

The Promised Birth of the King!

Isaiah 9:1-7

East Berlin Community Church

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Introduction

- In America, we know little of royalty or aristocracy. The presidency is not passed along on blood lines.
- But in many parts of the world, nations still have a monarchy, like Great Britain.
- The birth of a king means stability and hope for the future.

The Promised Birth of the King

A. Prelude: Background of Isaiah and the Kingdoms of Israel and Judah

1. Isaiah ministered during the reigns of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah. His ministry began in 739 BC and spanned 53 years. Isaiah 1:1; 6:1; Hebrews 11:37
2. The Northern Nation of Israel was near the end as it was deteriorating politically, morally, and spiritually. It would eventually fall to the Assyrians in 722 BC.
3. History of the Monarchy in Israel
 - a. Began as a united kingdom under Saul and then David, the *"Man after God's own heart"*
 - b. To David, God promised a son and an enduring Kingdom
 - 2 Samuel 7:12-16-- *"When your days are fulfilled and you rest with your fathers, I will set up your seed after you, who will come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. I will be his Father, and he shall be My son. If he commits iniquity, I will chasten him with the rod of men and with the blows of the sons of men. But My mercy shall not depart from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I removed from before you. And your house and your kingdom shall be established forever before you. Your throne shall be established forever." "*
 - c. Solomon, David's son, failed to follow the Lord completely.
 - d. As a result, when Solomon passed away, and his son, Rehoboam took the throne, the kingdom was divided into two.
 - 1) Ten tribes under Jeroboam formed the Northern Kingdom of Israel.
 - 2) Two tribes (Judah and Benjamin) formed the Southern Kingdom of Judah under Rehoboam
 - e. Jeroboam introduced idol worship in the Northern Kingdom of Israel. Every king that followed did what was evil in the sight of the Lord. Not one "good egg" in the whole basket!
 - f. God had promised to bless His people if they worshiped and obeyed Him.
 - Deuteronomy 28:1-2-- *"if you diligently obey the voice of the LORD your God, to observe carefully all His commandments which I command you today, that the LORD your God will set you high above all nations of the earth. And all these blessings shall come upon you and overtake you, because you obey the voice of the LORD your God."*
 - g. God had also promised curses on His people if they disobeyed Him, including being conquered and deported.
 - Deuteronomy 28:15-- *"if you do not obey the voice of the LORD your God, to observe carefully all His commandments and His statutes which I command you today, that all these curses will come upon you and overtake you."*
 - Deuteronomy 28:49-50-- *"The LORD will bring a nation against you from afar, from the end of the earth, as swift as the eagle flies, a nation whose language you will not understand, a nation of fierce countenance, which does not respect the elderly nor show favor to the young."*

- Deuteronomy 28:64-67-- *“Then the LORD will scatter you among all peoples, from one end of the earth to the other, and there you shall serve other gods, which neither you nor your fathers have known—wood and stone. And among those nations you shall find no rest, nor shall the sole of your foot have a resting place; but there the LORD will give you a trembling heart, failing eyes, and anguish of soul. Your life shall hang in doubt before you; you shall fear day and night, and have no assurance of life. In the morning you shall say, ‘Oh, that it were evening!’ And at evening you shall say, ‘Oh, that it were morning!’ because of the fear which terrifies your heart, and because of the sight which your eyes see.”*
- h. The Northern Kingdom falls to the Assyrians in 722 BC. Isaiah names his son, Maher-shalal-hash-baz meaning *“swift to the plunder and quick to carry it away”*-- as a sign of imminent judgment
 - Isaiah 8:4 -- *“For before the child shall have knowledge to cry ‘My father’ and ‘My mother,’ the riches of Damascus and the spoil of Samaria will be taken away before the king of Assyria.”*
 - i. The Southern Kingdom of Judah followed in the Northern Kingdom’s footsteps-- only about 100 years behind.
 - 2 Kings 17:18-20-- *“Therefore the LORD was very angry with Israel, and removed them from His sight; there was none left but the tribe of Judah alone. Also Judah did not keep the commandments of the LORD their God, but walked in the statutes of Israel which they made. And the LORD rejected all the descendants of Israel, afflicted them, and delivered them into the hand of plunderers, until He had cast them from His sight.”*
 - j. God sends the prophet Isaiah to warn the people of Judah to repent of their sins, turn back to God, or else they will experience the same fate-- judgment and deportation.
 - 1) The people will be spiritually unresponsive
 - Isaiah 6:9-10-- *“Go, and tell this people: ‘Keep on hearing, but do not understand; Keep on seeing, but do not perceive.’ Make the heart of this people dull, And their ears heavy, And shut their eyes; Lest they see with their eyes, And hear with their ears, And understand with their heart, And return and be healed.”*
 - 2) But Isaiah is to continue to warn for the rest of his life
 - Isaiah 6:11-12-- *“Until the cities are laid waste and without inhabitant, the houses are without a man, the land is utterly desolate, the LORD has removed men far away, and the forsaken places are many in the midst of the land.”*
4. The loss of the kingdom of Judah and thus the loss of the throne puts in jeopardy the promise made to David in 2 Samuel 7 that his *“kingdom will be established forever before you. Your throne shall be established forever.”* No kingdom, no throne, no king, NO HOPE!
 5. In the midst of this darkened, hopeless condition, God through Isaiah offers light and hope. Their HOPE is in the promised birth of their Messiah, the KING!

