

V. Advent in Biblical Perspective
The Messiah King
“The Prince of Peace”
Isaiah 9:1-7
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December 26, 2021 • Sunday Morning Sermon

This is our concluding study in our Advent series in Isaiah 9. This is our fifth study on the focus on the throne names of Jesus who has been born to save us from our sins. As you start the new year, I would commend to you having family and personal devotionals. My favorite is William Jay’s Morning Exercises. TableTalk is another one I use from Ligonier Ministries. Another recommendation is the Bible in its chronology which is a three-year study Bible and a place to make notes. I pray that God would grant us His power and His presence to serve Him as a church on mission, on message and in ministry with a great commitment to the Great Commission and a lifestyle and culture of the Great Commandment where we love the Lord with all our heart, soul and mind and our neighbor as ourselves, even as our Savior has loved us.

Isaiah 9:1-7 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, the Word of our God abides forever and by His grace and mercy may His Word be preached for you.

One of the things I enjoy when I take people on a discipleship tour of Israel, called Learning the Bible in the Land of the Bible, is when we are in the area of the Galilee and we visit a city which was eventually called the city of Dan. The tribe of Dan had moved up north even though they weren’t supposed to but they did and took over that city. They named that city after themselves but before any of that had happened that city had been visited by Abraham who was then called Abram. Abram who was dwelling in the Promised Land had received word that there had been an uprising of a number of kings against a number of other kings and part of it ended up with his nephew Lot having been captured as Lot was taken into slavery and exile. Abram pulled together his 318 trained men due to the fact he had his own private army at that time, tracked them down and overcame them at the city of Dan.

When I take people on a tour of the city of Dan I always go backwards. I start at the place of the pagan altars as I show them what happened there, then we work our way around and the last thing we look at are gates. The amazing thing as you look at those gates of mud bricks at

the city of Dan are the same gates as what Abram rode through to rescue Lot. The feeling I get when I see that is I just about melt but historians go crazy when they see that because you know you are looking at something that happened over 4,000 years ago.

As I go through that moment and sense that then I immediately come to a Genesis 14 moment because after Abram is finished he will return to a place called the valley of Shaveh. It was also known as the Kings Valley for it was the place where kings met to be anointed and installed. It's also known in the Bible as the Kidron Valley and the Valley of Jehoshaphat. It is there that the king of Sodom and the king of Gomorrah made arrangements for Abram to meet a king. The name of that king was Melchizedek. Abram meets him and bows to worship him. Abram also brings a tithe to him and they share of covenant meal of bread and wine. Then Abram returns, but that event's significance is given for us in the book of Hebrews, two times. We are informed of who this Melchizedek is for he is a king without a father or mother. This Melchizedek is an everlasting king. The book of Hebrews makes clear to us that this was no ordinary king.

In the Old Testament there is moment after moment where we have God through His Son making a preincarnation appearance and theologically we call those theophanies. Many times they are called Christophanies because it is the Second Person of the Trinity – the Christ – who is making that preincarnate appearance. This appearance is generally noted with this phrase – the angel of the Lord or in the book of Joshua, the Captain of the Host. These appearances are in the Old Testament for a very specific purpose. The book of Hebrews gives us every indication that that is exactly what Abram experienced which would then make even more clear why he had the covenant meal with Melchizedek the king, why he tithed to him, and why he bowed and worshiped him. He worshiped him because this was no ordinary king for this was a Christophany – a preincarnate appearance of Christ. Why is that there?

We have been looking at Isaiah and I believe Isaiah has given us a foundational prophecy of the Advent of Christ – the Incarnation of Christ and the Messianic King and His Kingdom. This prophecy came 700 plus years before Jesus was born in Bethlehem but now hundreds and hundreds of years before Isaiah wrote the prophecy that defines the Name Jesus which was given to Joshua meaning Yahweh saves – for He shall save His people from their sins – that prophecy had already been prophesied to Abraham at the Valley of the Kings. The book of Hebrews tells us the name Melchizedek means King of righteousness and here is the One who has the righteousness to save those in His Kingdom. King of Salem is Shalom – The Prince of Peace. This is the One who when He appears brings peace to the world.

