

FOR UNTO US A CHILD IS BORN

Dowlen Road, July 5, 2009 PM

INTRODUCTION:

- A. The New Testament opens with these words (**Matthew 1:1**).
 - 1. Imagine a person who has never studied the Old Testament reading this passage for the first time. Even if they know something about Jesus, they would still be confused. Who is David? Who is Abraham? Why is Jesus called the Messiah?
 - 2. Of course, to answer those questions, we must know something about the Old Testament. What this passage demonstrates is that there is an inseparable connection between the two testaments that make up our Bible. We cannot truly understand and appreciate one without the other.
- B. This passage also demonstrates that the coming of Jesus into the world was not an unexpected event.
 - 1. The whole thrust of the Old Testament story pointed to this moment in history when Jesus – Abraham's descendant, David's descendant – would be born into the world. It is the climax of the Bible story.
 - 2. Not only the Old Testament prophets tell us that He is coming, they tell us all about Him. They tell us how He would come into the world, what He would do during His time here, how He would suffer and die, and what this sacrificial death would accomplish.
- C. None of the prophets tell us more about Jesus than Isaiah does.
 - 1. He is often called the Messianic Prophet because he spoke so frequently about the coming of Jesus, the Messiah.
 - 2. In the lesson this morning Max shared with us some of Isaiah's prophecies about the government and rule of Jesus.
 - 3. This evening I want us to return to that same text and notice something else it reveals about Jesus (**Isaiah 9**). In verse 6 Isaiah will use four titles to describe the coming to Savior. With each one, Isaiah reveals something wonderful about Jesus and what He would do for us. Let's spend some time considering each of these titles and appreciate what they tell us about Jesus.

Wonderful Counselor

- A. This description of Jesus speaks to a very basic human need.
 - 1. We all need a counselor. As much as we like to think we have it all together, we all have moments when we need guidance and direction.
 - a. Sometimes we reach that moment in our marriage. We face some issue that we just can't agree on, that we just can't work out. We need someone to help us, to offer guidance and suggestion solutions.
 - b. Sometimes we reach this moment with our children. We come to some problem or crisis and we just can't figure out how to handle it. Everything we do just makes things worse. We need counsel.
 - c. Sometimes we reach this moment with our personal struggles. We keep falling to the same temptation or we struggle to develop our spiritual disciples – Bible study, prayer, etc. We need advice.
 - 2. At times like this, I think our first instinct is to turn to a friend or an older person in whom we have confidence. If the problem is more serious, we might turn to a professional counselor.
- B. While it is great to have friends to which we can turn for counsel, we have no better counselor than Jesus.
 - 1. Isaiah would describe Him as our "wonderful" counselor. The idea is that He is an amazing counselor, unlike any ordinary counselor we might seek out. It's not hard to figure out why this is so. He counsels us as our Creator (**Colossians 1:16**). He made us. For that reason, He knows us as only the Creator can, better than we know ourselves. We have no better friend to which we can turn for guidance in times of crisis.
 - 2. We need to seek His counsel. This needs to be instinctive. When I'm having a problem, one of the first things I ought to do is seek the advice of Jesus from His book. I should do this before I go to anyone else.
 - 3. And when I do go to others, I should judge their advice in light of what Jesus said. Don't make the mistake that some do. They talk with a friend or even professional counselor and take their advice, even when it's contrary to what Jesus said (**1 Corinthians 15:33**). It does not matter how much someone loves us or what credentials they might have. If they disagree with Jesus, they are wrong!
 - 4. Jesus is our wonderful counselor. We need to listen to Him.
- C. Let me add one other thought.
 - 1. It is certainly a blessing to have the counsel of Jesus about our families and our struggles with temptation.
 - 2. But let's not forget that these are not the most important areas where He guides. Even more important is the counsel He gives us about God: who He is (**John 1:18**), how we can have a relationship with Him, how we can be with Him in heaven.
 - 3. As our wonderful counselor, He not only gives us perfect guidance, but He guides in the things that matter most.
 - 4. We need to listen to Him.

Mighty God

- A. This title tells us the most important thing about the nature of the Savior.
 - 1. He is God. He is divine. He has the same divine qualities and nature that the Father and the Holy Spirit possess.
 - 2. In light of this prophecy, it is astonishing that there would ever be any dispute about the nature of Jesus. And yet, there is. Some religious people argue that Jesus was only a man – a great philosopher to be sure – but in the end, just a man. The Jehovah's Witnesses claim that Jesus is an angel – an important angel, Michael the arch angel – but still, just an angel and not God.
 - 3. However, scripture will allow neither of these positions.
 - a. What are we to do with Isaiah who gave Jesus this title of divinity, "Mighty God?"
 - b. What are we to do with the statements of John (**John 1:1,18**)?
 - c. What are we to do with the words of Thomas after seeing the resurrected Savior, and Jesus' reaction to his words (**John 20:28-29**)? If Thomas was wrong, it is unimaginable that Jesus would not correct this blasphemous mistake.

