

**Introduction**

A number of years ago I was pastoring a church in New Mexico, and I had our leadership team go through a healthy leaders' class taught by Dalton Jantzen. During that training series, we filled out an evaluation form to help us identify our strengths, weaknesses, leadership style, etc. While I would not agree with all of the results, most of them were right on. In the strengths chart they identified me as an implementor. An implementor is very task-oriented, and I was at the top of the charts in that area. While I believe that I am very people-oriented, their test showed I was at the other end of the spectrum from a relator. A relator values teamwork, coaching, counseling, service to others, harmonious work environment, security, and assistance to customers, and I am very committed to all of these. At the same time, I am very much an implementor. I like fact-based solutions, effective time management, efficient methodology, studying and solving problems, logical decisions, and creative and original thinking. I feel that I am pretty balanced, but their chart showed that I strongly leaned towards being task-oriented. The purposes of these evaluations were to help teams understand one another, and how to relate and work together.

It is important for each one of us to know and understand who we are. Our names are part of our identity. Last week we looked Isaiah 9:6 and the identity of the Christ-child who was going to be given. His name is Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, and Prince of Peace. Very often the name and identity of a person indicates the things that they will do. For example, a wonderful counselor implies that Jesus will give us wonderful counsel, and He does do that. A person's vision and mission should be connected. If I am a professional golfer, then you would not expect my mission statement to be to win the Super Bowl. However, if you are Tom Brady, and a quarterback in the NFL, your mission might be to win the Super Bowl. We did not look at all of the names of Jesus, but only the ones in Isaiah 9:6, which is a prophecy that is commonly used at Christmas. There are many other names that Jesus has, but we only focused on the names in Isaiah's prophecy about the Son that would be given.

(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."

This week, I want to follow up that message at taking a look at the mission of Christ. While vision helps identify who you are, a mission helps identify what you are going to do. I mentioned that the leadership evaluation that our team went through showed that I was very task-oriented. For someone who is task-oriented, knowing what you are called to do is critical. Someone who is not as task oriented, may not be as concerned or focused on what needs to be done as I am. We find that Jesus was both task and people-oriented. He was the perfect balance and example of all of us to follow. Today, I want to look at what Jesus was called to do. Since it is Christmas, I want to focus at the prophecies that pertain to His mission that were given to Jesus at His birth. We will look at the mission given in Isaiah's prophecy (Isaiah 9:6-7). Second, we will look at the mission given in the message to Joseph by the angel. Third, we will look at the mission of Jesus given by the prophet, Micah.

**Christmas – Mission of the Christ Child**

1. Establish the Kingdom Government (Isaiah)
2. Save His People from Sin (angel to Joseph)
3. Shepherd Israel (Micah)

## 1. Establish the government of the kingdom (Isaiah 9:6-7)

I have never heard a Christmas message or any other message stating the mission of Jesus was to establish the government of the kingdom. On the other hand, I can't tell you how many people have told me that the government or type of government of a church does not matter. There are Episcopalian, Presbyterian, congregational, and autocratic styles of government. Different denominations generally use one of these variations. I believe that the government of the church is vitally important. Why do I say that? I say that because when Isaiah prophesied about the Messiah being given to us, he prophesied that Jesus would establish the government of the kingdom. Isaiah prophesied, "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. There will be no end to the increase of His government or of peace, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and uphold it with justice and righteousness from then on and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will accomplish this."

(Is 9:6-7) "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. {7} There will be no end to the increase of *His* government or of peace, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness from then on and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will accomplish this."

Notice that the government will rest on His shoulders. Second, the government will continue to increase; there will be no end to the increase of His government. Third, Jesus will establish the government of the kingdom, and He will uphold it with justice and righteousness from then on and forever. This Son that was given to us that we celebrate at Christmas came with a mission, to establish the government of the kingdom.

In Ephesians 1:22-23, Paul wrote that the Father put all things in subjection under His feet, and gave Him as head over all things to the church, which is His body. In Colossians 1:18, Paul wrote that Jesus is also head of the body, the church. Jesus is the head. The head refers to the government. The head of an organization is the leader of it. Headship refers to government.