You can forget world peace but you can preach of a Savior and King who brings peace to the earth, on the earth. Even as the angels declared it to the shepherds hundreds of years after Isaiah – Glory to God in the highest and peace on earth with those with whom He is pleased. This is a glorious truth of a King who comes to bring peace to His people in His nation – a royal nation. He is the King of Shalom, He is the King of Peace. I am constantly amazed, invigorated, astonished and drawn to the depth, breadth, integrity and consistency of God's Word as you see these things run from Genesis 14 to Isaiah 9 to Luke to and then to the coming of the Prince of Peace when peace will reign in a new heavens and a new earth.

Isaiah is the text we have been in and for 8 chapters Isaiah has displayed two things in this glorious prophetic book. One is the holiness of God has been displayed especially in Isaiah 6 and two the sinfulness of sin has been displayed along with its consequences – darkness, death, despair, gloom, anguish. Then we arrive at Isaiah 9 where it starts with this wonderful word that I love every time it appears in the Bible – but – all of sins gloom, death, darkness and dominion

will be defeated for a King is coming to save His people from their sins. It even starts off with the very picture that they would understand for all the oppression of sin that had come down in waves upon Israel because of their sinfulness through Naphtali and Zebulun for it is there that the Assyrians, Babylonians, Medo-Persians, the Greeks and then the Romans would sweep in. But where that door opened to sin's dominion, darkness and oppression, now in that same place joy unspeakable will break out in Galilee of the Gentiles. There is no doubt of where He is pointing.

Jesus of Nazareth who taught in the region of the Galilee, now sin's gloom and despair are being displaced by His glorious victory and grace. Sin's darkness is being dismissed because of the light of Christ. Sin's death will be overcome because of the victory of this Christ. Perhaps sin's greatest weight is its dominion – men and women born impotent, dead in their sins. He will bring new life and you can be born again. He will break the rod of the dominion of sin and will destroy the yoke of the dominion of sin. Here is coming a Messiah King with a Kingdom and those whom He brings from all the nations into this Kingdom, He will deliver them from their sins and all of its consequences. After Christ defeats all of it, the text tells us He will wrap up all the enemies of God's people and they will become fuel for the fire of hell, even as He welcomes His people into a new heavens and a new earth.

What a King! What a Kingdom! Who is this King? Isaiah goes on to tell us that 'unto us...' There is a number of things that could be said there. This King will have an adopted father named Joseph and an appointed mother, the virgin Mary. This King as it says in the text is of the line of David. In other words, there is a King coming through Israel, more specific through the tribe of Judah who has given the scepter of the King, more focus through the family of Jesse, more focus through the line of David as both Mary and Joseph trace their lineage through David. But the text doesn't say 'unto Judah' or 'unto Israel' or 'unto Jesse' or 'unto Joseph and Mary.' It says 'unto us a child is born' – His full humanity.

'Unto us a son is given' – this is not just any son for John 3:16 says [16] *For God so loved the world, that He gave His **only Son**, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.* His full deity. Who is this Messianic King? It is none other than the Incarnate Christ. Please grasp this. It is not a temporary appearance of Christ in a Christophany. It is not an epiphany of Christ only but here is the eternal Incarnation – Jesus, God, dwells as Spirit. Now having made preincarnate appearances temporarily, transitional for teaching purposes, now comes as a Man for us, as one of us and forever like us and we will forever be made like Him. The Incarnation does not end in His ascension for He has that glorified body for eternity and we shall behold Him.

God is accomplishing this for this Baby, born of the virgin, is the Messianic Warrior King. Christ has come – fully God, fully Man – to His people from their sins. Is He able, does He know how? Certainly, He does. Isaiah then defines the name, singular, Immanuel – God with us – and now defines this Prophet, Priest and King. We have seen an Old Testament appearance of Him in Melchizedek – Prophet, Priest of the Most High God, and King of righteousness, King of Peace – but now He comes Incarnate. Who is this One in that manger? This is the King of Kings. This is Wonderful Counselor, the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.

This is a King not like other kings who have to go get a counselor. This King is His own counselor. This King is wisdom personified. Who has advised Him? Who has taught Him? He needs no counselor. Our thoughts are not His thoughts, for He is beyond us. For from Him, to Him and through Him are all things. This King doesn't secure a counselor and He as Counselor is incomparable. He is the Counselor full of wonder because there is none like Him. So, He

knows what the problem is – our sin. He knows what the consequences of those problems are – darkness, death, dominion, destruction, chaos. He knows what it produces and He knows that there is only one way to defeat it which is for this King to humble Himself. He doesn't dismiss His power for He knows when to use it and how to use it. Now, with power He humbles Himself.

