

The Dawning of The Great Light!

Promise: that the present Light of the Word will bring us to the New Day

Pastor Timothy A. Duesenberg

Isaiah 9:1-4; Psalm 27:1-12; 1 Cor 1:10-18; Matthew 4:12-25
(3rd Sunday after the Epiphany, 1/26/20)

The people dwelling in darkness have seen a great light, and for those dwelling in the region and shadow of death, on them a light has dawned – v. 16

Lead In – Some of you will remember back in May of 2011 when we invited Pastor Wolf Knappe to address a public forum. His address was entitled “Being a Christian in Nazi Germany.” You will perhaps recall his vivid depiction of the depressing darkness at night... Light is a prominent theme in our readings this morning...

I. Isaiah Speaks of Future, Everlasting Kingdom

- A. The very area trampled by Israel’s enemies...
- B. Living under tyranny and oppression...
- C. The Davidic King would come first to...

II. The Time of Fulfillment Has Come

- A. John’s Gospel bears witness that the Word is...
- B. Jesus grew up and started His ministry in...
- C. Regrettably not all receive this light...

III. The Lamplight Will Give Way to Dawn of New Day

- A. Currently we have the prophetic Word...
- B. Repent for the kingdom is at hand...

Parting Shot – In the traditional Vespers Service, that is, the Evening Prayer Service, found on page 142 of our hymnals you will note...The evening represents the present age of darkness. We pray for what is promised, then we sing the ancient *Phos Hilaron* (joyous light) in thanksgiving as we await the Dawning of the New Day, equipped with...

Is 9:1-2 But there will be no gloom for her who was in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he has made glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations. The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined.

Jn 1:4-5 In him [the Word] was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

Jn 1:9 The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

Mt 2:23 And [Joseph] went and lived in a city called Nazareth, that what was spoken by the prophets might be fulfilled: “He shall be called a Nazarene.”

Matthew 4:12-25 ESV

Jesus Begins His Public Ministry

¹²Now when he heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew into Galilee. ¹³And leaving Nazareth he went and lived in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, ¹⁴so that what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: ¹⁵“The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles— ¹⁶the people dwelling in darkness have seen a great light, and for those dwelling in the region and shadow of death, on them a light has dawned.”

¹⁷From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”

¹⁸While walking by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon (who is called Peter) and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen. ¹⁹And he said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.” ²⁰Immediately they left their nets and followed him. ²¹And going on from there he saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets, and he called them. ²²Immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.

Mt 4:12-13 Now when he heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew into Galilee. And leaving Nazareth he went and lived in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali.

Jn 3:19 And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their deeds were evil.

2 Pt 1:19 And we have something more sure, the prophetic word, to which you will do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts.

Rev 21:22-23 And I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and its lamp is the Lamb.

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