

Christ Reformation Church

Tillamook, Oregon

1Jn 3:1-2 See how great a love the Father has bestowed on us, that we would be called children of God; and such we are. For this reason the world does not know us, because it did not know Him. (2) Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we will be. We know that when He appears, we will be like Him, because we will see Him just as He is.

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God Sent His Son – The Wonderful Child With Four Names

December 21, 2025

Sermon Text: Isaiah 9:6-7

Scripture Reading: Psalm 107:1-14

You noticed in our reading from the 107th Psalm that a very important theme was there which so often is used to describe the Lord Jesus coming into this world – namely, *light shining in the*

darkness. Here it is in Matthew's Gospel as he draws from Isaiah -

Mat 4:12-17 Now when Jesus heard that John had been taken into custody, He withdrew into Galilee; (13) and leaving Nazareth, He came and settled in Capernaum, which is by the sea, in the region of Zebulun and Naphtali. (14) This was to fulfill what was spoken through Isaiah the prophet: (15) "THE LAND OF ZEBULUN AND THE LAND OF NAPHTALI, BY THE WAY OF THE SEA, BEYOND THE JORDAN, GALILEE OF THE GENTILES— (16) "THE PEOPLE WHO WERE SITTING IN DARKNESS SAW A

GREAT LIGHT, AND THOSE WHO WERE SITTING IN THE LAND AND SHADOW OF DEATH, UPON THEM A LIGHT DAWNED." (17) From that time Jesus began to preach and say, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

It is a very common description in the Old Testament of the Messiah coming into the world-

Isa 42:6-7 "I am the LORD, I have called You in righteousness, I will also hold You by the hand and watch over You, And I will appoint You as a covenant to the people, As a light to the nations, (7) To open blind eyes, To bring out prisoners from the dungeon And those who dwell in darkness from the prison.

Isa 60:1-3 "Arise, shine; for your light has come, And the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. (2) "For behold, darkness will cover the earth And deep darkness the peoples; But the LORD will rise upon you And His glory will appear upon you. (3) "Nations will

come to your light, And kings to the brightness of your rising.

And there are many others. In the 9th chapter of Isaiah we have still another description of this Light who would come to His people. It is a very familiar and yet extremely profound description of this One:

Isa 9:1-7 But there will be no more gloom for her who was in anguish; in earlier times He treated the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali with contempt, but later on He shall make it glorious, by the way of the sea, on the other side of Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles. (2) The people who walk in darkness Will see a great light; Those who live in a dark land, The light will shine on them. (3) You shall multiply the nation, You shall increase their gladness; They will be glad in Your presence As with the gladness of harvest, As men rejoice when they divide the spoil. (4) For You shall break the yoke of their burden and the staff on their shoulders, The rod of their oppressor, as at the battle of Midian. (5) For every boot of the booted warrior in the battle tumult,

And cloak rolled in blood, will be for burning, fuel for the fire. (6) For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; And the government will rest on His shoulders; And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace. (7) There will be no end to the increase of His government or of peace, On the throne of David and over his kingdom, To establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness From then on and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will accomplish this.

The Light, the Messiah, who would save His people would be a Child!

There is no direct quotation of this passage in the New Testament, but there is that parallel prophecy we just heard Matthew quote from the 7th chapter of Isaiah-

Isa 7:14 "Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, a virgin will be with child and bear a son, and she will call His name Immanuel.

Once more we have it there, this Immanuel, God with us, would come as a child, as an infant born of a virgin.

Consider what the Lord, through His prophet, promised:

- No more gloom
- The nation would be multiplied
- Gladness and rejoicing
- Breaking the oppressive yoke and burden of the enemy

And how was this to be?

“For a child will be born to us, a son will be given.”

Let’s look in more detail at the description given in vss 6-7.

(6) For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; And the government will rest on His shoulders; And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace. (7) There will be no end to the increase of His government

or of peace, On the throne of David and over his kingdom, To establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness From then on and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will accomplish this.

1. His Character – Four names

- **Wonderful Counselor**
- **Mighty God**
- **Eternal Father**
- **Prince of Peace**

2. His Kingdom – Eternal Peace

- **No end to His government**
- **No end to peace**
- **Throne of David**
- **Justice and righteousness**
- **It is the Lord's doing**

From just these two verses, the Jews had no excuse for not recognizing Jesus as that Child. A Child and a Son given who would be Mighty God, Eternal Father. An eternal kingdom. There would never be another King. There would never be another Kingdom.

This one will last forever and ever. There will never be another war. Enemies will be no more. Eternal peace AND perfect, eternal justice and righteousness.

The miraculous was prophesied as well – born of a virgin, lowly and seated on a donkey, and His suffering FOR US in order to establish His eternal, perfect kingdom-

Isa 52:13-15 Behold, My servant will prosper, He will be high and lifted up and greatly exalted. (14) Just as many were astonished at you, My people, So His appearance was marred more than any man And His form more than the sons of men. (15) Thus He will sprinkle many nations, Kings will shut their mouths on account of Him; For what had not been told them they will see, And what they had not heard they will understand.