B. Prophecy: The Promised Birth of Messiah, the King

- Isaiah 9:1-7-- *“Nevertheless the gloom will not be upon her who is distressed, as when at first He lightly esteemed the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, And afterward more heavily oppressed her, by the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, in Galilee of the Gentiles. The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; Those who dwelt in the land of the shadow of death, upon them a light has shined. You have multiplied the nation and increased its joy; They rejoice before You according to the joy of harvest, as men rejoice when they divide the spoil. For You have broken the yoke of his burden and the staff of his oppressor, as in the day of Midian. For every warrior’s sandal from the noisy battle, and garments rolled in blood, will be used for burning and fuel of fire. 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. 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."

1. The Identity of the Messiah, the King

- a. **"A Child is born"**-- emphasis on the humanity of the Messiah. He would be like every other human being.
- b. **"A Son is given"**-- emphasis on the deity of the Messiah.
 - 1) The angel's announcement to Mary before His conception.
 - Luke 1:31-32--*"behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name JESUS. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest."*
 - Luke 1:35--*"the angel answered and said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God."*
 - 2) God's sign given to Ahaz-- *Immanuel*
Isaiah 7:14-- *"Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel."*
 - 3) The angel's announcement to Joseph, linking the Son to the sign
 - Matthew 1:20-23-- *"Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins."* So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying: *"Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel,"* which is translated, *"God with us."*
- c. **"The government will be upon His shoulders"**
 - 1) He is, and will be the KING! He is the heir to the throne!
 - 2) Isaiah's earlier encounter with the KING at his commissioning.
 - Isaiah 6:1-5-- *"In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lifted up, and the train of His robe filled the temple. Above it stood seraphim; each one had six wings: with two he covered his face, with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. And one cried to another and said: "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; The whole earth is full of His glory!" And the posts of the door were shaken by the voice of him who cried out, and the house was filled with smoke. So I said: "Woe is me, for I am undone! Because I am a man of unclean lips, And I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; For my eyes have seen the King, The LORD of hosts."*
 - John 12:41-- *"These things said Isaiah when he saw His glory and spoke of Him."*
- d. **"And His Name will be called..."**
 - 1) **"Wonderful Counselor"**
 - a) **"Wonderful"** actually means "wonder" referring to something marvelous, wonderful, incomprehensible.
 - Judges 13:18-- *"And the Angel of the LORD said to him, "Why do you ask My name, seeing it is wonderful?"*
 - b) **"Counselor"**
 - Colossians 2:3-- *"hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge."*
 - Isaiah 11:2-- *"The Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon Him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD."*
 - Isaiah 28:29-- *"This also comes from the LORD of hosts, who is wonderful in counsel and excellent in guidance."*

2) ***“Mighty God”***

- John 16:33-- *“These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.”*

3) ***“Everlasting Father”***

- a) Modalism: The belief that God existed as the Father in the Old Testament; Jesus Christ, the Son in the New Testament; and today as God the Holy Spirit. All three do not exist at the same time. But Jesus replaces the Father--and is the same as the Father, thus the *“Everlasting Father”*

- (1) It is true that Jesus Christ was the visible manifestation of God.

