

Isaiah 9:6–7

⁶ For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

⁷ Of the increase of His government and peace There will be no end, Upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, To order it and establish it with judgment and justice From that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.

“What's In a Name, Part 1” **Isaiah 9:6**

INTRO:

Names are important. To us in twenty-first century America, names serve mainly as a tool to distinguish between people. Very seldom do we think about why we were named with the name our parents gave us. When the Hebrew parents gave names to their children, they often chose names which reflected the character of their children. For example we read in **Genesis 25:24-26** about the naming of Jacob and Esau.

“So when her days were fulfilled for her to give birth, indeed there were twins in her womb. And the first came out red. He was like a hairy garment all over; so they called his name Esau. Afterward his brother came out, and his hand took hold of Esau's heel; so his name was called Jacob.”

This understanding of the significance of a name is important as we approach the birth announcement God sent forth through Isaiah the prophet for the birth of His Son the Lord Jesus Christ. Usually birth announcements are sent out in the days after the birth takes place, but God sent out this birth announcement some 700 years before it happened. As we begin our exploration of our Lord's birth announcement together, we will look at it in terms of two divisions.

I. The One Who Will Be Born

II. His Name Shall Be Called Wonderful Counselor

I. The One Who Will Be Born

A. In chapter 9, Isaiah built up to the most important birth announcement in history by setting the stage (**vs.1-2**). The land had been in darkness, but now there will be a great light in the land of Galilee. In (**vs.3-5**), he wrote joy will increase. War will be over. The yoke of bondage will be broken.

B. How will this happen? Who will be the one who brings this deliverance? He tells us in **verse 6**. ***“Unto us a child is born.”***

1. Even in the Old Testament prophecies about the coming of the Lord Jesus we see He will have two natures. The birth announcement's first phrase underlines His humanity. The One who will be Israel's Messiah will be a human being. He is going to be born as a baby. Granted, we know that His birth will be a different birth from every other birth in history because we know He will be born of a virgin. Yet, He was a very human baby.

2. The Jewish scholars who studied **Isaiah 9:6** probably scratched their heads and wondered how all of this would happen. We know that in a stable in Bethlehem, this child foretold seven centuries before hand was born. The angel told the shepherds in **Luke 2:11-12**,

"For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger."

C. In one sense He was a baby boy like any other baby boy, in another very important sense, He was unlike any other baby ever born before or since. At the same time that the child was born, ***"unto us a Son is given."*** The One who will deliver His people would be a human being, at the same time He would be God the Son. This was Isaiah's way of saying what Paul said in **Galatians 4:4-5**;

"But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons."

D. This baby will have quite a future. The government will rest upon His shoulders. He will be responsible not only for the Government of Israel, but also of the whole world. We must rush on to the important part of the birth announcement. What is this baby's name?

II. His Name Shall Be Called Wonderful Counselor

A. There are four names to describe what this baby will be like. We will only look at the first of the compound names today. What does the name ***"Wonderful Counselor"*** mean?

B. The name ***"Wonderful Counselor"*** is made up of two parts. The first part of the name is a Hebrew word which means ***"wonderful or incomprehensible."*** It is used exclusively to describe the works that God does. These things are beyond human ability. For example:

Psalm 77:14 ***"You are the God who does wonders. You have declared Your strength among the peoples."***

Psalm 139:6 ***"Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high, I cannot attain it."***

Exodus 15:11 *“Who is like You, O LORD, among the gods? Who is like You, glorious in holiness, Fearful in praises, doing wonders?”*

This one who is born will be one who does great things, things that we cannot do nor even fully comprehend.

C. He is the *“Wonderful Counselor.”* The Hebrew word translated *“counselor”* means *“to advise, purpose, devise, plan.”* The One who is coming as a baby, who is God's own Son given to us, is One whose plans, purposes, designs, and decrees for His people are marvelous.

1. What are these plans which are beyond our human comprehension?

Obviously, first and foremost in these plans and decrees is the unfolding plan of redemption. This plan is the very reason that the Son of God became incarnate in human flesh. This plan is why there is a Christmas Day!

2. This plan was in existence even before Adam and Eve committed the first sin, for as soon as humanity had chosen sin over God we read God telling Satan,

Genesis 3:15 *“And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel.”*

God was not surprised when Adam and Eve sinned. He already knew what He would do. If God had not a plan, we would be doomed. God could have righteously destroyed all of humanity at that moment. Instead, God put into motion His plan, in which He would redeem out of fallen humanity, a chosen people – a people whom He loved and would spend all eternity with Him.

3. For that plan to take place, God had to find a way *“that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.”* (**Romans 3:26**). This way was for the Lord Jesus Christ, God the Son, to become incarnate in human flesh and to die on the cross as the sin bearer. Listen to **2 Corinthians 5:21**

“For [God the Father] made [the Lord Jesus Christ, His Son] who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.”

D. The Lord Jesus Christ, the wonderful counselor, also has a plan for all human kind. He is working out that plan today. This plan is the whole of human history, the rise and fall of entire empires like Babylonia, Persia, Greece, and Rome. It includes individuals like, Caesar Augustus, Constantine, Winston Churchill, Barack Obama, and Donald Trump. His plan also involves important people like you and me.

E. Because His plan is marvelous and so often beyond our ability to comprehend or understand, it may include such difficult things as cancer, heart disease, pain, and suffering. Yet, He has given us many promises to which we can anchor our boats in the midst of the storms of life. One such promise is **Hebrews 13:5-6**

“Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, ‘I will never leave you nor forsake you.’ So we may boldly say: ‘The LORD is my helper; I will not fear. What can man do to me?’”

Isn't it wonderful to know that in the midst of the storm, Jesus is in the boat with us?

Another is **Romans 8:28**

“And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.”

No matter what the circumstances, God is working through them to make us the people He wants us to be. He uses everything to accomplish good in our lives.

Do you know the One whose birth is being announced here? Do you know this child who was born, and this Son who was given? Do you know Him as the Wonderful Counselor? You can come to know Him today.

Hymn #43 ***Great Is Thy Faithfulness***