

## Immanuel's Reign—Enlightening!

### Isaiah 9

*The people who walked in darkness  
have seen a great light;  
those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness,  
on them has light shone.*

*Isa 9.2*

**The Point:** God keeps his promises; we can walk out of darkness into his light.

**The Question:** What does this mean for me?

The nation chose darkness. Isa 8.20-22

The disciples choose light. Isaiah 8.16-19

The LORD offers light to all. Isaiah 9.1-5

Immanu-el reigns in pure light. Isaiah 9.6-7

Choose light over darkness.

It never seems fair that the righteous suffer along with the wicked.

The exciting news of Immanu-El must wait for the bad news to play out. A 700-year hourglass must empty for the eternal glass to fill. Isaiah 6 promises the birth of Immanuel, and chapter eight announces Syria and Israel will be defeated before Isaiah's newborn son can say Ma and Da. Good news, but King Ahaz doesn't believe Isaiah or trust God.

Many people will follow a bad leader to the grave and beyond. King Ahaz asks the King of Assyria to save him and then converts the temple of the LORD to look like an Assyrian temple. He chose the darkness of the god of Assyria over the light of the one and only true God, and the sheep followed. The loyal suffer alongside the rebels (and still do.)

Ah! There were believers and disciples attached to Isaiah; they continued to love the Light. These lovers of the true Light were surrounded by people who would instead consult necromancers and fortune-tellers. God abandoned them to the darkness they loved.

God abandons, but he does not forget his promise—he always keeps his promises. *But there will be no gloom for her who was in anguish. 9.1.* The artifacts of bondage and subjugation will be a thing of the past; war clothing will be fuel for the fire. Of what use is the rod and staff of human government in the eternal kingdom be? What need of a war cloak or combat boots in the land of endless peace?

The true king, Immanu-El, is described as the eternal deity.

Wonderful—his existence is a wonder!

Counselor—a human king needs counselors, “the Wonder” needs none. El-Gibbor—Mighty God: omnipotent, omnificent, and omnipresent!

Everlasting Father—the Great I Am.

Prince of Peace—removes all peace-disturbing powers from all nations.

We suffer along with the wicked with an eternal prize. Walk out of the darkness and into the light—for eternity's sake. It's worth it.