

III. Advent in Biblical Perspective
Isaiah and the Coming of Christ
“So, What Is His Name?”
Isaiah 9:6, 7
Dr. Harry L. Reeder III
December 16, 2018 • Morning Sermon

I want to set up what we will look at in this study by reading the passage from the last study. Isaiah 9:1–6a says [1] *But there will be no gloom for her who was in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he has made glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations.*

[2] *The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness,
on them has light shone.*

[3] *You have multiplied the nation;
you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you
as with joy at the harvest,
as they are glad when they divide the spoil.*

[4] *For the yoke of his burden,
and the staff for his shoulder,
the rod of his oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.*

[5] *For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult
and every garment rolled in blood
will be burned as fuel for the fire.*

[6] *For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given;
and the government shall be upon his shoulder,
and his name shall be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.*

[7] *Of the increase of his government and of peace
there will be no end,
on the throne of David and over his kingdom,
to establish it and to uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time forth and forevermore.*

The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

The grass withers, the flower fades, God’s Word abides forever and by His grace and mercy may His Word be preached for you.

His prophecies are quoted all over the New Testament. Handle’s Messiah was basically built from those prophecies. His name is Isaiah. His father’s name was Amoz. He had a ministry in Jerusalem and Judea in what was known as the Southern Kingdom. He ministered

during the times of four kings—Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz and Hezekiah. His ministry by in large was rejected not only by kings but also by the people but he had a commissioning and a calling that was astounding. He had been given a vision of Christ enthroned in the heavenlies with the angels declaring ‘holy, holy, holy is the Lord God of hosts’ in worship and praise to this God of glory. The inanimate objects would even tremble in His presence. Angels were equipped that they would not land in the presence of the Holy One.

As the angels cry out from the normative, to the comparative to the superlative – holy, holy, holy – Isaiah realizes he is a sinner. But that God of holiness is a God of grace and from the altar of sacrifice He sends the burning coal to the lips of Isaiah and says ‘Isaiah, your sins are forgiven. Now who will go for Me to tell others that they can be forgiven?’ Isaiah rises up to the call of the Lord and says ‘Here am I, send me.’ The Lord sends him to four kings and we are looking at his time during the reign of Ahaz.

Isaiah ministers in the day of the divided kingdoms. The darkness was all upon the earth and God began to break forth His work of light, His promise Seed of redemption, in a very powerful way. As He removed His people out of Egypt He brought them through 40 years in the wilderness, He deposited them in the Promised Land and the light of His redeeming work was established on this nation. He gave them offices of prophets, priests and kings. There was this united Kingdom for 200 years that started with the reign of Saul, then David, then Solomon but then the ten Northern tribes began to depart from the Lord. They denounced and renounced the Davidic Kingdom. They went their own way of apostasy.

The two Southern tribes had remained faithful so the line of David is still upon them. The Light begins to dim. The world does not see a light as clearly. The nation that has departed unites with another nation called Assyria. They will create an alliance and try to defeat this two tribe nation which Ahaz is the king of and Isaiah is the prophet during his reign. Ahaz begins to shutter and look for salvation. He does not look to the Lord but to the King of Assyria, who is king over a large pagan empire. Ahaz writes a letter to him saying ‘your son and servant will serve you (if we can make an alliance).’ He is now committing his service and his kingdom into the servanthood of a powerful nation that will be his deliverer but Isaiah tells Ahaz not to do this.

Isaiah says to Ahaz ‘You can ask God for any sign and He’ll show you what to do. These nations of Assyria and Israel are nothing but a burned out stumps for in 65 years they won’t even be there.’ But Ahaz is putting his trust in his idolatry. Then the prophet Isaiah tells him he gets a new sign. Here’s the first one.

