

# Christ Reformation Church

Tillamook, Oregon

*You Must be Born Again!*

*“The Christian Church is not a moral agency. She is a regenerating agency. There are many moral agencies; the Church is not, she is supernatural, she is divine, she is filled with the Spirit; she converts men, she regenerates men, she is used of God to do it. The Church does not exist to produce good men. The Church exists to produce new men! You can be a good man without being a Christian at all.” [Martyn Lloyd Jones]*

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[www.unholycharade.com](http://www.unholycharade.com) (blog)

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*A Son Who is King*

*December 22nd, 2024*

**Sermon Text:** Isaiah 9:6-7

**Scripture Reading:** Isaiah 40

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 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

The prophet Isaiah spoke these words some 800 years before the time of Christ. That is amazing in itself, but the things he announced are even more astonishing. There is no question of course that Isaiah was foretelling Christ – this section

of Isaiah is what has been called the Immanuel Book (chapters 7-12), in which “Immanuel,” God With Us is repeated several times.

Isa 7:14 Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

And the Gospel of Matthew tells us definitively that Isaiah was speaking of the Lord Jesus:

Mat 1:21-23 She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” (22) All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: (23) “Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel” (which means, God with us).

The Child of Isaiah 7 is therefore the Child of Isaiah 9. The Son named Immanuel is here in chapter 9 described further, though mystery still surrounded His

Person. Isaiah adds even more detail in chapter 11-

Isa 11:1-5 There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit. (2) And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. (3) And his delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide disputes by what his ears hear, (4) but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. (5) Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist, and faithfulness the belt of his loins.

This book of Isaiah is amazing, especially because of the Prophet’s proclamation about the Messiah, His kingdom, and the New Heavens and Earth.

Listen to Dr. H.C. Leupold, and Old Testament Lutheran scholar of days gone by as he describes the historical setting in which Isaiah preached: [Exposition of Isaiah, H.C. Leupold, Baker Book House]

In the days of the Golden Age of Israel's history, when David and Solomon reigned, Israel occupied a position in the world of time commensurate with her destiny as it had been divinely outlined. The nation in whose midst the salvation of mankind was to develop ranked with the world kingdoms of that day. David's territory extended from the River of Egypt to the great river Euphrates. Everyone felt that that was as it ought to be. The position of Israel after the death of these two monarchs rapidly declined, to the sorrow of all.

About the middle of the 8th century (750BC) a new aspect of international politics began to develop. Assyria appeared on the scene and not only grew to large proportions but also began to try to dominate all nations within her

reach, including Israel in the course of time.

To see Israel reduced to the level of a tributary to one of the ungodly world powers seemed to do violence to the very promises that God had bestowed upon His ancient people.

It was into a situation like this that Isaiah, among others, was sent to guide and direct Israel's course. Israel eventually became tributary to Assyria but when the nation rebelled against that king, Tiglath-pileser, he came with invading armies and sadly devastated the northern half of Israel as far down as Naphtali. A major deportation of Israelites took place at that time (see 2 Kings 15:29), and that devastation is what Isaiah spoke of – the gloom and anguish of 9:1.

Leupold continues:

Once Tiglath-Pileser dies, Hosea (not the prophet) who was ruler in Israel revolted against Assyria and only accomplished bringing the Assyrian hordes upon him.

Samaria (capital city of Israel) was besieged for 3 years and taken in 722BC. Twenty seven thousand two hundred and ninety deportees were dragged away and taken to Assyria. The southern kingdom of Judah at Jerusalem remained under King Hezekiah, whom Isaiah was a counselor to. Judah would ultimately fall to the Babylonians in 587BC.

It is probable that the date in which Isaiah wrote this particular passage was shortly after Tiglath-Pileser had invaded the north – about 734BC. Upper Galilee lay in ruins, a day of gloom as chapter 9 opens. A day of deep darkness.

And yet...the Lord speaks hope to His people through Isaiah-

Isa 9:1 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.

