

HANDOUT Celebrating the Gift December 24, 2022 Isaiah 9: 6-7

Isaiah 9: 6-7 *“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 of His government and peace there will be no end.”*

Our Greatest Need was Forgiveness...So God Sent a SAVIOR!!...This is what We Celebrate Tonight... God's Promise from Genesis 3...FULFILLED! **Isaiah 9:6 Gives Us 6 Reasons to Rejoice at Christmas, And they Are All Embodied One Person...Jesus Christ.**

- Verse 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”*
- These Gifts are 6 Glorious Truths concerning the person of our Lord & Savior, Jesus Christ.
- When the prophet declares that to us a “child is born” and a “son” is given, he highlights the fact that Jesus was and is a human being! *Fully God and fully man. Wholly Human and Wholly Divine.*

This Makes Jesus Sympathetic to Our Needs! “Jesus had to be made like his brothers in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. **READ Hebrews 4:15-16**

GIFT-1: There is No Temptation or Trial that He Cannot Understand. There is No Struggle or Sadness with Which He Cannot Sympathize. There is NO Hardship or Difficulty for Which He Cannot Provide Strength that You May Endure.

GIFT-2 Is His Supremacy! The “Government Shall be Upon His Shoulder.” Jesus is able to Shoulder the Weight of the World...Therefore He can Surely Bear Our Burdens! Supremacy of Power and Authority Rests ALONE with Jesus. He is the King of Kings and He is Judge Over All Judges.

- Terrorists may Destroy, Politicians may Posture, Armies Maneuver & Nations Threaten...But Jesus Christ Sits on the Throne in Unchallenged and Unassailable Supremacy!

GIFT-3 “Wonderful Counselor” “Sagacity!” Quality of Having & Showing Understanding and the Ability to Make Good Judgments. Jesus Counsel is Unfailing and Flawless, Perfectly Suited to Any Situation, Always Practical and Prudent. He Never Lacks for Advice or an Answer to Satisfy our Souls.

GIFT-4 Is His Sovereignty! He is the “Mighty God”. Jesus is also Able to Supply Us with the Power to Heed His Counsel. He is Able to Enable You to Achieve what He Advises!

NOTE: Of the 6 Truths about Jesus in this Passage, this is the One Non-Christians Despise the Most.

- The World is willing to Acknowledge the “baby” Jesus, if that’s as far as it goes, for it Poses NO Threat to One’s Sin and Pride and Personal Autonomy. *But...Declare that this babe in a manger is also the Mighty God, Holy, Infinite, Sovereign Over All, and They Want Nothing to Do with Him!*
- Jesus in a Manger is one thing. Jesus on a Throne is Something Else Altogether!

GIFT-5 “Everlasting Father” This Is About His Sensitivity! You Might Ask, “Why would we use the Word Sensitivity to describe Jesus as “Everlasting Father”?”

- First, the term “father” is not used here as if depicting relationships within the Godhead. The prophet is not saying that the Son is also the Father (That Heresy was Denounced in Early Church Councils)

The word “Father” is a Descriptive Analogy Pointing to Christ’s Character. What the writer has in mind is the Tenderness and Sensitivity of a Compassionate and Affectionate DADDY. “ABBA FATHER”

- It is the Security and Love he Provides, as well as Protection and Provision.

- This is what the psalmist had in mind when he said in Ps.103:13, *“As a father shows compassion to his children, so the Lord shows compassion to those who fear him”*.

GIFT-6 Serenity! He is “The Prince of Peace”! Jesus is the Source of All Serenity. He Himself “is Our Peace” (Eph. 2:14), Because He broke down the barriers that divide us from one another and, most important of all, the barriers between us and God (Rom 5:1).

- A day is coming when he will establish peace among the nations, subduing all opposition to his rule. Jesus said in John 16:33 *“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”*.

We Celebrate these 6 Gifts from God...Specially Wrapped and Delivered for You! A Sympathetic Friend, a Supreme and Unchallenged Lord Over All, Wonderfully Wise, Always Able to Act on Behalf of those Who Trust Him, Sensitive and Caring and Compassionate, the Giver of All Peace, Comfort and Consolation.

- *It is Only When We Fully Understand Gods Wonderful Gifts to Us...That We Will Want to Receive the Gift...And then With Passion Share the Gift With Others.*
- To Celebrate God’s Gift We Must First “Respond” to God’s Gift of Love and “Accept His FREE GIFT”!
- Rom 6:23 *“For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord”*.
- **This is one of the Hardest things for Many people to do! So many want to think that they can do enough good works that it will outweigh their SIN...**

Ephesians 2: 8-9, *“For it is by Grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is Not from yourselves, it is the gift of God 9 not by works, so that no one can boast.”*

- IT IS 100% GRACE...GOD GAVE US WHAT WE DID NOT DESERVE!
- Once We Receive the FREE Gift We Will Find JOY as We “Share” God’s Gift of Love with All Those around Us!
- Luke 2:17/18 *“When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them”*.
- Acts 13:47 *For so the Lord has commanded us, saying, “I have made you a light for the Gentiles, that you may bring salvation to the ends of the earth.”*

Once We Receive the FREE Gift We Will Also Want to “Show” God’s Gift of Love through Acts of Kindness and Service!

- Ephesians 2:10 *“For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do”*.

Every time You Reach Out to Someone in Need and Come Along Side Someone in Pain You Show Christ to that Person. **Remember: You May be the Only Bible Some People Will ever Read!**

Let Me Close with this: In Matthew 10:8 Jesus sent His disciples to preach the gospel. He gave them authority to drive out evil spirits and heal every disease and sickness.

- He said, *“As you go, preach this message: ‘The kingdom of heaven is near.’ Heal the sick, raise the dead...drive out demons. Freely you have received, freely give.”*

Verse 8 contains a basic biblical principle for a blessed life. Whatever God has given us will be used for His glory when we freely give it back to Him for others’ benefit.

- As with the first disciples, God has given us the message of the gospel to share.
- As we do, we have the Authority to be Conduits of Healing and Blessing every day.
- God’s Spirit Inhabits Us. He is Perfect Love, Joy, Peace, Patience and Kindness, and those things are ours when we yield to Him.
- We Received these Blessings Freely, and Freely We Must Give Them Away.
- May We Carry His Truth to the World around Us...Giving Grace to All In Jesus Name!

Merry Christmas! PD