

## Introduction

This week I finished up my study and message on Romans 10 on Friday. On Friday night, Karen asked if I could do a Christmas message. So, I looked through my various Christmas messages that I have given, but I did not really want to do a give any of them. I like to prepare new messages, and the Scripture on my heart was Isaiah 9:6-7. So, I meditated on it Friday night, and spent time studying it on Saturday morning. Then, on Saturday afternoon, I made the decision to go ahead and give the message on Isaiah 9:6-7. We are not going to look at all of the details of these verses, as there is so much packed into them. Instead, we are going to look at the four names that were prophetically given to this Son who was going to be given to us. The first name is Wonderful Counselor. The second name is Mighty God. The third name is Eternal Father, and the fourth name is Prince of Peace.

(Is 9:6) “For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; and the government will rest on His shoulders; and His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace.”

## Unto Us A Child Will Be Born

1. Wonderful Counselor
2. Mighty God
3. Eternal Father
4. Prince of Peace

### 1. Wonderful Counselor

The first name given is Wonderful Counselor. The Messiah that was being sent to us is a Wonderful Counselor. The Hebrew word for wonderful is *pele*, which means wonder, or marvelous (Strong’s H6382). The Hebrew word for counselor is *yaats*, which means advice or counsel (Strong’s H3289).

(Is 9:6) “For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; and the government will rest on His shoulders; and His name will be called **Wonderful Counselor**, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace.”

God was sending His Son to us, and one of the things that He would do is give us wonderful counsel. That was just over two thousand years ago, but we need His counsel now more than ever. Our thoughts are not His thoughts, they are high above. We need the higher and more excellent counsel of the Lord. We have many thoughts and plans in our hearts, but God tells us that the counsel of the Lord will stand. We need His wonderful counsel in every area of our lives.

(Is 55:8-9) “For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways,” declares the LORD. {9} For *as* the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways and My thoughts than your thoughts.”

(Pr 19:21) “Many plans are in a man's heart, but the counsel of the LORD will stand.”

God gives excellent counsel about relationships. He gives wise counsel in His word about how husbands are to relate to their wives. As a husband, I am to love my wife as Christ loved the church. I am to nourish and cherish my wife. I am to lay my life down for my wife. I am to live

with her in an understanding way, and give her honor as a joint heir. I have been trying to learn how to live with my wife in an understanding way for forty-three years, and I cannot tell you that I have this mastered; I am still trying to learn and improve in this area. If men would listen to the wonderful counsel that God has given us, we would be better husbands, and our marriages would be much better.

(Eph 5:25-29) “Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her, {26} so that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, {27} that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she would be holy and blameless. {28} So husbands ought also to love their own wives as their own bodies. He who loves his own wife loves himself; {29} for no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ also *does* the church,”

(1 Pet 3:7) “You husbands in the same way, live with *your wives* in an understanding way, as with someone weaker, since she is a woman; and show her honor as a fellow heir of the grace of life, so that your prayers will not be hindered.”

God did not just speak to husbands; He also spoke to wives. He counseled women to submit to their husbands. He told them to love, honor, and respect their husbands. If men would do their part, it would be easier for women to respect and honor their husbands. But, God counsels wives to do this even if their husbands are disobedient, and they will be won as they observe the chaste and respectful behavior that they exhibit.

(Eph 5:22-24) “Wives, *be subject* to your own husbands, as to the Lord. {23} For the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ also is the head of the church, He Himself *being* the Savior of the body. {24} But as the church is subject to Christ, so also the wives *ought to be* to their husbands in everything.”

(1 Pet 3:1-2) “In the same way, you wives, be submissive to your own husbands so that even if any *of them* are disobedient to the word, they may be won without a word by the behavior of their wives, {2} as they observe your chaste and respectful behavior.”

God counsels children on how to respond to their parents. He counsels parents how to raise up their children. The worldly methods of child rearing are having a devastating effect on this next generation. We have children who do not honor their parents, and are disobedient. This will usher in a great amount of rebellion and chaos in society because God’s counsel is not being followed. God tells parents to discipline their children, and unfortunately, His wonderful counsel is being rejected.

