

Names of Jesus in Isaiah's Prophecies

Isaiah 9:6-7

HUMC December 13, 2020

A big part of this Advent season is the sending and receiving Christmas cards. Many of the cards feature are the words from Isaiah 9:6-7.

Let me read this passage to you.

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 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. This too is the Word of God.

When Isaiah prophesied these very words, the nation of Israel faced a major crisis with war clouds on the horizon with the enemies of the north. Against this background of doom and

despair, Isaiah announced a royal birth. However, this child was to be king and his reign would be unlike anything we have seen.

(V6a) For to us a child is born, a son is given. Here is a new way of looking at this. Jesus was born with no earthly father, but had an earthly mother. He had no heavenly mother but a heavenly father. He was older than His mother and yet as old as His father.

When Isaiah prophesied that this child was to be born, he would possess the might and power of God himself. And this prophecy was fulfilled by the child of Bethlehem who was fully God and fully man. He was one and yet both, a great mystery.

When Jesus was born in a borrowed stable, it was less than 10 miles from the evil ruler who wanted him dead. That was the hostile world Jesus was born into. And today, we think we have it bad, but compared to the times that Jesus lived in, we don't.

(6b) And the government will be on his shoulders.

Every now and then a politician with great charisma comes on the scene, but there is none like Jesus. Isaiah said the government would be on his shoulders or another words the burdens of governing would rest upon him. Royalty and heads of state are known by certain titles such as King, Queen, Chancellor, Premier, Prime Minister or President.

The boy child that Isaiah prophesied about had four different names which reveal a different aspect of his rule.

His first name is **Wonderful Counselor**.

We do live in a day where counselors, the psychologists, psychiatrists and therapists help those with mental health issues or need answers to help sort out the perplexities of life.

But Jesus who is our advisor, teacher, friend and confident said in **Matthew 11:28, "Come, all you who labor and are heavy laden and I will give you rest."**

And He brings hope when there isn't any. Even today, I experience His heavenly guidance when I read through the Bible, and in particular the gospels. It is there, in the pages of the book, that Lord speaks and His words make a light for my life's journey. In a sense I get daily counsel for my life.

So I encourage all to do the same. There is also an End Time's aspect where Jesus will solve the problems of the nations in the Millennium.

The second name-**Mighty God**

When Isaiah prophesied these words, he said that this ruler would possess the might and power of God himself.

Today, we can depend on Jesus, against impossible odds.

In an eschatological sense, Jesus will return as promised in the book of Revelation, where he will rule and reign as the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. But in the meantime, Christ rules in our hearts.

The third name is-**Everlasting Father**

Jesus cares for his people as a father cares for his children. He is unlike our earthly fathers who have their faults and failures.

I will admit, it is hard for some to picture God is a loving "Heavenly Father" especially when they grew up in a home where there was neglect and abuse.

All along my faith journey, I have met a number of people who could not address God as their "Heavenly Father." because of those negative memories. Instead, they use words such as "Loving or Gracious God" or they refer to the Lord as "she". Then there are those who change the words of hymns to gender neutral because the negative experiences they had with their earthly fathers.

But when we invite Jesus our Everlasting Father into our hearts, he will never leave nor forsake us. There is no abuse. And he does what is best for us.

Sometimes when I have received some bad news, the Lord sometimes lets me know that He is around/control when I sense a feeling of warmness.

The fourth name is **Prince of Peace**

When Jesus died on the cross, he paid the penalty for our sins and that one act brought us peace between us and God.

In 1972, a military plane dropped napalm on a South Vietnamese village. The flame of that blast struck a nine-year-old Kim Phuc. It burned her clothes and she fled naked. Here is a very famous picture of her running and a picture of her today.



Kim was hospitalized for over 14 months and had 17 operations and still receives treatment today. Though she suffered from physical pain, she had deeper pain in her troubled soul. She looked for help in the religions of Bahai, Buddhism, Hinduism, Islam and the Vietnamese religion Cao Dai but did not find it.

From the Saigon central library, she picked up a New Testament. It was on Christmas Eve in her local church when she invited Jesus into her heart. Kim later wrote "How desperately I needed peace. How ready I was for love and joy. There was so much hatred in my heart, so much bitterness. I wanted to let go of all my pain. I wanted to pursue life instead of holding fast to the fantasies of death. I wanted this Jesus".

Jesus said in John 14:27, **"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid"** And may we experience the peace of Christ in our hearts.

Yesterday, I met with Quentin Griffiths and read to him Isaiah 9:6-7 and asked for his impressions. He had just climbed Pritchard Mountain in Stoddard on Thursday and he said Isaiah 9:6-7 was looking at the mountain peaks, but you couldn't see the valleys of the suffering Messiah.

Let us pray. Dear heavenly Father, thank you for being our Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace. We look forward to your coming when you fully

manifest yourself. Help us to include you in our lives as truly your names indicate.