

Unto Us a Child is Born

Isaiah 9:6-7

The birth of Jesus is like a stuffed stocking—overflowing and full of surprises. Many of these surprises are found in things we've heard already. The names of Jesus are stupendous, and the more we look at them, the deeper they become and merrier our Christmas.

Wonderful

Jesus didn't simply do wonders; He is a wonder. We need to recover the word and idea of wonder. The emotion of wonder comes from the objective reality. Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, entrusted to the arms of a teenage virgin! See the One who made the galaxies having his toes counted in Bethlehem! These are things are wondrous (Lk. 2:18-19). The gloom up Zebulun and Naphtali in Galilee of the Gentiles was thick, but upon them a light shined (Is. 9:1-2). Matthew tells us this was fulfilled when Jesus went there (Matt. 4:12-17). Jesus spoke wonderfully and worked wonders because His is a wonder (Matt. 7:28-29).

Counselor

The Word of God became a baby who couldn't say any words (Jn. 1:1). As a true human, Jesus learned how to talk, and then how to speak with wisdom (Lk. 2:52, 40, 46). He would talk to someone, confront them with all their sin, and they would go skipping away free and forgiven (Jn. 4:39). "No one ever spoke like this Man!" (Jn. 7:46). One of the most important skills of a counselor is the ability to listen. Jesus is not our dictator, but our Counselor (Jn. 15:14-15). We cast our cares upon Him because He hears (1 Pet. 5:7). He gives wisdom liberally without disappointment to all who ask, and He speaks to us through His Word (Jms. 1:5; Heb. 4:12).

Mighty God

Consider what Jesus said about himself: "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me" (Jn. 14:6); "Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM" (Jn. 8:58; cf. 14:9); "Your sins are forgiven" (Lk. 7:48). It does no good to point out He never said, "I am God." He said as much over and over. Psalm 45 says the Messiah King is *El*: "Your throne, O God, is forever and ever; a scepter of righteousness is the scepter of Your kingdom" (v6). We've seen Jesus is Emmanuel (Is. 7:14), God with us, and now we learn He is mighty. He calmed the stormy sea, and His hand is mighty to save.

Everlasting Father

Jesus told Philip that to see Him is to see the Father (Jn. 14:9). Jesus is part of the Trinity with the Father and the Spirit. He is one sent from the Father. Jesus is the husband of His bride the Church, but individually the Church is our Mother and Jesus our Father (Gal. 4:26). He provides, protects, and cares for us (Heb. 2:13; cf. Is. 8:18). One of the things we hear from Jesus, which we need so desperately today, is the same thing He heard from the Father: "This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased."

Prince of Peace

Jesus is the kind of peaceful Prince who wears a bloody robe and carries a sword (Rev. 19:11-16). His peace is not bought cheaply; He went to war in order to secure it. Some men fight because they love conflict, but some fight because they love peace. If a man won't fight for peace, he doesn't truly love it. Jesus breaks oppression like He did in the day of Midian (Is. 9:4). Notice that the government is carried upon His shoulders (v6). A Son is not given to burden the people, but to bless them. He bore the cross on His shoulders, and on the cross He overcame the prince of this world (Jn. 19:17, 14:30). The increase of His government and peace has been incredible so far, but it will never be done (v7). Jesus is not a lazy or a delinquent prince. Our assurance is the only one that matters: "The zeal of the Lord of Hosts will perform this."

NOTES FOR LITTLE SAINTS

Today's Passage: Isaiah 9:6-7

6 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. 7 Of the increase of His government and peace There will be no end, Upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, To order it and establish it with judgment and justice From that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.

1. Christmas is probably God's greatest miracle: the eternal Word of God became a little baby. A big word for this is "incarnation". What are all five of Jesus names in verse 6?
2. Jesus would be born to Joseph and Mary, but God had big plans. What does verse 7 say will happen?
3. Jesus is our Counselor. He is our source of wisdom, encouragement, correction, insight and joy. Since Jesus is physically in heaven now, how do we get these things from Him?
4. Draw a picture of the wise men traveling from the east and following the star to Bethlehem.

Memory Verse to Recite Next Week:

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. — Isaiah 9:6