

More than a Babe in the Manger

Isaiah 9:6

We are quickly approaching the Christmas holiday and many around the world will celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Most will identify with Santa Claus more than the birth of Christ, but it is the day set aside to honor and celebrate the birth of Jesus. Christmas is a wonderful time of year when we remember the greatest gift ever given as we give and receive gifts from friends and loved ones.

You are aware that our text comes from the Old Testament prophet, Isaiah. In fact these words were written over 700 years prior to the birth of Christ. The miraculous birth of the Savior was centuries away and yet Isaiah is speaking with certainty of Christ's birth.

This verse is very familiar to us and all who have received Christmas cards over the years. It is a favorite of many. As I considered this passage, I was reminded of the mistake many make concerning our Lord. Most would acknowledge that Christmas commemorates the birth of Christ, but many leave Jesus in the manger. They never get beyond the wonder of His birth. Others tend to leave Christ on the cross, never moving beyond His death to His glorious resurrection. The words of Isaiah remind us of the finished work of Christ as He fulfilled the plan of redemption and salvation for humanity. I want to examine the [promises](#) Isaiah offers as we consider: [More than a Babe in the Manger](#).

I. The Incarnation of Christ – [For unto us a child is born](#). Although Isaiah would not live to see it, he prophesied of the coming of Christ the Lord. Through faith he saw the birth of the Son of God, coming in the form of a man, robed in human flesh.

- The majority of people are drawn toward a new born child. There is an innocence and sweetness about a baby that causes us to want to be near to them. I am sure Jesus was no exception, but we must realize this was no ordinary child. He would've looked like other babies born in Bethlehem, but He was much different. Often we fail to recognize the enormity of His incarnation. This was the very Son of the living God, born through a virgin womb, conceived of the Holy Ghost.
- We are not speaking of a child that experienced an ordinary birth, lived life to enjoy a measure of success, and died of old age. We are speaking of the third person of the Godhead, the Son of God, the only begotten of the Father. Jesus laid aside the glory He possessed in the presence of God and came to earth robed in flesh, veiling His deity from the world. [John 1:14 – And the Word was made 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.](#)

- He willingly left the splendors of heaven to come and dwell upon this earth, knowing that He would have no place to call His own, that He would be misunderstood and rejected, ultimately being condemned to death and dying upon a cross. [Phil.2:7 – But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men.](#)

II. The Provision of Christ – [For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given.](#) Our blessed Lord came to redeem us from our sin; He came to ransom the lost from condemnation. He came with a plan and a purpose, to save humanity from their sins! [Mat.1:21 – And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name Jesus: for he shall save his people from their sins.](#) [Jn.3:16 – For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.](#) Christ came for me and He came for you; He came for whosoever! Isn't that a blessing? Christ came so that we might be saved and forgiven of our sin. He came so that we might be reconciled to the Father. Christ came for us! [Luke 2:11 – For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.](#)

- . Keep in mind this was no ordinary child; this was the Son of God, given for the sins of the world. God the Father offered His only begotten Son so that we might receive salvation. Christ wasn't asked to come and dwell among men just to heal the sick, raise the dead, and give counsel to the wayward. These were all great and powerful miracles that He performed, but that is not why He came. Christ came to offer Himself as the perfect sacrifice for sin. He came to purchase our redemption on the cross! [Phil.2:8 – And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.](#)
- The cross was not some horrible accident. It was not an event that happened when things got out of hand. From the moment Christ was born, Calvary was in view. He was well aware that, in God's time, He would lay down His life for mankind according to God's foreordained plan. [Isaiah 53:10a – Yet it pleased the Lord to bruise him; he hath put him to grief.](#)

III. The Dominion of Christ – [and the government shall be upon his shoulder.](#) This is likely one of the passages that caused confusion among the Jews as Christ dwelt upon the earth. They were looking for a King to deliver them from the bondage of Rome. Isaiah is looking beyond the life and death of Christ to His future reign here upon the earth.

