



# Trusting in the Waiting

Christmas 2025

## Hope in the Dark- Isaiah 9:1-7

**Big Idea:** When the world is dark...  
hope is holding fast to God's promise-  
expecting light even before we see it.

### I. Hope in God or powers of this world [9:1-2]

Choice for the Southern Kingdom of Judah

1. Trust in God or Assyria [world power]
2. Darkness or Light
3. Promised Messiah: Jesus

### II. Faithfulness of a King [9:3-5]

- A. Deliverance will come
- B. Days of Midian [Judges 6 and 7]
  1. Vast multitude swarming [6:1-6]
  2. Sign given [6:17-22]
  3. Faith in God, not man [chapter 7]
  4. Great forces < Insignificant means
    - Gideon's 300
    - The Promised Child
- C. Total Redemption by the Lord
  - [Isa 10:5, 14:25, 10:24-27]

### III. Hope that endures, timeless, doesn't expire [9:6-7]

- A. Jesus Christ the Messiah
  1. Humanity: Child born
  2. Deity: Son given
  3. OT Prophecy: Near and far
- B. Who He is
- C. Justice with righteousness

[Isa 9:1-2] <sup>1</sup> But there will be no gloom for her who was in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, [Matt 4:12-17] but in the latter time he has made 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 dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone.

[Isa 9:3-5] <sup>3</sup> You have multiplied the nation; you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as they are glad when they divide the spoil. <sup>4</sup> For the yoke of his burden, and the staff for his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. [Jdg 6:1-6, 17-22] <sup>5</sup> For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult and every garment rolled in blood will be burned as fuel for the fire. [Isa 10:5, 14:25, 10:24-27]

[Isa 9:6-7] <sup>6</sup> For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. <sup>7</sup> Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this. [Isa 37:32, 42:13]

[Psa 46:8-11] <sup>8</sup> Come, behold the works of the LORD, how he has brought desolations on the earth. <sup>9</sup> He makes wars cease to the end of the earth; he breaks the bow and shatters the spear; he burns the chariots with fire. <sup>10</sup> "Be still, and know that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!" <sup>11</sup> The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress. Selah

"Look at Jesus. As the Wonderful Counselor, he has the best ideas and strategies. Let's follow him. As the Mighty God, he defeats his enemies easily. Let's hide behind him. As the Everlasting Father, he loves us endlessly. Let's enjoy him. As the Prince of Peace, he reconciles us while we are still his enemies. Let's welcome his dominion."  
[McClain]

### Study Questions and Prayer from the NIV Application Bible

- [1] Read Isaiah 9:1-2. How does Christ bring light into darkness (see Jn 1:4-5)? How have we experienced this power of Christ in our own lives?
- [2] Read Isaiah 9:3-7. Have we allowed the Child-King to take over the "government" of our lives? Only then can we know the benefits of Immanuel, "God with us." We cannot have the light, the honor, the joy, the abundance, or the integration that He offers in any other way. In what ways do we struggle to surrender?
- [3] Read Judges 7:7. Where have we seen God do incredible things with seemingly meager resources? In the Bible? In your life?
- [4] Pray, thanking God for His faithfulness and asking Him to continue to give you a hope for the future.