The first sign is your kingdom will be gone and the kingly line of David will be deposed. Ahaz put his trust in Assyria and its pagan gods and Isaiah told him that they will not only not deliver you but they will devour you. That is exactly what happened. First it was Assyria then Babylon, then the Medo-Persians, then the Greeks and then the Romans. Empire after empire would sweep through Israel and for 800 years the light is no longer dim but the Promised Land is now covered with darkness and gloom. In the last 400 years there is also complete silence yet God through Isaiah had given another word to Ahaz.

This word is given to Ahaz in Isaiah 7:14 which says [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.* This is regal language announcing that a King is coming whose name is Immanuel – God with us. Isaiah also says that in the darkness the Light is about to shine and that Light will establish a government that is unheard of. It is the Kingdom of God that has come through Immanuel. In the latter times by the hand of God in His judgment the darkness, gloom, and

despair that always comes from sin, will now see the Light and no longer is there darkness only in Naphtali and Zebulun.

Where does the Light come from? Where is the King? For unto us a child is born, a son is given, not deserved, but given and the government will be on this King's shoulders. The increase of His government shall know no end. This is the King that is coming. In other language of the Bible He is known as the Promised Seed. This was given to us back in Genesis 3 when God said the woman would have a seed, in which women don't carry seed. We are told the seed will be bruised on the head of his heel but He will crush the head the serpent. He will defeat the kingdom of darkness, sin, Satan, death and hell. Later we are told that Abraham will be given a whole nation and from that nation will come a seed in which through that seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed but that seed was not Abraham's son, Isaac. David was told that he was going to be given a son that would be greater than him but it was not Solomon. Ahaz is told that a virgin will give birth and His name will be called Immanuel and it's not his son, Hezekiah.

It is a child who is born in Bethlehem. The child comes through an adopted father from the royal line of David whose name is Joseph. It was a long forgotten line. The appointed mother is also of the line of David and her name is Mary who will bring forth the child – Immanuel. And the light shines all throughout the Galilee of the Gentiles, through this place of apostasy, surrender and abdication of faithfulness to God. Right in the midst of this darkness, God by His grace gives the Son who brings the Light of salvation. Son goes out to preach that the Kingdom of God is at hand. The entire weight of that Kingdom is on His shoulders – the child, the Son.

The Old Testament gives us some of the types of Christ through people like Noah, David and if I were to ask what one person typifies Christ most as prophet, priest and king most would say Moses. Yet Moses is recorded as saying 'Oh God, Your people are too much for me to bear. I cannot bear this load.' But this King will put the whole burden of this Kingdom on His shoulders. All that sin, guilt, shame and its power we keep trying to deny and escape through all kinds of means, He takes away and its put on His shoulders. We see it weighing on Him as He carries the cross on that shoulder 33 years later up to Calvary. The rule and reign of God's glory of that Kingdom shall rest on the Child's shoulders.

How do we know this? We know this by His name. As soon as I say a name we think of something that gets someone's attention but this is not the kind of name that gets your attention like when we say 'Hey George, Eric, Carol...' In the Bible a name means everything. If you name something it means you have authority over it. When something has a name, the name defines it – its substance and authority. It's not a magic thing where someone says 'Jesus, Jesus, Jesus' and their saved. To call upon the name of Jesus means to call upon all of who He is, all His authority and all that He has done. When I pray in the name of Jesus, I am laying everything before Him that's on my heart and I have no right to come before the throne of grace but now I have every privilege because I come not in my name but His Name.

You will either bow now in the joy of salvation by faith and repentance because you know Him or you will bow on that Day in Judgment. It is the name whereby we must be saved if we call upon the Lord. So this name is not just a catch phrase. The name means a lot. Isaiah 9:6b says [6b] *his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.*

Some would read that verse and think there are four more names He is called. No, we have already been given the name and the child's name is Immanuel. Now these four names

help fill out the name of the Child with titles and attributes. There is a contest that is coming. Is the darkness/sin going to be defeated by the Light/Savior? Can this government rest on His shoulders? He has all His enemies lined up against Him that produce this darkness. There is Satan, sin, death, hell, the grave, guilt and who can take all those enemies on?

