



*"...Unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given..."* This well-known passage of scripture is found in Isaiah 9:6. It is usually connected with verse 7. The scriptures are as follows: *"For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this."* (Isaiah 9:6,7)

These scriptures are especially heard during the time of year which, on our Gregorian calendar, is known as the Christmas season. They are referred to as "Messianic." From the Christian perspective, they point, prophetically, to the coming of Jesus, the Messiah.

It is important to note that the Jewish perspective of these scriptures are also thought to be "Messianic." However, that is where the similarity in thought ends. You see the Jewish Rabbis look at these scriptures that were written by Isaiah to have already been fulfilled. They believe that Isaiah was writing about his own times and that Isaiah was writing about the king of Isaiah's time - king Hezekiah.

According to Jewish rabbinical "tradition," they believe that the ability for a "messiah" who will bring deliverance and renewal to the Jewish nation of Israel is possible in every generation. In Isaiah's time it was thought that Hezekiah fit into this category for the Jewish nation at that time. It is true that Hezekiah did bring major reform to the Temple Worship and brought the reading of Torah back into the Temple service. However, we know that the scriptures are very clear that he did not finish as well as he started. That was the problem with every one of the kings, whether they were of the kings of Israel or the kings of Judah.

What the rabbis failed to grasp is that Isaiah was writing prophetically about the true Messiah that would come to truly set the Jewish people free, not simply from the bondage of any natural enemy such as the Assyrians, Babylonians or even the Romans as in the time of Jesus. Rather, their Messiah was to be one who would set them free from the spiritual bondage of sin and the real enemy - satan and his forces of darkness which brought separation from the one true God, Yahweh.

One of the problems for the Jewish rabbis as they look at this scripture is found in the usage of words "is born" and "is given" as used in verse 6. They see this in their original Hebrew language as referring to the generation that Isaiah was writing in. They refer to it as the words "was born" and "was given," thereby directing and pointing to Hezekiah. However, Isaiah was writing in the sense of the "present and future" because he was writing the prophetic word with an assurance that God indeed was going to bring this to pass. Therefore, he wrote it as if it had happened right at that time.

Even if we agree that Isaiah used the words "was born" and "was given," for Isaiah it would be the same. He was so sure of God's promise coming to pass that he wrote as if it already came to pass. In other words - it was a done deal!!! Jesus referred to being able to grasp these types of concepts as "*having ears to hear and eyes to see.*" Isaiah was definitely speaking forth a messianic prophecy that, in God the Father's eyes and in the spiritual realm, was already accomplished. It was to be fulfilled in the natural realm by the one and only true Messiah, Yeshua (Jesus).

So what does this prophetic word by Isaiah say to us, as believers in Jesus? Why is it so important to us, even in this hour? We know that Jesus came in fulfillment of this scripture over 2000 years ago. This was fulfilled - so let's move on. No, we are not to "move on." Sometimes, that is our problem. We are so quick to "move on" that we miss out on the richness of what the scriptures are really telling us. These scriptures are foundational truths about our beloved Messiah, Savior and Lord. So let's look a little closer into them.

*"For unto to us a child is born..."* - This refers simply to the humanity of Jesus. It refers to the Messiah being born as a man. He was God who came in the flesh (Philippians 2:7,8; John 1:14) Jesus continually stressed this point throughout His ministry. Throughout the Gospels, He chose to refer to Himself as the "Son of Man." He preferred this "title" for Himself. The term points to His total humanity. The term "Son of Man" also points directly to the servant hood of Christ.

It is of the utmost importance that Jesus came in the flesh as a man. If He did not come in the flesh as a man, than He would not have truly been able to take our place on the cross and become the final sacrifice for all our sin. Hebrews 10:8-10 - *"Above when he said, Sacrifice and offering and burnt offerings and offering for sin thou wouldst not, neither hadst pleasure therein; which are offered by the law; <sup>9</sup>Then said he, Lo, I come to do thy will, O God. He taketh away the first, that he may establish the second. <sup>10</sup>By the which will **we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.**"*

That is why the Apostle John makes a clear distinction concerning this is 1John 4: 2,3 - *"Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ is **come in the flesh** is of God: 3 And every spirit that confesses not that Jesus Christ is **come in the flesh** is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world."*

The phrase "Son of Man" is not a "New Testament Christian" term. It is in direct reference to the prophecy of Daniel 7:13-14, *"In my vision at night I looked, and there before me was one like a **son of man**, coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days and was led into his presence. He was given authority, glory and sovereign power; all peoples, nations and men of every language worshiped him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed."* The term, "Son of Man," is a "messianic term" that pointed to the true Messiah - Jesus.

