

<p>A. INTRODUCTION.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ In our weary world, where light and joy seem scarce, there's no better source of hope than the Scripture. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Reflect ❖ . . . on <i>Isaiah 9</i> that offers <i>light</i> to dispel darkness and rekindle the <i>joy</i> of Christmas & life itself.
<p>B. BACKGROUND OF ISAIAH 9.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A very doom & gloom backdrop. • Spiritual & political darkness hung over the nation: Israel & Judah. • The closing verse of Isaiah 8 shows not just the external military threat, but also the people were so disconnected with God. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ What is the answer to the weary world?
<p>C. INTRODUCTORY: TODAY'S TEXT.</p> <p>a) 9:1-2: The child is the answer to all humanity's darkness & despair.</p> <p>b) 9:3: Response to the coming of the light (Jesus) is overflowing gladness & rejoicing.</p> <p>c) 9:4-7b: 3 reasons for the weary world to rejoice:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v.4: promises Israel's oppressors would be destroyed; burden lifted. • v.5: the bonfire will be ignited as all war tools are burned forever. • v.6-7b: the birth of a baby (the <i>most significant</i> event). <p>d) 9:7c: the prophecy's fulfillment by the LORD himself.</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Explanation. ▶ Jesus quoted Isaiah 9:1-2 in Matthew 4: 12-17 in reference to himself. ▶ He is the <i>light</i> that shines in the darkness prophesied by Isaiah. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 🕒 Reflect ○ What does Isaiah tell us about this child who brings light & joy?
<p>D. CONCLUSION.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In dismay of this weary world, for us as Christians, in delight, <i>look</i> at the Son who was given, and we say, "<i>Look who has come to the world</i>" & "<i>look who is coming again.</i>" ▶ He is more than enough to shine light into every heart & saturate every mind with joy in this Christmas. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 🕒 Application questions: ○ Do you lay down your burdens at Jesus' feet and learn to rest in Him? ○ Do you honestly open your heart and allow the Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, & Prince of Peace to fill you with artesian joy despite your circumstances? ○ Can you think of someone you know who is still <i>walking in darkness</i> that God would have you pray for?