

## Preached on 12/18/22 at GBC - Ruston

### "A Child Born - A Son GIVEN, Pt.2"

Isa.9:6,7

I would have you consider the verses we read in **Lk.2:8-16**. While religious people like to call this "The Christmas Story", in reality this story is the story of redemption and eternal salvation. This story is the "**RECORD**" of God's Son - "*He that believeth on the Son of God hath the witness in himself: he that believeth not God hath made him a liar; because he believeth not the record that God gave of his Son. And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son."(I Jn.5:10,11) Christ's birth was much more than the birth of a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes. It is much more than the historical record of the birth of Jesus. It was the miraculous conception and incarnation of the God sent Messiah, the "Savior" of all God's people - "*For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given.*" The Prophet Isaiah recorded these words, but they were not his own words, but the **RECORD** God gave of this glorious **PERSON**, "*His only begotten Son*", the Lord Jesus Christ, whose birth, life, death, resurrection, ascension, and Mediation **WERE REQUIRED** in order to "*save His people from their sin.*" Nothing **LESS** would do, and rest assured - **NOTHING MORE WAS REQUIRED.***

The glorious makeup of this **PERSON** is confirmed by those things that are written concerning Him in the remaining part of these verses - "*and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.*" Let's quickly consider all of these statements made by Isaiah:

"*And the Government **SHALL BE UPON His shoulders***" - As children of God, **those chosen, redeemed, regenerated and converted by God**, we take great comfort in the fact that **ALL KINGDOMS** and **ALL MANKIND** are under the complete and absolute control of the true and living God - "*Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. **For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God.** Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation.*"(**Rom.13:1,2**) There have been many powerful leaders of great and mighty governments who were humbled and brought to nothing by the Sovereign of the universe - Pharaoh; Nebuchadnezzar - **Dan.4:35**; Pontius Pilate and Felix, to name just a few. But even though we know that all governments and all men are created and upheld by Christ, this is a very specific "**government**", literally, dominion, power, or **RULE** that was **UPON** the shoulders of our blessed Lord - **Turn to Luke 1:31-33**. This "**government**" was the dominion, power, and rule of eternal salvation, that **POWER** which moves heaven, earth, and hell to eternally secure and demand the salvation of **ALL THOSE** He bore in His heart and mind. All of this was typified in the High Priest's Mitre, breastplate, and **SHOULDER PADS** - **Exo.28:12,29-30, 37-38**. In order to bear this "**government**", it required the entirety of Christ's person as both God and man - "*All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all. He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth. He was taken from prison and from judgment: and who shall declare his*

generation? for he was cut off out of the land of the living: for the transgression of my people was he stricken. And he made his grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death; because he had done no violence, neither [was any] deceit in his mouth. Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise him; he hath put [him] to grief: when thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin, he shall see [his] seed, he shall prolong [his] days, and the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in his hand. He shall see of the travail of his soul, [and] shall be satisfied: by his knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many; for he shall bear their iniquities.”(Isa.53:6-11) When I think of Christ bearing the government of salvation, it brings to my mind a line for Bonar’s hymn – “Thy cross, not mine, O Christ, Has borne the awful load. **Of sins that none could bear But the incarnate God.** To whom save Thee, who canst alone For sin atone, Lord, shall I flee?”

**"And His name shall be called Wonderful"** - This very fact that God-man's NAME is to be called "**WONDERFUL**" should immediately reveal to our minds the beauty and magnificence of this Divine person. The word "**Wonderful**" in the original means ‘marvelous, extraordinary, impossible to understand’. David declared - "**Many, O LORD my God, are thy wonderful works which thou hast done, and thy thoughts which are to us-ward: they cannot be reckoned up in order unto thee: if I would declare and speak of them, they are more than can be numbered.**"(Ps.40:5) In **Ps.107:8,15,21, THREE TIMES** David proclaimed - "**Oh that men would praise the LORD for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men!**" These works are **WONDERFUL** because they are performed by the **ONE WHO IS WONDERFUL**.

