

He Will Be Named

Today we continue to examine biblical prophecies concerning the birth of Messiah. Last Sunday we looked at a very specific prophecy revealing a detail regarding Messiah's conception. He would be born of a virgin. Though we cannot go back in time to verify the virgin birth, we can be assured that the prophecy and its fulfillment took place in perfect completion and harmony. We achieve this assurance because we have determined the scriptures to be reliable, many of the messianic prophecies that are verifiable and have been perfectly fulfilled, and the records and testimony of the life of Christ on earth affirm that He was truly the Messiah.

Today we will look at a prophecy that particularly reveals Messiah's identity, character, and nature. There are those who would say, or have said, that the qualities of divinity were assigned to Jesus after the fact, but Isaiah's prophecy refutes that thinking rather clearly and profoundly as Messiah's descriptive names were spelled out more than 800 years prior to His birth.

6 For a child will be born for us, a son will be given to us, and the government will be on His shoulders. He will be named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace. **7** The dominion will be vast, and its prosperity will never end. He will reign on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish and sustain it with justice and righteousness from now on and forever. The zeal of the LORD of Hosts will accomplish this. Isaiah **9:6-7** (HCSB)

For a child will be born for us, a son will be given to us....
Isaiah 9:6 (HCSB)

This partially confirms and restates the prophecy of Isaiah 7:14....

¹⁴ Therefore, the Lord Himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive, have a son, and name him Immanuel.
Isaiah 7:14 (HCSB)

Messiah would be born as a male child. He could have come as a mature man but chose to come into the world just as we humbly and painfully do. His plan was to experience all that we experience from birth to death so that He could most graciously sympathize, comfort, nurture and care for us.

¹⁵ For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tested in every way as we are, yet without sin. Heb 4:15 (HCSB)

and the government will be on His shoulders. Isaiah 9:6 (HCSB)

The breadth of this prophecy is extremely broad. “A child will be born for us” was a prophecy concerning the first coming of Messiah to earth. The second statement, “the government will be on His shoulders” reveals the millennial reign of Christ on earth after His second coming. He will rule all the kingdoms of the earth during the 1,000 year period immediately following the seven years of great tribulation.

He will be named.... Isaiah **9:6** (HCSB)

Note that these are names (nouns) not descriptive words (adjectives). Where did these names come from? Who named Messiah these names? We don't know the exact process but they were revealed to Isaiah through the work of the Holy Spirit. We must assume that these names were new names agreed upon and given to Messiah to describe His nature as the incarnate Son of God by the heavenly Godhead. Clearly His role in relationship to earth and mankind changed dramatically and drastically the very moment He put on flesh in Mary's womb. The new names were given to clarify His identity.

For thought: When exactly did the eternal Son put on flesh and become a human being, at conception or at birth? Of course we would agree that Immanuel, God with Us, began His incarnation at the time of the miraculous conception. He didn't suddenly inhabit or possess the baby born to Mary at the time she delivered. Life, with all its pain and joy, begins at conception.

35 The angel replied to her: The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore the holy One to be born will be called the Son of God. **L**uke 1:35 (HCSB)

I think I know at least one why Jesus was born then rather than now. Had Mary been a 21st Century American girl, it's a good chance she could have ended up in a Planned Parenthood facility being advised to have an abortion.

Wonderful Counselor.... Isaiah **9:6** (HCSB)

We not only see the prophetic revelation of God's plan for Messiah in the prophecies. We also see wonderful and mysterious matters of doctrine, particularly the trinity. The first descriptive name given to Messiah is Wonderful Counselor. We see, appreciate and understand the wonderful part. He is wonderful in His power, authority, majesty and glory. He is wonderful in His love, mercy and grace. He is wonderful that He came to us in the form of a baby. But how would Messiah be Counselor. Isn't that the work of the Holy Spirit? True, but during His time on earth Jesus was the Wonderful Counselor. He lived among people. He spoke. He listened. He comforted. He led. He taught. It was only after His departure/resurrection that the Holy Spirit came to serve as Counselor and Comforter of His people.

15 "If you love Me, you will keep My commandments. **16** And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Counselor to be with you forever. **17** He is the Spirit of truth. The world is unable to receive Him because it doesn't see Him or know Him. But you do know Him, because He remains with you and will be in you. **18** I will not leave you as orphans; I am coming to you. **John 14:15-18 (HCSB)**

25 "I have spoken these things to you while I remain with you. **26** But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit—the Father will send Him in My name—will teach you all things and remind you of everything I have told you. **John 14:25-26 (HCSB)**

⁷ Nevertheless, I am telling you the truth. It is for your benefit that I go away, because if I don't go away the Counselor will not come to you. If I go, I will send Him to you. **John 16:7 (HCSB)**

Mighty God..... Isaiah **9:6 (HCSB)**

First we saw the identity of Messiah intermeshed with the character and work of the Holy Spirit. Now we see His second name which equates Him with the Father. He is Mighty God, Creator of the universe, giver and sustainer of life, and the One who forgives sins.

