

A Christmas Hope

Isaiah 8:19-9:7

KV 2: "The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned."

1. Read 8:19-20. In the difficult times of Isaiah's day, where did people seek counsel and help? Why was this foolish and wrong? Where should people seek guidance and help? What is the result of ignoring God's word?
2. Read verses 21 and 22. What is the result when there is no light of dawn? What might the darkness represent?
3. Read 9:1-2. What is the good news? To what event do these verses look forward? (Read Matthew 4:15-16.) Read 9:3-5. What are the sources of joy that Isaiah mentions here? How do these things point to Jesus?(see Jdg 6:3-7,13-14; 7:18-22)
4. Read verse 6. Who is the child? What does it mean that he is a Wonderful Counselor? Mighty God? Everlasting Father? Prince of Peace?
5. Read verse 7. What are the characteristics of his kingdom? What kingdom is forever? What does this promise mean to us? What is our hope? (See Mt 6:10, Luke 11:2)