

Pre Christmas
Enduring Hope

Text: Isaiah 9:6-7

Introduction: For centuries God inspired the prophets of Israel to speak of the coming Messiah. They spoke of the day when God would come to earth, take on human flesh and become their Savior and Redeemer. The prophecy was personal: ..." Unto us a child is born, Unto to us a Son is given..."

- To be given such a promise in troubled times was the grounds for enduring hope.
- In ancient Near Eastern culture, great significance was attached to personal names. They revealed character and identity and signified existence. The revelation of a divine name was important and gave great hope.

"For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." (Isa. 9:6 NKJ)

- The names described Jesus Christ 700 years prior to His birth as the Son of God. Isaiah 7:14 predicted His birth and Isaiah 9:6 describes His Divine character. He sees the future so vividly that the action is deemed as done.
1. Wonderful (Pele)—mystery, extraordinary, such a wonder, so remarkable—cp Judges 13:17-18. God Himself—Judges 13:22. Col.2:2-3.
 2. Counselor (Yaw-ats)—to give advice, plan/purpose, guidance, deliberate and resolve. Many voices are crying out in the world. It's comforting because the revelation of His name assures dependability. His counsel/purpose/plan stands—14:24, unstoppable—14:27. God doesn't need a counselor—Isa.40:13-14. Jesus is God's wisdom—I Cor.1:24.
 3. Mighty God (El Gibbor): God is great—means to have or show great strength—Jer.32:17; Heb.1:1-2.
 4. Everlasting Father (Eternal Father)—Jesus functions as Father, providing, instructing, loving, tender and compassionate. John 1:1-3, 14:8-11.
 5. Prince of Peace (Shalom)—the Chief/General over prosperity, safety and overall welfare. He is the source of the quietness and confidence in our hearts—Ro.5:1. It's a gift to us—Jn 14:27. Made peace for us—Col.1:19-20.

Note: Meditating on the names generates enduring hope.

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