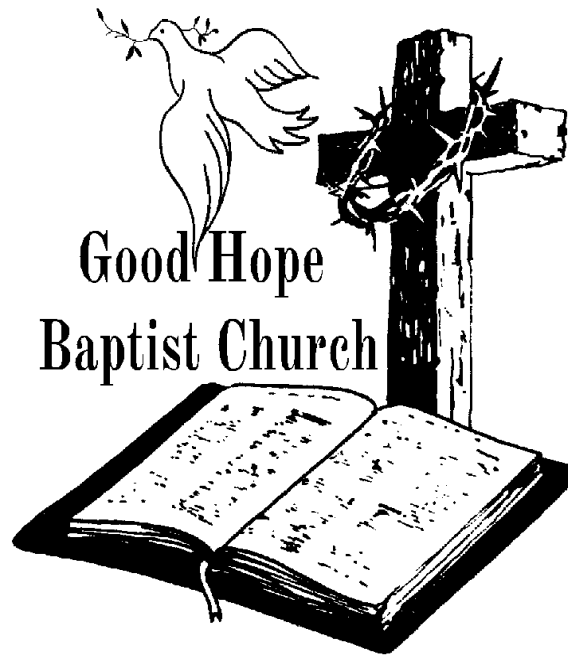


What Child Is This?

Isaiah 9:6



Good Hope
Baptist Church

Living Together In The Love Of God

4038 Graham Sherron Rd
Wake Forest, NC 27587

Pastor David Buffaloe
Home 919-562-9456 Cell 919-600-4925
online at bibleteacher.org

FOCAL Read Responsively Isaiah 9:6 For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: **and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.**

President John F. Kennedy challenged America to a goal of reaching the moon before the Soviet Union in 1961. Eight years after his challenge - and over five years after his assassination - on **July 20, 1969** the **Apollo 11** crew landed the first humans on the moon. President Richard Nixon telephoned the Apollo crew from the Oval Office. Speaking to the first man on the moon, Neil Armstrong, and Buzz Aldrin President Nixon said:

"For every American this has to be the proudest day of their lives. And for people all over the world, they too join with America in recognizing what an immense feat this is. Because of what you have done, the heavens have become a part of man's world. And as you talk to us from the sea of tranquility, it inspires us to redouble our efforts to bring peace and tranquility to earth. For one priceless moment, in the whole history of man, all the people on this earth are truly one. One in the pride in what you have done, and one in our prayers that you will return safely to earth."

What those brave men did was historic, and it was praiseworthy. But like most things that man has done it has come and gone. The act of walking on the moon did not bring unity to the world, or even to America. Though President Nixon said **"because of what you have done,**

the heavens have become a part of man's world". We walked on the moon - we accomplished a great task as a nation - but our actions did not change the soul of man. Famous science fiction author, **Robert Heinlein**, was interviewed about the Apollo 11 feat. He said, **"this is the greatest event in human history"**. It was a great event, but not the greatest. The Apollo 11 moonwalk was blemished from the very start. When Neil Armstrong stepped onto the moon's surface he said:

"That's one small step for man; one giant leap for mankind"

That wasn't what he was supposed to say. He was supposed to say **"That's one small step for a man"**. Making the error, Armstrong and NASA initially tried to cover up the mistake. NASA claimed that the article "a" went unheard and unrecorded because of static in the transmission. Neil Armstrong claimed, upon reading the transcript, that he was misquoted. Reuters News Reporter **Joel Shurkin** was at Mission Control in Houston. He along with others participated in the coverup, saying **"It wouldn't do for me to say one thing, and the Associated Press another, or to be contradicted by the New York Times"**. It was only years later that Neil Armstrong admitted that he left out the article "a", saying **"I really did it. I blew the first words on the moon, didn't I?"**¹

I didn't use this illustration to mock what these brave

1 Jacob Berkowitz, "Moon Landing: One Small Slipup For (A) Man", 17 July 2004 (p.F9); Paul F. Boller & George John, "They Never Said It", ISBN 0-19-506-469-0; Mark Carreau, "One Small Step For Clarity", Houston Chronicle, October 3, 2006

Americans did. I'm a little claustrophobic, so I can't imagine flying to the moon in a small space capsule. I wore chemical warfare masks and suits in the Air Force for short periods of time, so I can't imagine staying in space suits for days. But I use this illustration for this reason. Great as the achievement was, like most things humans do the greatness is always marred by imperfection. There's always a little something missing, like that article "a". Where humans are, there are flaws and sin. Around 5 years *before* the Apollo 11 landing **President John F. Kennedy** would be assassinated. Oddly enough, around 5 years *after* the Apollo 11 landing **President Richard Nixon would resign in shame because of a coverup called "Watergate"**².