**"Counsellor"** - This word "**Counsellor**" means ‘to advice, to consult, to purpose, or to plan’. In **Isa.28:29**, Isaiah used both words, "**Wonderful**" and "**Counsellor**" in the same verse, which led many translators to think they go together as one phrase: "**WONDERFUL COUNSELLOR**" - "**This also cometh forth from the LORD of hosts, which is WONDERFUL in COUNSEL, and excellent in working.**" Who better to be our "**Counsellor**", i.e., **our Advisor, Consultant, or Planner** than the Lord Jesus Christ, this "**child born**" and "**Son given**"? **Listen to Christ's words in Rev.3:18** - "**I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see.**" Look at what the Apostle Paul told us concerning Christ's as our **COUNSELLOR** - **I Cor.1:30,31; Col.2:1-3**

**"The Mighty God"** - The Lord Jesus Christ is **TRULY GOD**. Christ declared of Himself - "**I and my Father are ONE.**"(Jn.10:30) In **John 14**, Phillip asked the Lord: "**Show us the Father**". Our Lord's reply settled this issue forever - "**Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? he that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Shew us the Father?**"(Jn.14:9) As the Father was and is mighty in all His works, so Christ the Son, **JESUS** - "**JEHOVAH IS SALVATION**", is "**the Mighty God**" in all His work as our Redeemer, Surety, and Savior - "**Who is this that cometh from Edom, with dyed garments from Bozrah? this that is glorious in his apparel, travelling in the greatness of his strength? I that speak in righteousness, mighty to save.**"(Isa.63:1) Look at how Paul declared Christ as "**the mighty God**" to the Hebrew believers - **Heb.1:1-4**

"*The Everlasting Father*" - There are three distinct Persons in the Godhead - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit isn't telling us here that there is confusion in the Godhead, each Person contending for or seeking supremacy. **THEY ARE ALL ONE** in power, purpose, and plan. But this reference to Messiah as the "*Everlasting Father*" concerns His relationship to and watchcare over each of His own, called His children, His people, His house, **or better His Church** - **Heb.2:13; Heb.3:6**

"*The Prince of Peace*" - Can any truth be more comforting and fitting for each and every one of us as God's dear children? In the Gospel of John, particularly our Lord's final hours and words to His apostles in **John 14-16**, our Lord continually spoke with and declared "*PEACE*" to them, as well as to all those who would believe through their testimony of Christ. Our Lord is often referred to in the Old Testament as a "*Prince*" - **Eze.34:24; 37:25; Dan.9:25**. The word "*Prince*" means "*captain*". So Christ, the "Captain of Peace" is to be called by that name because He is the author of peace - **Acts 10:36; Rom.15:33; 16:20; Eph.2:14-22**. **Think about this:** Every epistle opens with a pronouncement of "*PEACE*" to the children of God. If you don't believe me, I encourage you to look it up for yourself. The proclamation of **PEACE** to all God's redeemed can **ONLY BE REAL AND CERTAIN** as it was conditioned on the "Captain of our Salvation", the "Prince" or Captain "of Peace", "The Lord our Righteousness" - **Jer.23:6 @ 33:16**.

Look at Vs.7 and we'll close - **Vs.7**. Think about what this means to every blood-bought son and daughter of the living God. We have peace with God in this life, as well as forever - "*And the work of righteousness shall be peace; and the effect of righteousness quietness and assurance for ever.*" (Isa.32:17) Also remember this: we have received "*a kingdom which cannot be moved.*" This kingdom is ordered by God, established by the Only Judge of all the earth who always does right. This kingdom is forever founded upon "*justice*", literally **RIGHTEOUSNESS**, (Christ's Righteousness), "*from henceforth and forever*". All of this is insured by "*the zeal of the Lord of hosts*" who will perform it. This word "zeal" means **JEALOUS**. Look at it used this way in **Exo.34:14**. Turn with me to a couple more verse right quick - **Rom.4:20-22 @ Heb.6:18-20**

God's children should constantly think about the marvelous gift of Christ, Messiah, as both "given" by God and "sent" to do everything necessary to guarantee the fulfilment of Isaiah's prophesy concerning the **ONE TRUE CHRIST**. **AND NOT JUST AT THAT TIME THAT MAN CALLS THE CHRISTMAS SEASON.**