

## By the skin of my teeth

"All my intimate friends detest me;  
those I love have turned against me.

I am nothing but skin and bones;

I have escaped only **by the skin of my teeth.**" *Job 19:19, 20*

To avoid disaster or to survive by a very narrow margin,  
"just barely"

When might that be true for people? Or for us?

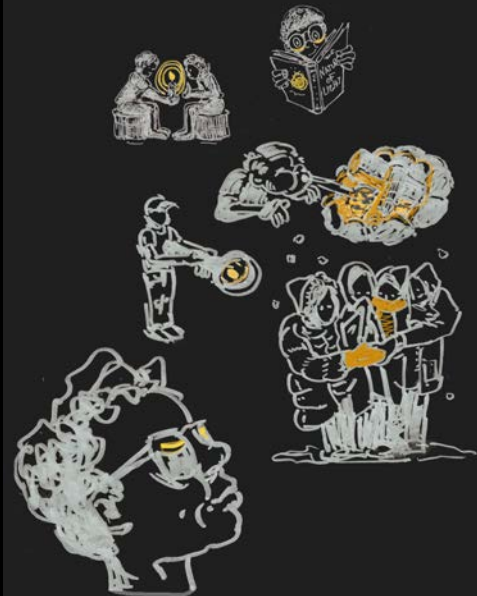
Where do you need help and hope today?

What do you expect that God can or will do?

1

## A Light has Dawned Isaiah 9:1-7

[bib.ly/Isa9.NIV](https://bib.ly/Isa9.NIV)  
[tiny.cc/cmchandouts](https://tiny.cc/cmchandouts)



2



3

### *Isaiah's context & prophecy*

- Zebulun & Naphtali had just been conquered
- Isaiah predicted that the rest of Israel would also be conquered
- Dark days (“death darkness”) were coming for the people of God



4

**Without hope in God, darkness and fearful gloom will come**

When someone tells you to consult mediums and spiritists, who whisper and mutter, should not a people **inquire of their God**? Why consult the dead on behalf of the living? **Consult God's** instruction and the testimony of warning. If anyone does not speak according to this word, **they have no light of dawn**. Distressed and hungry, they will roam through the land; when they are famished, they will become enraged and, **looking upward, will curse** their king and their God. Then they will look toward the earth and **see only distress and darkness and fearful gloom, and they will be thrust into utter darkness.**

*Isaiah 8:19-22*

5

**Without hope in God, darkness and fearful gloom will come**  
**In the land of death darkness, a light has dawned**

Nevertheless, there will be **no more gloom** for those who were in **distress**. In the past he **humbled** the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the future he will honor Galilee of the nations, by the Way of the Sea, beyond the Jordan—

The people walking in **darkness**

have seen **a great light**;

on those living in the **land of deep darkness**

a **light has dawned**.

You have **enlarged** the nation

and **increased their joy**;

they **rejoice** before you

as people **rejoice** at the harvest,

as warriors **rejoice**

when dividing the plunder.

**humiliated**

*Isaiah 9:1-3*

6

The first to fall  
and the least honored  
will be the first to see and experience  
the deliverance and joy of God  
for His people

“Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth in  
Galilee” *Matthew 21:11*

Matthew 4 quotes this passage:  
Jesus brought this great light  
as He began His ministry in Galilee

“Galilee of the nations” was an insult,  
yet it is God’s great plan!



7

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when dividing the plunder.

**A task of a prophet: see the  
future and report back to us**

*Isaiah 9:1-3*

8

Without hope in God, darkness and fearful gloom will come  
 In the land of death darkness, a light has dawned  
 Deliverance from oppression and the end of wars

For as in the day of **Midian's defeat**,  
 you have shattered  
 the **yoke** that burdens them,  
 the **bar** across their shoulders,  
 the **rod** of their oppressor.  
 Every **warrior's boot** used in battle  
 and every **garment rolled in blood**  
 will be destined for burning,  
 will be fuel for the fire.

**God's deliverance from  
 oppression through an  
 intentionally tiny army of Israel**

**The Messiah's work is  
 not merely vertical  
 and it is  
 not merely horizontal**

*Isaiah 9:4-5*

9

Without hope in God, darkness and fearful gloom will come  
 In the land of death darkness, a light has dawned  
 Deliverance from oppression and the end of wars  
 Because the Son of God is born/given

For to us a **child is born**,  
 to us a **son is given**,  
 and the government will be on his shoulders.  
 And he will be called  
**Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
 Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**  
 Of the **greatness** of his government and peace  
 there will be **no end**.  
 He will reign on David's throne  
 and over his kingdom,  
 establishing and upholding it  
 with **justice and righteousness**  
 from that time on and **forever**.

