

Isaiah 9:6–7

<sup>6</sup> 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.

<sup>7</sup> 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 4***

*Isaiah 9:6*

INTRO:

In our Christmas series this year we have been considering the birth announcement for the baby Jesus sent by God the Father, through the prophet Isaiah, 700 years before the birth took place. We read it in

***Isaiah 9:6 “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.”***

In our studies we have explored each of the first three names. As the ***“Wonderful Counselor,”*** He has laid out plans for creation that are beyond our comprehension. The greatest of these plans is ***“the unfolding drama of redemption.”*** Because He is the ***“Mighty God,”*** He is can never be defeated nor His plans ever frustrated. His being the ***“Everlasting Father”*** means He is the one who provides and cares for us throughout eternity. Today, we will briefly consider the last name in the list, ***“the Prince of Peace.”*** Our study will fall into two parts.

***I. The meaning of the Name***

***II. The significance of the Name to us***

***I. The meaning of the Name***

A. In this name, God the Father told us of His Son's great function when His government is established upon the earth. He will be the Prince/King/Ruler who will bring lasting peace. **Verse 7** tells us,

***“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.”***

B. This is looking forward in time to the moment that the Lord Jesus will take the throne of the world and reign over all humankind. So, the first application in this text is a political application. We are very aware of the truth of Longfellow's words; ***"And in despair I hung my head/ there is no peace on earth I said."*** Because many do not recognize that the Lord is king and they refuse to bend the knee to Him in this world. Someday the third verse of Longfellow's hymn will come true. ***"Yet pealed the bells more loud and deep:/ God is not dead nor doth He sleep; / The wrong shall fail, the right prevail,/ With peace on earth good will to men."***

C. The Hebrew word for peace is shalom. The peace the Lord Jesus will bring on earth is described by this word. Shalom means more than just the lack of war or conflict. Shalom means *"peace, harmonious relationships well-being, prosperity."* We catch a glimpse of what this peace involves when we read the great benediction the LORD gave to Aaron to say to God's people in **Numbers 6:24-26.**

***"The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the LORD lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace."***

Only in the presence of God can there be shalom in the life.

## ***II. The significance of the Name to us***

A. Beside the political/eschatological application, the fact that the Lord Jesus is the Prince of Peace has a very personal application today. Charles Spurgeon wrote about a threefold peace which we can have with God. He said, ***"(1) Peace because sin is forgiven, is the sweet fruit of justification- 'therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God.'*** ***(2) Peace because the heart is renewed and made to agree with the will of God is the blessed result of sanctification, for 'to be spiritually minded is life and peace.'*** ***(3) Peace, because the soul is conscious of being the object of divine love, is a precious attendant upon the spirit of adoption, which is the very essence of peace."*** This threefold peace with God is all through the One who is the Prince of Peace.

1. We read about our lack of peace in places like **Colossians 1:21**

***"And you, who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now He has reconciled."***

Do we realize that at one time we were at war with God? The declaration of war did not come in our life time. When Adam sinned, we were plunged into this state of war with God because of our sin.

2. The words describing our relationship with God are vivid. We were ***"estranged"*** or ***"alienated."*** These are words filled with pain and grief. We use them often when a marriage has fallen apart.

3. The second word is even stronger. We were *“enemies in our minds.”* Our minds were hostile to God. **Romans 1:21-23**, gives us a vivid picture of this.

*“Because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened. Professing to be wise, they became fools, and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man—and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things.”*

Because of this, God’s righteous wrath was upon us.

B. Given this reality, how do we come to the place where we are at peace with God? The answer is found in the Prince of Peace who was born that first Christmas morning. Remember the rest of the verse in **Colossians 1:21**?

*“And you, who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now He has reconciled.”*

We who were at war with God were reconciled to God through the death of the Lord Jesus Christ His Son.

1. This is why Christmas must never be divorced from Resurrection Sunday. Jesus did not come just to be the Baby of Bethlehem. He came to die so that our sins might be forgiven.

**Colossians 1:19-20** *“It pleased the Father that in Him all the fullness should dwell, and by Him to reconcile all things to Himself, by Him, whether things on earth or things in heaven, having made peace through the blood of His cross.”*

2. We were told about this in another passage that we think about at Easter time.

**Isaiah 53:5-6** *“He was wounded for our transgressions; He was bruised for our iniquities. The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray. We have turned, every one, to his own way; and the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.”*

He bore our sin in His body on the cross. God condemned our sin in Him so He could forgive us.

What do we have to give to have this forgiveness? This is the greatest news of all. We must understand that we are sinners and then simply believe in Him and receive Him so that we can be saved.

**John 1:12** *“But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name.”*

Do you have peace with God? You can if you have the Prince of Peace in your life.

Hymn #152 ***I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day***