God gives wonderful counsel about reconciling with our brother. He gives counsel about responding to harsh words. He gives counsel about forgiving our brother who has sinned against us. He gives counsel about correcting our brother. God gives wonderful counsel about relationships, and the world needs His wonderful counsel now more than ever.

(Matt 18:21-22) “Then Peter came and said to Him, “Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me and I forgive him? Up to seven times?” {22} Jesus \*said to him, “I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven.”

(Matt 18:15-16) “If your brother sins, go and show him his fault in private; if he listens to you, you have won your brother. {16} But if he does not listen *to you*, take one or two more with you, so that **BY THE MOUTH OF TWO OR THREE WITNESSES EVERY FACT MAY BE CONFIRMED.**”

God gives counsel about leadership. He stresses the importance of character in leadership. But there are other qualities of leaders that God counsels us about. He tells leaders not to lord over people, but to serve them. He tells leaders to prioritize their work, and number their days. He tells leaders to plan their work and to document what they are doing. He tells leaders to be and set an example for others to follow. There is a vacuum in good leadership today; I see leaders that don't think twice about lying to people, or cheating them. I see leaders operating without integrity. I see government officials operating without integrity and lying about things. We have a leadership vacuum and we desperately need His wonderful counsel.

(Ex 18:21) “Furthermore, you shall select out of all the people able men who fear God, men of truth, those who hate dishonest gain; and you shall place *these* over them *as* leaders of thousands, of hundreds, of fifties and of tens.”

(Luke 22:25-26) “And He said to them, "The kings of the Gentiles lord it over them; and those who have authority over them are called 'Benefactors.' {26} "But *it is* not this way with you, but the one who is the greatest among you must become like the youngest, and the leader like the servant.”

God gives wonderful counsel about our finances. He counsels us against being in debt. He counsels us to save and not consume all that we earn. He counsels us about being good stewards, recognizing that He is the Owner of all. As we celebrate Christmas, let's remember that we desperately need to hear from our Wonderful Counselor.

## 2. Mighty God

The second name given to this Child who was being given to us is Mighty God. The Hebrew word for mighty is gibbor (Strong's H1368), which means strong or mighty. The Hebrew word used for God is El.

(Is 9:6) “For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; and the government will rest on His shoulders; and His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, **Mighty God**, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace.”

In Joshua 22:22, the Mighty One, the Lord, the Mighty One, God, the Lord is mentioned, and He is omniscient, knowing everything, has all authority and all powerful to deal with people or nations as He determines is best. All of these names are given to God, and the same name is given to Jesus, the Son who was being given to us. Let there be no mistake about the deity of Jesus. He is God. It would be sinful and idolatrous to call someone God if they are not God. Jesus is the Mighty God.

(Josh 22:22) “The Mighty One, God, the LORD, the Mighty One, God, the LORD! He knows, and may Israel itself know. If *it was* in rebellion, or if in an unfaithful act against the LORD do not save us this day!”

In Nehemiah 9:32, we see that God, the great, the mighty, and the awesome God, is One who keeps covenant and lovingkindness. Jesus, the Mighty God, came as a child and He established a new covenant with us. We take time every week and take the Lord's Supper, which is a reminder of this new covenant that we have with our Mighty God. This Christmas, let's remember that this child that was given is the Mighty God.

(Neh 9:32) "Now therefore, our God, the great, the mighty, and the awesome God, who keeps covenant and lovingkindness, do not let all the hardship seem insignificant before You, which has come upon us, our kings, our princes, our priests, our prophets, our fathers and on all Your people, from the days of the kings of Assyria to this day.

### 3. Eternal Father

The third name given to the child that we are celebrating at Christmas is Eternal Father. If calling Jesus Mighty God is not enough to show His deity, then calling Him Eternal Father is even stronger. The Hebrew word for eternal is *ad* (Strong's H5703), which means everlasting, perpetuity, or eternal. The Hebrew word for father is *Ab* (Strong's H1), which means father. Notice that the Strong's Hebrew number is 1. This is the first Hebrew word in the concordance. If we knew no other word but Father, that would be good enough. God wants us to know Him as our Father.

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Jesus and the Father are one and the same. We believe in the trinity, meaning that the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are all part of the godhead. In John 10, Jesus said that He and the Father are one. The Jews picked up stones again to stone Him. When Jesus asked them for which good works were they stoning Him, they responded, "For a good work we do not stone You, but for blasphemy; and because You, being a man, make Yourself out to be God." Jesus is the Mighty God, and He is the Eternal Father. He and the Father are One.