The Apollo 11 moon landing was historic, but not the greatest event in human history. It was blemished. It brought no real change among mankind. It did not bring tranquility - nor heaven - to earth.

The greatest event in human history is not when man went to the Heavens, but when the God of Heaven came to the earth. The Prophet Isaiah wrote some 600 years prior to that event.

FOCAL Isaiah 9:6 **For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.**

2 August 8, 1974 Resignation Speech

Look at the words the Prophet uttered. "**Unto us a Child is born**". The Child was born "**unto us**". His birth was not about Himself, but about us. We are flawed, but God is not flawed. God wanted to make a way whereby we who are flawed by sin and death could be with He Who is without sin and death. How? How can this be done?

Unto Us - You and I - A Child Is Born

Unlike an understandably nervous Neil Armstrong, the Prophet Isaiah did not slip up and leave out the article "**a**". **Unto us A Child is born**. Let's take this phrase one step at a time. **Unto US**. Why **US**?

Why **US**? Because we are flawed and sinful. We not only know this from the testimony of Scripture, but we know it from the testimony of our lives. If you don't are either **insane or inane**, out of your mind or out of touch with reality.

There are only two types of people who do not know they are flawed. The *insane* person - someone on the level of the man who sits in the asylum and declares himself to be **Napoleon Bonaparte** - may believe himself perfect. Or the *inane* person - the unconsciously foolish - may think himself perfect. But everybody in touch with reality know that they are flawed. This flaw is called "**sin**" by the Holy Scripture. Sin touches and lingers on everyone, **regardless as to race**:

Romans 3:9-10 What then? are we better than they? **No, in no wise: for we have before proved both Jews**

and Gentiles, that they are all under sin; 10 As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one

It doesn't matter what **gender** you are:

Romans 3:22-23 ... there is no difference: 23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;

There **is no difference**. We are all at nature sinners, flawed, and imperfect before the Perfect God. The Psalmist paints us a very descriptive picture:

Psalms 14:1-3 .. The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God. They are corrupt, they have done abominable works, there is none that doeth good. 2 The LORD looked down from heaven upon the children of men, to see if there were any that did understand, and seek God. 3 They are all gone aside, they are all together become filthy: there is none that doeth good, no, not one.

of the **insane fool who says there is no God, and the inane foolish who ignores God while chasing after sin**. It is like those who know that they are going to one day die, but keep putting it out of their heads. "If I don't think about it, then maybe it will never happen".

Dear friends, reality happens. Death happens. 1 out of 1 people die. 1 out of 1 people are flawed. That's the bad news - but here is the Good News.

FOCAL Isaiah 9:6 For **UNTO US** a child is born ...

Unto us. God didn't leave anyone out. He didn't give just a few of us this Child.

Man's love is limiting and limited, but God's love is limitless! We are all flawed, all sinners, creatures who will die and who do deserve it. Yet God shouted "NO"! His shout cried out through Isaiah, and echoes throughout human history as only the Voice of God can do. **Unto US a Child is born.**

Galatians 1:4 **Who gave Himself for our sins, that He might deliver us from this present evil world, according to the will of God and our Father:**

Jesus Christ did not come to this earth to save the world. He came to **deliver us, deliver a people from this present evil world.** The Bible tells us:

2 Corinthians 5:14 ^(HCSB) **... Christ's love compels us, since we have reached this conclusion: If One died for all, then all died.**

Jesus Christ **died for all. Unto US a Child is born.** He came to this earth for each and every person - but not all will come to Him. Some will try other ways to get to God. They will say, "**What about these other messiahs, these other religions? What about the religion of my own good works? Won't these be sufficient?**" What did God shout through Isaiah?

