

CHRISTMAS EVE – 2007

Isaiah 9: 2 - 7

Christmas is ALL about Jesus. It is very easy to focus on Jesus this evening because these verses from the Book of Isaiah focus on Jesus. All of Isaiah focuses on Jesus. The whole Bible focuses on Jesus, so that our faith will focus on Jesus, so that our life will focus on Jesus. It is critical that our faith and life do focus on Jesus and these verses shall show us why it is critical.

Jesus Is the God/Man Our Savior from Death.

Who is Jesus? He is a miracle Son! How huge a miracle God Himself shows us through His servant Isaiah in these verses!

We meet this Child in Isaiah first in Chapter 7. We heard that read yesterday in church. He is Immanuel, God with us, a Son born of the virgin. That is a huge miracle! There is no point in trying to get our head around it. We cannot grasp it. We can only marvel, be amazed at it. It does help us appreciate how almighty almighty is.

To help us believe it God just gives us example after example after example in these verses, all saying the Child is God in the flesh and then tells us of blessing after blessing for us.

He is born a Child, a boy Child. These facts make Him thoroughly human. We do not have trouble comprehending that part of it. He was born in order to be like us, flesh and blood, body and soul. He was even born under the most humble and lowly of circumstances so as not to scare off any human being, not even the weakest, poorest, and most ordinary of us people.

He is also a Son given. He is a gift. As we go on it will be very clear that God is the Giver of this Gift. This gift would make it possible for all the rest of us human beings to be adopted as God's full-fledged children. That is simply astounding as we shall see.

God names Him 'Wonderful Counselor'. 'Wonderful' actually means that He is a wonder, a miracle. A genuine miracle is something only God can do. Jesus Himself is Something only God could do. He is a miracle of a Counselor. Isaiah, later in his Book, wrote, "All this comes from the LORD Almighty, wonderful in counsel and magnificent in wisdom." That is right, this Child is a miracle of a counselor because He is the LORD Almighty. His counsel is His Word. The Bible is this Child's teaching, instruction, guidance, wisdom for all of us. We need to be counseled by this Child Jesus. Wonder goes with God. Counsel also goes with human beings. Keep that in mind; God – human being.

He is 'God Mighty'. That is the order in the Hebrew. He is God. Now you see how miraculous this Baby is! This Hebrew word for God is never used for anyone except the true, real, genuine God. He is mighty. Often the word is used to describe human heroes. God – human, keep that in mind again.

Next the Child is named 'Everlasting Father'. In the Hebrew it is 'Father Everlasting'. 'Father' obviously is often used also among human beings. 'Everlasting' goes with God. As father, Jesus is fatherly. He cares about us, is concerned for us, watches out for us, protects us, provides us our needs. Indeed, by His Counsel, by His Word, He causes many people to become the children of God by faith. He is a father in that way.

Finally, He is called the 'Prince of Peace'. Actually 'prince' is often used for human rulers but the word 'peace' in the Bible is always seen as a God-given thing. Human beings cannot come up with peace. Sin is behind all ware. Sin certainly created nothing but

hatred, strife, rebellion, and war between the sinless God and all sinners, all people. But this Child united God's peace to a human being ruling. Put these four sets of two words each together, God/man, God/man, man/God, man/God.

This Child is a real human being. In fact, He is a direct descendant of David, so inherits David's throne and rules David's kingdom, but in a way beyond anything David could even have imagined.

What a blessed kingdom under Jesus it is! It is eternal. Jesus will "reign from that time on and forever".

All government rests on His shoulders, yes, on those baby shoulders. His government will defeat all of His enemies like David defeated the Philistines and all the other enemies around Israel so that Solomon reigned in peace. 'Solomon' means 'peace'.

His government would increase. It would finally spread over the whole world and includes all nations and peoples. It would increase, not by war, but by peace. And it would also increase the joy of its people, a joy like at the harvest; a joy like the victors receiving the spoils, the plunder. The plunder of Jesus' victory is very wonderful as we shall see.

It is God's victory over His enemies, who turn out to be our enemies, too. It means, for all of us, freedom from the yoke, the cruel bar on our shoulders and the oppressor's rod.

It is the joy of peace with no end, making soldiers' boots and uniforms useless. It is a joy and peace established and upheld with the justice and righteousness of that Child, God in the flesh.

On the cross He made justice be done. He paid the price for all sin and guilt and punishment. In His life He lived and earned for us true, perfect righteousness. That is sin forgiven. That is the gift of righteousness. That establishes peace between God and us sinners. Sin, death, hell, Satan defeated. Forgiveness, life, eternal salvation with the Savior in heaven established.

All of this was the LORD Almighty's doing. The LORD is the Giver of the Gift and the LORD is the gift and the LORD places this gift in our hearts by faith through Words of His like these.

This is what Christmas means for all of us. A joyous Christmas! Amen.