

Christ Reformation Church

Tillamook, Oregon

You Must be Born Again!

“The habit of preachers today is to address their people as though they were all Christians and just need instruction...men and women are being treated as saved who never knew they were lost.”

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Unto Us a Child is Born

December 17, 2023

Sermon Text: Isaiah 9:6-7

Scripture Reading: Daniel
2:31:45

Isa 9:1-7 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, but in the latter time he has made glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations. (2) 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.

(3) 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. (4) 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. (5) For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult and every garment rolled in blood will be burned as fuel for the fire.

(6) 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. (7) 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.

Matthew's Gospel plainly identifies Jesus as this Child to be born –

Mat 4:12-17 Now when he heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew into Galilee. (13) And leaving Nazareth he went and lived in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, (14) **so that what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled:** (15) “The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles— (16) the people dwelling in darkness have seen a great light, and for those dwelling in the region and shadow of death, on them a light has dawned.” (17) From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”

Therefore, we can be certain that the seven incredible titles assigned to Him in verses 6-7 are indeed speaking of the Lord Jesus. Of Mary's Child.

To us a child is born:

- A Son
- Government upon His shoulder
- Wonderful Counselor
- Mighty God
- Everlasting Father
- Prince of Peace
- And...His kingdom is forever

Just from a brief first glance we are forced to conclude that the Lord Jesus Christ is God. Mighty God. Everlasting Father. Anyone or any system which denies this is of the antichrist:

1Jn 2:22-23 Who is the liar but he who denies that Jesus is the Christ? This is the antichrist, he who denies the Father and the Son. (23) No one who denies the Son has the Father. Whoever confesses the Son has the Father also.

Let's take a closer look at what Isaiah tells us about this Child. This is really a very amazing Scripture.

1. For to us a child is born, to us
a son is given

Whose son is he? The people of his day would have typically answered,

Mat 13:53-55 And when Jesus had finished these parables, he went away from there, (54) and coming to his hometown he taught them in their synagogue, so that they were astonished, and said, "Where did this man get this wisdom and these mighty works? (55) Is not this the carpenter's son? Is not his mother called Mary? And are not his brothers James and Joseph and Simon and Judas?

He is the son of Joseph and Mary.
And yet...

Luk 1:30-35 And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. (31) And behold, you will

conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. (32) He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, (33) and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." (34) And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?" (35) And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God.

The Son of God. There it is. The son of whom Isaiah spoke, this son given, was and is the Son of God. The Father spared not His only Son. He is *given* to us. Freely. Without price. Purely of grace. Given for what?

Luk 2:8-11 And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. (9) And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and

the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. (10) And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. (11) **For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior,** who is Christ the Lord.

2. And the government shall be upon his shoulder

What does this mean? It means the child will be King -

Jer 23:5-6 “Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. (6) In his days Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell securely. And this is the name by which he will be called: ‘The LORD is our righteousness.’”

What is the “shoulder” imagery. Well, in Revelation we have this description of Christ:

Rev 3:7 “And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write: ‘The words of the holy one, the true one, who has the key of David, who opens and no one will shut, who shuts and no one opens.

Without going into the intricacies of detail here, let’s just note that the phrase “who has the key of David” has as its background:

Isa 22:20-22 In that day I will call my servant Eliakim the son of Hilkiah, (21) and I will clothe him with your robe, and will bind your sash on him, and will commit your authority to his hand. And he shall be a father to the inhabitants of Jerusalem and to the house of Judah. (22) **And I will place on his shoulder the key of the house of David. He shall open, and none shall shut; and he shall shut, and none shall open.**

“The government shall be upon his shoulder” is, in other words, a figure of speech which means that this Son of Isaiah 9 will have Kingly authority. He shall be the Lord’s King. This Son who is

given. NOTE: See further comment on this from John Gill appended below**

3. And His Name shall be called Wonderful Counselor

All of these names are underscoring one fundamental truth about this Son to be born and given to us as a Savior – *that this child will be God*. And here we have it:

Isa 28:16 therefore thus says the Lord GOD, “Behold, I am the one who has laid as a foundation in Zion, a stone, a tested stone, a precious cornerstone, of a sure foundation: ‘Whoever believes will not be in haste....’

Isa 28:26-29 **For he is rightly instructed; his God teaches him.** (27) Dill is not threshed with a threshing sledge, nor is a cart wheel rolled over cumin, but dill is beaten out with a stick, and cumin with a rod. (28) Does one crush grain for bread? No, he does not thresh it forever; when he drives his cart wheel over it with his horses, he

does not crush it. (29) **This also comes from the LORD of hosts; he is wonderful in counsel and excellent in wisdom.**

In other words, Wonderful Counselor is a quality and name ascribed by Isaiah to the Lord. The Child is God. He has the wisdom of the Lord. Perfect wisdom.

Joh 12:49-50 For I have not spoken on my own authority, but the Father who sent me has himself given me a commandment—what to say and what to speak. (50) And I know that his commandment is eternal life. What I say, therefore, I say as the Father has told me.”

It is, therefore, an evil lie to claim that Jesus’ words can be accepted or rejected, judged as truth or error by us. When Jesus spoke, when He speaks, He speaks the Word of God infallibly. Always. He is Wonderful Counselor.

4. Mighty God and Everlasting Father

It is as if the names are building in

power, becoming more and more direct. Mighty God is His name! He is *Everlasting Father*. Nowhere in the Old Testament are we ever going to find these kinds of terms applied to anyone but God. All-mighty. Eternal and Everlasting. The Father. That is who this Child is. To deny the deity, the godhood of Jesus is to sweep aside the massive amount of the Bible. The names of God are assigned to the Child.

