

MENDING Christmas

When there is darkness and distress

Isaiah 9:1-5

1 Nevertheless, there will be no more gloom for those who were in distress. In the past he humbled the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the future he will honor Galilee of the Gentiles, by the way of the sea, along the Jordan—

2 The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned.

3 You have enlarged the nation and increased their joy; they rejoice before you as people rejoice at the harvest, as men rejoice when dividing the plunder.

4 For as in the day of Midian's defeat, you have shattered the yoke that burdens them, the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor.

5 Every warrior's boot used in battle and every garment rolled in blood will be destined for burning, will be fuel for the fire.

The geographical setting

1. Galilee was the _____ most province in Israel.
2. Zebulun and Naphtali were two of the assigned _____ regions in this area.

The historical setting

1. Because of its northern exposure, Galilee and its tribal regions became the first _____ by invading armies.
2. Galilee was the location for transplanted _____ when foreign powers repopulated the area.
3. Galilee was the crossroads for international _____ with major highways and foreign traffic constantly moving through it.

The practical applications

1. All of us sense _____ and vulnerability in our lives.
 2. All of us are looking for _____ in the midst of uncertainty and distress.
 3. Direction, freedom, and joy are found in _____.
- ▶ ARE YOU FACING UNCERTAINTY, VULNERABILITY, AND DISTRESS THIS CHRISTMAS ?
 - ▶ DO YOU NEED RENEWED HOPE DURING THIS ADVENT SEASON OF THE YEAR ?
 - ▶ ARE YOU INTENTIONALLY TURNING TO JESUS CHRIST, THE ONE WHO IS OUR WONDERFUL COUNSELOR, MIGHTY GOD, EVERLASTING FATHER, AND PRINCE OF PEACE?