- d. What are we to do with all those occasions when Jesus received worship (**John 9:38**)? Keep in mind that it was Jesus who said only God is worthy of worship (**Matthew 4:10**).
- 4. What Isaiah foretold was fulfilled in Jesus. This coming Savior would be God in a human body.
- B. But notice that Isaiah calls Him the "mighty" God.
 - 1. This title might at first appear to be redundant. We understand that one of the attributes of God is that He is all-powerful. Since Jesus shares this divine nature, He would certainly be mighty.
 - 2. But keep in mind that the Bible is at times redundant for the sake of emphasis. Sometimes we need to be reminded that our God is mighty. When we go through periods of trial or suffering in life, sometimes we behave as though our God is powerless – that there is nothing anyone can do to help me. We need to be reminded that our Savior is mighty. There is no problem we encounter or enemy we face that is too great for Him to handle.
 - 3. This coming Savior would be the mighty God. We need to have confidence in Him as we face the trials of life.

Eternal Father

- A. This title is often misused by some charismatics who deny the godhead.
 - 1. Oneness Pentecostals deny that there are three divine persons (Father, Son and Spirit). They claim each of these is simply a different way of referring to the same person. They would cite this passage to prove that Jesus is the same as the Father.
 - 2. Let's respond to this false doctrine in two ways.
 - a. First, scripture teaches that Jesus and the Father are two distinct beings.
 - 1) **John 1:1**, "the Word (Jesus) was **WITH** God"
 - 2) **Matthew 3:16-17**, "This is My beloved Son"
 - 3) **John 14:16**, "I will ask the Father"
 - b. Second, this passage is not saying Jesus is the same as the Father. Rather, it emphasizes that Jesus will be a father to us. A similar idea is found in Genesis where Joseph says that God had made him a "father" to pharaoh (45:8). This coming Savior would be like a father to us – His children. Think of everything a father does for his children – provider, protector, teacher, example, disciplinarian, comforter, counselor... Jesus is all these things to us. He is a father to us.
- B. But notice that Isaiah says He is the "eternal" Father. This tells us several important things.
 - 1. This is another mark of deity. He is not a created being. He is God.
 - 2. But appreciate that, because Jesus is eternal, He will always be there. Even the most devoted fathers cannot do this. If we live long enough, there will come a day when our earthly fathers will not be there for us, a day when we will have to bury them. Jesus is the eternal Father, the Father who will always be there to provide for us and protect us throughout all our days.
 - 3. Because He is the eternal Father, we can always lean on Him.

Prince of Peace

- A. This title speaks to Jesus' purpose for coming.
 - 1. His mission was a peace mission (**Ephesians 2:14-16**). Paul speaks of two kinds of peace Jesus brought.
 - 2. First, both Jews and Gentiles are able to have peace with God through Jesus Christ. When I choose to sin, I put myself in conflict with God's will for my life. I make God my enemy (**Romans 5:10**). Isaiah announced that the coming Savior would make peace. Paul tells us how he did this ("*reconciled to God through the death of His Son*"). Through His death on the cross, Jesus provided a way to tear down the barrier that stands between God and man – sin. When we are cleansed of our sins by His blood in baptism, the barrier is removed and we are reconciled to God. We can be friends again. We can have peace.
 - 3. Think about it: this was His whole purpose for coming, as announced by the prophets long ago. He came and died so we could have peace with God (**Romans 5:1**).
- B. But keep in mind that this is not the only kind of peace Jesus provides. Paul also describes how Jesus made peace between Jews and Gentiles (**Ephesians 2:14-16**).
 - 1. He made both groups one. He broke down the barrier. He reconciled both in one body.
 - 2. Jesus has one spiritual family that every person can be part of. There was not one family for Jews, and another for Gentiles. There is not one for whites and another for Blacks, Hispanics or Asians. We are one body, one family in Christ because Jesus made peace between men.
 - 3. And, He gave us the instructions we need to keep the peace with each other. He demands that we be at peace (I Thessalonians 5:13).
 - 4. We need to think about that. When we do things that unnecessarily stir up trouble among God's people, we are working against the prince of peace and against His desires for His people. It's not always easy to have peace among brethren, but we have to work at it (**Ephesians 4:3**).
- C. But there is still a third kind of peace that Jesus give us. He also gives us peace of mind (**Colossians 3:15, Philippians 4:9**).
 - 1. When I know that things are right between me and God; when following His counsel for my life; when I have heaven as my hope; then I am able to be at peace.
 - 2. We see all around us people who are filled with mental turmoil. Their lives are ruled by fear and anxiety.
 - 3. Those who follow Jesus have a great advantage. We have the peace of mind that only comes to those who serve the Prince of Peace.

Conclusion: Is This Who You Are Serving?

Maybe you know about this mental turmoil we've been describing. Maybe you've been living it every day. Had enough? There is an answer. A long time ago the prophet Isaiah announced that a Child would be born, a Son given to us. This Child would be our Savior, a Savior that would give us peace with God, peace with one another and peace within ourselves. You can have that peace if you will make Him your Prince and allow Him to rule in your life.