



2020  
**CHRISTMAS**  
*Turn off the Darkness*

## PROMISED LIGHT

[Job 19:8](#); [2 Kings 16:2-4](#); [Isaiah 7:4-14](#), [8:13](#), [20-22](#), [9:1-2](#), [6-7](#)

### SERMON SUMMARY....

Biblically speaking, darkness is both symbolic of sin and evil, as well as feelings of despair, hopelessness, fear and lostness. For many, those adjectives describe 2020 in a nutshell. There certainly have been glimmers of light throughout the year, but by in large, 2020 has been a dark year. This Christmas, our focus will be singular in ‘turning off the darkness.’ The overarching question for us to consider is where do you turn (or to whom, or what) in order to light up the darkness? This series seeks to turn our gaze and attention toward Jesus Christ, the promised Light of God, and to recognize that He came to forever turn off the darkness within us and around us.

We begin this series with a look to an ancient story of Ahaz, King of Judah, found in both 2 Kings 16 as well as in Isaiah 7 through 9. Ahaz was not a godly king; he not only walked in darkness, but perpetuated darkness throughout Judah. Despite their sin, God in His grace offers them a promise – a promise of light that would forever change their darkness. As we delve into the ancient story of Ahaz, we are reminded afresh that God’s grace is for ALL people, namely those who are walking in great darkness.

### BIBLE STUDY QUESTIONS...

1. Read the story of Ahaz in 2 Kings 16:1-9 and Isaiah 7:1-9 – what do we learn about King Ahaz in these verses? What do we learn about God? What impact does God’s grace towards Ahaz have on Ahaz?
2. Read Isaiah 7:10 – Why does God invite Ahaz to ask Him for a sign? What is God wanting for and from Ahaz?
3. How would have Ahaz understood the sign that God chose to give him in Isaiah 7:14 – *“All right then, the Lord himself will give you the sign. Look! The virgin will conceive a child! She will give birth to a son and will call him Immanuel (which means ‘God is with us’).”*?
4. Like Ahaz, we often have two choices before us: trust God’s plan or live out our own plan. For Ahaz as well as for us, why do we find it easier to walk out our plan rather than trust God’s plan and promises? What role does ‘wanting to be in control’ play into our decision making?
5. Read Isaiah 8:13 – what would it have looked like for God to be Holy in Ahaz’s life? What can we learn from Ahaz about making, or not making, God holy in your life? What would that look like for God to be Holy in your life?
6. How does God’s promise of light in Isaiah 9:2 shapes how you navigate the darkness within us and around us?