- For many who viewed the life of Christ it appeared that He was a failure. He rose from obscurity, coming from among poverty. He never sat upon a throne as far as human government is concerned. His ministry only lasted a few years and He was put to death. Many believed that it was over at the tomb. Our blessed Lord bled and died upon the cross and He was buried.

- But praise His holy name the tomb was not the end. He completely fulfilled the will of God by offering Himself a sacrifice for humanity. His life and death were in accordance to God's sovereign plan. He came the first time as a sacrificial Lamb, being despised and rejected of His own. He was scourged and crucified with a crown of thorns upon His head. Those who looked on that day might have thought that Christ was a failure and false prophet.

- He is coming again, and the second time there won't be a crown of thorns, only a crown of glory. He will come in great power to establish His kingdom here upon the earth. He may have been rejected the first time, but He will be honored and worshipped at His second coming!

[Phil.2:10-11 – That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth;](#) ^[11] [And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.](#)

IV. The Exaltation of Christ – [and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.](#) Isaiah describes that Name that is above every name. He is called:

- **Wonderful** – This has the idea of being *supernatural and extraordinary*. Clearly there is nothing ordinary or common about our Lord. He is the exalted Savior! As I ponder His blessings and benefits, I realize that none have done for me what Christ has done. He alone secured my salvation. He has reconciled me to God and promised me eternal life in heaven. What is ordinary or common about that? Is our Lord not wonderful?

- **Counselor** – This speaks of Christ being our *Guide and Stay*. It literally means “*to advise, counsel, devise, and plan.*” I am thankful for the direction and counsel of my Lord. I am glad that He didn't save me and expect me to make it through this life on my own. I am glad that I don't have to make decisions for my family without His counsel. As long as we walk in the ways of God, we are heading in the right direction. [Psalm 37:23 – The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord: and he delighteth in his way.](#) I rejoice that He has ordered my steps! Who better to follow than the Creator of this world and all it contains?

- **Mighty God** – This speaks of Christ being the *Strong One, the I AM, the Conqueror, the One who is mighty and invincible*. At Christmas we think of Christ as the humble babe in a manger, but He is the Mighty God.

- He is in control of our lives. We don't live by luck or circumstances. The I AM is guarding and guiding our way. There is nothing to fear when Christ the Lord is in control. He is the One who

set the stars in the heavens, set the bounds of the oceans, and breathed life into mankind. Surely we can trust One such as He. [Psalm 27:1 – The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? the Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?](#)

➤ **The Everlasting Father** – We are not serving one who lacks wisdom or experience. We are serving the eternal God. [Rev.1:8 – I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty.](#) [John 8:58 – Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am.](#)

▪ There has never been a time when God didn't exist. He existed long before time began and He will remain long after time is no more. God has always been and He will always be! That brings comfort to my heart. I am not serving one who is here today and gone tomorrow. We need not fear the demise or weakness of our Lord. He is God and He will never change. [Heb.13:8 – Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever.](#) [Mal.3:6a – For I am the Lord, I change not.](#)

➤ **Prince of Peace** – Keep in mind that Isaiah is looking toward the coming Kingdom during the Millennial Reign. It is during that time that Jesus will establish His kingdom and bring peace to the earth.

▪ That is yet to come in our future, but we can enjoy His peace even now. There is much in life that humanity must face, but for the believer there is peace even in the midst of adversity. I have no way of knowing what tomorrow may hold, but I do know who holds tomorrow. He provides peace that this world cannot give. [John 16:33 – These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.](#) [Phil.4:7 – And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.](#)

Conclusion: I trust you realize that Christ our Lord is much more than a babe in the manger. He came to earth, lived and died for the sin of the world. He rose triumphant over sin, death, and hell. He is coming again for the church and He will return to this earth to rule in power.

At Christmas we celebrate the birth of Jesus, but that is just the beginning of the story. He was born to die in order to secure our redemption and salvation. Do you know Christ the risen Lord as Savior or have you just heard of the baby Jesus? You must know Him as Savior if you expect to be forgiven of sin and have eternal life. If you have never trusted Christ as your personal Savior, I urge you to come to Him today!