

Unto Us

Isaiah 9:6



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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.**

Of Easter or Christmas, which holiday means more to you? In reality both Christmas as well as Easter (what I like to call “Resurrection Sunday” are of equal importance to the Christian. I know there are preachers who go around dismissing Christmas because – they say – Jesus was not actually born this time of the year. Perhaps, perhaps not. Theologians may argue over the *time* of Jesus' death – and I have heard many so called “holy men” arguing against this time we call *Christmas* because Christ may not have actually been born at this time of the year. In my mind as I hear the foolish debates I can hear the words of our Master:

Matthew 23:24 **Ye blind guides, which strain at a gnat, and swallow a camel.**

Something as miraculous as **God becoming Man** needs to be recognized! Debate the times and the seasons all you want. Worry about every little nuance, arguing over every bit of fluff. But do not miss this great truth – **God became man, lowering Himself so that we could be raised to be with Him.** Christians should rejoice and recognize what God did for us through His Son Jesus Christ. The Christmas season is the time we recognize that God became incarnate, that He took on Himself humanity, entering time from eternity in an unprecedented act of love. The time we call

“Resurrection Sunday” is when we recognize that the God-Man Jesus Christ died a terrible death on a hill called Calvary. The death of Christ was monstrous because He Himself neither earned it nor deserved it. He was innocent, but took on Himself our sins so that we who believe can be forgiven. **By Grace we have been saved.** Grace sent Christ to be born of a virgin in a manger. Grace sent Christ to die in the midst of mocking and jeers, bearing our sins at Calvary. Grace sent Christ walking from an empty tomb on the third day, His work of redemption completed and accepted of God. Grace offers the free gift of salvation to all who will believe. **Christ died for all.** Christ *had* to die for all, for all are spiritually dead apart from Him:

2 Corinthians 5:14-15 For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that **if one died for all, then were all dead: (15) And that he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again.**

Let's look at our Isaiah passage in detail.

Unto Us A Child Is Born

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

These words have been written on Christmas card after Christmas card, yet these words are rarely understood.

Note that both phrases are similar but *not exactly alike*. They start out the same – **unto us a** – but then they change. The Word of God never says a thing without it being greatly important. Listen people – this is God's Word! **Unto us a child is born.** Jesus Christ was born in a manger, born of a human mother. He was born *for us* – for all who will believe in Him. **Unto us a son is given.** Jesus Christ is Eternal God Who has ever existed with both Father and Spirit from eternity and into eternity. He is *very God of very God*. God cannot be born, but **God can only be given.**

We are often battling with department stores and other secular businesses during the Christmas season over the use of the word “Christmas”. Many businesses are opting for “Happy Holidays” in order to be more *politically correct*, to avoid offending non-Christians. Though I do believe we should be vocal about our Savior and our Savior's birth, we also need to remember that **unto us a child is born.** The unbeliever has no concern about Jesus, or about “Christmas” or any other holy day. The Christian, however, understands the importance of what Jesus Christ did when He entered humanity through that thing we call *The Incarnation*. **God was born into humanity so that believing humanity could dwell in the House of God.**

The birth of Jesus Christ is one of the best documented facts in all of history. God carefully orchestrated history to make sure that there would never be any doubt that Jesus Christ was born into humanity. When this Child was born He was born **unto us**, to bless us, to save us, to

bring us to God. **Dr. Henry Morris** said¹:

“It is altogether fitting that the One who performed many miracles during His life, Who offered Himself on the Cross as an atoning sacrifice for the sins of men, and Who then rose bodily from the dead in vindication of all His claims, should have begun such a unique life by a unique entrance into that life. ... If He is truly our Savior He must be far more than a mere Man, though also He is truly the Son of man. To die for our sins, He must Himself be free from any sin of His own. To be sinless in practice, He must first be sinless in nature. He could not have inherited a human nature, bound under the curse and the bondage of sin as it must have been, as do all the sons of men. His birth, therefore, must have been a miraculous birth. The seed of the woman was implanted in the virgin's womb ...”

Jesus Christ was born as all children are born, yet His conception was quite different from all other conceptions. When the Angel Gabriel told Mary about the impending conception he told her:

Luke 1:35 ... The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God.

The humanity of Christ was born when God overshadowed Mary, miraculously causing her to be with Child. This Child would have *no earthly Father* – His Father is and will always be God. Jesus Christ did not *come into existence* when the Holy Ghost came on Mary – His *humanity* came into existence. His Being was and will always be **Mighty God** – this is emphasized further in our text:

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.