Philippians 2:5-11 says [5] *Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus,* [6] *who, though **He was in the form of God**, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped,* [7] *but emptied Himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men.* [8] *And being found in human form, **He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.*** [9] *Therefore God has highly exalted Him and bestowed on Him the name that is above every name,* [10] *so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,* [11] *and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*

This Wonderful Counselor knows the Incarnation is there to get to the crucifixion and the atoning death. He knows with that victory will come a resurrection. He knows with that resurrection will come an ascension. He knows with that ascension will one day bring a consummation when He returns. It's one thing to be a strategist and have all the wisdom but can He pull it off? Oh yes!

He is the Mighty God. El Shaddai has come. It's interesting to note that in His wisdom as Counselor He humbles Himself and now with His power demonstrated in His humiliation, He will accomplish our redemption and then He will be exalted. He not only knows how to save – Wonderful Counselor – but He is mighty to save. What will He do? The world is absolutely littered with the histories of kings who have won victories and every one of them, usually, eventually, because of the corruption of that power leads itself to tyranny, to a renewed and different oppression, and to exploitation, but not this King.

He has a third name, a throne name, not a parental name, yet it's a parental picture to give us a throne name, for He is the Everlasting Father. This King will do what fathers are called to do – He will provide, protect and guide. This King will provide for His people a new heart – they will be born again. This King will provide for His people a new record for He'll wipe the old record with His shed blood away and this King of righteousness will give them His righteousness so that every time God His Father looks upon them He sees the perfect righteousness of the Everlasting Father King, therefore we are accepted in Him, the beloved. He will also provide a new life. II Corinthians 5:17 says [17] *Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.* He will also give them a new family – a family who were not a people but have become the people of God. A family that is united in Him to the praise of the Father in the power of the Spirit bound in love and kept in the bond of peace. This King will also provide them with a new home. It is a new heavens and a new earth that He has gone away to prepare, even while today in this broken world He is preparing us for it.

Finally, and completely, what do we know about this King? He is the Prince of Peace. This King says in John 14:27, [27] *Peace I leave with you; **My peace I give to you.** Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.* This King has for us a royal inheritance and that is peace. The world's peace and world peace are a figment of our imagination. Peace on earth comes from the One who came from heaven to the earth. Just as He did not come with a coalition or accommodation or negotiation, He came as the Warrior King to humble Himself to win the victory and secure for us as the Everlasting Father,

everlasting peace. If you and I desire to see peace in the earth, it doesn't come from the earth. It comes from Him. Let's get about the Great Commission.

What world peace is going to come from world leaders? Are the leaders of this world going to bring this peace? They are incapable of even bringing it to their families. Look what happens to their marriages. They like all around us, including us are incapable of this peace that Christ alone brings. Christ brings a peace that puts us at peace with God legally, puts us with peace with God relationally and puts us with peace with God actually in life. Romans 5:1 says *[1] Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.* If you are in Christ and Christ is in you, you now have peace with God. More than that, in a sin broken, sin tossed and us in bodies that are moving from dust to dust, with all that is around us, we are being renewed internally everyday and we have within us the peace of God.

The Bible tells us in Philippians 4:4-7 says *[4] Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. [5] Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; [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.*

Think of your heart as a door and a sentry at the front of the door when you think of the peace of God guarding your heart. When you are in Christ you not only have peace with God, but you have Christ, the Prince of Peace standing guard over your heart and He is repelling all else. You also have the peace of God because He brought you to Himself with the Gospel of peace. Our Prince of Peace, Christ, has made us right with God, God is right within us and therefore we have peace with God and the peace of God now and forevermore.

Here is the takeaway from this glorious text. Peace on earth is yours when Christ the Prince of Peace is yours and Christ the Prince of Peace is yours when you are His and He is yours alone. You might be thinking then how do I think of my wife where we belong to each other. Jesus isn't added to that. Here is where you need to come to. There is no negotiation. We repent of our sins for those were our weapons of cosmic treason against God. We confess them and we turn from them, not to do better, but we turn from them to come to Him because He did perfect. He paid for all of those sins and in their place He gives us His righteousness. So, we now come and surrender to Him – I am Yours and You are mine – and by Your grace, everyday through Your Word and Your Spirit help me put aside anything or anyone that I would put in front of You, above You or beside You.