FOCAL Isaiah 9:6 **For unto us A Child is born**

As I remarked before, **God did not leave out the article "a". Unto US A Child is born.**

Illustrate A Pastor was planning a wedding, and wanted to call the couple down front at the close of the Sunday morning service so everyone could congratulate them. The problem was, he was human, and he forgot their names. So he said, "**Will those wanting to get married please come to the front?**" Immediately, nine single ladies, three widows, four widowers, and six single men stepped to the front.

If you want to be united in married, you need to find - and ask - a mate. If you want to be united with God you **need to respond to His Son by faith.** God has not given us many ways unto salvation, for the Scripture says:

Acts 4:12 **Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.**

The Angel of the Lord told Joseph:

Matthew 1:20-21 **... Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost. 21 And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.**

Unto us A Child is born. This Child that was conceived in Mary is of God the Holy Ghost. This Son Who is given shall save HIS people from their sins.

Unto Us - You and I - A Son Is Given

FOCAL Isaiah 9:6 For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given

The words that God uses here are carefully chosen.
Please notice that

**a Child is born, but
a Son is given**

The Son is not born, but GIVEN. The Son of God did not come into existence on that day that Mary gave birth so many years ago.

As Almighty God Jesus Christ was given to us. When we by faith give ourselves to Him, then He takes our sin - and we take His salvation. Salvation is a trading of places. God trades with me - and I surely get the best part of that deal!

Before I gave myself to Christ I was a son of Adam
Having given myself to Christ I am a son of God

Before I gave myself to Christ death was my ending
Having given myself to Christ death is my beginning

Before I gave myself to Christ this earth was my home
Having given myself to Christ that Heaven is my home

Before I gave myself to Christ I served Satan
Having given myself to Christ I serve God

Before I gave myself to Christ at my best I was limited
Having given myself to Christ I have no limits

Jesus Christ gave His life for me and He gave His life for you.

Galatians 2:20 I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

God gave His Son for me so that His Son can live *through me*. This is why the Lord said through Isaiah:

FOCAL Isaiah 9:6 For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon His shoulder:

If the Son was given for you, then you no longer live for yourselves. **The Kingdom of God is within you.** You live your lives following the Lord Jesus. You live your lives letting Him live through you. Look at the text: **the government shall be upon His shoulder.**

Word Study The word translated "**government**" is the Hebrew MISRAW (מִשְׁרָה pronounced mis-raw'), which means "**the Rule, the Kingdom, the Government**".

If it is true that "**The Kingdom of God is within you**", then Jesus Christ must rule that Kingdom.

He must rule your life. The Bible says:
Romans 14:9, 11 For to this end Christ both died, and

rose, and revived, that he might be Lord both of the dead and living. ... (11) For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God.

The government - the Kingdom - shall be upon His shoulder. Jesus Christ bears up those who bow down to Him! He is God, He is King of Kings and Lord of Lords, and He is worthy.

FOCAL Isaiah 9:6 ... his name shall be called **Wonderful** ...

Do you want a **wonderful life**? Then you need to submit to Him Whose **Name shall be called Wonderful**. King David cried out:

Psalms 40:2-5 He brought me up also out of an horrible pit, out of the miry clay, and set my feet upon a rock, and established my goings. **3** And He hath put a new song in my mouth, even praise unto our God: many shall see it, and fear, and shall trust in the LORD. **4** Blessed is that man that maketh the LORD his trust, and respecteth not the proud, nor such as turn aside to lies. **5** 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.

What a Wonderful Redeemer we have! Unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given. God has

redeemed those who have called upon the Name of Jesus Christ, and has taken the plain life and filled it with the wonder of His presence.

God takes the plain life, and fills it with the wonder of His presence as long as we look unto Him. He is also our **Counselor**, the One Who consoles us as we walk through this life.

FOCAL Isaiah 9:6 ... his name shall be called ... **Counselor**, The **mighty** God ...

Our Savior is **Wonderful**. But He is also **Counselor**, Someone I can talk to at any time. Listen Beloved, you have a great Friend in Jesus. He knows your heart, knows your desires, knows your aches and sufferings, your despondency, your all. Jesus is a **Wonderful Counselor** – He always takes time to listen to me ... and He will listen to you, too, if you call upon Him.

