

**“Jesus In Isaiah’s Birth Prophecy” Isaiah 7-9**

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In Isaiah 7:14, we find the amazing prophecy of a virgin giving birth to a man-child who would be “God with us.”

***Isaiah 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.*

And then two chapters later we read the same prophecy with much more information added.

***Isaiah 9:6-7** 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. 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.*

Even the majority of Jewish scholars acknowledge these as prophecies of the Messiah. But do they speak of Jesus? The answer is unmistakably “yes” if you value the divine inspiration of the New Testament.

The gospel writer Matthew records the angel’s conversation with Joseph in his dream:

***Matthew 2:20b-23** “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife; for the Child who has been conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. She will bear a Son; and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.” Now all this took place to fulfill what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet: “Behold, the virgin shall be with child and shall bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel,” which translated means, “God with us.”*

Here Matthew, by inspiration of the Holy Spirit, tells us that the prophet Isaiah was referring to Jesus in his prophecy as the promised Messiah, born of a virgin and conceived by the Holy Spirit. In this sense He was truly “God with us.”

The angel Gabriel’s announcement to Mary also confirms Isaiah’s prophecy as speaking of Jesus.

***Luke 1:31-33** “And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name Him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David; and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and His kingdom will have no end.*

Jesus B.C. in Isaiah? – absolutely. He is there as Son of man, Son of God, and God with us. For anyone with open mind and heart these Scriptures combine to make it clear that Jesus is the promised Messiah, as announced with angelic authority. Jesus, the Son of God, having been conceived by the Holy Spirit, was born to Joseph and Mary in a stable in Bethlehem.

But there is so much more to Isaiah's prophecy. For his prophecy speaks of government resting on this Messiah's shoulders, and of an everlasting kingdom. We in the 21<sup>st</sup> century A.D. look back to the promised birth in Bethlehem some 2000 years ago as a significant part of the prophecy now fulfilled. But we must also look forward to the portion of the prophecy yet unfulfilled.

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The late Dr. J. Sidlow Baxter writes this in his devotional "Awake My Heart":

*Those inspired Old Testament prophets fore-wrote an amazing variety of guide-facts concerning the coming Messiah, but there was one major feature which they were not given either to know of to tell. Not one of them foresaw or even distantly guessed that there was to be a long time-gap of two thousand years between the fulfillment of the words, "Unto us a Child is born", and the later fulfillment of those other words, "The government shall be upon His shoulder". Not one of them knew that there were to be two comings of the one Messiah. Not one of them perceived that there was to be this present "Church" age intervening between His shouldering of the Sin-bearer's cross and His shouldering of universal government.*

On this Christmas Sunday I want us to recognize that Christmas is not only a commemoration of what *has* happened, but also a prophecy of what *will* happen. This Savior-Messiah was born a king. He is from the loins of king David, destined to be the eternal heir of heaven's throne. He is not heir of King David's throne alone, for He also is from the "only-begotten" loins of God Almighty, and therefore the heir of the throne of heaven. He is indeed "Lord of heaven and earth."

## **CHILD and SON**

Let us then, with careful reverence, examine Isaiah's prophesy in 9:6-7 with an eye to this future reign.

When Isaiah says "a child will be born to us" he is speaking of the miraculous birth that occurred in Bethlehem. The child was *born* – that is, became human, that He might inherit the throne of David.

But the rest of 9:6-7 takes us beyond the human birth. When Isaiah goes on to say "a son will be given to us" he speaks not of this being a boy as opposed to a girl, but of this being an heir as opposed to a non-heir, for it took a son to be an heir to a throne. Isaiah is saying that this Messiah will be heir to the throne of heaven, as well as heir to the throne of David.

And this is confirmed by the fact that the son is "given" – not born. The heir to the earthly throne of David is "born", for this throne must be occupied by a human heir of David. But the heir to the heavenly throne could never be "born" – this heir must be the eternal (never born) Son of God. He is "given" as the heir by God Almighty Himself. John 3:16 tells us that God (the Father) "gave" His only begotten Son. This is not the giving of a baby, but the giving of the very essence of God Himself as the heir to the heavenly throne.

Ponder this wonder. Selah.

## THE FOUR-FOLD NAME

*Isaiah 9:6b And His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace.*

### 1. Wonderful Counselor

In Hebrew, this is one name, not two. Jesus is, and will be as ruler, one who make wonderful, perfect decisions. Every decree will be perfectly suited to the situation. Every judgment will be perfectly fair and equitable. Every edict will perfectly benefit the recipients. He will be known by the wonderfulness of His council. Let us know that this is true of Him now, as well. His Word can be absolutely trusted as perfect (and wonderful) truth.

### 2. Mighty God

This name again affirms the deity of Jesus. But more - As ruler he has divine strength to accomplish whatever he wishes. Nothing or no one can stand in his way. There is no power that can ever come against him. 100% of his agenda will be accomplished!

### 3. Eternal Father

We must not think that Jesus replaces the Father, for they are one yet distinct. "Father" in Hebrew refers to being the "originator" or "source" – such as, the devil is the father of lies, meaning the originator or source of all lies. So to call Jesus the "Eternal Father" (or better translated "Father of Eternity") it is saying He is the originator and source of all things eternal. Bottom line: His is the source of all we need for eternity. He as king will be the perfect provider.

### 4. Prince of Peace

We often hear of the #1 duty of any ruler as being to protect his people and preserve the peace.

Jesus will forever perfectly protect, defend and preserve peace. And peace, as we know, is not just lack of conflict. It is healthy relationship between man and God and between man and man. Jesus will forever assure each of his kingdom citizens, by His shed blood, of a healthy relationship with God and with one another.

## A THRIVING KINGDOM

√ Increasing peace. This implies relationship with God and others that will only grow deeper and stronger through eternity. Amazing.

√ Upheld with justice and righteousness. This speaks again to the perfectness of how every detail will be run. No collusion. No "fake news." No special prosecutors needed. No swamp – only steams of living water.

√ The Lord's zeal will accomplish this. "Zeal" is associated throughout Scripture with "jealousy", as in protecting the holiness and purity of the divine. Jesus' "zeal" turned over the money changers, for He was jealous to protect the integrity and holiness of his temple. Likewise, God's jealousy for holiness will forever protect the

integrity of His kingdom on earth and in heaven. Aren't we delighted that God is so jealous of us, his children, that His zeal will protect and defend us from harm and sin ever reaching us in the millennial and heavenly kingdom.

**And one final thought:** praise God for the gap between Christ's first coming and His second yet to come. Think of all the souls that would have been lost forever, that by God's grace have been found in that gap of time. If you and the Lord have been reconciled, you too are one of the blessed – as am I. If you have not yet reconciled with God, he waits yet another day for you. Let today be the day of salvation for you. Receive the Son given for you with open arms and heart. Confess your need of Him as Savior, acknowledge His resurrection from the grave for you, and make Him the Lord of your life.

So Merry Christmas. This holy day not only look back on what God has done in sending His only begotten son for us to the manger in Bethlehem. But also look forward to what God has promised in once again sending His only begotten Son for us, this time to the throne of earth and the throne of heaven.

Not only has a child been born for us. But a son has been given to us; and the government will be upon His perfect shoulders. Praise God for His zeal in bringing this to pass – but not so soon as to exclude me and you!