

Christmas Promises – 2

The Promised Child

As we draw near to Christmas we must admit that we are a nation in distress. Someone has described us as being in a political civil war, in a time of world-wide unrest and strife. To this world the words of the angel can carry a sustained message of hope:

“Do not be afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of great joy which will be for all people; for today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign for you; for you will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”
And suddenly there appeared with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among men with whom His is pleased.”

(Luke 2:9-14)

Isaiah’s prophecy was included in Matthew’s gospel record of the birth of Christ,
²²Now all this took place to fulfill what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet: “Behold, the Virgin shall be with child and shall bear a Son, and they shall call His Name Immanuel,” which translated means, “God with us.” (Matt. 1:18-23)

Again Isaiah prophesied of the birth of the Messiah,

⁶For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us;
And the government will rest on His shoulders;
And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor,
Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace.

⁷There will be no end to the increase of His government
or of peace;
On the throne of David and over his kingdom,
To establish it
and to uphold it with justice and righteousness
from then on and forevermore.

The zeal of the Lord of hosts will accomplish this.

Is. 9:6-7

Today I want us to examine God’s promised Child, King, and Kingdom:

I. The Promised Child

For a child will be born to us – a son will be given to us

In the midst of a time of great fear and difficulty Isaiah was sent to bring comfort to the king of Judah and just happened to interject a key verse prophesying about the birth of the coming Messiah. (Is. 7:14) This was the sign God would give concerning the king's great deliverance from his enemy's siege.

Seven hundred years later the angel, Gabriel visited a young woman named Mary, and cited this verse as being fulfilled in her.

Through Matthew the Holy Spirit applied this somewhat obscure verse to the birth of Jesus Christ through the virgin Mary.

1. Isaiah's Context:

Later Isaiah spoke the word of the Lord to a shattered people. Because they had rejected the commandments of the Lord, they became a conquered people.

To a people who saw "...distress and darkness, the gloom of anguish, and they will be driven away into darkness." (8:22)

The Prophet begins chapter nine, pointing to a positive future for God's people:

The people who walk in darkness will see a great light;
 Those who live in a dark land, the light will shine on them.
 You shall multiply the nation, you shall increase their gladness;
 They will be glad in Your presence as with the gladness of harvest. As men rejoice when they divide the spoil.
 For You shall break the yoke of their burden and the staff on their shoulders, The rod of their oppressor, as the battle of Midian. For every boot of the booted warrior in the battle tumult, and cloak rolled in blood, will be for burning, fuel for the fire.

⁶For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us;
 And the government will rest on His shoulders..."

Isaiah 9:2-6

Israel was a land of idolatry, false prophets, rampant immorality and evil of every kind. God warned them of the judgment that was coming if they did not repent

of their sins. Instead of listening they killed God's prophets and rejected their message. When the consequences came they were overcome by their enemies. God refers to their conqueror, "Assyria, the rod of My anger." (10:5)

To the remnant of believers God promised a deliverer.

2. **Isaiah's prophecy** shows the same Son as the Ruler of the Government – a King ruling over the entire world.

This 'dual prophecy' is fulfilled by both the first and second coming of Messiah.

It's like looking at two mountain peaks with a valley in-between.

From the perspective of an onlooker, it looks like one Mountain.

--So with the first and second comings of Christ.

⁶For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us;

The first part of the verse shows Christ's humanity,
the second of His deity:

As a man Jesus was born. He grew in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and man; then at the age of 30 He began a ministry of healing and teaching.

At 33 when Jesus was crucified He took upon Himself the sins of mankind, dying as a sacrifice, a death He did not deserve, for sins He did not commit.

Afterwards He rose from the dead and then ascended to the Father,
sitting on His throne at the right hand of power in glory.

The writer to the Hebrews spoke of Jesus' humanity in relation His death.