As God He was *never born*, but as Perfect Man He was *born of the virgin*. His birth of the virgin is one of the *prophecies* that prove that Jesus is the One and Only Christ:

Isaiah 7:14 Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

Matthew 1:22-23 Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, (23) Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call

¹ Henry Morris, *The Bible Has The Answer*, Baker Book House; as reported in “Evidence That Demands A Verdict”, page 122, Copyright 1972

his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.

This was the **great sign** that all creation waited for. From the fall of Adam until the virgin birth the angels watched and waited. **God would be born into Creation, the Creator would Himself become part of that which He made.** How important is this doctrine that **unto us a child is born?** We are told in another Scripture:

1 John 4:3 And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world.

Christ was born of a virgin, was born as all children are born but conceived by God the Holy Spirit. This *must* be believed, else it is the **spirit of antichrist**. God fulfilled His promise of the coming Messiah when Jesus was **born unto us.**

Unto Us A Son Is Given

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

Here we see the phrase changes slightly. Whereas before we saw **unto us a child is born**, now we see that **unto us a son is given**. As the True God cannot be born, and as Jesus Christ is God the Son, He cannot be born – He can

only be given.

The Son of God was given to make payment for your sins and for mine. We are able to walk before God because Jesus gave Himself for us. The Scripture says to the Christian:

Ephesians 5:2 And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling savor.

When Christ gave Himself for you and I, this was *love in action*. Since you are born from an expression of God's love, you yourselves are called to love by giving of yourselves to others. **How can I know that I have been saved?** Because **unto me a son was given**. He gave Himself to me and I gave myself to Him. Once saved, the life of the believer is changed by the action of Grace. You now *want to walk in love toward others*. Love gave Him to you, now love in you compels you to love others. God became incarnate – took on Himself humanity – and lived among us for three years so that **God could return and live through us forever**. The Christian is a person who has turned His life over to God, a person whom now God works through. Incarnate Christ is now living in you! This is what the Apostle said in

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.

I do not live for God, but God lives for God *through me*. I do not live, **but Christ liveth in me**. This is the normal Christian life. Christ gave Himself so that we could give ourselves and so that He could live through us.

Illustrate Jesus Christ gave Himself for us so that we could *experience the real adoption of sons*. If you have believed on Jesus Christ, then **unto you a Son is given**. The Son gave His life for you so that you could be **adopted of God**. Have you never noticed the overhead power lines of our electric system? These lines carry enough power to kill a person if you were to touch it with your bare hands, and enough power to save a life by keeping us warm even in the dead of winter. The power lines are out of reach for most of us. They are deliberately stretched higher than a person can easily touch, so as to prevent us from inadvertently touching a line and killing ourselves. The lineman with his powered lift can reach that line, but we cannot. The casual person can touch power line and die, or stand on the ground and look at the power line and receive no benefit at all. The lineman with his lift and his safety gear can gently rise to where power is, and handle that power line as easily as you or I tie our shoes.

Jesus Christ was given to us to be the ladder between man and God. **Unto us a son was given**. If you have believed on Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord then you have all the equipment you need to be face to face with God. Those who have not received the Son cannot

understand God's Word – but you can and do understand its mysteries. Those who have not received the Son still view God in the abstract, but you understand Him as **Father**. You have **received the adoption of sons**:

Galatians 4:4-6 **But when the fullness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, (5) To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons. (6) And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father.**

Eternal God moved into a new state of being so that we who believe can move into a new state of being. The unsaved person chases after every pleasure this world can offer, but the son of God seeks to please his Father. When Mary and Joseph lost track of the young Jesus and returned to find Him teaching in the Temple His mother sought to rebuke Him. Jesus replied:

Luke 2:49 ... How is it that ye sought me? wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business?

A son should be about His Father's business, and Jesus was about His Father's business. So should be the case of every Christian **unto Whom the Son is given**. If Christ has been given for you then **you must be about your Father's business**. You have a calling, you have a task,

you have His business to attend to. The Christian has no time for the foolish! We

Ephesians 5:15-16 ... walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, (16) Redeeming the time, because the days are evil.

The Son was given so that we could be sons. We read:

John 3:16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

God gave His Son for us. God took on humanity in the person of Jesus Christ, and God gave His life for us on Calvary. Not only did God the Father give Christ to us, but Christ Himself gave up His life for us.

1 John 3:16 Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.

Jesus laid down His life for you and for me. As sons, let us honor God by giving of ourselves to Him.

