

## > This Promised Birth Brings Hope Personally to Us! (6a)

- The background and context of this rich and hopeful passage is of a helpless people in bondage to darkness, death, ignorance, misery and oppression (vv. 1-5).
- But great rejoicing has also begun. Notice the joyful terms in vv. 2-5.
- *For...a child* – The cause of this dramatic change of events is a child! It is ironic that a simple child would be the answer to such a complex problem.
- But this child is in keeping with what Isaiah has previously prophesied: *Isa 7:14 Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.*
- *For to us . . . to us*- Word structure emphasizes that the child is for us!
- *A Son* - this points to the Son (descendant) of David and anticipates the idea of the Son of God (see Psa 2:7 & Jn 3:16).
- *Given*- And lest there be any thought that we deserve/earn this child/redeemer. And the verb tense speaks in the tone that it has already happened. It is prophetically certain.
- This was the language of the angels, used with the Shepherds: *Luke 2:10 "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. 11 Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord.*

## > We Have Hope Because This Child Has the Attributes of God (6b)

- Just as the announcement of Isa 7:14 emphasizes the child's name and character (*Immanuel: God with us*), so does this passage. Each of the four names has two aspects, collectively emphasizing the child's deity.
- *Wonder Counselor*
  - *Wonder* is a noun, not an adjective. He is not simply wonderful. He himself is wonder. The more we know of Him the more we are in awe.
  - Wisdom that brings amazement is one of his primary characteristics. *Is 11:2 The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him – the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel.*
  - We, counselees, are speechless, as we gaze at and listen to Him.
- *Mighty God*
  - This is no petty pantheistic divine appearance. He is not one of the gods. He is God the Almighty. The thought of human incarnation to Hebrews was unthinkable.
  - *El gibbor* – means God who is a Hero or Mighty. John 16:33 "But take heart! I have overcome the world."
  - This anticipates the incredible humbling of God at the incarnation (Mark 2:7; John 8:58; 14:19; Col 1:15-20; John 1:1, 14; Heb. 1:1-3; Phil 2:1-9).
- *Everlasting Father*
  - He is always, eternally a Father to us (Psa 63:16; Psa 103:13).

- *Father* is a common and rare term for God. It is common if one is referring to creator, maker, just as a father is a procreator of a child. But it is rare if one is referring to an intimate relationship.
      - Jesus brings this Father relationship to us (John 20:20; 14:7:20, 23).
    - *Prince of Peace*
      - *Peace* is what he brings and enforces. He is not a tyrant.
      - But *peace* is not simply a cease-fire. It is a peace that rules from the inside out.
      - Peace must deal with the root-separation (dis-integrated) issue between God, others and within ourselves. *Rom. 5:1 Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ*
- > **This Ultimate King Brings About the World We Hope For (6-7a)**
- *The government...on his shoulders*: There is no question that Isaiah is describing the much anticipated Messianic King.
  - *Be no end* – We don't have to worry whether he will leave office. It is forever.
  - *He will reign* – We can settle the matter in advance of his 2<sup>nd</sup> coming by giving Him the government of our hearts. We don't have to wait.
  - *Justice and righteousness* – We can be the conduits of justice in the here and now. But his justice is not a limited "my form of justice" where one thing is emphasized at the loss of another.
  - The kingdom has come in advance of itself through this child (Dan. 2:44; Luk 1:32-33; 2 Sam 7:12-16, Matt 13:31, 33)
- > **We Have Confident Hope Because God's Zeal Will Do It (7b)**
- There is HOPE. After all this darkness and human failure, God will act!
  - We simply cooperate with God. It is his power and initiative.
  - Neither can any force stop him.
  - God is passionate about redeeming you and this planet!
- > **Taking It Home**
- *For us!* Do you really believe Jesus came for you? Do you think his redemptive zeal includes you? How have you responded to Him?
  - Paraphrase the four characteristics of the coming Messiah listed in verse six, using your own words.
  - Is the government (control) of your life *on his shoulders*? Have you surrendered your throne, (White House and Capital) to him or is he still a visitor in your capital?
  - Hope checklist
    - Believe that Jesus came and is coming again.
    - Support that hope by church attendance, daily devotional & prayer and regular fellowship.
    - Celebrate a Christmas tradition that makes our spiritual hope tangible.
    - Limit negative media and social media exposure.
    - Practice gratitude out loud toward God and others.
    - Practice kindness: do something or give to someone else to bring them hope.