Isa 53:1-6 Who has believed our message? And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed? (2) For He grew up before Him like a tender shoot, And like a root

out of parched ground; He has no stately form or majesty That we should look upon Him, Nor appearance that we should be attracted to Him. (3) He was despised and forsaken of men, A man of sorrows and acquainted with grief; And like one from whom men hide their face He was despised, and we did not esteem Him. (4) Surely our griefs He Himself bore, And our sorrows He carried; Yet we ourselves esteemed Him stricken, Smitten of God, and afflicted. (5) But He was pierced through for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; The chastening for our well-being fell upon Him, And by His scourging we are healed. (6) All of us like sheep have gone astray, Each of us has turned to his own way; But the LORD has caused the iniquity of us all To fall on Him.

All of this they had read, but all they could see was an earthly kingdom of Israel consisting of earthly Israelites with an earthly Messiah. They were blind. That is what sin does. It blinds the sinner to the glory of Christ.

Consider then what verse 6 says –

The Messiah would come as a *child*. A baby who would be *born* and that of a virgin. And He would also be a *son*. And so the Jews looked for the birth of a child, a son, who would deliver them from the Romans and make Israel the chief among the nations.

NOTE: if the Jews would have coupled Is 7:14 with 9:6, they would have at least been led to ask “whose son?” Because if this Child were born of a virgin, he would have no earthly father. *A son will be given to us....* But who is the One who gives him? That one must be His father and that father must have royal, kingly authority himself.

“A Child! This leads to the conclusion that the Immanuel (God with us) Child of 7:14 and the Child of 0:6 are identical.” [H.C. Leupold]

NOTE: I should also add as to the broader context, that chapters 7-12 of Isaiah are regarded as the

Immanuel Book because of the recurring appearance of the title “Immanuel” and this Child King who would deliver.

Isa 7:14 "Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, a virgin will be with child and bear a son, and she will call His name Immanuel.

Isa 8:8 "Then it will sweep on into Judah, it will overflow and pass through, It will reach even to the neck; And the spread of its wings will fill the breadth of your land, O Immanuel.

Isa 8:10 "Devise a plan, but it will be thwarted; State a proposal, but it will not stand, For God is with us."

Isa 11:1-5 Then a shoot will spring from the stem of Jesse, And a branch from his roots will bear fruit. (2) The Spirit of the LORD will rest on Him, The spirit of wisdom and understanding, The spirit of counsel and strength, The spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. (3) And He will delight in the fear of the LORD, And He will not judge by what His

eyes see, Nor make a decision by what His ears hear; (4) But with righteousness He will judge the poor, And decide with fairness for the afflicted of the earth; And He will strike the earth with the rod of His mouth, And with the breath of His lips He will slay the wicked. (5) Also righteousness will be the belt about His loins, And faithfulness the belt about His waist.

And more, they could have read on. This Child, this Son, would bear this NAME (singular), this character, which required 4 names to describe:

- Wonderful Counselor
- Mighty God
- Eternal Father
- Prince of Peace

These titles rule out any possibility that this Child Messiah would be just another human king. He is called *God!* He is the *eternal Father!*

Consider also the situation into which this Child-Son of God would come:

9:1-4 – gloom, anguish, people in darkness, held with contempt by the Lord, living in the shadow of death, under the heavy yoke of the devil, suffering the blows of his rod

This is the condition today for all who are not in Christ. It is the condition which every single one of us were born when we entered this world. Dead in sin. Slaves to sin and the devil. Under God's condemnation. Outside of Christ, that is all there is. Darkness. Blindness. Condemnation. Death.

But then – this Child-Son comes. A great light shining. This is why we have this scenario that first nativity-

Luk 2:8-14 In the same region there were some shepherds staying out in the fields and keeping watch over their flock by night. (9) And an angel of the Lord suddenly stood before them, and the glory of

the Lord shone around them; and they were terribly frightened. (10) But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of great joy which will be for all the people; (11) for today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. (12) "This will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." (13) And suddenly there appeared 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 men with whom He is pleased."

Night time. Darkness. Watching over their flock by night. Then, suddenly – *the glory of the Lord shining*. The hills and the heavens lit up! Not to the Pharisees, but to these lowly shepherds. Light shone on them in the land of the shadow of death.

Joh 3:19-21 "This is the judgment, that the Light has come into the world, and men loved the darkness rather than the Light, for their

deeds were evil. (20) "For everyone who does evil hates the Light, and does not come to the Light for fear that his deeds will be exposed. (21) "But he who practices the truth comes to the Light, so that his deeds may be manifested as having been wrought in God."