"But we do see Him who was made for a little while lower than the angels, namely, Jesus, because of the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, so that by the grace of God He might taste death for everyone.... Therefore, since the children share in flesh and blood, He Himself likewise also partook of the same, that through death He might render powerless him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, and might free those who through fear of death were subject to slavery all their lives." (Heb. 2:9, 14-15).

James Boice writes,

"Unlike anybody else who has ever been born, He was not only man; He was God as well. Therefore, while as a man He could die upon the

cross, as God He died in order to pay the infinite price necessary for our salvation.”¹

Phillips Brooks’ carol, “O Little town of Bethlehem,” agrees,
 How silently, how silently
 That wondrous gift is giv’n!
 So God imparts to human hearts
 The blessings of His heav’n.
 No heart may hear His coming
 But in this world of sin,
 Where meek souls will receive Him still,
 The dear Christ enters in.

The Promised Child is also...

II. The Promised King

And the government will rest on His shoulders;
 And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor,
 Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace.

What will the Messiah be like? Isaiah describes Him by His names:

His names describe His Person, character and rule.

And His name will be called

Wonderful – noun –a name in itself;

it speaks of His Person and work

Jesus said, “I am the way and the truth and the life...”

Counselor – Speaks of His wisdom, especially in government

Mighty God – omnipotent, supreme ruler. He was “God with us.”

Eternal Father – Father or source of eternity, providing eternal life

Jesus said, “I and the Father are one.” (John 10:30).

¹ James Montgomery Boice, *The Christ of Christmas*, (Phillipsburg: P. & R. Publishing, 2009), p. 20.

“Now, Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was.”

(John 17:5)

Prince of peace Messiah’s rule is a rule of peace.

Sar-shalom – “The One who brings peace to a troubled world.”

Jesus made peace for us when He reconciled us to God.

Throne of David - the Shepherd King!

Jesus’ Name - is above every name

- at the name of Jesus every knee will bow
- every tongue will confess.

...every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.” Phil. 2:11

Isaiah 11:6-9 A picture of Messiah - even nature is at peace with men.

III. The Promised Kingdom

⁷There will be no end to the increase of His government or of peace;

On the throne of David and over his kingdom,

To establish it

and to uphold it with justice and righteousness

from then on and forevermore.

The zeal of the Lord of hosts will accomplish this.

The kingdom described:

- His government will rest on Him – “on His shoulders”
- His government will be ever-increasing – no limits, expanding in greatness
- Will be a government of peace – Is. 48:18 “Peace ...like a river...”
- It will be established from the throne of David – covenant promises
- It will be established in justice and righteousness
- It will be a never ending rule

The Revelation records the loud voices in heaven as Christ’s reign is foreseen,

“The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord

and of His Christ; and He will reign forever and ever.”
(Rev. 11:15).

Rev. 19:6 “...Hallelujah! For the Lord our God, the Almighty, reigns.”

Vance Havner writes,

“If you are going by the new broadcasts and the “world situation,” the outlook today is hopeless. The human race has painted itself into a corner and all the experts are at wit’s end. The pointers-with-pride have been superseded by the viewers-with-alarm. But the Christian, who is looking for the glorious appearance of the great God and our Savior Jesus Christ, has the hopeful outlook because his is the Blessed Hope. He is hopeful because he is Hope full! He does not sorrow as those who have no hope and, having this hope in him, he purifies himself. It is a hope-full outlook because it is a hope-full uplook. Keep looking up!”²

One last thought:

Christ’s Advent that we celebrate at Christmastime, is only part of the prophecy. It means that since God has kept His promises, the best is yet to come. Christ’s first appearing was only the beginning, where He accomplished redemption. Now we await Christ’s return. If His first coming changed the world as it has, giving salvation and hope to all who would believe, imagine what a difference His Second Coming will make! Christ’s Kingdom is where Christ the King reigns.

The King who was born in a manger was...

The Infant who is Infinite

From a Mother who is Miraculous

Who was the Revelation and fulfillment that is ultimate.

² Vance Havner, *All the Days*, (Old Tappan: Fleming H. Revell Company, 1976), p. 177.