*"...Unto us a Son is given"* - This refers to the Messiah, Jesus as the Son of God. Jesus was fully God manifested upon this earth (Philippians 2:7,8; John 1:1,14) To be the "Son of God" was to be of the same nature as God. The Son of God literally means "of God." It infers to be of the same nature as God, Himself. Luke 1:32,33 – *"He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end."*

The Apostle John refers to those that believe in Jesus as "sons of God" - John 1:12 - *"But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name;"* This infers that as born again believers through the blood of Jesus and in the power and ability of the Holy Spirit can and should exhibit the same character and nature of Christ who in turn, as He walked this earth, exhibited the character and nature of Father, God.

To the Jewish leadership as they encountered Jesus, this became a tremendous stumbling block for them. They could not grasp or comprehend that Messiah would be God come in the flesh. Their concept of Messiah was that he would be totally and fully just a man. They did not look at Messiah as being totally and fully man while at the same time being totally and fully God.

That is why that as we read the Gospel of John, they continually confront Jesus with questions such as, "Who is your father?" or "Where are you from?" etc. Jesus kept telling them who is Father was and where He was from. However, they just could not grasp that concept. They did not have *"...eyes to see or ears to hear."*

"...and the government shall be upon his shoulder..." - The term "government" simply refers to the word "authority." This is stating that the Messiah will have full dominion and rightful authority to rule and reign as the leader of the not only the Jewish nation but over all the earth, as well as powers, principalities and rulers of darkness.

This may possibly also refer to the two sardonic stones that were fixed in settings of gold on the High Priest's shoulders; one on the right, and one on the left. The names of the tribes of Israel were engraved upon these two stones. (Exodus 28:9-10) Aaron, as the High Priest, was to, "... carry their names (the names of the tribes of Israel) before God on his two shoulders as a remembrance." (Exodus 28:12) Jesus would carry the names of the tribes of Israel upon His shoulders as the High Priest before God as well as the true King, from the line of David, that would rule over all the tribes of Israel, all nations, all powers, principalities and rulers of darkness.

Below are further scripture references concerning this aspect of Jesus as having the "...government upon His shoulders..."

- Revelation 11:15 - *"The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever."*
- Matthew 28:18 – *"And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power (authority) is given unto me in heaven and in earth."*
- Philippians 2:9-11 - *"Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."*

"...and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor" - In the original Hebrew scriptures there is no comma after the word "wonderful." It should not be thought of as two separate "titles" but rather as one title for this Messiah that God will bring forth. It should properly be read as "Wonderful Counselor." This in turn is properly translated from the Hebrew text as "Wondrous Advisor." It refers to the Messiah as being the all wise One who is filled with all wisdom and knowledge. This points directly to Jesus who is the "living Word of God."

The Word of God is the wisdom and knowledge of God, His ways, His concepts – it is the road map to a blessed life in Him. Jesus **IS** the Word. (John 1:1) Therefore all wisdom, knowledge and wise counsel is found in Him (the Word). The Word of God is our counselor. Jesus, as the Living Word within each of His people, is our "Wondrous (awesome, awe inspiring, wonderful) Advisor "

who will counsel us properly through every situation and circumstance that may arise. Jesus knows what is truly within our heart and He will reveal that to us in wisdom and knowledge so that we can grow and be His true disciples.

Colossians 2:2-3 tells us, *"That their hearts might be comforted, being knit together in love, and unto all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the acknowledgment of the mystery of God, and of the Father, and of Christ; **In whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.**"*

*"...The Mighty God..."* - In the Hebrew it is "El Gibbor." This literally means "Warrior Champion." Jesus is the mighty warrior champion. He defeated the real enemy, satan. He defeated spiritual death that was the wage of our sin. Jesus is the commander, the Lords hosts (armies), as seen in Joshua 5:13-15.