(John 10:30-33) "I and the Father are one." {31} The Jews picked up stones again to stone Him. {32} Jesus answered them, "I showed you many good works from the Father; for which of them are you stoning Me?" {33} The Jews answered Him, "For a good work we do not stone You, but for blasphemy; and because You, being a man, make Yourself out *to be* God."

Even the disciples had a difficult time understanding this. In John 14:7-11, Jesus told them that they have seen the Father. Philip asked Jesus to show them the Father, and Jesus replied, "Have I been so long with you, and yet you have not come to know Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father...Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father is in Me...Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father is in Me." This child who was given to us and that we celebrate at Christmas is not just the Son, He is also Eternal Father.

(John 14:7-11) "If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also; from now on you know Him, and have seen Him." {8} Philip \*said to Him, "Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us." {9} Jesus \*said to him, "Have I been so long with you, and *yet* you have not come to know Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; how *can* you say, 'Show us the Father'? {10} "Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father is in

Me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on My own initiative, but the Father abiding 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."

When I think of my father, I think of someone who was always for me. He was always pulling for me. He was always trying to help me. He always had my best interests in mind. I did not have to worry about my father trying to cheat me or deceive me. No, my father always had my best interest at heart. Jesus is our Eternal Father. He always has our best interest at heart. He is for us, and if God is for us, who can be against us.

In 1 John 3:1 we read about how great a love the Father has bestowed on us, that we would be called children of God. A father's love is so important and critical to have. Unfortunately, many people have not experienced a father's love. I am grateful for an earthly father that loved me. Many people struggle with knowing God's love for them because they never knew their earthly father's love.

(1 John 3:1 KJV) "Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not."

One of the things that has been lost is the significance of a father's blessing. The father's blessing was more than just material; it was comprehensive. Jesus is the eternal father, and it is in Him that we have the father's blessings. Notice what Paul shares in Ephesians 1. "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus. We obtain the father's blessings through Christ. He and the Father are one, and when we come into a relationship with Christ, we obtain these blessings.

(Eph 1:3) "Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly *places* in Christ,"

We live in a day of absent fathers. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, there are roughly twenty-five million children in America that are living without their biological father. That equates to thirty-three percent (33%). In a similar statistic, the U.S. Department of Education said that thirty-nine percent (39%) of school-aged children live in homes absent of their biological fathers. Among black children, 57.6% live without their biological father. Among Hispanic children, 31.2% live without their biological fathers. According to a poll taken by the National Center for Fathering, 72.2% of the population in America say that fatherlessness is the most significant or social problem facing America.<sup>1</sup> The results of our fatherlessness are devastating. You can do your own researching. I worked as a prison chaplain, and 86% of those incarcerated came from a home without a father.

This Christmas, we must remember that Jesus came as a child, but He also came as our Eternal Father. In Psalm 68:5, we see that God is a father of the fatherless and a judge for the widow. Even though many do not have a biological father, Jesus came that we might have a heavenly Father, who would take care of us. Our Father in heaven listens to our prayers. Our Father in heaven provides for our every need. Our Father in heaven loves us unconditionally. Our Father in

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<sup>1</sup> National Center for Fathering, Fathering in America Poll, January, 1999, <https://fathers.com/statistics-and-research/the-extent-of-fatherlessness/>

heaven is always making intercession for us, and is always working all things together for good in our lives. This Christmas, we celebrate that Jesus is not just a baby in the manger, He is our Eternal Father.

(Ps 68:5) “A father of the fatherless and a judge for the widows, Is God in His holy habitation.

(Luke 11:2-4) “And He said to them, "When you pray, say: 'Father, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come. {3} 'Give us each day our daily bread.'”

(Matt 6:25-26) “For this reason I say to you, do not be worried about your life, *as to* what you will eat or what you will drink; nor for your body, *as to* what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? {26} "Look at the birds of the air, that they do not sow, nor reap nor gather into barns, and *yet* your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not worth much more than they?”

#### 4. Prince of Peace

The fourth name given to the Son that was being given to us is Prince of Peace. The Hebrew word for prince is sar (Strong’s H8269), which means prince, chief, ruler, official, or captain. The word for peace is shalom (Strong’s H7965), which means peace or welfare.

