

Introduction:

1. Independence Day is a uniquely American holiday. July 4 is a celebration of the signing of the Declaration of Independence.
 - a. With that declaration, the earth witnessed the emergence of a new form of government; one which Abraham Lincoln later said was “of the people, by the people and for the people.”
 - b. It was a government that was “dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.”
 - c. Our Declaration of Independence and Constitution gave us “one nation under God,” recognizing that the Creator is ultimately the author of our liberties and freedoms.
 - d. And that nation *under God*, with its form of limited government, promoting self-reliance, political and religious liberty, and freedom of speech is responsible for the incredible prosperity and blessings that we enjoy at this present time.
2. As wonderful as that government is, there is another government that outshines America as the day outshines the night. It is a government that began with the birth of a child, Isaiah 9:6-7.
 - a. This child has liberated and set free more people than any government, president, declaration or proclamation. The freedom He provides is eternal and can be taken away by no man.
 - b. It was in about 700 BC that the prophet Isaiah spoke of an amazing and astonishing child who was to be born. The prophet spoke of this special child seven centuries before His birth.
 - c. Such is the remarkable nature of prophecy—foretelling events hundreds of years before they take place. Such is the remarkable nature of the child who was to be born—born to be a king!
3. Let us see what we can learn about this child and His government.

The Lesson:

I. The Birth Of The Child.

- A. Our text is a prophecy of the first coming of Christ into the world.
 1. He would come into the world, not as a full-grown man, but as a child. He was to be born of a woman, born as a Jew under the Law of Moses.
 2. This would be a child like no other. In Isaiah 7:14 the prophet spoke of the remarkable nature of His birth; He would be born without the involvement of a human father!
 3. According to Isaiah 7:14 He would be called Immanuel, “God with us.” Prior to the birth of this child, God had been with His people in many instances and under many circumstances, but never like this. Deity was coming into the world in the form of a child, a son, John 1:1-3, 14.
- B. Indeed, the very words of the prophet were fulfilled with the birth of Jesus.
 1. Hear what Matthew and Luke say of His birth, Matthew 1:20-23; Luke 1:35.
 2. The angels announced His birth in Luke 2:8-12. Isaiah said “Unto us a child is born.” The angels said, “There is born to you...”
 - a. While in the immediate context, the *us* and *you* apply to the Jewish people, in the larger context, these words apply to the whole human race.
 - b. In fact, in the context of Isaiah 9:6 it is apparent that God has more in mind than just the Jewish people, for He speaks of the Gentiles in Isaiah 9:1-2. The Son who is to be born in Isaiah 9:6 is the great light to the Gentiles in the opening of the chapter.
- C. God intends that this child also be a great light unto you and me. This is the Savior of the world. This is the Redeemer. This is the only one who can give us life, John 3:16. “Unto us a Son is given...God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son...”

II. The Government Of The Child.

- A. This is a child who was born to be king over an everlasting kingdom.
 1. The government will be on His shoulder. Many of the ancient rulers wore an ensign of authority on their shoulders as part of their royal garb, Isaiah 22:22. A royal key, scepter and sword were often worn in a sling from the shoulder.
 2. His government is one of peace that has no end. The kingdom of Christ is a perpetual kingdom. He reigns as king forever and ever, Daniel 2:44; 7:14, 27.
 3. The concept of an everlasting kingdom has application to you, 2 Peter 1:11. The child spoken of in this prophecy wants you in His kingdom. He wants you there forever!

- B. There are more than a dozen Old Testament prophecies that point to Jesus being seated on the throne of David (2 Samuel 7:12-14; Psalm 132:11; Psalm 89:3-4; Ezekiel 34:23-24, etc.).
 - 1. It is said that some people understand this to refer to a seat, a large elaborate chair, in a palace in the city of Jerusalem. But that is not how people understand this prophecy. That is how they misunderstand it!
 - 2. This refers not to a large chair in Jerusalem but to the fact that Jesus is the heir to the kingship that began with King David. Jesus is said to sit upon the throne of David because all the promises concerning the perpetuity of David's kingdom relate to Christ, and were fulfilled in Him.
 - 3. The throne of David—the kingly position that belongs to Jesus—is not in the city of Jerusalem, but at the right hand of God in heaven, Acts 2:29-33.
 - 4. You need to know that some teachers believe the prophecy of Isaiah 9:6-7 has not been fulfilled. Those who believe that look for a future time when Jesus will leave heaven and will sit on a throne in the city of Jerusalem. They have Jesus leaving the throne of heaven and being demoted to a lesser place here on the earth. Lest you be caught up in the error of those teachers, you need to know there is no demotion scheduled for Jesus!
- C. Note how the Son rules His kingdom: He orders it and establishes it with judgment and justice.
 - 1. To “order it” is to raise it up, to bring the kingdom into being and cause it to stand. Some argue that Jesus tried to bring the kingdom into being at His first coming, but failed. People who argue that Jesus was a failure are wrong about other things, too!
 - 2. His kingdom is established with judgment and justice. That is, these qualities are foundational principles of His kingdom. He rules in perfect wisdom and equity.
 - 3. The kingdoms of this world are often marked by oppression and tyranny. Sometimes the rulers of this world trample on their own people, place heavy and cruel burdens of taxation upon them and abuse them. They are tyrants. But it is not so with the kingdom of Christ. Jesus is a benevolent ruler who loves His subjects and seeks only their well-being.
 - 4. How many kingdoms of this world have been established with the blood of soldiers on a battlefield, or even with the blood of the innocent as they were slaughtered by invading armies? And though it is not found in our text, the kingdom of Christ was established with the Son's own blood. His own blood secured for us justice and judgment!
 - 5. The foundational principles of His kingdom extend to every kingdom citizen. He requires righteousness of His subjects, and teaches them to do justly. Like Himself, His subjects are required to exercise righteous judgment and to treat all men with justice. The victories of the kingdom are not won on the battlefield of carnal warfare but in the hearts of men as they surrender to King Jesus and practice His principles in their lives!
- D. The Government—the kingdom—of the child is like no other known in the earth.

III. The Zeal Of The Lord Of Hosts Will Accomplish This.

- A. The establishment of the kingdom and its victory could only be accomplished by the Lord. This is not an undertaking devised by man or made successful by the efforts of mere men.
 - 1. Some things cannot be achieved without the hand of God. This is one of those things!
 - 2. It is the Lord's zeal, His aggressive enthusiasm for the cause of His Son that overcame every obstacle and roadblock to the success of His Son's kingdom! It is for the glory and honor of His only begotten that He has performed these great deeds.
- B. God the Father laid out and planned everything that happened in the bringing of His Son into the world and establishing His kingdom—even the death of His Son, Acts 2:22-24. The death of Jesus was according to the “determined purpose and foreknowledge of God.”
- C. It was when God's timetable was exactly right that He sent this special child into the world, Galatians 4:4-5.

Conclusion:

- 1. What should we take home from this lesson? How about a spirit of thanksgiving and praise? Let us be thankful to God for all He has done. Continue the reading from Galatians, Galatians 4:6-7.
- 2. Unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given. For what purpose? That we might be children of God, that we might become His sons and daughters. Let us serve Him with the spirit of sonship!