- Psalm 24:8 - *"Who is this King of glory? The LORD strong and mighty (gibbôr), the LORD mighty (gibbôr) in battle."*
- In Revelation 19:11-16 we see - *"... a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True. With justice he judges and makes war.... He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, and his name is the Word of God. The armies of heaven were following him, riding on white horses and dressed in fine linen.... He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God Almighty. On his robe and on his thigh he has this name written: 'King of kings, and Lord of lords'.* Here we see clearly Jesus Christ as the Victor.
- Colossians 2:15 - *"And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it."*

*"...The everlasting Father..."* - We must not get confused here. The Hebrew is - "Avi-Ad," which does literally mean a father. However, it infers it to mean a "progenitor" of a line of descendants. This is pointing to the fact that the Messiah will be a "first of many." Jesus fulfilled this aspect of this messianic prophetic word from Isaiah. Jesus became the "first born again man" and therefore the progenitor of a "new species of being. (2Corinthians 5:17) Through His resurrection He became the "first fruit" of God's plan of salvation. Now, through Jesus, the believer becomes a totally "new species of being" - a born again child of God.

- Romans 8:29 - *"For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers."*
- Colossians 1:18 - *"He is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent."*

"...*The Prince of Peace*" - The Hebrew for the term "Prince of Peace" is "sar shalom." The term translated into the English word "prince" is the Hebrew word "sar." It does mean one who rules. It is where we get the our word, "czar," from. However, it also literally means a government official that is referred to as "a minister."

In Europe we see many leaders of countries are referred to as the "Prime Minister." These Prime Ministers then have those under them called "Ministers" such as the Minister of Commerce, etc. In the USA we use the term Secretary such as Secretary of State or Secretary of Labor, etc. In each case it refers to someone who oversees, administers and serves in the capacity of the office that they are in charge of. In this case, Messiah is to be the overseer, the administrator and the servant of "peace/ shalom."

The term "shalom" means "to be set at one again" with someone. In other words it means a total restoration of a broken relation between two parties. Jesus is our "peace" who breaks down the barriers to a relationship with God. Through Jesus we can now be reconciled and "set at one again" with God. According to Jesus, this is the definition of "eternal Life." - John 17:3, 21-23 - <sup>3</sup>"...*And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent...* <sup>21</sup>*That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me.* <sup>22</sup>*And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one:* <sup>23</sup>*I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me.*"

It also means that we can be set at one again with each other. Whether Jew or Gentile, all people. Ephesians 2:14 - *"For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us;"*

It is interesting to note that the definition of "shalom" as found in the Hebrew Glossary of Words is as follows: "Shalom comes from the root Hebrew word - "Shelem" - which cannot be translated into just one single word. When there is "shalom" there is tranquility, justice, sufficient food, clothing and housing. There is divine health, with no sickness. Shalom means an absence of disorder, injustice, bribery, corruption, conflict, lack, hatred, abuse, violence, pain, suffering, immorality, and all other negative forces. **The principles advocated in the Torah, the Word of God, will be followed and then the command to love your neighbor is completed.**" - from the Hebrew Glossary of Words.

When a person has and experiences true "shalom" they are not only recipients of the fullness of God's blessings but the fullness of that "shalom peace" will flow out of that person through a lifestyle of moral excellence exhibited in "loving God and loving your neighbor."

We conclude our discussion of Isaiah's messianic prophecy with Isaiah 9:7 - *"Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this."*

*"The zeal of the LORD of hosts **will perform this.**"* This was, is and always will be God's heart. It was, is and always will be His passion - a passion for restoration between Himself and His most prized creation, you and me, to be accomplished. It was God's plan even before creation occurred. Jesus was *"...the Lamb that was slain before the foundations of the earth."* (Revelation 13:8) The plan of salvation was intact even before creation began. Isaiah's prophetic word found in Isaiah 9:6,7 could never be accomplished through any natural man such as a Hezekiah. It could only be accomplished by the perfect God/Man - Jesus.

Jesus Christ - THE Lord of lords, THE King of all kings, THE Savior, THE Anointed One of God, THE Son of Man, THE Son of God, THE Wonderful Counselor; THE Mighty God, THE Prince of Peace, THE one and only true Messiah. Jesus was the One who was able to accomplish and totally fulfill God's plan of salvation. **The zeal of the LORD of hosts has performed this!!!**

*"And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men."*

*Luke 2:10-14 (KJV)*