

Our Need for Hope

Isaiah 9:1-7

If you were to make a list of your most important needs, what would be on that list? Health? Financial provision? Relationships? COVID to be long gone? Peace? Safety? These kinds of things would be on most of our lists, right? But here's the thing, even if such important needs were met, we would still have other deeper need that cannot be fixed medically, financially, politically, legally, etc. Our deepest needs can only be met by God. This Advent, as we celebrate the first coming of Christ and anticipate the His second coming, we are going to study four passages in the book of Isaiah that talk about how the coming Messiah would meet our deepest needs. Specifically, we'll see how the Jesus meets our need for hope, for deliverance, for forgiveness, and for a sinless eternity. In this study, we begin by looking at our need for hope.

Opening Discussion: What is the first thing that comes to mind when you think of hope?

Read Isaiah 8:22-9:7

1. In Isaiah's day, the people of Israel were living in prosperity. Things were going well. But they were going through the motions of their religious duties, walking in disobedience, and were far from God. How does 8:22, describe what they are going to experience?
2. Both 8:22 and 9:2 speak of "darkness." What does "darkness" imply in the Old Testament?
3. In 9:1-3, Isaiah begins to describe what would happen in the later days (i.e. after Jesus' death and resurrection). What is the promise of hope that he describes?
4. Read Matthew 4:12-17. What does Matthew say about when and how the prophecy in Isaiah 9 was fulfilled?

5. In Isaiah 9:4-7, Isaiah explains how God will deliver on the hope that he has spoken of in verses 1-3. What are the details of the hope that God would give them (vv. 4-7)?

6. How does Isaiah's prophecy describe the child who will be born to us?

7. For those who repent, believe the gospel, and begin to follow Jesus, they will walk in the light. They will experience abundance of life (John 10:10). As you consider the description of the child who would be born, how might such qualities lead to our experience of light and abundance?

8. Read John 8:12. What does Jesus say to those who are tired of walking in darkness?

9. What is the main take-away for you from this study?

Practicing the Rhythms of Rooted this Week



Daily Devotion: Use the Advent Reading guide that will be sent to you if you are signed up for the eBlast. You can also access it on the Church Center App.