

Dec. 21, 2014

Blessed Be the Name of the Lord Isaiah 9:6

All Stand and Read Scripture

Isaiah 9:6 (KJV)

⁶ For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

Prayer

INTRODUCTION:

Many prophecies in the Old Testament proclaimed the birth of Christ, the Messiah. It was an event that had been planned by God even before creation. He knew that man was going to sin and would need a savior. This verse in Isaiah is just one of the many.

While it may appear on the surface that the first two phrases of verse 6 are only repetitive, the careful reader will discover that there is a distinction between the two phrases “Unto us a child is born” and “Unto us a son is given”. It is a distinction with a significant difference. In one concise statement Isaiah reveals the two-fold nature of the Messiah: both the **humanity** and the **deity** of Jesus Christ.

BODY:

Humanity.

“**Unto us a child is born**”. As Christ is a **child** in His human nature, He is **born**. Begotten of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He is truly a child and born as any other man that ever lived and has walked the face of the earth. There is His humanity.

Diety.

“**Unto us a Son is “given”**”. Do you see the distinction?

A **Child** is **Born**,
A **Son** is **Given**.

We know, and must accept, from the scriptures that God, the Son, and the Holy Spirit are all one, living eternally. They are a unity, yet they are individual, yet they are one.

Isaiah points out that Jesus is God's unique "one and only eternal Son" who shares the same divine nature as God. He is not a child of God referred to in Ephesians 1:5 for believers who are God's sons and daughters by adoption. Jesus is God's "one and only" unique eternal Son.

Since He is God's eternal Son and shares His divine nature, he is not only "**born**" as a **child**, but He has been "**given**" as a **son**, begotten of the Father from all eternity. Begotten, not "made".

As to how to explain how the Son is eternally generated by the Father, it is beyond my comprehension. It is something that remains within the deep things of God.

The point is this: Christ was not born into this world **and then became** God's Son. It is **not** a title that He took upon Himself at birth. He was sent into this world as a preexisting Son, the eternal Son of the eternal God.

Government of God

"And the government shall be upon his shoulder" tells of the way God would deal with people through His Son. The Old Testament Law was the government of God prior to Christ's time on earth, but upon the shoulder of the Savior would be the new government of God.

In John 18:33-37, when Jesus was being questioned by Pilate, Jesus explained His "kingdom".

John 18:33-37 (NASB)

³³ Therefore Pilate entered again into the Praetorium, and summoned Jesus and said to Him, "Are You the King of the Jews?" ³⁴ Jesus answered, "Are you saying this on your own initiative, or did others tell you about Me?" ³⁵ Pilate answered, "I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests delivered You to me; what have You done?" ³⁶ Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, then My servants would be fighting so that I would not be handed over to the Jews; but as it is, My kingdom is not of this realm." ³⁷ Therefore Pilate said to Him, "So You are a king?" Jesus answered, "You say *correctly* that I am a king. For this I have been born, and for this I have

come into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice.”

World powers were threatening the very existence of the people of God. The government of the Son is a spiritual realm. For that very reason, His kingdom is more embracing and world-wide for the endurance of all men’s time on earth.

In Matthew 28:18-20, Jesus met one last time with His eleven disciples on a designated mountain in Galilee after His resurrection and told of His authority and gave them the “Final Commission”.

Matthew 28:18-20 (NASB)

¹⁸ And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

What was upon his shoulder? It was the cross! The government of God is now operated in this day under the authority and precepts of Calvary. I sinned and offended the Lord, but Christ took my sins in Himself on the cross and imparted His righteousness unto me. **Christ became my Redeemer.** Now, I can stand before the high court of God hidden behind the cross. The government borne on the shoulder of the Savior gives mercy to my soul. Thank God for the Cross!!!!

Remember how the first two phrases seemed repetitive? They actually revealed the **two-fold nature** of the Messiah: His **humanity** and His **deity**.

The second half is **God’s five-fold title** of the Messiah. Just as the two-fold nature of the Messiah is not repetitive, the five-fold title of the Messiah is not repetitive. It describes some of the many characteristics of Christ.

Isaiah 9:6 (KJV)

⁶ and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

If nothing else, this verse shows us the complexity of the Lord Jesus Christ.

In the same breath the prophet calls Him a **child** and a **counselor**.

In the same breath he calls Christ a **son** and yet calls Him the **everlasting father**.

It is something that should not cease to overwhelm us that He who was an **infant** should at the same time be **infinite**.

That He who is called the **Son** should nevertheless more correctly be called the **everlasting Father**.

It is a clear lesson that should remind us of our need of carefully studying and rightly understanding the person of Jesus Christ. Everything revolves around who He is. It is "Who He is" that gives credence as to His work on Calvary. It is because Jesus is the eternal Son of God and yet the Son of man that we have the guarantee of redemption and our salvation. It is true that we can be saved forever through Him by simply knowing that He is the savior of sinners, but it will require a long, long and steady gaze before the mind will ever be filled with the knowledge of who Christ actually is.

