

# How Christmas Changed the World

## The Hope That God Brings

### I. Introduction

### II. Three Images of the Human Condition

#### A. Darkness

1. Isaiah 9:1a, 2 (NLT) <sup>1a</sup>*Nevertheless, that time of darkness and despair will not go on forever.* <sup>2</sup>*The people who walk in darkness will see a great light—a light that will shine on all who live in the land where death casts its shadow.*
2. Jeremiah 17:9 (NAS) *“The heart is more deceitful than all else and is desperately sick; who can understand it?”*
3. John 3:19 (NLT) *The light from heaven came into the world, but they loved the darkness more than the light.*
4. It was the one Little Bear was with who took the fear out of the dark!
5. John 8:12 (NAS) *“I am the Light of the world; he who follows Me will not walk in the darkness, but will have the Light of life.”*

#### B. Desert

1. Isaiah 35:1-2a (NLT) <sup>1</sup>*Even the wilderness will rejoice in those days. The desert will blossom with flowers.* <sup>2a</sup>*Yes, there will be an abundance of flowers and singing and joy!*
2. Psalm 42:2a (NAS) *My soul thirsts for God, for the living God.*
3. Psalm 63:1 (NAS) *O God, You are my God; I shall seek You earnestly; my soul thirsts for You, my flesh yearns for You, in a dry and weary land where there is no water.*
4. “Thirst” - - “to be driven and controlled by unsatisfied desires”
5. The fact is, no matter what we achieve, no matter what we accomplish, or possess, it never brings lasting soul satisfaction!
6. John 7:37b-38 (NLT) <sup>37b</sup>*“If you are thirsty, come to me!* <sup>38</sup>*If you believe in me, come and drink! For the Scriptures declare that rivers of living water will flow out from within.”*
7. Jesus will fill us with “Living Water”!

#### C. Storm

1. Psalm 55:6-8 (NLT) <sup>6</sup>*Oh, how I wish I had wings like a dove then I would fly away and rest! <sup>7</sup>I would fly far away to the quiet of the wilderness. <sup>8</sup>How quickly I would escape—far away from this wild storm.*
2. Psalm 31:7 (NLT) *I am overcome with joy because of your unfailing love, for you have seen my troubles, and you care about the anguish of my soul.*
3. The good news is: There is a light in the darkness. There's rain in the desert. And, there's shelter in the storm. And His Name is Jesus!
4. Take some moments to get still, and be quiet, where it's just you and God.

### **III. Conclusion**