

“His Name Shall Be Called” *Isaiah 9:6*

INTRO:

Names are important. To us in twenty-first century America, names serve mainly as a tool to distinguish between people. Very seldom do we think about why we were named with the name our parents gave us. I remember when we named our children the struggle of deciding, *“If it is a boy we will call him . . . and if it's a girl she will be named . . .”* When we chose our children's names, we did take time to research the meaning of their names. But when the Hebrew mothers gave names to their children, they chose names that reflected the character of their children. For example, we read in **Genesis 25:24-26** about the naming of Jacob and Esau. *“So when her days were fulfilled for her to give birth, indeed there were twins in her womb. And the first came out red. He was like a hairy garment all over; so they called his name Esau. Afterward his brother came out, and his hand took hold of Esau's heel; so his name was called Jacob.”*

Names are also significant to God. Our God revealed His nature through many different names in the Old Testament. In our study of the Psalms, when God composed His birth announcement for His Son, He wanted His readers to know what His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, would be like. God did this through the names He gave Him. Usually birth announcements are sent out in the days after the birth takes place, but God sent out this birth announcement some 700 years before Jesus was born. As we begin our exploration of our Lord's birth announcement together, we will look at it in terms of two parts.

I. The One Who Will Be Born

II. His Name Shall Be Called Wonderful Counselor

I. The One Who Will Be Born

A. Our text reads: **(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. 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.”

B. In this prophecy about the coming of the Lord Jesus, front and center we learn He will have two natures. He will be born underlining the Lord's humanity. The One who will be Israel's Messiah will be a human being.

1. He is going to be born as a baby. We know His birth will be a different birth from every other birth in history because we know He will be born of a virgin. Still, He was a very human baby.

2. We have a great advantage over those who tried to understand these words before Jesus came. We know in a stable in Bethlehem, this child, foretold seven centuries beforehand, was born. The angel told the shepherds in **Luke 2:11-12**;

“For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.”

C. In one sense He was a baby boy like any other baby boy. Yet, He was also completely unlike any other baby ever born before or since. Although the child was born, ***“unto us a Son is given.”***

1. He is so much more than a human being. This was Isaiah's way of saying what Paul said in **Galatians 4:4-5**;

“But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.”

2. This was more than a Son born. The eternal Son of God in human flesh entered into the world. As John wrote in his nativity account; **(John 1:14)**

“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.”

II. His Name Shall Be Called Wonderful Counselor

A. Isaiah told us our Lord has four names to describe what He will be. The first name is ***“Wonderful Counselor.”***

B. The first part of the name is a Hebrew word which means ***“wonderful”*** or ***“incomprehensible.”*** The writers of Scripture use this word exclusively to describe the works that God does those things beyond human ability. For example in **Psalm 77:14** ***“You are the God who does wonders; You have declared Your strength among the peoples.”***

The Lord Jesus will do great things. He will do things no human could do.

C. He is the ***“Wonderful Counselor.”*** The Hebrew word translated counselor means ***“to advise, purpose, devise, plan.”*** Our Lord Jesus Christ is One whose plans, purposes, designs, and decrees for His people are marvelous.

D. The greatest plans our Lord has for us was the unfolding plan of redemption. This plan is the very reason He became man and lived among us. This plan is why there is a Christmas Day.

Have we come to know the One whose birth is being announced here? Have we put our trust in Him alone to save us? Do we recognize that God has a plan in His Son that reaches from eternity past to eternity future. Are we in tune with His plan?