

# UNTO US | (Isaiah 9:2,6-7) | Special Message | Pastor Mark Bofill | Dec 24, 2022

I. A Child is Born | II. A Son is Given.

**INTRO: Merry Christmas Church! Well, we're adjusting to Christmas in Florida** (On Thursday, the artic chill in CO. brought a - 8 degrees vs. 73 degrees and slight showers in Venice! – **We are Adjusting quite well!**)

**However, some things are not so easy to adjust to!** The times in which we live have increasingly become dark! – As soon as we view today's headlines the news is filled with stories of mass murder, sexual immorality, human trafficking, and abortion rights. Furthermore, the media majority seems to demand that we give approval to every sinful lifestyle. (**Let's face it folks, we are currently living in dark times!**)

- **What do we say to all this?** Well... I'll repeat one of the most repeated phrases in the Bible:

## **FEAR NOT!**

- **How can you be so calm Pastor?** Because I know what the Bible says about darkness! I know HIM WHO understands darkness completely: (Ps 139b NLT) says, *To you the night shines as bright as day. **Darkness and light are the same to you.** So, I can rest assured because **I know that God is in control** (he has always been in control). **God did not abolish darkness at creation. God added Light!***
- But for many, darkness symbolizes all that is negative, harmful, evil and fearful.

In the OT book of Isaiah, the prophet spoke into the **deep spiritual darkness** that covered the people in Zebulun, Naftali and the NE Galilee region: **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. (Isa 9:2).**

– **This passage reappears in (Matt 4:16),** to announce that those who have come to know the God of Israel through His Son Jesus Christ **are the ones who have been delivered from spiritual darkness and now walk in the light of God's life. This includes us!** – So, this is why I FEAR NOT! – **This is why I can have a very Merry Christmas!** This is why I have entitled this Special Christmas Message: **UNTO US**

**(tt. Isaiah 9:6-7), 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.** Wow...so much here but we are going to focus on two simple parts...

**I. A CHILD IS BORN (9:6a)** – This is the part which most of us focus on at Christmas time. Nativity Scenes and Stories of the Journey that Joseph and Mary endured through on that night. **This is the Human side of the story** which we all need to know of, but I want to highlight a just a few things.

- A. **Jesus was No Ordinary Child** – In (Isa 7:14) it was prophesied, *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 was fulfilled in (Matt 1:18-24). **This was a promise and a prophecy of the Lord...UNTO US!**
- Jesus the Christ was **conceived by the Holy Spirit** – He was NOT born in sin like you and me.
- **Jesus had to become LIKE US to minister to us!** **"A Child is Born!"** i.e., **the Incarnation...** *And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth. (John 1:14)* – In (1 Tim 3:16) Paul said, *"great is the mystery of godliness, God was manifest in the flesh!"*

- The name: **Immanuel**, literally means **God with Us!** – In context, **God** told King Ahaz not to be fearful in his circumstances and gave him this sign. Likewise, **God Promises to be with us!** To those who feel helpless, unsettled, worried, fearful (**Born UNTO US to BE with us!**)

**B. Jesus Came to Be a Light Amidst Darkness** – He is **the Light** (John 1:45 RSV), [that] *shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it*. Once again, (Isa 9:2) says that **Jesus is “a great light!”** The coming of the messiah is synonymous with the **coming of light to remove the darkness of captivity** (Isa 42:16; 49:6; 60:1,19,20) – *I will bring the blind by a way they did not know; I will lead them in paths they have not known. I will make darkness light before them, and crooked places straight... – (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.”* (**Born UNTO US to Light the Way!**)

**C. Jesus Came to Bring Peace (Isa 9:6)** In Isaiah’s prophecy about the coming Messiah, he says: He is the **Prince of Peace**. Not a physical safety or political harmony that many prefer, but an inner peace is offered (John 14:27) *“Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.”* – The peace offered is **“the spiritual harmony”** brought about by an individual’s restoration with God. (**UNTO US for Peace!**)

- In our sinful state, we are enemies with God (**Rom 5:10**). **“But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us”** (**Rom 5:8**). Because of Christ’s sacrifice, we are restored to a relationship of peace with God (**Rom 5:1**). This is the **deep, abiding peace** between our hearts and our Creator that cannot be taken away (**John 10:27–28**) and the ultimate fulfillment of Christ’s work as **“Prince of Peace.”**

