

For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given

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Isaiah prophesied that God would send Messiah to His people, Israel, and that He would come as a baby:

For to us a child is born, to us a Son is given, and the government will be on His shoulders. And He will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the LORD Almighty will accomplish this. Isaiah 9:6,7.

For unto us a child is born, to us a son is given.

This was fulfilled when the Lord Jesus was born over 2000 years ago. Jesus is the Messiah! (*Messiah* in Hebrew and *Christ* in Greek are the same word, and mean *Anointed One*).

- Joseph was told by an angel that Mary would *give birth to a son*, and he was to *give Him the name Jesus, because He will save His people from their sins*. Matthew 1:21. (The name *Jesus* means *Saviour, Deliverer*).
- God sent His Son Jesus as a human being to be our Saviour. *For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.* John 3:16
- When Jesus was born the prophesy in Isaiah 7:14 was fulfilled: *The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a Son, and they will call Him Immanuel – which means “God with us”.* Matthew 1:23.
- Jesus came on that first Christmas as God's gift to mankind. And who was He given to? Us all! *And this is the testimony God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life.* 1 John 4:11,12. Perhaps this is where the concept of Christmas presents came from? As you are giving and receiving gifts at Christmas remember that God has given us the greatest gift of all: Jesus His Son.

And the government will be on His shoulders

- Government is the right or authority to rule; to be King; to be sovereign, to be honoured, to be worshipped.
- The right to govern is now on Jesus' shoulders. He alone has authority to govern in the world, and He alone also has the ability to do it! (Our elected governments certainly don't do a very good job of it!). How can Jesus be so great at governing? It is because the Holy Spirit is upon Him. *The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him - the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of power, the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD – and He will delight in the fear of the Lord.* Isaiah 11:2,3
- Jesus is not only the Messiah but He is also *King of Kings and Lord of Lords*. Revelation 19:16.

His name shall be called wonderful counsellor

- Jesus is wonderful in every way! Have you found this?
- He is especially wonderful as a counsellor. No matter what your situation, problem, need, concern.... Jesus cares for you, loves you, knows what to do and wants what's best for you. Jesus has the answer because Jesus is the answer! He is the only One who always has your best interests at heart. People always have agendas, but Jesus only wants what is best for you.

- In John 16:7,8,12 we see that the Holy Spirit is also called the Counsellor. *But I tell you the truth: It is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Counsellor will not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you. When He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own; He will speak only what He hears, and He will tell you what is yet to come. He will bring glory to Me by taking from what is mine and making it known to you.* John 16:7-12. So Jesus and the Holy Spirit are both called “Counsellor”. This is an indication from the Old Testament of the unity that exists within the Godhead.

Mighty God

- Jesus is the mighty Almighty – powerful, strong, chief, champion: the conquering God. (El Gibborw)
- Jesus is mighty in His very nature, and He can be mighty in you!

The everlasting Father

- Literally the Father of eternity, the planner of the ages, the Father of all time.
- Because Jesus is everlasting He knows the past, the present and the future. Here we have another indication of the unity of the Godhead. Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, but He is also the everlasting Father! That’s why Jesus could say *I and the Father are one.* John 10:30, *Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father.* John 14:9.
- So Jesus, Messiah is described in Isaiah 9:6 as the Son, the Father and the counsellor – the Holy Spirit!

The Prince of peace

- Only in Jesus can we find true peace. *The peace of God that passes all understanding* Philippians 4:7. *God is not the author of confusion, but of peace.* 1 Corinthians 14:11 so satan can’t counterfeit peace. It can only come from the Prince of Peace.
- When Jesus came that first Christmas the message that the angels declared to the shepherds was one of peace. *Glory to God in the highest. And on earth, peace towards men of goodwill* Luke 2:14

So Jesus came as the promised Messiah.
 He was a King, but He came as a baby.
 He came as a gift: the first and greatest Christmas present.
 He came to rule over all the earth, and the way He does this is by offering us His salvation.
 He is wonderful, and a wonderful counsellor.
 He is mighty and powerful.
 He is everlasting.
 He is one with the Father and the Holy Spirit.
 He is the source of peace and of all that good in this world.



Wow! What an amazing first Christmas! And what a Christmas present!

But Isaiah’s prophesy goes further than this.

Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end

- Ultimately Jesus came to bring in something even bigger than just the salvation of our souls. He came to bring in the Kingdom of God. *Jesus said “I tell you the truth, no-one can see the Kingdom of God without being born again.* John 3:3. Salvation is just the start!
- God is building His Kingdom and we can see evidence of this everywhere. Salvation, healing, love, joy, peace, hope, The Kingdom is growing! It is increasing! God is moving by His Spirit to build the Kingdom. And when it is fully brought in (in eternity) that will be heaven. That’s when there will be peace which has *no end*. What a future we have to look forward to!

He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever.

- From the time that Isaiah gave this prophecy the Jews were looking for their Messiah; expecting Him to come as a King.
- He did come, but He came as a baby! Pilate was right when he put the notice above Jesus' head on the Cross. It read "*Jesus of Nazareth; the King of the Jews*". John 19:19. Jesus was (and is) the King of the Jews. That's why we sing "Born is the King of Israel".
- At the moment the Jews don't recognise that Jesus is their King but it is still true. Jesus is the rightful King over David's throne, *establishing and upholding it*. Let's pray that the Israel will soon recognise that Jesus is who He really is: King of kings and Lord of lords.
- Jesus' kingship is all about justice and righteousness. Justice for the poor and oppressed. Righteousness so that we can have a relationship with God in Christ. *God made Him who had no sin to be sin for us so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.* 2 Corinthians 5:21.

And all of this was fulfilled just over 200 years ago in Bethlehem.

God sent His Son as a tiny Child. Born in a humble manger.

But the purpose of Jesus' coming was the Cross.

Bethlehem led to Calvary. And out of Calvary came salvation for all who believe. And beyond Calvary there is eternity in God's Kingdom in heaven.

Hallelujah! This is what Christmas is all about.

