

# *A CHILD IS BORN . . . A SON IS GIVEN*

Isa. 9:6

by Robert G. Campbell

## **INTRODUCTION:**

1. What short words we use to express our deepest emotions! We speak of love, joy, hope, and peace. Yet these words carry so much human feeling that they are almost inadequate to convey what we want to say.
2. The Old Testament is filled with many prophetic utterances about the Mes-siah. Our text tonight is only one of those. It well illustrates the hope Israel had for a Leader who magnified the best in us by His own good nature.

## **I. OUR HOPE IS CENTERED IN A WONDERFUL COUNSELOR.**

*A. Isaiah lived in a time of national turmoil. Assyria had already threatened Judah. Israel, the northern kingdom, was gone-crushed by Assyria.*

1. Yet, Isaiah had a vision of hope. He prophesied, "The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; of those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned" (Isa. 9:2 NIV).
2. Isaiah's vision of hope is so vivid it appears to him as though the great event has already occurred.

*B. A child is to be born, except that the prophet speaks as though He has been born.*

1. By faith Isaiah saw Him—a king unlike any other earthly king.
2. He saw a son who was the gift of God. This child is a son of David (v. 7).

*C. He is given the title of Counselor, but He is no ordinary sage.*

1. The adjective "Wonderful" indicates what marvelous wisdom and deeds He can accomplish. He is extraordinary.
2. His wisdom and knowledge exceeds that of any of David's descendants. All of the treasures of wisdom and knowledge are found in Him (Col. 2:3).

## **II. OUR HOPE IS CENTERED IN A MIGHTY GOD.**

*A. This title of the newborn Son explains why He is such a Wonderful Counselor.*

1. It is because He is the Mighty God..
2. Some people will argue that there is no way Isaiah could have comprehended the divine incarnation at Bethlehem. But this view omits the fact that this prophecy is not only from Isaiah, but it is a revelation from God.

*B. Isaiah believed this child to be born of the Spirit of God.*

1. How much Isaiah understood we have no way of knowing. Yet it is clear that the ancient prophet could see this child as being the Mighty One of God. He is invincible.
2. No earthly king could ever be thought to be invincible.

*C. This Son of David would accomplish what others could not do.*

1. He would conquer mankind by the thousands and win their loyalty and love. He would have a kingdom based on unusual power.
2. Today-on this side of Bethlehem-we can readily see how powerful Jesus is. Yet, His might is not found in armies and machines of war, but in the overwhelming love He has for mankind.
3. No other force on earth is more power-ful than God's love.

**III. OUR HOPE IS CENTERED IN AN EVERLASTING FATHER.**

*A. It is clearly stated that there will be **no** end to the Messiah's kingdom.*

1. So many of David's sons had come to the throne only to see their accomplishments die at the same time they did. There was nothing lasting about their rule. If they accomplished good, their sons or grandsons might turn it around and begin to do evil.
2. Isaiah speaks of an "eternal" side to this Messiah. His kingdom is everlasting.

*B. The word "Father" refers to a unique quality of kingship.*

1. He sees His followers as children, not as subjects. This Messiah considers the people of His realm as sons and daughters.
2. He acts like a "Father." He disciplines for the child's good. He provides for the child's needs out of His special relationship with that person. He answers requests out of love. He is the Everlasting Father.

**IV. OUR HOPE IS CENTERED IN A PRINCE OF PEACE.**

*A. War, conflict, death, privation have always been the hallmark of kings who set out to rule the world.*

1. Their rules cost the subjects in taxes and blood. Hardship and sacrifice was required.
2. Here the prophet points to the new Messiah as being an emissary of Peace. One must not be misled to believe that Jesus—the true object of Isaiah's prophecy—does not cause hardship and sacrifice. To be a Christian is to face a hostile world. It may indeed cause difficulty and even the loss of life.

*B. Isaiah does have in mind that the new child will not come with war as a means of establishing His kingdom.*

1. He, instead, establishes peace. He seeks peace and teaches His children to seek peace.
2. The cessation of conflict does not always mean that enemies are now friends. The cause of the conflict needs to be removed. This cause is sin.
3. This child is to come and remove sin, which is the real cause of hatred, jealousy, and bickering.

*C. Also, the enmity between God and man is removed.*

1. It is sin that keeps God and man apart. Jesus is the Prince of Peace who restores the Garden of Eden, where God walks and talks with man.
2. The peace that this child provides has no end. In Isaiah 9:7 (NIV) the prophet says, "Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end."

### **CONCLUSION:**

1. Certainly Jesus Christ is the fulfillment of Isaiah's prophecy. No ordinary descendant of David qualifies. The Jews were continually disappointed by the human frailty of their leaders.
2. Jesus ushered in the Golden Age. He became the child who embodied all the qualities that are mentioned here. He and He alone is the Wonderful Counselor, the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, and the Prince of Peace.
3. But there were some who did not believe in Him when He first came. He did not meet their standards. Although He met the scriptural standard, Jesus was not the kind of king most of the Jews wanted. They rejected Him.
4. People are still rejecting Him today. What will you do? Will you reject the "Hope of the World"? Or will you accept Him as the long-hoped-for Messiah?