

THE DIVIDING LINE: A Baby Changes Everything

FROM DARKNESS TO LIGHT

Isaiah 9:1-7 Jeff Schreve

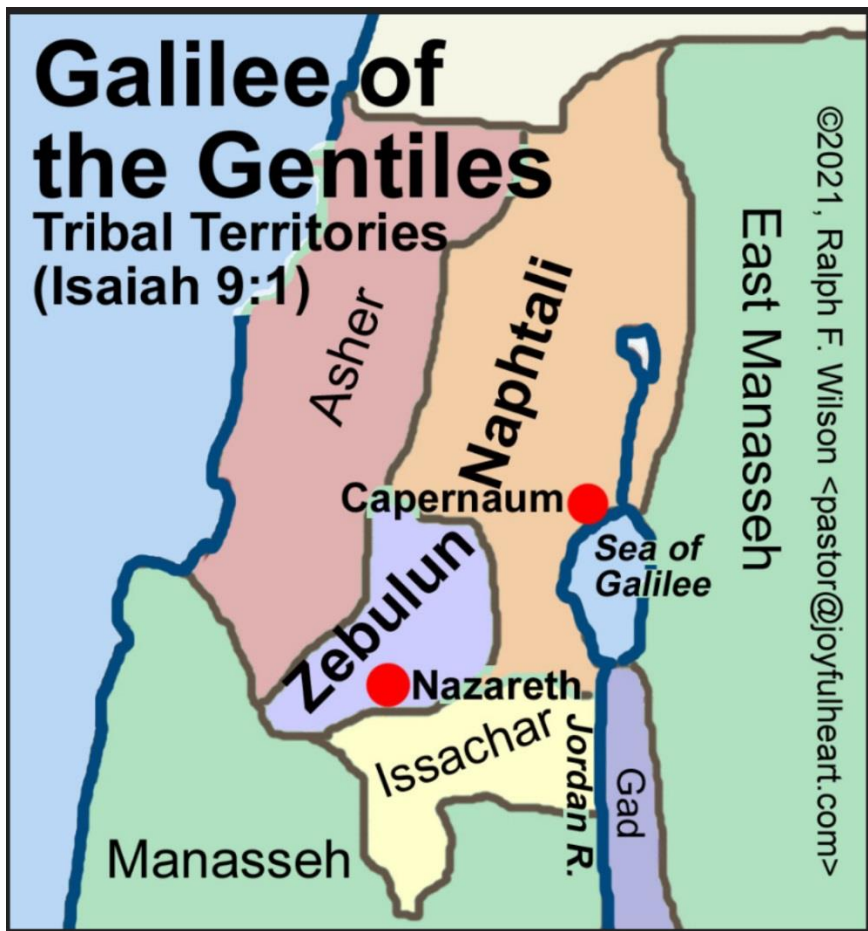
But there will be no more gloom for her who was in anguish; in earlier times He treated the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali with contempt, but later on He shall make it glorious, by the way of the sea, on the other side of Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles. The people who walk in darkness Will see a great light; Those who live in a dark land, The light will shine on them. Isaiah 9:1-2

Those people lived in darkness, but they will see a great light. They lived in a place as dark as death, but a great light will shine on them. This will happen when the special child is born. God will give us a son who will be responsible for leading the people. His name will be "Wonderful Counselor, Powerful God, Father Who Lives Forever, Prince of Peace." Isaiah 9:2, 6 ERV

How does this baby change everything for Israel ... and for us?

1. The Messiah will bring light to spiritual darkness.

Now when He heard that John had been taken into custody, He withdrew into Galilee; and leaving Nazareth, He came and settled in Capernaum, which is by the sea, in the region of Zebulun and Naphtali. This was to fulfill what was spoken through Isaiah the prophet saying, "THE LAND OF ZEBULUN AND THE LAND OF NAPHTALI, BY THE WAY OF THE SEA, BEYOND THE JORDAN, GALILEE OF THE GENTILES—THE PEOPLE WHO WERE SITTING IN DARKNESS SAW A GREAT LIGHT, AND TO THOSE WHO WERE SITTING IN THE LAND AND SHADOW OF DEATH, UPON THEM A LIGHT DAWNED." From that time Jesus began to preach and say, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." Matthew 4:12-17



A. Without Jesus, our lives are dark, gloomy, and hopeless.

Remember that in the past you were without Christ. You had no hope, and you did not know God. Ephesians 2:12 ERV

B. With Jesus, our lives can be full of glory, joy, and victory.

You shall multiply the nation, You shall increase their gladness; They will be glad in Your presence As with the gladness of harvest, As men rejoice when they divide the spoil. For You shall break the yoke of their burden and the staff on their shoulders, The rod of their oppressor, as at the battle of Midian. Isaiah 9:3-4

2. The Messiah will be given for the sins of the world.

For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; And the government will rest on His shoulders; And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace. Isaiah 9:6

A. He is unlike any child ever born.

B. He is the only one who can bring redemption.

No man can by any means redeem his brother, Or give to God a ransom for him—For the redemption of his soul is costly ...

Psalm 49:7-8

C. He only saves those who will repent.

From that time Jesus began to preach and say, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." Matthew 4:17

"Every preacher commissioned by God to proclaim salvation to a lost world, begins his work with preaching the doctrine of repentance. This was the case with all the prophets, John the Baptist, Jesus Christ, all the apostles, and all their genuine successors in the Christian ministry." Adam Clarke, 1762-1832

3. The Messiah will reign forever and ever.

For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; And the government will rest on His shoulders; And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace. There will be no end to the increase of His government or of peace, On the throne of David and over his kingdom, To establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness From then on and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will accomplish this. Isaiah 9:6-7

A. His Kingdom is one of peace.

Every warrior's boot marching to the sound of battle and every garment rolled in blood will be burned as fuel in the fire.

Isaiah 9:5 GW

B. His Kingdom is one of justice and righteousness.

But according to His promise we are looking for new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness dwells. 2 Peter 3:13

Has your whole life been turned around by King Jesus?