5. Prince of Peace

Typically throughout history, kings have been men of war. Some may have brought peace for a time, but most do not. The history of the world is a drama of kings, lusting for power and glory and wealth, starting wars.

But this King, this child given to us, bears this Name – Prince of Peace. A King whose reign and kingdom is characterized by peace. How is that peace effected? By the absolute destruction of His enemies –

Isa 11:6-9 The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat, and the calf and the lion and the fattened calf together; and a little child shall lead them. (7) The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. (8) The nursing child shall play over the hole of the cobra, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the adder's den. (9) They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain; for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.

Isa 53:5 But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed.

This is one of the most remarkable characteristics of His kingdom – the New Heavens and Earth – *Peace*. Forever. No more wars. No more sorrow. No more worry and anxiety. Just Peace. Can you imagine that?

Luk 2:13-14 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, (14) “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!”

We have never known, for a minute, life in a world at peace. This world is characterized by violence, suffering, war, crime, worry. Not one of us has ever enjoyed perfect peace in this life. And not only does He give us peace *between people*, but also *within ourselves*.

Joh 14:27 Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.

6. An Everlasting Kingdom

I ways I find thing Isaiah tells us about this Son given to us:

Isa 9:7 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.

There has never, ever been a kingdom in all the history of the world that has lasted forever. Not even the Roman Empire. Kingdoms rise and kingdoms inevitably fall. The thousand year reich didn't even make it a decade. But the Kingdom of Christ will be eternal – He shall reign forever and ever. We have it way back in Daniel as we read earlier-

Dan 2:44 And in the days of those kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that shall never be destroyed, nor shall the kingdom be left to another people. It shall break in pieces all these kingdoms and bring them to an end, and it shall stand forever,

Dan 4:3 How great are his signs, how mighty his wonders! His kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and his dominion endures from generation to generation.

Dan 6:26 I make a decree, that in all my royal dominion people are to tremble and fear before the God of Daniel, for he is the living God, enduring forever; his kingdom shall never be destroyed, and his dominion shall be to the end.

Jesus. (32) He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, (33) and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.”

Dan 7:13-14 “I saw in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven there came one like a son of man, and he came to the Ancient of Days and was presented before him. (14) And to him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him; his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom one that shall not be destroyed.

Rev 11:15 Then the seventh angel blew his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, “The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he shall reign forever and ever.”

This truth is stated over and over and over in Scripture. Here it is in the angel’s announcement to Mary:

Do you see it? Over and over and over from the beginning of the Bible to very end this great truth is emphasized to us. This world is not going to go on forever with its kingdoms rising and kingdoms falling and wars and death and sin. No. Christ is the alpha and the omega, the beginning and the end...an end which shall never end. The reign of the Prince of Peace is forever.

Luk 1:30-33 And the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. (31) And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name

If you have watched the movie series Lord of the Rings you will recall that it ends with the Return

of the King and we are told that the days of middle earth have ended and the days of the king have begun. BUT...we also know that the king in that story will not live forever and that his kingdom will not endure forever.

Eternity. Eternal life. This is the promise of the gospel for all who are in Christ. Death vanquished *forever*. Do you think about these things? We should. Life from death. Life that never ends. Eternity without sin or pain or crying. Eternity in peace. Handel's Hallelujah Chorus starts playing in our minds! Forever, and ever.

This is really beyond our ability to grasp right now because we have never known such a life. Every single day of our present lives we get up in the morning knowing that *things in this world end*. Here are people going on and on about how they are just certain they have the answer to world peace, but we all know that there has never been world peace. There are moments of peace, but it isn't real and it doesn't last. Summer ends. The seasons come and go. Your garden grows

up and then it's gone. People's lives end, just as ours will end. Eras of our lives end and become just a distant memory. Every single moment in time is constantly passing into history, gone forever. Things in this world end, they do not last.

But Christ's kingdom is *forever*. His peace is *forever*. The new heavens and earth are *forever*. What will it be to live in a world knowing that there is absolutely no possibility that Camelot will end? That your friends will never pass away? That your joy will never end.

Now, I would be remiss and negligent if we just ended on that note. Because there is another aspect to *eternity*, isn't there? *Every human being, every one of us, is going to exist forever*. Those who are in Christ are and will forever be in His eternal kingdom. But those who depart this life still dead in their sins, perhaps having only a shell of religion but no reality, not being born again, will be in hell, forever and ever and ever. Christ's kingdom is forever,

and hell is forever. Eternal joy for the one, eternal torment for the other.

These things are real. Only a fool will refuse to examine himself. Do you know Christ? Really? Or are you just a pretending Christian, a whitewashed tomb like the Pharisees? Ask the Lord to show you your true condition and don't stop asking until you know.

Isa 9:6-7 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. (7) 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.

**** And the government shall be upon his shoulder:** not only of the world in general, but of the church

in particular; this child is born to royal dignity; he is King of saints; his government consists in ruling in the hearts of his people, in enacting laws for them, and causing them to submit unto them, in subduing their enemies, in protecting them, their persons and properties, rights and liberties, and in supplying them with everything necessary; and this government is delegated to him from his Father, is devolved upon him by him, is not of this world, but is spiritual; it is righteously administered, is peaceable, and will continue for ever: and its being said to be "upon his shoulder" is an allusion to magistrates having a key or rod laid on their shoulders, as ensigns of their office, or carried by their officers for them, see [Isa 9:4](#) and it shows that it was laid upon him, or enjoined him by his father, though not against his will; and it denotes a weight of honour and care bore by him, whose shoulders are fit for the same, and equal to it; and that he is the prop and support of his church and people, who are safe under his government and protection. [John Gill, Old Testament Commentary]