This kind of reminds me of what I was kind of involved with growing and that was golden gloves boxing. My dad and I would watch it as he walked me through it and he would take me to the fights. He bought me my first set of weights. As we'd watch the fights some challenger would step out and he would look like a behemoth. As the fight would start they would introduce them and you would hear them say 'And in this corner...' sin, death, hell, grave, demons, Satan. 'And in this corner...' a Child for a Son has been given. In this match they may say things like 'In this corner is the master of disaster and in this corner Immanuel, the wonderful Counselor, the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.'

In the 15th or 16th century this is the way you would probably have heard a king being introduced; 'All rise, it's Henry VII, by the grace of God King of England, King of France, King of Ireland, defender of the faith, the supreme earthly head of the church of England, the supreme earthly head of the church of Ireland, Duke of Saxony, Lord of Windsor...and I'll stop there. They would just start mounting up all the titles. This is similar to Immanuel who is Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

What do we mean 'wonderful Counselor'? This word wonderful is a wonderful word and is basically reserved as a word to speak about God's wisdom or His actions. O Lord Your thoughts are too *wonderful* for me (Psalm 139). Lord, Your actions are wonderful and marvelous. I look at the wonders of Your hand in creation. It is a word used to identify the presence of deity or the acts of deity. When we talk about the acts of Jesus in the New Testament they are referred to as signs, *wonders* and miracles. It is something inexplicable. In other words, God has spoken. Wonderful are Your thoughts to me, for God has acted. Who can explain the hand of God when He acts to accomplish His purposes?

Here is a King and most get a courtroom of counselors, but not this King. This King has no retinue of counselors and sages. This King needs no counsel or advice for He is the wonderful Counselor. Paul says in Romans 11:33–34 [33] *Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways!* [34] "For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who has been his counselor?" He doesn't need advice about the truth. He is the Truth, knows all truth, speaks all truth. He doesn't need wisdom. He is Wisdom. Therefore this One is the Wonderful Counselor.

He is also the Mighty God. How else did God reveal Himself to the patriarchs? El Shaddai – God Almighty. All power, all might is with Him. Do you have the power to feed yourself, to go to work, to open your Bible, to open your mouth, to do whatever? Whatever power you have has been given to you. You don't give any power to Him for all power comes from Him. So when you look in that manger there is not just the Baby meek and mild, there is the Warrior Poet, the King with truth and might to defeat all of His enemies and save all of His people from all of their sins for all of eternity. Do you see how these titles here build on each other?

So therefore He becomes our Everlasting Father. Some might think that since Isaiah used the term Father here that he was a little confused about the Trinity but I could work my way out of that by reminding you that Jesus said that 'when you have seen Me you have seen the Father and when you know Me you know the Father' (John 14:7, 9). This is not getting mixed up on the doctrine of the Trinity. He is now as King your Everlasting Father. In fact for all kings one

of their titles is father of the realm. What does a father do? A father has progeny. A father protects and provides. This is not the First Person of the Trinity in confusion for this is the Second Person of the Trinity as King with the role and responsibility of a king to be the Father for His realm and His people. He produces His people, provides for them and protects them.

This is why Jesus comes back to the Father and says “I and the children You have given Me and I lose not one” (John 6:39, Hebrews 2:13). He brings forth from death the children, born again, into the Kingdom of God. It is by His work on the cross, His gift of the Holy Spirit that those who are dead are brought to life and transferred from the kingdom of darkness into the Kingdom of Light. As He populates this Kingdom He gives His people a promise that He will provide for them and all things work together for good. He isn’t telling us that all things are good but they work together for good. And He will always be there with us to protect us.