**Supernatural wisdom & skill  
 God the mighty victor  
 Unending provider  
 Ruling through peace to peace  
 He is God!**

**Abundance:  
 too many offspring to count**

*Isaiah 9:6-7a*

10

God's victory over evil and oppression is  
 through the birth of a child who is a prince  
characterized by peace and leading to peace

God is strong enough to overcome his enemies  
 by becoming vulnerable, transparent, and humble—  
 the grace for turning enmity into friendship

His reign is peace, mercy, righteousness and justice  
 from start to finish for all who bow before Him

11

**Without hope in God, darkness and fearful gloom will come  
 In the land of death darkness, a light has dawned  
 Deliverance from oppression and the end of wars  
 Because the Son of God is born/given  
 By the passion and power of God**

The zeal of the Lord Almighty  
 will accomplish this.

*Isaiah 9:7b*

**This work is entirely of God**

**It is for people to receive it  
 and to be His hands and feet in it**

12

**Without hope in God, darkness and fearful gloom will come  
In the land of death darkness, a light has dawned  
Deliverance from oppression and the end of wars  
Because the Son of God is born/given  
By the passion and power of God**

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*The Big Idea*

**God's blindingly great  
and joy-producing glory  
has begun to rise  
in the birth of Jesus, the Son of God  
on all who trust in Him  
and it will keep growing forever!**

14



15

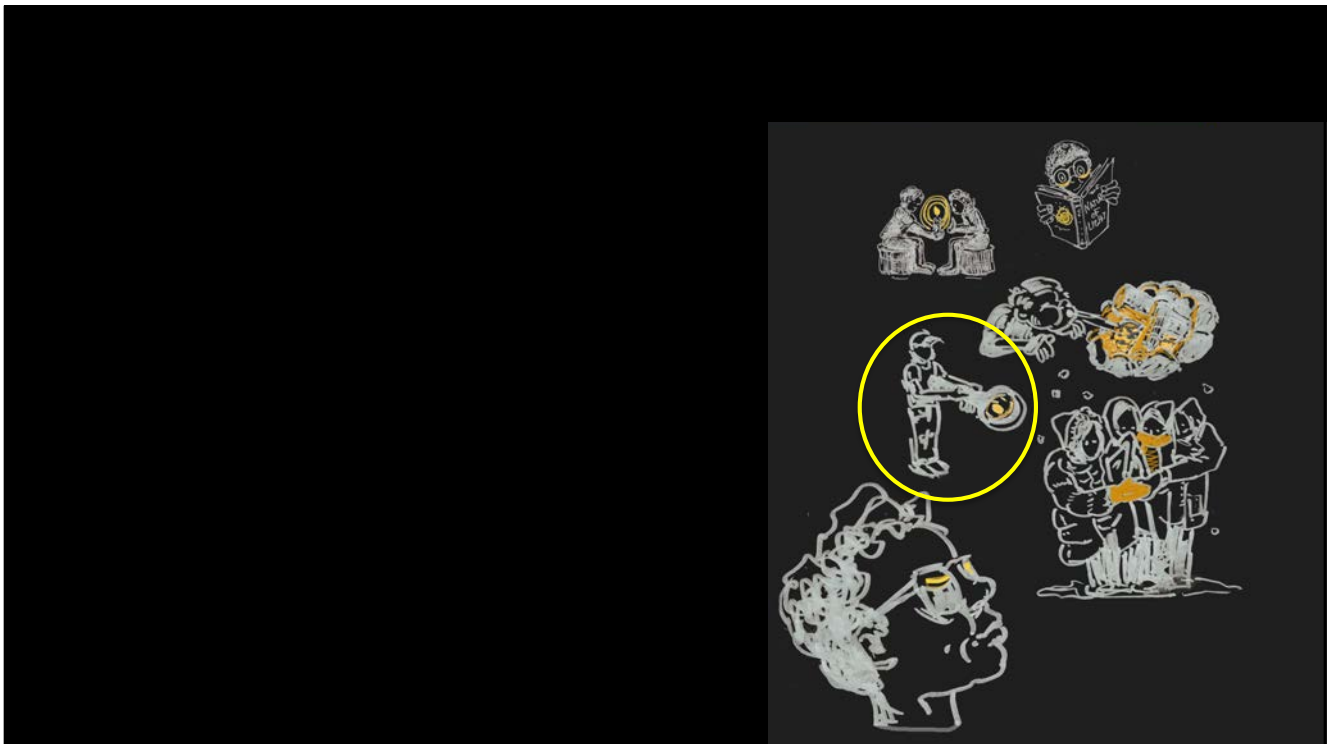


16





17



18



19



20



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How much light does the Sun  
give compared to a candle?

1.5 octillion times!

