

Pastor's Ponderings

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“What’s in a Name?”

by

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For a child is born to us, a son is given to us. And the government will rest on his shoulders. These will be his royal titles: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His ever expanding, peaceful government will never end. He will rule forever with fairness and justice from the throne of his ancestor David. The passionate commitment of the LORD Almighty will guarantee this!

Isaiah 9:6-7 (NLT)

The prophet Isaiah foretold of the coming Messiah about 700 years before the birth of Jesus Christ. In this section of scripture Isaiah gives the yet to come Messiah four titles. Let’s look at these titles and what they mean to us, especially at Christmas time.

First, Isaiah says He will be called Wonderful Counselor. The importance of this name for the “child born to us” is that God has always had a redemption plan. Jesus, as Wonderful Counselor, is the redemption plan of God. God will redeem and God’s son, Jesus Christ, is the Wonderful Counselor who will and has provided the way of redemption. You can trust the Wonderful Counselor to “buy back” your standing with God. Jesus paid the price for your redemption at the Cross of Calvary. The Wonderful Counselor has done everything necessary to make you right with God.

Secondly, Isaiah calls Him the Mighty God. The New International Version Study Bible note for this title says, “His divine power as a warrior is stressed.” What an awesome thought. Jesus Christ is the Mighty God who, as a warrior, can never be defeated. He is more powerful than any other power,

force, or warrior, in any realm or kingdom, anywhere. This includes physical, emotional, mental, and spiritual realms. Jesus is the Mighty God who will battle the forces of evil and win every time.

Thirdly, Isaiah says this coming Messiah will be known as Everlasting Father. God is our provider and protector. God is ever present in our lives. God’s promise through Jesus Christ is, ***“I will never leave you nor forsake you”*** (Deuteronomy 31:6, Hebrews 13:5 NIV). God is always there, right beside us. Jesus even told us in the Great Commission, ***“...I am with you always, to the very end of the age”*** (Matthew 28:20 NIV). As Everlasting Father, God (Jesus Christ) will always provide, protect, and be present. Trust God to “be there” for you.



Lastly, Isaiah calls the Messiah the Prince of Peace. Jesus brings us peace with each other and more importantly with God. Jesus Christ is the Prince of Peace. The Apostle Paul says, ***“Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ...”*** (Romans 5:1 NIV). Jesus brings peace to our lives by ending the war we fight against God. There is no other way to find peace with God except through Jesus Christ. We must place our faith in the Prince of Peace and in Him alone.

This Christmas give the best gift you can give. Tell others about the Wonderful Counselor, the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace. ***“Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved”*** (Acts 4:12 NIV).