

The Blessings of the King

Read Isaiah 8:19 – 9:5

Isaiah spoke these words from God to a people who refused to trust Him. They preferred a religion more accommodating to their lifestyle, more touchable, more socially acceptable, one that catered to their desires. In troubled times when they needed help, they turned to another country, or another god, or to their own abilities or wealth. They consulted mediums, looking to the dead for help. Does any of this sound familiar?

Isaiah 8:21-22 describes the fate of all who worship “gods” that are not God. They feed on what can never satisfy them. The result is hunger, fear, darkness, anger, gloom, and ultimate disappointment. Desperate, they curse all authority. They ignore God their entire lives, then when tough times come, they blame Him. Rejecting Him, they have separated themselves from the only source of life and all that is good.

But look at the first word in the very next verse: “nevertheless” (Isaiah 9:1, NIV). God doesn’t reject us when we reject Him. His love pursues us. He doesn’t wait for us to deserve His gifts, or even to seek them. He longs to bless us, and He will not give up.

His blessings would begin among those who had suffered the most. Zebulun and Naphtali were the northernmost tribes of Israel, near the Sea of Galilee. Because of their location, they were the first to be attacked by invaders, who often came from the north, and they were the most subject to corruption from surrounding heathen nations.

Jesus was raised in this area and spent most of his life there. He grew up in Nazareth, as an adult moved to Capernaum, and began His ministry in the region of Galilee. (See Matthew 4:12-16.)

God was determined to lift these deluded, oppressed people. His words are bursting at the seams with promised blessings.

Imagine those who had long been engulfed in darkest gloom, now suddenly bathed in beautiful sunlight!

Imagine those consumed with anger and need, now caught up in utter joy—joy that surpasses even our greatest times of abundance and jubilation!

Imagine those long enslaved and oppressed, now suddenly set completely free! It would be as exhilarating as when Gideon delivered them from the Midianites, in Judges 6 & 7.

Imagine all the tools of war, conflict, suffering, and death being destroyed in one massive bonfire, never to be used again!

God was longing to give them a glimpse of a happiness that was beyond their imagining. Our world and our entire lives have been darkened by separation from God.

We have no experience to help us grasp the light, the joy, and the freedom that our loving God plans to lavish on His people.

All these blessings would come to us in one perfect and surprising Gift!

*Focus on knowing and following
Jesus Christ.
All God's blessings are coming to us
in Him.*

Hymn: [Isaiah 9](#)

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