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# What Child Is This?

## ISAIAH 9:6-7

### Introduction

1. It is at this time of the year that the hearts and minds of many the world over are turned to the birth of God's Son.
2. While no one definitively knows when our Lord entered into this world as a babe, it is important none-the-less to recognize that many around us stop to consider His birth.
3. As Luke tells us in his gospel account, the first crib for this most important child was a manger, a common feed trough for animals.
4. But who is He and what makes Him so important?
5. To my knowledge there is no other individual in all of recorded history who has been recognized and worshiped to the extent of this child.
6. This morning, I would like to encourage you to walk with me through the pages of Scripture as we look at what God's Holy Spirit reveals to us about this infant born in Bethlehem over 2,000 years ago.

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## I. Who Is He?

### A. IMMANUEL (ISAIAH 7:14)

"Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, a virgin will be with child and bear a son, and she will call His name Immanuel." (Isaiah 7:14, NASB95)

1. To understand more about who this child is, we must go back over 2,700 years to the days of the prophet Isaiah and look at the historical context.
2. The nation of Judah, which at this time was ruled by a king named Ahaz, was being pressured by two kingdoms to the north — it's sister kingdom,

Israel, and the kingdom of Syria — to form a coalition against Assyria.

3. However, Ahaz is afraid to go against Assyria, so he sends a large sum of money to Assyria asking for their help against the northern kingdoms.
4. God sends His prophet Isaiah to tell Ahaz that the two kingdoms of which he is afraid will never attack him.
5. Isaiah even tells Ahaz to ask God for a sign as evidence of this fact, but Ahaz says, “I will not ask, nor will I test the Lord!” (Isaiah 7:12).
6. So, Isaiah tells Ahaz that God will give him a sign anyway:

“Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, a virgin will be with child and bear a son, and she will call His name Immanuel . . . For before the boy will know enough to refuse evil and choose good, the land whose two kings you dread will be forsaken.” (Isaiah 7:14–16, NASB95)

7. Why would this take place? Because God would be with His people and deliver them.

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## B. CHRIST (ISAIAH 9:6-7)

“For 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.” (Isaiah 9:6, NASB95)

1. In chapter 9, God promises through Isaiah that just as His people have experienced grief and despair, they will experience the joy and triumph of victory.
2. How does God intend to bring this about?
3. Again, it is through the birth of a child (Isaiah 9:6).
4. No king of Israel was ever identified in such a way.
5. The person to whom God refers is none other than the promised Messiah, the Christ.
6. He will achieve more than any mere human descendant of David ever achieved.

7. Isaiah tells us that this child “will be born to us,” this “son will be given to us” (v. 6a).
8. It is upon “His shoulders” that “the government will rest.”
9. Who is He? He is God’s beloved Son.

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## **II. What Shall We Call Him?**

### **A. WONDERFUL COUNSELOR**

1. He has wisdom as no mere man possesses.
2. The apostle Paul said that in him “are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge” (Colossians 2:3).
3. This is true because He is “the Word” which as the apostle John wrote
  - a. “was in the beginning with God” (John 1:2)
  - b. “was God” (John 1:1)
  - c. “became flesh, and dwelt among us” (John 1:14).
4. His instruction makes us wise, restores our soul, enlightens our eyes and brings joy to our heart (Psalm 19:7-8).
5. It is no wonder that the crowds who listened to Jesus “were amazed at His teaching” (Matthew 7:28; Mark 1:22).
6. Even the officers which the chief priests and Pharisees sent to arrest Him, early in His ministry, returned empty handed and said, “Never has a man spoken the way this man speaks” (John 7:46).

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### **B. MIGHTY GOD**

1. Look around you this morning and ask yourself, “Why is there something rather than nothing? Why do you and I exist?”

2. Only one answer suffices. We and the world around us are the creation of a “mighty God.”

3. If you look again at what the apostle John wrote in the beginning of His gospel, you will find these words,

“All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being” (John 1:3, NASB95).

