

Isa 9:6 (Pt 1) Wonderful, Counsellor

Isa 9:1-7 NIV Nevertheless, there will be no more gloom for those who were in distress. **In the past** he humbled the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, **but in the future** he will honor Galilee of the nations, by the Way of the Sea, beyond the Jordan-- 2 The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned. 3 You have enlarged the nation and increased their joy; they rejoice before you as people rejoice at the harvest, as warriors rejoice when dividing the plunder. 4 For as in the day of Midian's defeat, you have shattered the yoke that burdens them, the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor. 5 Every warrior's boot used in battle and every garment rolled in blood will be destined for burning, will be fuel for the fire. 6 ***For to us a child is born, to us a son is given***, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. 7 Of the greatness [***KJV Increase***] of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the LORD Almighty will accomplish this.

In the Past --- BUT in the Future

- This is a prophecy of HOPE
- He is drawing a contrast - the gloom of the past - BUT A CHILD WILL BE BORN

What was the current state in Judah at the time this was written...

Who was he prophesying to?... Who are those in gloom and distress?

Ahaz was the king of Judah [2 Chron 28; 2 Kings 16 - his story]

- He worshipped false gods
- He offered human sacrifices killing his own son by offering him in the fires of Molech
- Aram and Israel came to fight against him
 - 120,000 were killed in one day
- Ahaz called on the king of Assyria to help him
- Ahaz gave silver and gold from the temple of God to pay for the help
- King of Assyria agreed and attacked and defeated Damascus
- King of Assyria called Ahaz to Damascus - he would be subject to him going forward
- While Ahaz was there he saw an altar [used to sacrifice to other gods]
- He sent back plans to have a replica of this altar built
- When he returned to his home he sacrificed to these gods of Damascus
- He gathered together the furnishings from the temple of God and cut them in pieces.
- He shut the doors of the LORD's temple
- He set up altars at every street corner in Jerusalem

There will be no more gloom for those who were in distress

God would honor Galilee of the Gentiles [nations]...What He would bring about?

LIGHT

(2) The people walking in darkness have seen a great light;

- Joh 12:46 NIV I have come into the world as a light, so that no one who believes in me should stay in darkness.
- Col 1:13 NIV For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves,

JOY - as in the time of harvest - or when an army divides the plunder

(3) You have enlarged the nation and increased their joy

- Luk 2:10-14 NIV But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause **great joy for all the people.**
- Act 8:5-8 Philip in Samaria many believed, demons were cast out, paralyzed and lame were healed (8) So there was **great joy in that city.**
- Act 16:31-34 NIV The Philippian Jailer - **he was filled with joy** because he had come to believe in God—he and his whole household.

FREEDOM - Like the Midianites - [135,000 midianites to 300 with Gideon - But He Had the Lord]

(4) you have shattered the yoke that burdens them, the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor

- Psa 38:3-5 NIV Because of your wrath there is no health in my body; there is no soundness in my bones because of my sin. (4) My guilt has overwhelmed me like a burden too heavy to bear. (5) My wounds fester and are loathsome because of my sinful folly.
- Joh 8:34-36 NIV Jesus replied, "Very truly I tell you, everyone who sins is a slave to sin. (35) Now a slave has no permanent place in the family, but a son belongs to it forever. (36) So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.

UNTO US - A Child is BORN - UNTO US a Son is GIVEN

From the perspective of earth - he was BORN, from the perspective of heaven he was GIVEN

He is born and given - He is 100% Man and 100% God

Mat 1:23 KJV Behold, a virgin shall be with **child**, and shall bring forth a **son**, and they shall call his name **Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.**

And His Name Shall Be Called ---

Names In Bible Usage - signifies reputation and character - God is known by many names

Wonderful

Wonderful - to **separate**, to **distinguish**, or to make great. It is applied usually to anything that is great or wonderful, as a miracle; that which is separated from the ordinary course of events, and which is suited to excite amazement, wonder, and admiration

Pharaoh thrown into the Red Sea

- Exo 15:11 ESV "Who is like you, O LORD, among the gods? Who is like you, majestic in holiness, awesome in glorious deeds, ***doing wonders?***

The word of God

- Psa 119:129 ESV Your testimonies are ***wonderful***; therefore my soul keeps them.

Abraham and Sarah had a son in their old age

- Gen 18:14 ESV Is anything ***too hard*** for the LORD? At the appointed time I will return to you, about this time next year, and Sarah shall have a son."

Creation

- Psa 139:14 ESV I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. **Wonderful** are your works; my soul knows it very well.
- Jer 32:17 ESV 'Ah, Lord GOD! It is you who have made the heavens and the earth by your great power and by your outstretched arm! **Nothing is too hard for you.**

Counsellor

No One is More Qualified

- Col 2:3 NIV in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

No One Knows Us More Intimately

- Psa 139:1-3 NIV You have searched me, LORD, and you know me. 2 You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar. 3 You discern my going out and my lying down; you are familiar with all my ways.

Wonderful Counselor

- Isa 28:29 ESV This also comes from the LORD of hosts; he is ***wonderful in counsel*** and excellent in wisdom.
- Psa 32:8-9 NIV I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with my loving eye on you. 9 Do not be like the horse or the mule, which have no understanding but must be controlled by bit and bridle or they will not come to you.

Christmas - is a celebration of the birth of Christ - **Immanuel - GOD WITH US**

- And when He comes He brings light to darkness - joy to sorrow & misery and freedom to captives

Christmas offers such hope -

- It is about a king coming who is
- amazing,
- powerful,
- full of Zeal,
- Eternal,
- Mighty -
- with plans to extend his kingdom in both time and space...(of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end.
 - Increase - comes from the same word ... be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth

The prophecy is pointing to a day when someone will sit upon the throne of David for ever. The zeal of the Lord will do this.

- We are living in that day now - we are recipients of the Good News of Jesus Christ