

Personal/Small Group Study

Week of December 17, 2023 A.D.

Jesus is the Light of the World

(Note: For every question which appears in this study, always give the reasoning and/or the explanation for each of your answers.)

Read Isaiah 9:1-7

1. What does it mean for a person to be in spiritual darkness? Please explain (a) how and why the world was in spiritual darkness when Isaiah wrote this prophecy (approx. 700 B.C.) and (b) how and why the world is in spiritual darkness now?

Read John 1:1-9

2. Please explain the meaning of these verses.

Read John 3:19-21

3. Please analyze, critique, and discuss this statement: "Every person who does not receive Jesus as his savior and lord is evil."
4. Please analyze, critique, and discuss this statement: "To come into the light means that you should live your life as if Jesus is physically present with you every minute of your life."

Read 2 Corinthians 4:4

5. (a) Who is "the god of this age"? (b) How does the god of this age blind the minds of unbelievers? (c) Please explain what is meant by "the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ." (d) How can a Christian enable an unbeliever to "see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ"?

Read Genesis 15:17-21

6. According to this passage, what are the western and eastern boundaries of the land which God has promised to the people of Israel (i.e. the descendants of Abram)? Has the nation of Israel occupied that territory either now or in the past?

7. In your opinion, has God abandoned his promise to give the described territory to the descendants of Abram (who was later called "Abraham")?

Read Genesis 12:1-3

8. Please state examples of the ways in which this promise to Abram (a) has been fulfilled and (b) has not yet been fulfilled.

Read Isaiah 9:6-7

9. To what extent has the prophecy that "the government will be on his shoulders" already been fulfilled? To what extent has the prophecy that "the government will be on his shoulders" not yet been fulfilled?
10. Please analyze, critique, and discuss this statement: "At Christmas, our celebration of the first coming of Jesus would be rather meaningless if God had not promised that there will also be the second coming of Jesus."

Read 1 Peter 2:9-10

11. Would these verses have any meaning without the birth of Christ?
12. Please analyze, critique, and discuss this statement: "It is the will of God that every Christian is to declare the praises of Jesus; and, if any Christian does not declare the praises of Jesus, there must be something wrong within the heart, mind, or soul of that person."

Consider: When Jesus was born, the true light that gives light to every man came into the world. Every follower of Jesus is now indwelt with the light and life of Christ. As followers of Christ, God expects each of us to allow and to enable our light to so shine before men that they may see our good deeds and glorify our Father who is in heaven.