The Government Shall Be Upon His Shoulder

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:**

There is coming a day when Jesus shall reign on this earth. We have discussed the *Millennial Reign* of Christ on Wednesday night in our Bible Studies so I'll not talk about that here. He shall reign – but this text has a greater meaning than just the future Millennial Reign. **John Gill²** states:

“And the government shall be upon his shoulder: not only of the world in general, but of the church in particular; this child is born to royal dignity; he is King of saints; his government consists in ruling in the hearts of his people, in enacting laws for them, and causing them to submit unto them, in subduing their enemies, in protecting them, their persons and properties, rights and liberties, and in supplying them with everything necessary...”

The government **shall be upon His shoulder**. The Bible tells us in another place

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.

We shall all – saved and unsaved – one day bow the knee to Christ. All pride will be gone in that great day that God rules. Yet why do we wait? **The government shall**

be upon His shoulder – why not submit to Him now? There is not a man among you who has not taken a small child and sat that child on your shoulder. Why do you do this? So that the child can be elevated – raised up – to see what it could not see on its own. **The government shall be upon His shoulder.** If you let Christ be in charge of your lives then you will be raised above where you were in your own power. Your circumstances may not change – yet now God is your arms and legs. Upon the shoulder of God He controls your direction, He controls where you go and how you get there. While on the shoulder of God you are invincible. Your feet, though they may be of clay, are no hindrance to you. God is your feet. Christ your motive power.

Following this wonderful statement you see the Names of Christ set forth.

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The person who has committed his way unto the Lord have found Him to be **Wonderful**. He loves me when no others will. He is faithful, staying with me through thick and thin. 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. I have talked to pastors and preachers, and have found them to be the worst listeners I have ever met. When my heart bursts to share a pain or a joy with many they will not hear, for they are so focused on their own lives they have no time for mine. Yet 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.

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 **Mighty³ God**. He hears me, hears our cries, gives us wonderful advice – but is also able to *change our estate*. The words **Mighty God** are very intense, very powerful. He is not just **God** – though this title in itself implies limitless ability. 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**. Yet we are not through with this text, for Jesus is **The Everlasting Father**. Jesus said:

John 14:9-11 ... he that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Show us the Father? (10) Believest thou not that I am in the Father, and the Father in me? the words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself:

3 H1368, גִּבּוֹר גִּבּוֹר, gibbôr gibbôr, *ghib-bore', ghib-bore'*, Intensive from the same as H1397; *powerful*; by implication *warrior, tyrant*: - champion, chief, X excel, giant, man, mighty (man, one), strong (man), valiant man.

but the Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works. (11) Believe me that I am in the Father, and the Father in me: or else believe me for the very works' sake.

As a Member of the Eternal Godhead Jesus is in the Father and the Father is in Him. It is appropriate to name Him **The Everlasting Father** for, just as **God is Eternal, Christ is Eternal**. He is the Father in the sense that – like a Father – He provides for the needs of those who believe on Him. And finally we see the name **The Prince of Peace**. The Christian is a person at Peace because God the Son rules over his affairs and his heart. **Os Hillman** said⁴:

“Many of God's greatest servants experienced deep disappointment in their journeys of faithfulness to God. Joseph, after spending years as a slave and in jail for crimes that he did not commit, revealed deep disappointment when he was forgotten another two years in prison. John the Baptist, when awaiting execution, doubted whether Jesus was, in fact, the Christ because he was sitting there awaiting his death. Elijah, losing all hope and despondent to the point of death, asked God to take his life in the desert; and Peter, who left his fishing business and invested three years of his life only to watch his Savior crucified, wondered whether the purpose of those three years could be justified.

**When life doesn't add up, it leaves the heart sick.
When we have done all we know to do and the**

formula has not worked, it leaves us questioning. These are times that try the very souls of men. There is no human sense to be made of it. We are left with a choice: to cling or not to cling. There are times when holding on to our Master's robe is all that we can do. It is all that He wants us to do.”

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.

So many people this holy-day season will think of Jesus in passing. They will glance at pictures on cards that show the Baby in the Manger. They will look at the colors of Christmas, but not at the overall picture. Look what God accomplished for you! Look at the promises, the amount of time that passed, the precise control that God used, the love of God that passes all understanding. **Unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given.** Do not look at the brush strokes but look at the Masterpiece that is Jesus Christ. Have you received Him and Savior and Lord? May God touch your hearts with these words.