

# Matthew's interweaving of Old Testament Texts



Matthew often quotes from more than two places. Here he has the main body from Isaiah 9, but hints from Isaiah 42, such as using 'sat in darkness' as in Chapter 42 rather than 'walked in darkness' as in Chapter 9. The implication is that Jesus is the light to the nations. There is another link with the light dawning echoing the Septuagint in spring forth in 42:9. The implication is of new things bursting forth.

## Matthew 4:12-17

12 Now when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee. 13 He left Nazareth and made his home in Capernaum by the lake, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, 14 so that what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled:

15 'Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali,  
on the road by the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles—

16 the people who **sat in darkness**  
have seen a great light,  
and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death  
*light has dawned.*'

17 From that time Jesus began to proclaim, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.'

## Isaiah 9:1-2

9 But there will be no gloom for those who were in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he will make

glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan,  
Galilee of the nations.

<sup>2</sup> The people who **walked in darkness**  
have seen a great light;  
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—  
on them light has shined.

### **Isaiah 42:6-9**

<sup>6</sup> I am the Lord, I have called you in righteousness,  
I have taken you by the hand and kept you;  
I have given you as a covenant to the people,  
a light to the nations,

<sup>7</sup> to open the eyes that are blind,  
to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon,  
from the prison those who **sit in darkness**.

<sup>8</sup> I am the Lord, that is my name;  
my glory I give to no other,  
nor my praise to idols.

<sup>9</sup> See, the former things have come to pass,  
and new things I now declare;  
before they *spring forth*,  
I tell you of them.



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