4. The apostle Paul stated it this way in his letter to the believers in Colosse,

“For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things have been created through Him and for Him.” (Colossians 1:16, NASB95)

5. The psalmist David wrote, “The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork” (Psalm 19:1, ESV).

6. The apostle Paul informed the Christians in Rome that “since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse” (Romans 1:20, NASB95).

7. It was through His prophet Isaiah that He also spoke and said, “Remember the former things long past, for I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is no one like Me,” (Isaiah 46:9, NASB95)

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### C. ETERNAL FATHER

1. Too many children in the world today are growing up without having known a benevolent father in their lives.

2. In Jesus, we have a Father who . . .

a. has come looking for us because we were lost (Luke 19:10).

b. welcomes us home with open arms when we repent (Luke 15:20).

- c. is ever present in the fears and frustrations of our lives (Hebrews 13:5).
- 3. Even better is the fact that He is eternal (Revelation 22:13).  
“I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end.” (Revelation 22:13, NASB95)
- 4. What more can you or I ask for than a Father such as this.

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**D. PRINCE OF PEACE**

- 1. His peace is unlike any that you or I have ever known.
- 2. As Jesus said to His disciples in the upper room, “Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Do not let your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful” (John 14:27).
- 3. It is a peace made possible because He has overcome the world (John 16:33).
- 4. The peace He provides is more than the cessation of hostilities, the absence of war.
- 5. It is a “peace with God” made possible through Him (Romans 5:1).
- 6. It is “the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension” and “guards our hearts and minds” in Him (Philippians 4:7).

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**III. The Nature Of His Kingdom**

**A. A KINGDOM OF PEACE**

“There 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.” (Isaiah 9:7, NASB95)

1. All around us we hear of war or the rumor of war.
2. Every day we are witnesses of man's inhumanity to man.
3. In the innermost recesses of our hearts and minds we long for a kingdom where peace is the norm rather than the exception.
4. It is a "perfect peace" which is ours because we trust in Him (*Isaiah 26:3*).
5. It is a peace made possible because as Christians, our lives are now "hidden with Christ in God" (*Colossians 3:3*) and our Lord is the One who has "overcome the world" (*John 16:33*).
6. Eternally, we will know the ultimate peace in that city where the gates are never closed (*Revelation 21:25*).

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**B. A KINGDOM WHERE JUSTICE AND RIGHTEOUSNESS ARE UPHELD**

1. How many times have you said or heard someone else say, "That's not right."
2. When was the last time you learned of an injustice being carried out against another person.
3. Our king will always do what is right (*Genesis 18:25*).

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**C. A KINGDOM WHOSE KING REIGNS FOREVER**

1. No king of which we read in Scripture reigned for more than a few decades.
2. Our king, however, will reign forever.
3. Daniel, in the 7<sup>th</sup> chapter of the book which bears his name, tells of a vision he had in which . . .

"One like a Son of Man was coming,  
And He came up to the Ancient of Days  
And was presented before Him  
And to Him was given dominion,  
Glory and a kingdom,

That all the peoples, nations and men of every language  
Might serve Him.  
His dominion is an everlasting dominion  
Which will not pass away;  
And His kingdom is one  
Which will not be destroyed”  
(Daniel 7:13-14, NASB95)

4. When the angel Gabriel appeared to Mary, He told her about the child to be born to her and said, “. . . you shall name Him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David; and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and His kingdom will have no end” (Luke 1:32b-33, NASB95).

## **Conclusion**

1. This God who is with us is a God who wants to . . .
  - a. Turn our darkness into light
  - b. Bring us peace in place of distress
  - c. Fill our hearts with the gladness
2. The question which each of us must ask ourselves is “Have I allowed the Son of God to take over the government of my life?”
3. Only when you and I have done this can we have these benefits which God offers to us.
4. Will you come to Him today?