When you start to reach for illustrations about God you always realize He is too much. Since I’m using the term father I would like to give an illustration using my dad. I remember one year we were taking a holiday trip from Charlotte, North Carolina to Augusta, Georgia and we always drove at night so us kids would mainly be sleeping for the whole trip. Earlier that year we had bought a car and we always would buy used cars. Usually since they have been used there is usually something wrong with it hence the reason why people will sell them. In this car the fuel gauge didn’t work right and even though it registered full we ended up running out of gas about halfway through our drive at 11:30 at night. No one was stopping as my dad was standing out by the road, the few cars that were out at night so he thought if I get my son to stand out here with me then someone might stop for they would feel less likely that my dad would try something. So he got me out of the car and locked my mom and three sisters in the car.

I remember standing out there next to him and hearing the crickets, seeing the stars and thinking that most people out that late at night may not be out for good reasons and wondering what may happen to us. My dad said to me, “Come here son, it’s going to be alright” and he put his coat around me and his arm around me and that was enough for me to feel safe. I had no other concerns. Here is your Provider and Protector. Here is the One who has bought you and brought you. He is the One who says ‘I lose not one. They are in My hand and no one can pluck them out of My hand.’

I remember going to a meeting in 2002 at a place called Richard’s which is no longer in business now but I loved going there because in their lineup of vegetables they had banana pudding. That particular day was not a happy day for me because someone from the staff had come to the restaurant during the meeting to tell me that my father had just died of a heart attack. I remember going home and thinking I couldn’t get to my dad anymore but you have a Father, Jesus who says He will never leave you nor forsake you. He is King Jesus who provides, protects and produced you. He will be with you to the end always. He is the Everlasting Father.

The fourth title He is given here in Isaiah 9 is Prince of Peace. Immediately I think of John 16:33 in which Jesus says [33] *I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.* Today, from the Prince of Peace, if He has you and you have Him, you can leave this and be at peace with God. Sin’s shame, guilt and power can be gone in your life. Romans 5:1 says [1] *Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.*

More than that you can not only have that legal peace with God but you can have a subjective peace of God. Philippians 4:6–7 says [6] *do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to*

God. [7] *And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.* This is telling us that Jesus will stand century over your heart in this world and guard it during tribulation. He is with you in the fire, the water and everywhere. You not only have peace with God but you have the peace of God that is there at work in your life and your heart.

So what does He say about His Kingdom? We see this in Isaiah 9:7 which says [7] *Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.*

Here we see the line of David being reestablished through Jesus but not through the nation but through all the nations for His Kingdom comes through all the nations' not just one. This King is reigning through all the nations and His Kingdom is increasing, enlarging, and its expanding into all of eternity. This Kingdom of life, salvation, grace and God's glory is unstoppable and relentless and will go till the praise of God covers the earth as the waters cover the sea. The question is, are you in this Kingdom? That is what is on my heart for you. In Scripture we see it move from an Upper Room, to a temple mount, to Jerusalem, then to Judea and Samaria and then to the utter most part of the world. These people who are turning the world upside have moved here also (Acts 17:6).

According to Richard Pratt, we're not far from having more Christians in China than there are citizens in the United States. This Kingdom is moving in Asia, South America and all over for this Kingdom is enlarging and it is forever! It is a Kingdom of justice because the King has removed all the penalty of your sin and paid for it on the cross when He bore the cross on His shoulders and bore our sins as He took the wrath of God for them. Now He tells us in I John 1:9, [9] *If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.* You are forgiven because He says to the Father 'I paid for it.'

You are not only forgiven because of His shed blood but you are accepted because His righteousness has clothed you to take you to glory. You are accepted in the beloved. How does this happen? *The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.* If you are in this Kingdom then you get to be ambassadors of this Kingdom. We get to proclaim this Kingdom and give our gifts and resources for the work of this Kingdom but this King is in no need of all of us but He has opened the door for us to come in. He has allowed us to participate as He gifts us and empowers us to be a part of it.