There are many great mysteries that lay hidden in Jesus Christ. He speaks to us in scriptures in some of the simplest of words, but there is a height and a depth there, that no matter how great our intellect, we cannot begin to fathom. When a believer begins to look long and hard at Christ, that believer begins to realize that there is certainly far more to knowing Him than He ever imagined from the beginning. He begins to realize, that the more He knows Him, the more He doesn't know Him. The more you understand who this Christ is, the more you begin to understand the infinite depth of His person. So deep is the mystery of the person of Jesus, that he must reveal Himself to us or we will never know Him.

We can never learn who Christ is through our own intellect. Paul, who was the apostle of the apostles wrote in Philippians 3:7-11 .

Philippians 3:7-11 (NASB)

⁷ But whatever things were gain to me, those things I have counted as loss for the sake of Christ. ⁸ More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish so that I may gain Christ, ⁹ and may be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from *the Law*, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which

comes from God on the basis of faith, ¹⁰ *that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death;* ¹¹ *in order that I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.*

One of the ways that God has enabled us to come to a deeper and fuller knowledge of Christ is through the names given Him in scripture. There are at least 60 names for Christ in the scriptures. It is evident that God would have us to grow in the knowledge of Christ through a study of His names. Have you ever engaged in a personal study in the names of the person of Christ? If our desire to know Christ and be more like Him is ever to occur, it will come as we seriously undertake to know the names of Jesus Christ.

In the text this morning, you will see five of the names given to Christ. This is **God's five-fold title** of the Messiah.

Blessed be the Name of the Lord!

Wonderful.

The Hebrew word here denotes something that is extraordinary. Something that is to be marveled at. Christ is something in His person that is to be marveled at.

Christ is being described here as something that is beyond the ordinary work of God. He is extraordinary. Remember the context of the scripture is expressly pointing to Christ as "Redeemer". There is no more wonderful work that God has ever done than of making Christ a Redeemer of His people. That makes Christ the wonder of all wonders. Our Lord is wonderful and He alone is entitled to the word "wonderful".

Think of the wonder of His birth. The eternal Christ (the Son of God) came to earth to be born naturally as all men are born. I cannot imagine how humbling it must have been for Him to be born in a manger from His eternal life that He was sharing with God. I want this event to always cause wonder within us.

I can't understand how the infant who was infinite was also holding all things together by the word of His power. It was a wonder.

The wonder of His birth was only because of the wonder of His death. He was born to die and the whole point of redemption. As wonderful as the birth of Christ was, it more wonderful to realize, that God would be willing to curse His only Son to impute our sin to Him. Our sin has been transferred to Jesus Christ. He has now become "guilty" for crimes that He never committed. God broke fellowship with His son because He became a curse for us. Can you imagine what that would be like? God nor Christ had ever experienced that separation. We think in time. I cannot imagine how someone who has always been, and has never had a beginning, and has always had a fellowship with

each other, could sever that relationship for something He did not do. They had had perfect harmony and a perfect love. God must pour out His wrath on His Son who is innocent, who committed no crime, to be a “sin bearer” of His people. You must wonder, why would He do that for us?. Why would He do that for sinners? I am filled with wonder. His name is rightly called “Wonderful”.

It should smite us this morning with the wonder of His love! We need the Holy Spirit this morning to help us understand how God could love us in that fashion. It must be more than the words out of a preacher’s mouth. That it wouldn’t just be a sermon, it would be reality meeting at the core of our very being. He has loved me, a sinner. He is wonderful!

That is why Paul wrote in

Colossians 2:9-10 (NASB)

⁹ For in Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form, ¹⁰ and in Him you have been made complete, and He is the head over all rule and authority;

In Christ are hidden all the treasures of things that are wonderful and they are there **FOR US** since He is **OUR** redeemer, and all of Christ belongs to us. We can say that “all of Christ belongs to me”. I don’t just have part of Him and He does not just have part of me. All that I am belongs to Him and all of Christ and all of His possessions belong to me. All that is in Christ is mine. He is wonderful!

CONCLUSION:

Next week we will go through the remaining four names of the Messiah to try to understand their meaning and how it defines who Jesus really is.

The good news is that Christ’s death on the cross provided a way for us to have our sins forgiven. He died on the cross for our sins. Once we have sincerely asked for forgiveness of our sins, Christ has provided the way for our spiritual life to be made whole, without sin. Christ took the wrath that God should put on all sinners for our sins and put it on Jesus Christ. Jesus paid the penalty and rose from the dead proving that He had the power to save sinners like us. We must believe in God’s son and obey His commands to become children of God.

We are to become like Christ. There is more to Christianity than being in church when the doors are open. We must not only learn how to **live** like Christ, but, we must learn to **love** like Christ, and learn how to **labor** for Christ.

When we think of Christmas and the birth of Christ, we must go beyond the manger and understand the reason Christ became man and lived among us.

The Family of God

I'm so glad I'm a part of the family of God.
I've been washed in the fountain, cleansed by His blood!
Joint heirs with Jesus as we travel this sod,
For I'm part of the family, the family of God.