2022 Christmas-II

**FOR TO US A CHILD IS BORN**

(Isaiah 9:1-7)

**Open it:**

1. When do you consider the darkest time in your life? Why?

**Explore it**:

1. Read verse 1. Although he had been preaching God’s judgment (particularly on the kingdom of Israel), what total reversal did Isaiah foresee in the future? (1) Who are “those who were in distress” (Isa. 8:19-22)? When did the Lord humble the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali (2 Ki. 15:29)? When did the Lord fulfill this prophecy? (Mt. 4:14-16)
2. Read verses 2-3. What is it like to “walk in darkness” and to live “in the land of the shadow of death”? What is the significance of a “light has dawned” for such people? Describe the effects this light had on the people walking in darkness. Why are they celebrating?
3. Read verses 4-5. What is “Midian’s defeat” a reference to? What does the removal of a “yoke,” “bar,” and “rod” tell us about the new life Jesus brings?
4. Read verse 6. How does Isaiah describe the Ruler whom God will provide for his people? What does it mean “the government will be on his shoulders”?
5. Read verse 7. What is the future outlook of Jesus’ kingdom and of those who participate in it? How will it be established and upheld?

**Apply it:**

1. What person do you know still “walking in darkness” for whom God would have prayed?