

Christmas Devotional



PRAYER

Heavenly Father, thank you for sending your Son to save us. May your Name be praised around the world! Thank you, Jesus, for obeying your Father's will. The whole world was consumed by darkness, and yet you came as the Light. Darkness was no match for you. We are so grateful to have you as our Savior and King! May your light continue to shine forth and dispel the darkness in us, and through us into the world around us. In your glorious name, we pray, Amen.

READING

Isaiah 9:2, 6 (ESV)

2 The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness,
on them has light shone.
6 For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given;
and the government shall be upon his shoulder,
and his name shall be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

TEACHING

Is there any hope for a people who live in a world of sin and darkness? Isaiah says, yes. Though, the people's only hope is in a baby, specifically, a baby boy, a son. The birth of this Son will be like the dawn. You may know what darkness is, and you may know what a baby is, and what a son is, but what is "the dawn?" (No, not the soap.) Dawn is the beginning of a new day. Dawn is when light begins to shine and dispel the darkness of night. It's morning!

TEACHING CONTINUED

This is why children all across the world are up so early on Christmas morning. They cannot wait any longer for the hope and joy of opening their presents at dawn's early light.

Jesus' birth was like the dawning of a new day. A new day that would have no end. When Jesus was born in Bethlehem, the city of David, Angels came from heaven to sing and rejoice at the birth of the newborn King of the world! You might say that all of heaven and nature sang for joy at the dawning of a new creation, a new beginning, as the Son of God and Savior of the world was born!

Sing the following verses of these popular Christmas songs and see if you can find the lines that compare Jesus' birth to the dawn:

"O Holy night! The stars are brightly shining
It is the night of the dear Savior's birth
Long lay the world in sin and error pining
'Til He appeared, and the soul felt its worth
A thrill of hope, the weary world rejoices
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn'
Fall on your knees
O hear the angel voices
O night divine
O night when Christ was born"
"Silent night, holy night!
Son of God love's pure light.
Radiant beams from Thy holy face
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord at Thy birth
Jesus, Lord at Thy birth"

TEACHING CONTINUED

Amen! The birth of Jesus is the dawning of a new day. God has come to save the weary world from sin and darkness. He has come as both Savior and King, to wage war on Satan, Sin, and Death. He bore our sin and died our death, paid our ransom, and set us free. Jesus is able to pierce through the deep darkness within our hearts and cause us to be born again.

Born of God. Like a newborn child. Therefore, let all the people dwelling in darkness rejoice! Let all of heaven and nature sing, as far as the curse is found. Let the kids open their gifts with joy this morning. For Jesus has come like the dawn. Merry Christmas!

DOXOLOGY

Before we open our gifts, let's sing!

"Praise God from whom all blessings flow
Praise Him all creatures here below
Praise Him above ye heavenly host
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost
A-men"

Merry Christmas!

OPTIONAL POEM FOR FURTHER REFLECTION

The Dawn

Darkness, where have you gone,
To where have you fled?
You brought fear to so many,
Yet now it's you who dreads.
Your boast has gone silent,
Your power has grown weak.
In His presence, there is no defiance,
You cannot even speak.
When He is with us, we pay you no mind,
It's like you're not even there,
When His glory begins to shine!

Merry Christmas. Veritas Church!