- John 1:18-- *“No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared Him.”*
- John 10:30-- *“I and My Father are one”*
- John 14:8-9-- *“Philip said to Him, ‘Lord, show us the Father, and it is sufficient for us.’ Jesus said to him, ‘Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; so how can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father in Me? The words that I speak to you I do not speak on My own authority; but the Father who dwells in Me does the works.”*

- (2) All three (Father, Son, and Spirit) are of the same essence or being. They are God. But they are three distinct persons of the Godhead so that the Father is NOT the Son nor the Spirit; and the Son is NOT the Father nor the Spirit; and the Spirit is NOT the Father nor the Son. Distinct persons of the Godhead. One God-- Three persons! The mystery of the Trinity of God!

- b) *Everlasting Father* in His relationship to you and I, His children.

- Isaiah 63:16-- *“Doubtless You are our Father, Though Abraham was ignorant of us, And Israel does not acknowledge us. You, O LORD, are our Father; Our Redeemer from Everlasting is Your name.”*

4) ***“Prince of Peace”***

- a) His rule will be characterized by peace.

- Micah 5:2-5a-- *“But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of you shall come forth to Me the One to be Ruler in Israel, whose goings forth are from of old, From everlasting.” Therefore He shall give them up, until the time that she who is in labor has given birth; Then the remnant of His brethren shall return to the children of Israel. And He shall stand and feed His flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD His God; And they shall abide, for now He shall be great to the ends of the earth; And this One shall be peace.”*

- b) As the Prince of Peace, Jesus Christ makes it possible for us to be reconciled to God.

- Romans 5:6-10-- *“For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him. For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.”*
- 2 Corinthians 5:21-- *“For He (that is, God the Father) made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.”*
- 1 Peter 3:18-- *“For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit.”*

- Romans 5:1-- *"having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ"*
- e. This Child, this Son of God who is to be born is also the **KING**, the one next in succession to rule the nation of Israel and then ultimately the world.
- Isaiah 9:7-- *"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."*
 - Luke 1:32-33-- *" will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end."*
- 1) ***"Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end"***
 - a) He will reign over the house of Jacob forever in fulfillment of the covenant made to David in 2 Samuel 7.
 - b) His kingdom will expand both geographically and time-wise.
 - 1 Corinthians 15:24-26-- *"...comes the end, when He delivers the kingdom to God the Father, when He puts an end to all rule and all authority and power. For He must reign till He has put all enemies under His feet. The last enemy that will be destroyed is death."*
 - 2) ***"To order it and establish it with judgment and justice from that time forward and forever"***
 - 3) ***"The zeal of the LORD of host will perform this!"***-- Only God can do this!

2. The Benefits of the Birth of the King. What He brings!

a. LIGHT

- Isaiah 9:2-- *"The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; Those who dwelt in the land of the shadow of death, upon them a light has shined."*

b. JOY

- Isaiah 9:3-- *"You have multiplied the nation and increased its joy; They rejoice before You according to the joy of harvest, as men rejoice when they divide the spoil."*

c. DELIVERANCE

- Isaiah 9:4-- *"For You have broken the yoke of his burden and the staff of his shoulder, The rod of his oppressor, as in the day of Midian."*

d. PEACE

- Isaiah 9:5-- *"For every warrior's sandal from the noisy battle, and garments rolled in blood, will be used for burning and fuel of fire."*

C. Partial Fulfillment at Jesus Christ's First Coming

1. He brought spiritual "LIGHT" into this world, beginning in the land of Zebulun and Naphtali. Matthew 4:12-16. Jesus claimed to be "Light of the world".
 - John 8:12-- *"I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life."*
 - John 1:9-- *"true light which gives light to every man coming into the world."*
2. He brings JOY to those who accept Him as Savior and Lord
 - Luke 2:10-11-- *"Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord."*
3. But other aspects of this prophecy await His Second Coming when He will defeat the enemies of God and Israel, will set up His kingdom here on earth, and at that time, there will be *"peace on earth, goodwill towards men."*