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We live in a world today that is desperate for peace. Jesus said in John 16:33 that in the world there is tribulation, and that is certainly true today. There is tribulation in the home. There is tribulation in the government, especially between the two parties. There is tribulation in the schools. There is tribulation in every area of life. The good news is that Jesus said, “These things I have spoken to you, so that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world.” Jesus is the Prince of Peace that came so that we can have peace.

(John 16:33) “These things I have spoken to you, so that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world.”

One of the things that the Holy Spirit gives us is His fruit. In Galatians 5:22-23, we find that the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Jesus gives us a supernatural peace. One year when I was playing professional golf, I was near the lead and feeling a bit nervous. As I walked from the green to the next tee box, I reminded the Lord of Galatians 5:22-23, and said, “Holy Spirit, I need the fruit of peace right now.” As soon as I said this, a gentle breeze blew on me, and the hairs on my arms stood straight up, like they would with static electricity, and a supernatural peace came upon me. Jesus is our Prince of Peace, and He gives the fruit of peace to us.

(Gal 5:22-23) “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, {23} gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.”

God tells us not to be anxious about anything. Instead, He asks us to pray with thanksgiving, and let our requests be made known. Our Prince of Peace listens to us as we make our requests known. This is what our Prince of Peace promises us when we do this. He will guard our hearts and minds with peace that surpasses all comprehension. This Christmas, instead of being anxious about things, pray with thanksgiving to the Prince of Peace and let Him give you peace that surpasses all comprehension.

(Phil 4:6-7) “Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. {7} And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”

### **Conclusion and Applications**

This Christmas, take time to reflect on what God told us through the prophet, Isaiah. A child will be born to us, a son will be given to us. We know that this child, this Son, was Jesus. God wanted us to know these four significant names of this Son. He is our Wonderful Counselor, and we need to hear His counsel about every area of our life.

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Jesus is the Mighty God. There is nothing impossible for Him. What are the seemingly impossible things that you are facing right now. They are not impossible for Jesus; He is the Mighty God.

Jesus is Eternal Father. He and the Father are One. Do you know Jesus as your Father? He offers everyone of us the opportunity to be adopted into His family. The Father is waiting, with arms wide open, and wanting to adopt you into His family. Do you know Him as your Father. He promises to take care of you. He promises to watch over you. He is always with you and for you.

Jesus is our Prince of Peace. This child that we celebrate at Christmas is the Prince of Peace. In the world there is tribulation, but this child came and overcame the world so that we could have peace. He reconciled us to God the Father, so that we have peace with God. Do you know this Prince of Peace? Have you received this Prince of Peace into your life? If you believe that this child that was given to us is the Son of God, and that He came, died for our sins, and was raised from the dead, and you confess with your mouth that He is Lord, you will be saved. When we place our faith in Christ, He forgives us of all of our sins. He justifies us, which means that He declares us innocent and righteous, and we have peace with God. If that is your desire this morning, I invite you to pray with me.

(Rom 5:1) “Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,”

Jesus, I do believe that You are the Wonderful Counselor, the Mighty God, the Eternal Father, and the Prince of Peace. I believe that You came, as prophesied, and died for my sins so that I could be reconciled to God. I believe that You were raised from the dead, and I now confess You as my Lord. I want to live for You and be part of Your family. I pray this in Jesus' name. Amen.

**Introduction** (Is 9:6)

1. **Wonderful Counselor** (Is 9:6, Is 55:8-9, Pr 19:21, Eph 5:25-29, 1 Pet 3:7, Eph 5:22-24, 1 Pet 3:1-2, Matt 18:21-22, 18:15-16, Ex 18:21, Luke 22:25-26)
  
2. **Mighty God** (Is 9:6, Josh 22:22, Neh 9:32)
  
3. **Eternal Father** (Is 9:6, John 10:30-33, 14:7-11, Ps 68:5, 1 John 3:1, Eph 1:3, Luke 11:2-4, Matt 6:25-26)
  
4. **Prince of Peace** (Is 9:6, John 16:33, Gal 5:22-23, Phil 4:6-7)

**Conclusion and Applications** (Is 9:6, Rom 5:1)