And it is in this message of promise, of hope – that Isaiah mentions this Child once again. Listen to it once more:

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.

You can easily see that a full exposition of these two verses would easily require an entire series of messages, but we will try to at least give an overview this morning.

### Out of the Gloom Comes Light

Glorious...a great light...upon them a light has shone. Joy will be

increased, the yoke of oppression and burden will be broken, all enemies will be destroyed. Why? How is this to come about? And when?

*For to us a child is born. A son is given.*

This would be of course, the Lord Jesus Christ-

Mat 4:13-16 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.”

“The picture of total gloom which closed the preceding chapter gives way to a picture of brilliant light. The extreme devastation that the Assyrians visited upon north

Galilee is to give way in the course of time – even Isaiah himself does not seem to know how soon or how late – to a bright glory. Scorched earth would give way to every possible blessing the Messiah would bring....The happiness involves a great deliverance.”  
[Ibid]

We know, from our New Testament vantage point, that this deliverance would be far more than from the oppression of Assyria or Babylon, or of Rome. The Child Savior would come to accomplish deliverance from the serpent, Satan – who was behind all enemies. Deliverance from sin and from the curse. Deliverance not only for an earthly nation, as the Jews of Jesus’ day wrongly held, but deliverance for the true Israel of God, His Church, His elect.

We simply can never hope to understand the Bible, to grasp a clear picture of God’s redemption in Christ, unless we realize that all of these Old Testament types and shadows are pointing us to a rescue from sin, a redemption of the true

people of God, and the removal of every aspect of the curse from all creation. If we limit God's ultimate purpose to the restoration of the earthly nation of the Jews and make this the end goal of Christ's redemption, then we are going to be trapped in the very same wrong theology that the Pharisees were in.

No, this Child to come and who has now come, had a much greater redemption to accomplish, and He accomplished it in a way that the Jews never comprehended – even though many Old Testament scriptures (like Isaiah 53) quite plainly described. As a Lamb come to be offered as an atoning sacrifice on the Cross.

But let's look more closely at how Isaiah describes this Deliverer:

- A Child to be born
- A son given
- Governing authority, Kingdom authority given to Him
- His names-
  - Wonderful Counselor
  - Mighty God

- Everlasting Father
- Prince of Peace

And then we are told that His kingdom (and thus he must be a King) will increase and grow, filling the entire creation. It will be a kingdom of perfect peace, justice, and righteousness. This Child King will be the promised descendant of David:

2Sa 7:16 And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever.”

And this promise is certain and true. Why? *Because the zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.* The Land may be a scorched earth, as it was in Isaiah's time, but God will never fail to fulfill His promises.

### The Greatest Gift

A child is born, a Son is *given*. It is the Christmas season when everyone is busy with gift giving and receiving. Certainly many people and probably most people who observe the Christmas

traditions, give little or not thought to Christ. The world has its Christmas, but has long forgotten that it is the Christ-mas. Nativity scenes abound, Christmas hymns are sung, and yet the ultimate Gift given to us by God is forgotten.

But here Isaiah speaks of this Child-Son given to us by God. He gives His only Son, why? Because – *God so loved the world that He gave*. The Apostle Paul calls Christ “*the indescribable gift*” (2Cor 9:15). The gift is indescribable not only because of its greatness but because it comes wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. And because man simply could never have imagined it. “Ask anything of Me” – and who would have asked for this? No one.

Even now, people – and I suppose especially many who claim to be Christians – want to redefine the Gift. They want a different Christ than the Child whom God has given. Man does not want a Lamb, a servant riding upon a colt, born in a stable and in poverty. He wants a powerful king of his own

definition, a king like the world creates over and over and over.

But the world’s kings can never deliver. Typically they only add to oppression and wars and suffering and sin. Yet it is to the world’s kings that the world always turns while the King of kings is disregarded.