- **Jesus was UNLIKE any other Child ever Born!** – A Child destined for greatness... *“And the gov’t shall be upon His...”* A Child is destined for suffering... *“Despised, rejected, man of sorrows, acquainted with grief,”* and *“He was wounded for our transgressions...”* (**Isa 53:3,5**)

**CLOSING THOUGHT:** Instead of riding in on a chariot of clouds or sending down lightning, **God came as an infant to live among us, to be one of us.** **UNTO US** the Lord of the Universe stepped down to become intimately familiar with our pain and struggles! (*Merry Christmas to that!*)

**II. A SON IS GIVEN (9:6b)** – This is the Divine side of the story. *For God so loved the world, He gave.... a Son!* – It is **God who gave His Gift** to demonstrate His love for a lost and sinning world. *The Gift wasn’t just an adorable baby Jesus,* but an **obedient Son** who was willing to accomplish the mission which He was given. (**I John 4:9**), *In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him.*

**A. To Govern the Nations (9:6c)** *“And the government will be upon his shoulders.”* The suffering servant will become the leader. The *baby of the Christmas story* would one day govern this dark world, bringing in everlasting righteousness! After His resurrection, (**Matt 28:18**) records, *“Then Jesus came to them and said, ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.’”*

**B. Bearing a Unique Name with 5 characteristics (9:6d):** *He will be called:*

1. **“Wonderful” a wonder worker!** *“Able to do above and beyond what we ask or think!”* (Eph 3:20)

2. **“Counselor”** – an advisor! In (2 Kings 16) king Ahaziah inquired of Baal-Zebub, the pagan Canaanite god, aka **“Lord of the flies,”** (i.e., deadly counsel). Q: *“Is it because there is no God in Israel that you are going to inquire of **Baal-Zebub the god of Ekron?**”* – God knows who we seek counsel from, (Psalm 51:6) *Behold, You desire truth in the inward parts, And in the hidden part You will make me to know wisdom.*
3. **“Mighty God”** (Isaiah 46:11b) *“Indeed I have spoken it; I will also bring it to pass. I have purposed it; I will also do it.”* We serve a God who not only promises but performs! (2 Cor 1:20) *For all the promises of God in Him are Yes, and in Him Amen, to the glory of God through us.*
4. **“Everlasting Father”** – This Child will be **“One” with “Father God!”** Through faith in Him alone, we can experience eternal love and acceptance, of our “heavenly Father!” For those who experienced the loss of a loved one, or divorce, or who wrestle with loneliness; **Christmas reminds us, Jesus was born** to avail to us the **“Everlasting Comfort of God!”** – (2 Cor 1:3) *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort.* – (Psalm 27:10) *“When my father and mother forsake me the Lord will take care of me.”*
5. Lastly, this **“Child”** will be called: **“Prince of Peace”** – literally: ruler, governor, **keeper of our “Peace!”** In His **“peace”** we have **“victory”** over the enemy of our soul! *“And the God of peace will crush Satan under your feet shortly.”* (Rom 16:20)

- Two of these titles: **Wonderful Counselor** and **Prince of Peace**, could apply to a mortal human. And in a time when Judah desperately needed wisdom and peace, these would have been traits they greatly desired in a leader.
- But the other two: **Mighty God** and **Everlasting Father**, are **names which clearly apply to God.** But the Israelites weren't expecting God to be born and live among them. – So they would have seen this prophecy differently.

A Son is Given...

**C. To be the Savior! Our fallen world has always needed a Savior! (1 John 5:19)** reminds us that, **We know that we are of God, and the whole world lies under the sway of the wicked one.**

- This present world lusts after **“a fountain of youth.”** *With certain diets and exercise programs, with tummy tucks and lipo-suction, with facelifts and Botox, etc., everybody wants to live forever, but all on their own terms!*
- **In effort to save ourselves... We have become a nation of laws, yet we are lawless! – We depend on modern medicine to heal us, rather than the God who made us! – We have filled our homes with wonderful devices, yet our homes are spiritually bankrupt! **Church family... mankind needs a Savior and that is why the Son was Given!****

**CLOSING THOUGHT:** Jesus is God **‘with’** us and God **‘for’** us. Jesus Is God’s Gift to Us – *“For to us a child is born, to us a son is given.”* Christmas is often accompanied by the giving of gifts. **But God set the ultimate precedent.** Though we were entrenched in sin, Jesus came to live and die that we might be saved (Rom 5:8).