
Unto us a child is born, to us a son is given...

*Isaiah 9:6 For to us **a child is born**, to us **a son is given**, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.*

“...a child is born, a son is given...”

*John 1:14 (RSV) And the Word **became flesh** and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth; we have beheld his glory, glory as of **the only Son from the Father**.*

*John 1:18 (RSV) No one has ever seen God; **the only Son**, who is in the bosom of the Father, he has made him known.*

John 1:4 In Him was life and the life was the light of men.

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Light for Human Darkness

Christmas Light for Human Darkness—part 1

December 1, 2019

The darkness of the world

“If only there were evil people somewhere insidiously committing evil deeds, and it were necessary only to separate them from the rest of us and destroy them. But the line dividing good and evil cuts through the heart of every human being. And who is willing to destroy a piece of his own heart?” Solzhenitsyn, *The Gulag Archipelago* (1973)

*Isaiah 9:1 Nevertheless, there will be no more gloom for those who were in distress. In the past he humbled the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the future he will honor Galilee of the Gentiles, by the way of the sea, along the Jordan--
² The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned.*

“It is not because the truth is too difficult to see that we make mistakes. It may even lie on the surface; but we make mistakes because the easiest and most comfortable course for us is to seek insight where it accords with our emotions — especially selfish ones.” -Solzhenitsyn, "Peace and Violence" (1973)

How darkness works

■ *Isaiah 8:19 When men tell you to consult mediums and spiritists, who whisper and mutter, should not a people inquire of their God? Why consult the dead on behalf of the living? ²⁰ To the law and to the testimony! If they do not speak according to this word, they have no light of dawn.*

What darkness brings... it's downward spiral

■ *Isaiah 8:21 Distressed and hungry, they will roam through the land; when they are famished, they will become enraged and, looking upward, will curse their king and their God.*

■ *Isaiah 8:22 Then they will look toward the earth and see only distress and darkness and fearful gloom, and they will be thrust into utter darkness.*

Light brings life, truth, and joy.

■ *Isaiah 8:19 When men tell you to consult mediums and spiritists, who whisper and mutter, should not a people inquire of their God? Why consult the dead on behalf of the living? ²⁰ To the law and to the testimony! If they do not speak according to this word, they have no light of dawn.*

■ *1 John 1:5 (RSV) This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him is no darkness at all.*

■ *1 John 1:6 If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not live according to the truth;*

■ *1 John 1:7 ...but if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.*

■ *James 1:17 Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.*