Why is this Child-Son said to be "given?" We know the answer – the Father gave Him. For God so loved the world that He *gave His only begotten Son*. Unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Child is given. God sent His Son. And that is the central and real message of Christmas – the *indescribable gift*.

Government Resting on His Shoulders

God's own sovereign authority will be given to Him. He will be King, installed by the Father to rule forever and ever. *This world desperately needs a King. But where will such a king be found – to rule in perfect justice and righteousness forever?* Certainly

not from among men. Only Immanuel.

NOTE: Thoughts on "God with us." Immanuel in a way is THE theme of the Bible. From Eden to Eden restored, God's plan of redemption in Christ is to deal with our sin in such a way that He can once again live with us and we with Him. The temple. Christ as the temple. His Church as His temple. And ultimately the New Heavens and earth as His temple in which we live with Him and He with us.

Wonderful Counselor

What does this aspect of the *name* of the Messiah tell us? How is Christ the Wonderful Counselor? Paul might very well have given us the answer:

1Co 1:30 But by His doing you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us **wisdom from God**, and righteousness and sanctification, and redemption,

Col 2:2-3 that their hearts may be encouraged, having been knit

together in love, and attaining to all the wealth that comes from the full assurance of understanding, resulting in a true knowledge of God's mystery, that is, Christ Himself, (3) **in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.**

Perfect wisdom. A perfect salvation devised by the perfect wisdom of the Lord. A King who has never and will never make a mistake or be surprised or caught off-guard. And WE as His people are being given His wisdom – He is OUR perfect wonderful counselor, and we have His Word right here. We would do well to listen to Him!

Here is Matthew Henry on this:

He is *wonderful, counsellor*. Justly is he called *wonderful*, for he is both God and man. His love is the wonder of angels and glorified saints; in his birth, life, death, resurrection, and ascension, he was wonderful. A constant series of wonders attended him, and, without controversy, great was the mystery of godliness concerning

him. He is the *counsellor*, for he was intimately acquainted with the counsels of God from eternity, and he gives counsel to the children of men, in which he consults our welfare. It is by him that God has *given us counsel*, Psa 16:7; Rev 3:18. He is the wisdom of the Father, and is made of God to us wisdom. Some join these together: He is the wonderful counsellor, a wonder or miracle of a counsellor; in this, as in other things, he has the pre-eminence; none teaches like him.

Now, perfect wisdom would be of little use if not accompanied by His second attribute:

Mighty God – Eternal Father

What Child is this? Well, he is God and as such He is ALL-Mighty. Omnipotent. There is no other explanation. He is the Eternal Father. The Jews must have come up with some pathetic alternate explanations to these titles because clearly they are applied by Isaiah to the Messiah.

In addition the Jews SAW and HEARD Christ's wisdom and might by which there was no other conclusion except that He was God. We have the accounts in the Gospels how often enemies came deceitfully to "test Him." It never worked. They heard Him teach and give insight into their own Scriptures which they did not understand.

And the Jews saw His divine power. His miracles and the capstone – His resurrection. There is no other conclusion except that Jesus was indeed this Child of whom Isaiah spoke.

Prince of Peace

Human kings never bring real, lasting peace. But in His very character, the Messiah would be such a Prince. Christ is the King from whom peace proceeds. And this peace is not temporal, but eternal –

"There will be no end to the increase of His government and of peace...."

All human kings *wane* in power. If nothing else, they grow old and pass away. Kingdoms do not increase eternally. They all eventually decrease. The story of this world's history is that of the rise and fall of kingdoms and kings. Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Persia, Greece, Rome. Think of Nebuchadnezzar's image in his dream and notice particularly this [another point the Jews surely should have known] –

Dan 2:44-45 "In the days of those kings **the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which will never be destroyed**, and that kingdom will not be left for another people; it will crush and put an end to all these kingdoms, but it will itself endure forever. (45) "Inasmuch as you saw that a stone was cut out of the mountain without hands and that it crushed the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver and the gold, the great God has made known to the king what will take place in the future; so the dream is true and its interpretation is trustworthy."

Daniel emphasizes this eternal kingdom over and over and over. How could the Jews miss it, except that they chose to?

Now, one final not on *Prince of Peace*. You have heard, and it is true, that *peace only comes through strength*. Because man is evil, kings are typically evil and crave for power, starting wars. They must be conquered and caused to fear. Only the naïve think otherwise.

The Lord also adheres to this doctrine. But because His power is all-mighty, and because He came as a Lamb to deal with sin, He is coming one more time in power and glory to forever end sinful man's kingdoms. It will be *peace through strength* –

those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. (9) These will pay the penalty of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power,

Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace.

Unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given.

2Th 1:6-9 For after all it is only just for God to repay with affliction those who afflict you, (7) and to give relief to you who are afflicted and to us as well when the Lord Jesus will be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels in flaming fire, (8) dealing out retribution to those who do not know God and to