

REDEMPTION CHURCH

His Name Shall be Called | Good vs Evil

BIG POINT

Today's passage conveys Christ and why He came.

Why did He come?

The world was seeking answers in the wrong place –looking to the powers of this world instead to the Living God.

Do we look for the answers in the wrong places?

- **Look in** ourselves? [Jer 9:23-24](#)
 - ✦ We deceive and talk ourselves into sin and selfishness.
- **Look out** in the world? [Ps 4:7-8](#); Parable of the Lost Son, [Lk 15:11-32](#)
 - ✦ The world deceives & encourages us to *discover ourselves, listen to our hearts.*
- **Look down** into the spirits of this world?
 - ✦ The enemy exists to deceive us, posing as light, calling *good* evil and *evil* good.
 - ✦ Truth subtly mixed with occult is spirituality without Christ (darkness).

In week 1 of our Christmas series, "His Name Shall be Called" we look to Isaiah 8:19-9:2 and ask: Does evil exist in the world? Why did Jesus come and who was He? Why was this prophecy written –why to them and why then?

"And when they say to you, "Inquire of the mediums and the necromancers who chirp and mutter," should not a people inquire of their God? Should they inquire of the dead on behalf of the living? ²⁰To the teaching and to the testimony! If they will not speak according to this word, it is because they have no dawn. ²¹They will pass through the land, greatly distressed and hungry. And when they are hungry, they will be enraged and will speak contemptuously against their king and their God, and turn their faces upward. ²²And they will look to the earth, but behold, distress and darkness, the gloom of anguish. And they will be thrust into thick darkness.

For to Us a Child Is Born ¹*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. ²The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone."*

Isaiah 8:19-9:2

Notes:

Whose chirping are we listening to? Where do we look if we aren't looking in, out, or down? What should we do instead?

Look to the living Word of God!

*All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work. **2 Timothy 3:16-17***

NOW WHAT?

Two appropriate responses:

1. Remove the darkness from ourselves. We need to ask, are we walking in the Light or are we straddling –trying to live in the grey.

Hatred ⇒ Love

Bitterness ⇒ Forgiveness

Agony ⇒ Joy

Chaos ⇒ Peace

Confusion ⇒ Wisdom

Besides this you know the time, that the hour has come for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed. The night is far gone; the day is at hand. So then let us cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light. Let us walk properly as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and sensuality, not in quarreling and jealousy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

Romans 13:11-14

2. Bring Light to the world!

The Light that first broke into us now breaks out of us. We do this by loving well and speaking clear truth.

For so the Lord has commanded us, saying, "I have made you a light for the Gentiles, that you may bring salvation to the ends of the earth." **Acts 13:47**

What happens if we don't? We too will have no dawn. To clarify, those who speak against the ways of God are in darkness. Worldly perspectives on sexuality, marriage, singleness, money lead to darkness, not light. The theories of this world are sponsored by the enemy, Satan. The message of the day is that we can *à la carte* with darkness and light – living in the grey trying to get the best of both worlds. No!

*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. If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. **1 John 1:5-6***

Where does this end?

1. People will be starving spiritually. [Matthew 4:4](#)
2. They will get spiritually *hangry* (some of us feel this right now). [Psalm 119:11](#)
3. They will use these excuses to rebel against civil order – and God who ordained it. The political reality of the day is a reflection of the spirituality reality.
4. People look to the powers of this world to solve their problems...and what happens? Things will get darker and darker and darker.

Then what happens? God promises us deliverance, a redeemer, in the form of Christ. (Is 9:1)

What does this teach us about Jesus?

Former: [2 Kings 15:29](#) Latter: [Matthew 4:12-17](#)

1. He was the promised deliverance. [Galatians 4:4-7](#)
Lesson: God sends deliverance at exactly the right time. Will we let Him send it for us today?
2. He is the redeemer for all nations (Galilee of the nations) [Genesis 22:16-18](#)
3. He is the light in the darkness. (Is 9:2).
Scripture gives two options: light or darkness. Not *light* and *kind of light* or *darkness* and *kind of darkness*. There is good and there is evil –don't believe the grey lie.

Jesus didn't come to make us nice or a little better, to be a self-help guide or a therapist. He came to destroy very real evil. Evil exists, the stakes are high and the situation is dire.