But in this Child King, God has given us the greatest gift of all – the Gift of all gifts given to us by the Greatest Giver of gifts. If the character and person of a giver of gifts is reflected in the gift given, then this Gift of all gifts tells us that the Giver is the greatest of all givers! How great is His love for us that He would give His only Son and give send that Son among us to accomplish what we truly need!

Many if not most gifts given at Christmas eventually end up forgotten, unused, enjoyed for a time but then in the end – all will wind up in a landfill. Incredibly, this is what the sinner does with God’s indescribable gift! Have you ever seen a child on Christmas morning open up a present and toss

the gift aside or even throw a tantrum because it is not what he wanted!! That is the sinner's natural response to the indescribable gift! *He came to His own, and His own received Him not.*

But if you are born again through faith in Christ, something accompanied the indescribable Gift when it (He) came to you. The Holy Spirit also was sent to give you eyes to see. YOU were sitting in a land of darkness when His Light shone so that you recognized this Pearl of great price and you were willing to give everything to have it – then you found out it was free!

### The Government Upon His Shoulder

Let's focus now upon this aspect of the Child – *He would be a king.*

- The government would be upon his shoulder
- He is a Prince – the prince of peace

- His government will be eternal
- He will reign with peace, on David's throne, over His kingdom, effecting perfect justice and righteousness

All of this is entailed in this matter of the Child being given *the government.*

We know that the Bible emphasizes over and over that the Messiah would be, and is, a king. In fact, King of kings. For example:

Psa 2:6 “As for me, I have set my King on Zion, my holy hill.”

Mic 5:2 But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose coming forth is from of old, from ancient days.

Joh 18:36 Jesus answered, “My kingdom is not of this world. If my kingdom were of this world, my servants would have been fighting,

that I might not be delivered over to the Jews. But my kingdom is not from the world.”

*The government shall be upon his shoulder.* This One who is divine Wisdom, who is omnipotent as the Mighty God, who is everlasting, eternal, God Himself, and who is peace and justice and righteousness itself – this is the One who is King and who even now is spreading His kingdom over all the creation, reigning in the hearts of His people.

The thing is certain because of who the King is. A kingdom is coming in its fullness which will be the end of every hurt and evil in this universe. *The government is given to Him. He is the Lord's Anointed King.* He not only re-creates each one of His people, He will ultimately re-create the world.

All of this is included in this description of the King – *the government will be upon His shoulder.* He reigns. He rules. His kingdom fills the earth –

Dan 2:44-45 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, (45) just as you saw that a stone was cut from a mountain by no human hand, and that it broke in pieces the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver, and the gold. A great God has made known to the king what shall be after this. The dream is certain, and its interpretation sure.”

It is true and good that we think of Christ's salvation in respect to us as individuals, but very often Christians do not consider the wider and in some ways even more glorious, aspects of the Messiah's salvation. *He comes to reign over all. He redeems and regenerates all the universe.*

Isa 35:1-10 The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad; the desert shall rejoice and blossom like the crocus; (2) it shall blossom abundantly and rejoice with joy

and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God. (3) Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. (4) Say to those who have an anxious heart, "Be strong; fear not! Behold, your God will come with vengeance, with the recompense of God. He will come and save you." (5) Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; (6) then shall the lame man leap like a deer, and the tongue of the mute sing for joy. For waters break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; (7) the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; in the haunt of jackals, where they lie down, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. (8) And a highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Way of Holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it. It shall belong to those who walk on the way; even if they are fools, they shall not go astray. (9) No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they

shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. (10) And the ransomed of the LORD shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain gladness and joy, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

This is the reign of the kingdom of the Child King, and it has begun even now. When His kingdom comes in its fullness, the creation itself will no longer be groaning for redemption. No more will there be Spring after Springtime which shows new life, only to end once more in the death of winter. We will no longer groan, longing to be what God created man to be. We will be glorified along with the creation, and there will be no night there, forever.