste of war will be burned or destroyed so the world can be remade. The world will be cleansed spiritually and materially, and all wars will cease under the just and merciful rule of our loving Lord Jesus Christ.

(Isaiah 9:6) For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

All the results promised by God through Isaiah are the consequences of the birth and ministry of Jesus of Nazareth. God the Father gave a human child, His only begotten Son, to the world, because Jesus was born of the Virgin Mary (see Matthew 1 and Luke 1

and 2). God the Father gave us His own son, conceived by the Holy Spirit, so Jesus could and would be "Mighty God." During His ministry, Jesus taught that He was the "Everlasting Father;" Jesus said, "Whoever has seen me has seen the Father" (John 14:9). Throughout His public ministry (and in the lives of His followers today), Jesus demonstrated His ability as "Wonderful Counselor." He still brings peace of mind and heart to His followers, and when He comes again He will bring peace to the world as "Prince of Peace."

(Isaiah 9:7) His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

Those alive during Jesus' public ministry saw how He spiritually fulfilled Isaiah 9:6. When Jesus returns to our world as He promised, He will fulfill every promise and prophecy of Isaiah 9:7. The enthusiasm and diligence (the zeal) of the LORD (Yahweh) will do this, and justice and righteousness will prevail throughout the world. During His life on earth, Jesus fulfilled so much of this prophecy from Isaiah that we have good and sufficient reasons to trust that He will fulfill the rest of Isaiah's prophecy.

Five Questions for Discussion and Thinking Further

1. In what ways can you compare light and truth? How is Jesus “a great light”?
2. Read Isaiah 9:6 again. What truth do you personally find the most amazing truth in this verse? Why?
3. List some of the ways Jesus showed that He is “Mighty God.”
4. How did Jesus show some of the traits of a “Wonderful Counselor”?
5. During His ministry on earth, what were some of the ways Jesus showed and taught that He is “Everlasting Father”?

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