1,500,000,000,000,000,000,000,000

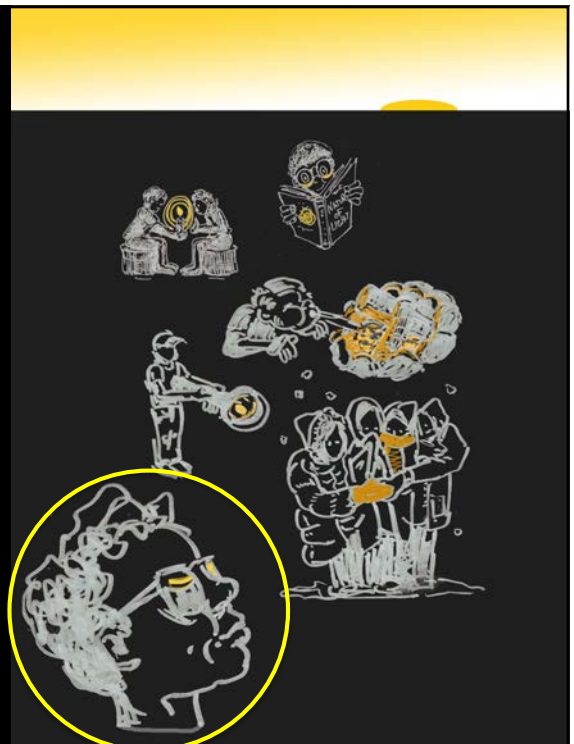
→  $1.5 * 10^{27}$

How much light does God give  
compared to the best of human  
efforts?

Where is our hope?

How hopeful are we?

Get your sunglasses on!



22

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has begun to rise  
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23

*Questions for consideration...*

Where is our hope, really?

- Sometimes we hope in **ourselves**
    - even if we think we can't do it
  - Sometimes we hope in **others**
    - even if we think they can't do it
  - Sometimes we hope in **science** or **technology**
  - Sometimes we hope in **technique** or **skill or wisdom**
  - Sometimes we hope in **positive thinking**
- Who or what do we blame?      Who or what do we focus on?**
- “Some trust in chariots and some in horses,  
but we trust in the name of the Lord our God.” *Psalm 20:7*

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*Questions for consideration...*

Where is our hope, really?

How hopeful are we, really?

- Sometimes we are more hopeful than we should be!
  - We hope **for** the wrong things
  - We hope **in** the wrong things or people
- Sometimes we just hope we can survive
  - **“By the skin of our teeth”**
- Sometimes we give up hope and just try to continue on

25

*The Big Idea*

**God’s blindingly great  
and joy-producing glory  
has begun to rise  
in the birth of Jesus, the Son of God  
on all who trust in Him  
and it will keep growing forever!**

**Christians should be the most hope-filled people!**

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*Application*

Rejoice in the hope of the **overwhelming glory of God!**

- **God's glory is more than an octillion times greater than any other glory and goodness!**
- Pain and trouble are still real
  - Yet they are never the whole truth about us
  - And they are never the fundamental or final truth about us
- Even our sin and rebellion do not stop His glory!
  - When we turn to Jesus, longing to be freed from our sin and rebellion, nothing can stop this blindingly great glory of God from sweeping over us
- **In this we greatly rejoice!!**

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**Isaiah's description of the joy that is ours in Jesus Christ**

And a highway will be there;  
 it will be called the Way of Holiness;  
 it will be for those who walk on that Way.  
 The unclean will not journey on it;  
 wicked fools will not go about on it.  
 No lion will be there,  
 nor any ravenous beast;  
 they will not be found there.  
 But only the redeemed will walk there,  
 and those the Lord has rescued will return.  
 They will enter Zion with singing;  
**everlasting joy will crown their heads.**  
**Gladness and joy will overtake them,**  
**and sorrow and sighing will flee away.**

*Isaiah 35:8-10*

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*Application*

Rejoice in the hope of the **overwhelming glory of God!**

**Point others to this hope**

- Christians
  - We so quickly turn to hope in other things
  - We so quickly get discouraged by lesser things
  - We merely hope to escape by the skin of our teeth
  - **God's glory is more than an octillion times greater than any other glory, or any darkness or challenge**
  - **Let us encourage each other, and all the more in challenging days!**

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*Application*

Rejoice in the hope of the **overwhelming glory of God!**

**Point others to this hope**

- Christians
- Non-Christians
  - Are you hoping in something far less than this glory?
  - Do you know anyone walking in darkness or gloom?
  - Do you know anyone who is hoping in something far less, that will surely disappoint?
  - Philip told Nathanael to come meet Jesus:  
 “Nazareth! Can anything good come from there?” Nathanael asked. **“Come and see,”** said Philip. *John 1:46*

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*The Big Idea*

**God's blindingly great  
and joy-producing glory  
has begun to rise  
in the birth of Jesus, the Son of God  
on all who trust in Him  
and it will keep growing forever!**

**Where do you need help and hope today?**

**Who do you know who needs help and hope today?**

**Joy to the world! The LORD has come!**

**Christmas is the time to get your sunglasses on!!**

31

**Joy to the world! The LORD has come!**

- **What Jesus did is a glimpse of what He is doing and what He is going to do**
- **Imagine the joy...**
  - **When Jesus raised the widow's only son**
  - **When Jesus healed a man who was born blind**
  - **When Jesus healed a leper who was an outcast from society**
  - **When the Prodigal Son's father joyfully welcomed him home**

**Christmas is the time to get your sunglasses on!!**

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