



Becoming a People Who... Live by The Book

"A Way Forward"

Message Notes: June 23, 2019

Pastor Mike Hofer

Isaiah 9:1-7

Today we look into the book of Isaiah as we continue our journey through the Bible.

(Don't forget the daily reading plan using our new RightNow Media resource that will overview all 66 books of the Bible.)

- In 2006, Rhonda Byron wrote a book – *The Secret* (about the secret to life) It sold like crazy! 30 million in the first year and grossing \$300 million by end of 2007. I never read the book; don't know what it really says, but it DOES reveal that people are hungry to know how to live a meaningful life.
- The Bible is a divine story that reveals "the secret" of who we are, why we are here, and how we are created to live. Why do we neglect so great a gift?
- True, the Bible can be hard to understand, but these days there are so many helps – Bible apps like: *YouVersion* app or *The Blue Letter Bible* app. There are countless study guides, commentaries, podcasts, and we all have *RightNow Media* streaming straight to our phones, devices, TV's.
- The Book of Isaiah is one of the "Major Prophet" books of the Old Testament. These major prophet books are so named because they are longer and broader in scope than the shorter, more-focused "Minor Prophets".
- The prophets of the Old Testament were not primarily future foretellers; they spoke the straight, often hard, words of God to His people – typically confronting sin and calling for repentance.
- In today's passage, Isaiah is confronting the Israelites in true fashion, telling them they are bound for defeat and captivity because of their sin. Then he goes on to say... BUT there is a future hope coming: **A Way Forward!**

Isaiah expresses this Hope, this *Way Forward*, in three ways:

1. The light is coming. (verse 9:2)

Yes, you have fallen into captivity; swallowed by despair & darkness BUT a light is coming!

Isaiah is pointing forward to Jesus. We see the light in John's gospel ... "in Him was life, and this life was the light of men ... shining in the darkness ..." John 1:1-5

Yes, that light has come and is HERE – in June 2019. The light is NOW. He is for US.

2. Freedom is coming. (verse 9:4 – "the yoke will be shattered")

Yes, you are in bondage to your captors BUT... Freedom is coming!

Isaiah is pointing forward to the Holy Spirit. II Corinthians 3:16-18 - The Holy Spirit is coming to fill and free all who follow Jesus. Set free from weakness, fear, shame, despair, their fleshly nature.

Yes, the freedom of the Holy Spirit has come and is HERE – in June 2019.

WE are set free by the Holy Spirit to live the life for which we were created – in God, with God.

3. The Savior is coming. (verse 9:6 – “to us a child is born – wonderful counselor, mighty God, prince of peace . . .”). Yes, you are conquered and live under the oppression of your captors BUT . . . a Savior is coming! Isaiah is pointing forward to Jesus. Luke 2:10-14 - The angel announces – “today in the city of David, a Savior has been born to you.” “He will save His people from their sins.” (Matt 1:21) Yes, the Savior has come and is HERE – in June 2019. He is OUR Savior. He saves US from our sins.

Isaiah points to the way forward (to Jesus) and the gospel of Jesus points to us, in June 2019, and says – “I am HERE! Do you see me? Do you know me?” As Jesus asked his disciples, he asks each of us – “Who do YOU say that I am?” (Matt 16:15).

- * Is Jesus YOUR light? YOUR Freedom? YOUR Savior? How do you answer?