

(Isa. 9:6) - "FOR UNTO US A CHILD IS BORN, UNTO US A SON IS GIVEN:" - This is one of the greatest of all mysteries revealed to us by God - the incarnation of God the Son! God the Son took on Himself *"the form of a servant and was made in the likeness of men"* (Php. 2:5-8; 1 Tim. 3:16). The gift of Christ is called *"unspeakable"* and the riches of Christ are called *"unsearchable"* (2 Cor. 9:15; Eph. 3:8). The Ancient of Days became an infant of days. He who created man and woman was *"made of a woman, made under the law, to redeem"* God's chosen people from condemnation, sin, and death (Gal. 4:4-5). God the Son Who is spirit actually was made flesh and dwelt among us (John 1:14). *"A CHILD IS BORN"* speaks of His holy, sinless humanity created for Him by the Holy Spirit in the womb of the virgin. His human nature was fully human with all the infirmities and weaknesses of human flesh, yet without sin. An angel sent from God informed Mary of this miraculous conception and birth (Luke 1:35).

"A SON IS GIVEN" - The Son was not born; He was *"given"* by God the Father. This speaks of His deity as the Son of God, the second Person of the Holy Trinity, Who is equal to the Father and the Spirit in every attribute of deity. The angel informed Joseph that the baby was to be named *"JESUS: for He shall save His people from their sins"* (Matt. 1:21). To express Jesus's ability to save His people, the angel told Joseph - *"Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call His name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us"* (Matt. 1:23). This is quoted from Isaiah 7:14. Jesus Christ is not only man and called the son of man, He is also God and the Son of God. The Son of God can have no human father. He was conceived in the womb of the virgin by the Holy Ghost. We all were born of man and woman and born spiritually dead in trespasses and sins. But Christ had no human father, and He was not born in sin. He is the seed of woman, and, as God manifest in the flesh, was (and is) the sinlessly perfect Godman (Heb. 7:26).

"AND THE GOVERNMENT SHALL BE UPON HIS SHOULDER" - This refers to the government of the kingdom of God that would be realized in the salvation and final glory of God's elect through Christ. The establishment, management, and success of this kingdom was (and is) upon Christ's shoulders. All of salvation was (and is) conditioned on Him as established in the everlasting covenant of grace made within the Godhead before the world began. This means that the salvation of God's elect was never conditioned on them. Here we see that His miraculous conception, virgin birth, and incarnation were not simply matters for argument or amazement but of necessity. God the Father chose a people to save and gave them to His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ Who would come into the world to save them from their sins. They are called His brethren. In order to save them from their sins, He had to become incarnate -

"Wherefore in all things IT BEHOVED HIM TO BE MADE LIKE UNTO HIS BRETHREN, that He might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people" (Heb 2:17).

"Behoved" is the Greek word for "debt." As God the Father chose a people to save and gave them to His Son, His Son was made, and willingly agreed, to be their Surety and took responsibility to pay their debt to God's law and justice. To pay that debt, Christ had to die as their Substitute and Redeemer. In order to die, He had to have a human body capable of shedding blood (Matt. 26:26-28), for *"without shedding of blood is no remission"* (Heb. 9:22; 1 Pet. 1:18-19). God's law and justice must be satisfied when He shows mercy to His people. He must be both a just God and a Savior, both God and man in one glorious Person. God is reconciled to His people, and His people are reconciled to Him on the ground of Christ's

righteousness imputed which was produced by His obedience unto death as God manifest in the flesh - *"For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus"* (1 Tim. 2:5).

"AND HIS NAME SHALL BE CALLED WONDERFUL" (miracle) - Christ is wonderful in His eternality (Prov. 8:24-31); in His person—the Godman; in His everlasting, infinite, and unchanging love; in His perfect, holy life; in His substitutionary death and the righteousness He established to enable God to be just and Justifier; in His resurrection, ascension, and exaltation at the right hand of God (Heb. 1:1-4).

"COUNSELOR" - The knowledge and wisdom of God are found in the glorious Person and finished work of Christ. Any good advice concerning a right relationship with God and eternal life is found only in the revelation of God in Christ (1 Cor. 1:29-31; 2 Cor. 4:6; Col. 2:9-10).

"THE MIGHTY GOD" -- Every attribute of deity is found in Him (omnipotence, omniscience, omnipresence, along with all the other attributes of God). The righteousness He worked out for us on the cross is called *"the righteousness of God"* (Rom. 1:16-17), because although He is perfect man, He is also God. This is the righteousness that we need to be justified before God.

"THE EVERLASTING FATHER" - Each Person of the Godhead is distinct - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit - ONE GOD in THREE DISTINCT PERSONS. Each Person has a distinct office and work in the salvation of sinners. Isaiah is not saying Jesus is the Father. He is talking about Christ's relationship to the people He came to redeem, not His relationship within the counsel of the Trinity. Christ is a father with respect to God's elect who were given to Him as His children and offspring in the covenant of grace. They are called His *"seed"* or offspring (1 John 3:9).

"THE PRINCE OF PEACE" - Christ is the author of peace between God and sinners (Rom. 5:1; Col. 1:20). He is our peace of heart and conscience (John 14:27). He brings to us everlasting peace; for His government, His peace, His kingdom are established on principles of judgment and justice.

(Isa. 9:7) - "OF THE INCREASE OF HIS GOVERNMENT AND PEACE THERE SHALL BE NO END" - The success of the government of the kingdom of God in the salvation of His chosen people is sure to be realized in Christ. He cannot fail (Isa. 42:4). All whom the Father gave to Him will come to Him, and He will raise them up in glory at the last day (John 6:37-40; cf. 17:1-5). His people whom He redeemed cannot be charged with their sins and cannot be condemned because He Himself was charged with their sins, He Himself satisfied the justice of God, and He Himself established the righteousness by which God has justified them and from which God gives the spiritual life (Rom. 8:32-34).

"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" - In His humanity, Christ was *"made of the seed of David according to the flesh; and declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the Spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead:"* (Rom. 1:3-4). His kingdom of grace was ordered by God and established with justice by Christ Who brought forth righteousness as the foundation of His kingdom.

"THE ZEAL OF THE LORD OF HOSTS WILL PERFORM THIS" - The fervent desire and will of God, Who cannot fail or be defeated, is His purpose to glorify Himself and His love for His chosen people. This zeal of God insures the success of the covenant of grace in the salvation of His people through the Lord Jesus Christ, God manifest in the flesh. God must be glorified, and His love for His people must achieve His goal of their complete salvation by His grace through the Lord Jesus Christ (Rom. 8:35-39).