What is it that secures this Kingdom for now and forever and ever? It is the zeal of the Lord of hosts and zeal is a word that is speaking of passion. This word is used in two directions when it is used in the Bible. One is a zeal of a warrior to accomplish his objective or two it is the zeal of a lover to sacrifice everything for the object of His affections. I believe both are true of Jesus. He has the zeal of a Warrior for He has come to save His people from their sins. He goes to the darkness of that cross with God's wrath being poured out upon Him and there the zeal of the Lord of hosts drinks to the bottom the cup of God's wrath till every drop has been drunk. He then cries out in the midst of it 'My God, My God why has Thou forsaken Me' and then it is finished! He has won the victory for the salvation of His people and has exhausted the wrath of God against all the sins of His people. There is no more for He took it for us and the zeal accomplished the mission of the Father. Here are My people, go Son and save them!

This is happening while all of the angels are in the heavens ready to break loose for just think what they want to do to sinful men and women who have put their hands on the Son of God. But Jesus keeps them there. His zeal kept Him on the cross until every enemy of His

Father and every enemy of our soul has been utterly defeated. This zeal is His white, hot passion to fulfill His mission to save His people from their sins – to defeat the evil one, bind the strong man and plunder his house. Then there is white, hot passion He has as the Lover of your soul. Romans 8:38–39 says [38] *For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, [39] nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

He deeply, zealously loves you. He doesn't need you but you need Him. You didn't want Him but He wanted you. He has loved you to the end therefore you are loved with no end. He is the wonderful Counselor. Will you not this day follow Him and His Word by His Spirit? What do you do when you face a problem? I like what Liam Goligher says; in this day and age when we have a problem usually the first thing we do is Google for the answer or call up someone. The first thing you should do is go to your Counselor and the truth will set you free (John 8:32). He has revealed it in His Word. He has given you His Spirit. He is your wonderful Counselor. When something insurmountable comes your way, do you not go to your Mighty God? Nothing is impossible for Him (Matthew 19:26, Luke 1:37).

He is your wonderful Counselor so follow Him. He is your Mighty God so trust Him. He is your everlasting Father so honor Him. He is the Prince of Peace, so believe Him. He is worthy of your trust. When you peer into that manger this Christmas season see the child, the Son that has been given for you. Look at Him, He is your one and only Savior! Pulsating in that manger is the zeal of the Lord to save you for the glory of the Father. It is that zeal that sent Him to the cross that the justice of God would be satisfied and the grace of God in you will be magnified. It's all on His shoulders, not ours. He will lift us up, carry us and He is able.

Today I don't know where you are putting your trust but whatever it is, if it's not Jesus, will not only not deliver you but it will devour you – whether its drugs, power, prestige, money, possessions, entertainment or whatever will end in death. I will tell you that there is a Savior who will, can, and does save His people in a Kingdom that is everlasting. Greece, Rome, Medo-Persia, Assyria, and Babylon are all gone and if Jesus carries America will be gone but His Kingdom is forever. As the hymn says;

*Kings and kingdoms will all pass away,
But there is something about that Name.* Let's pray.

Prayer:

Let the Holy Spirit speak to your heart in these moments. If today you want to come to this King who has come for you and you would like to pray with someone please call us here at Briarwood at (205) 776-5200 and we'll pray with you confidentially, privately and personally. Today, my friend, if this King is yours there will be something happening that is different in your life on the Lord's Days. As Thomas Boston said 'On the Lord's Day evenings our pillows will be full of tears because the Lord's Day has come to an end yet our heart filled with excitement at the next day when we can serve Him.' Worship will be totally different and all the elements of worship – preaching, prayer, singing, confession, giving – will be totally different when this Jesus is yours. Immanuel – God with us. Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace for it's in that Name I pray Jesus, Amen.

Power Point

LIFE TAKEAWAYS FROM ISAIAH

The King

The King's Name

The King's Kingdom