When you get there then you can start enjoying your family, your marriage and your life. If you're just adding Christ into those things, it never works. Your spouse is not able to be your messiah. Your children are not able to be your messiah. Your job can't make your life and bring love, joy and peace forever. You can have momentary moments with all of that but if you want those to be meaningful, turn not only from your sins but from anything that you would put above Him, beside Him or before Him and you are saved in Christ alone, by grace alone, through faith alone.

I am not being a post Christmas day ogre on this for I really want you to enjoy your marriage, but you can't have your marriage unless Christ has you completely, then peace can be brought to your marriage, your family and all the other relationships you have or encounter. Then we can actually become peacemakers in the world because we have the Prince of Peace from the heavens who came to bring peace on earth. Now, we can be salt and light. Now, you

have a peace that passes all understanding, not as the world gives, but the peace that Christ gives to you.

I love the glorious Christmas truth that on that Christmas Day the Incarnation (Jesus) was headed for the crucifixion so that you and I could have peace with God and the peace of God. I love it when Christ is born and the prophecy is fulfilled in Bethlehem through Joseph, through Mary. The angels bring the glorious announcement to the shepherds as we see in Luke 2:9-14 which says [9] *And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. [10] And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. [11] For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. [12] And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger."* [13] *And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly **host** praising God and saying, [14] "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom He is pleased!"*

Now everybody gets this peace, it's only those with whom He is pleased. Who are those with whom He is pleased? Let me be a theologian for a minute, from heaven it is the elect of God. From the earth, they manifest themselves by coming to Christ as Lord and Savior. God is pleased with all who are in His Son, who took His wrath in our place upon Himself and when you come to Him now you have peace for He provides Himself – the Prince of Peace.

I don't want you to miss the word 'host' in the Luke 2 passage. Host is an Old Testament term for army. The Warrior King was in Bethlehem for the Host of heaven had come. We also see Him show up outside of Jericho with His encounter with Joshua in Joshua 5:13-15 which says [13] *When Joshua was by Jericho, he lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, a man was standing before him with his drawn sword in his hand. And Joshua went to him and said to him, "Are you for us, or for our adversaries?" [14] And he said, "No; but I am the Commander of the army of the LORD. Now I have come."* And Joshua fell on his face to the earth and worshiped and said to him, "What does my lord say to his servant?" [15] *And the commander of the LORD's army said to Joshua, "Take off your sandals from your feet, for the place where you are standing is holy."* And Joshua did so.

Joshua was informed he had asked the wrong question because Christ basically says to him that it's not whether He is for him or against him, but it's 'are you with Me?' Christ is the Captain of the Lord of Host and He has come to humble Himself with His power to win the victory that we can have peace with God.

Isaiah says in Isaiah 9:6, [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.*** The eternal Son is given, everlasting begotten and then we get to the shepherds and it shifts a little where the angels say not 'unto us' but 'unto you' a Savior has been born. I want to take it a step further. Have you yet confessed your sins and come to Christ because you know unto me (Harry Reeder) a Savior has been given and I come to Him not to add to my life – He is my life. He is the Prince of Peace and in Him I am right with God and God is right within me. Let's pray.

Prayer:

Father, thank You for the time we could be together in Your Word. If you are reading this and never made that decision to come to Christ, I invite you to call us here at Briarwood at (205) 776-5200 to talk and pray with someone about this decision. I love the carol *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing* that says He was 'Born to raise the sons of earth; Born to give them second birth.' I

invite you to Him. Jesus, we give You praise – Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace – and pray that You would do Your work in our lives. We want You to come quickly Jesus, but when You come find us faithful, serving You with love, joy and peace because You are at work in us and You are our life. As this year stretches before us and You have not yet come, help us walk catechized by Your Word, not the pendant of media, filled with Your presence, not the fear and anxieties of this world. Jesus, send us Your Spirit that with power we might bear witness of Christ, our Wonderful Counselor, our Mighty God, our Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace, in Jesus' Name, Amen.