

## **Anticipating the Coming of the Lord**

### **Hope in Christ**

#### **Selected Scriptures**

1. **The \_\_\_\_\_ of the Great Light**

The history of Israel in the Old Testament is largely characterized by walking in darkness and rebellion against the Lord (cf. Isa. 9:2). The exodus from Egypt (Num. 14:2-4; 16:1ff), the time of the judges (Judg. 17:6), and the reign of the kings (cf. 1 Ki. 16:29-32) testify that the people of Israel walked in darkness far more often than they followed the Lord. In the midst of their rebellion, God promised to send a deliverer and a ruler who would usher in a time of unending blessing and peace (Isa. 9:6-7). Israel's confident hope was that God would deliver them from all foreign nations which would oppress them as well as from the sin which enslaved them (Luke 1:76-79).

2. **The \_\_\_\_\_ of the Great Light**

John heralded Jesus' arrival (John 1:29-31) and pointed all men to Him (John 1:35-37; 3:30). Jesus is the light sent into the world to shine upon men (John 8:12ff; cf. Isa. 9:2). He proclaimed the good news of God's kindness and urged men to repent of their sin (Matt. 4:13-17; cf. Acts 17:30), to believe in Him (John 11:25; 14:1), and to follow Him (John 12:42ff). His miraculous works (John 10:25), His fulfillment of Scripture (John 5:39), and His powerful teaching (Mark 1:22) all testified that He was the One sent by God into the world. Many people who claimed to be waiting for the Messiah and should have most easily recognized these proofs scorned Him instead of following after Him (John 3:19; cf. Amos 5:18-20).

3. **The \_\_\_\_\_ of the Great Light**

Everyone who has found Jesus as their only hope for salvation from sin has secured a peaceful future with the Lord (John 14:2-3) as well as a present task from Him (cf. Eph. 2:10). Christians are people whose continuing hope in Christ has a practical and purifying effect upon all areas of life (1 John 3:3) to the degree that we become more like Jesus in our thoughts, actions, and affections (Matt 10:24-25; John 15:20-21). Christians will live differently than the world (Eph. 5:8) and we will be known for why we are different (cf. Matt 5:16; 1 Pet. 2:9-12; 3:15).