¹⁶ Therefore, the Jews began persecuting Jesus because He was doing these things on the Sabbath. ¹⁷ But Jesus responded to them, **"My Father is still working, and I am working also."** ¹⁸ This is why the Jews began trying all the more to kill Him: not only was He breaking the Sabbath, but He was even calling God His own Father, making Himself equal with God. **John 5:16-18 (HCSB)**

Paralytic/strethcher

²⁰ Seeing their faith He said, **"Friend, your sins are forgiven you."** ²¹ Then the scribes and the Pharisees began to reason: "Who is this man who speaks blasphemies? Who can forgive sins but God alone?" ²² But perceiving their thoughts, Jesus replied to them, **"Why are you reasoning this in your hearts?"** ²³ **Which is easier: to say, 'Your sins are forgiven you,' or to say, 'Get up and walk'?** ²⁴ **But so you may know that the Son of Man has**

authority on earth to forgive sins”—He told the paralyzed man, “I tell you: get up, pick up your stretcher, and go home.” Luke 5:20-24 (HCSB)

¹⁵ He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation;¹⁶ because by Him everything was created, in heaven and on earth, the visible and the invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities— all things have been created through Him and for Him.¹⁷ He is before all things, and by Him all things hold together. Col 1:15-17 (HCSB)

Eternal Father.... Isaiah 9:6 (HCSB)

Again a name ascribed to Christ unmistakably equates Him with the God the Father. Though Messiah would be humbly born in a stable in the most humble means and in the most common and humble of families, He would be called “Eternal Father.”

²⁷ My sheep hear My voice, I know them, and they follow Me. ²⁸ I give them eternal life, and they will never perish—ever! No one will snatch them out of My hand. ²⁹ My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all. No one is able to snatch them out of the Father’s hand. ³⁰ The Father and I are one.” John 10:27-30 (HCSB)

⁷ “If you know Me, you will also know My Father. From now on you do know Him and have seen Him.” ⁸ “Lord,” said Philip, “show us the Father, and that’s enough for us.” ⁹ Jesus said to him, “Have I been among you all this time without your knowing Me, Philip? The one who has

seen Me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? ¹⁰ Don't you believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in Me? The words I speak to you I do not speak on My own. The Father who lives in Me does His works. ¹¹ Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father is in Me. Otherwise, believe because of the works themselves. John 14:7-11 (HCSB)

Prince of Peace. Isaiah 9:6 (HCSB)

Finally, a name was given to Messiah that relates more directly to our perception of who the Messiah was and is. He came to bring peace to people in a very troubled world. And of course there was even a lot of confusion with that. Many, reading the second coming prophecies, thought Messiah would bring peace to the world by conquering all the enemies of Israel and establishing His kingdom on earth at that time. But they failed to understand that Messiah came the first time to conquer men's hearts, offering personal individualized peace in the midst of the troubled world they lived.

²⁷ "Peace I leave with you. My peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Your heart must not be troubled or fearful. John 14:27 (HCSB)

¹⁹ In the evening of that first day of the week, the disciples were [gathered together] with the doors locked because of their fear of the Jews. Then Jesus came, stood among them, and said to them, "Peace to you!" John 20:19 (HCSB)

Conclusion: Of all the descriptive names that Isaiah could have used like- Savior, Redeemer, Friend of sinners, Son of God, Teacher, Preacher, or Prophet, why use these names that, more than anything else, serve to equate Him with holy eternal God and Father? Because that was and is the most important part of His identity. None of those names associated with Messiah's earthly ministry would have meant anything unless He was truly Emmanuel, God with us. If Jesus of Nazareth was a mere man, He could not have even saved Himself much less the world. Isaiah, led by the Spirit, chose to use names that identified Messiah's most eternal and heavenly qualities.

Messiah, Jesus Christ of Nazareth was and is our Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, eternal Father, and Prince of Peace who put on flesh in Bethlehem, lived among us without sin, died on the cross for our sins, and rose from the dead in perfect fulfillment of dozens of prophecies (many from Isaiah). And, He will one day return to earth and establish His earthly kingdom. No mere man could do that. Only God can do that. **How should you respond?**

Embrace Messiah as Counselor, God, and Father of your life.

Engage your life in Messiah's call to follow Him

Enjoy the celebration of His coming. This is possible, in spite of trials and troubles, because He is your Prince of Peace.