Word Study To have a Wonderful Counselor is great, but what can listening do for me if the Counselor is without power. Not so the Lord Jesus! He is not only Wonderful Counselor, but also Mighty God. The word translated "mighty" is the Hebrew GIBBOR (גִּבּוֹר גִּבּוֹר, gibbôr, ghib-bore'), which means "**all powerful**". This Child that Isaiah saw, the Lord Jesus Christ, is not just a **wonderful Counselor**, but He is **Mighty God, Giant God, all Overwhelming God**.

There is nothing that our Jesus cannot do. Though He came to us through a virgin, born as a Baby in a manger,

looks are deceiving! This Child born and this Son given is **Very God of Very God**.

FOCAL Isaiah 9:6 his name shall be called
The mighty God, The everlasting Father ...

Yet we are not through with this text, for Jesus is also given the name of **The Everlasting Father**. One day a disciple called **Philip** asked Jesus, "**Show us the Father and it will be sufficient**". Our Lord Jesus said:

John 14:9-10 ... 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? 10 Believest thou not that I am in the Father, and the Father in me? ...

Our Lord Jesus Christ did not come to earth on His own. He agreed to come, but **unto us a Son WAS GIVEN**. The Father gave the Son for us. Jesus came because the Father sent Him.

Jesus Christ, obeying the Heavenly Father, became the bridge by which we all may have peace with God.

Jesus truly is "**the Prince of Peace**". He is the **Prince of Peace**. This Child born, Son given, Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father – His final title is **Prince of Peace**. Without Jesus life makes no sense. With Jesus the colors of our lives are more vivid, wonder filled, beautiful.

Dr. Adrian Rogers said:

"How sad to know biology, the study of life, and not know Jesus Christ the Giver of life. How sad to know astronomy, the study of the stars and of the heavens, and not to know Jesus Christ the bright and morning Star and how to go to heaven. How sad to know geology, the study of rocks and geological ages, and not know Jesus Christ, the Rock of ages. How sad to know botany, the study of flowers, and not to know Sharon's sweetest Rose. How sad to know history from beginning to end and to miss the central event in history, which is the story of Jesus — His story. A wise man is ignorant, a rich man is poor, and a strong man is weak until he knows the Lord Jesus Christ. "

To know Christ as Lord and Savior is the only way to know God. To know Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior is the only way to have victory in this life.

Context Isaiah 9:7 **Of the increase of His government and peace there shall be no end ...**

If you want ever increasing certainty in this uncertain life - give yourselves to Jesus Christ. If you want increasing peace, when all around you there is confusion and disharmony - give yourselves to Jesus Christ.

Illustration In the book "Amazing Grace" by Kenneth W. Osbeck he writes of a man named **William C. Dix**.

"While a successful insurance salesman in Glasgow, Scotland, he was stricken with a sudden serious illness at the age of 29. Dix was confined to bed for an

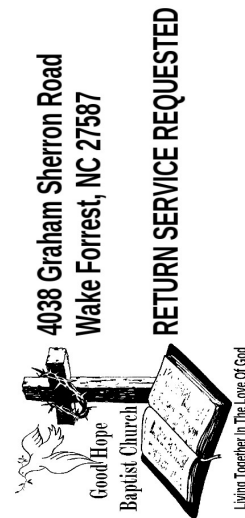
extended period and suffered deep depression until he called out to God and {in his words} "met Him in a new and real way". Out of this spiritual experience came many artistic and distinctive hymns." page 354

One of those hymns you are familiar with, I know:

**What Child is this who, laid to rest
On Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,
While shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the King,
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste, to bring Him laud,
The Babe, the Son of Mary.**

**Why lies He in such mean estate,
Where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christians, fear, for sinners here
The silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear shall pierce Him through,
The cross be borne for me, for you.
Hail, hail the Word made flesh,
The Babe, the Son of Mary.**

Jesus Christ is, indeed, **the Way, the Truth, and the Life (John 14:6)**. May God draw you to His side today!



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Unto Us - You and I - A Child Is Born

Romans 3:9-10; Romans 3:22-23; Psalms 14:1-3; Isaiah 9:6; Galatians 1:4; 2 Corinthians 5:14; Acts 4:12; Matthew 1:20-21

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Unto Us - You and I - A Son Is Given

Isaiah 9:6; Galatians 2:20; Romans 14:9, 11; Psalms 40:2-5; Isaiah 9:6; John 14:9-10; Isaiah 9:7

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