(Eph 1:22-23) "And He put all things in subjection under His feet, and gave Him as head over all things to the church, {23} which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all."

(Col 1:18) He is also head of the body, the church; and He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that He Himself will come to have first place in everything."

In Ephesians 5:23, Paul exhorts the wives to be subject to their husbands, as to the Lord, for the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ also is the head of the church. Husbands are the heads or leaders of their households. Isaiah prophesied that this Child, this Son, would have the government rest on His shoulders and that He would establish and uphold it. That was one of the missions that Jesus had.

(Eph 5:22-23) "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."

There are some teachers today that say that husbands are not the leaders of their households. They teach that the head means the source, not the leader. They believe that husbands and wives are to submit to one another, and they are to be one, but there is not one over the other. I agree that husbands and wives should submit to one another, and that husbands and wives are to be one. However, the husbands are to lead their wives and families, and wives are to submit to them as they are to Christ. I don't think that Christ is to submit to me and that I am on par with Christ. No, Christ is the head of the church, and we are to submit to Him. He is at the top of the government of the church; He is the head of the body, the church.

So, how did Jesus do? Did He accomplish this mission? In Luke 6:12-13, Jesus went off to the mountain to pray, and He spent the whole night in prayer. This was an important decision He was about to make. Appointing people to a governmental role is an extremely important decision. Then, He called His disciples to Him and chose twelve of them to be apostles. An apostle simply means a "sent one." Jesus is an Apostle. In Hebrews 3:1, we are exhorted to consider Jesus, the Apostle and High Priest of our confession.

(Luke 6:12-13) "It was at this time that He went off to the mountain to pray, and He spent the whole night in prayer to God. {13} And when day came, He called His disciples to Him and chose twelve of them, whom He also named as apostles:"

(Heb 3:1) "Therefore, holy brethren, partakers of a heavenly calling, consider Jesus, the Apostle and High Priest of our confession;

Jesus invested Himself in many people in His three-year ministry, but His primary focus was on these twelve men that He chose to be apostles. Jesus was sent here to establish the government of the kingdom, of which, He is the head. These twelve apostles were to be under Him and establish the governments in churches throughout the world. In Acts 4:34-35, offerings were being brought into the church to take care of the needy. Luke recorded that they the proceeds from people selling their property were laid at the feet of the apostles. This does not mean the apostles were on a big stage with boxes at their feet. No, this means that the money was put under the authority of the apostles to manage. The apostles were the initial government. Elders had not been set in place yet and it was the apostles who were leading and governing the church. Jesus poured Himself into these apostles because He was establishing the government of the kingdom.

(Acts 4:34-35) "For there was not a needy person among them, for all who were owners of land or houses would sell them and bring the proceeds of the sales {35} and lay them at the apostles' feet, and they would be distributed to each as any had need."

In 1 Corinthians 12:28, we see that God appointed in the church, first apostles, second prophets, third teachers... The first thing Isaiah prophecies is that Jesus would establish the government. Jesus focused on training these first governmental leaders in the church. God appointed apostles first in the church, and they are a key part of increasing the government. They are under the head of the church, Jesus, and they were sent out to establish the government of God in local bodies.

(1 Cor 12:28) "And God has appointed in the church, first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, administrations, *various* kinds of tongues."

In Ephesians 2:19-20, Paul said that we are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God's household, having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets. God appointed in the church, first apostles and second, prophets. God uses the apostles and prophets to lay foundations in the church, and that foundation is Christ, the corner stone. God is still building His church today, and is still using apostolic and prophetic men to lay foundations in churches.

(Eph 2:19-20) "So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God's household, {20} having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the corner *stone*,"

The apostles also made sure that correct doctrine was being taught in the churches. In Acts 15, there was a dispute about circumcision, so Paul and Barnabas went to the apostles in Jerusalem, and a decision was made. Paul told Timothy to silence certain people who were teaching false things. Paul told Titus to silence the false teacher. Both Timothy and Titus were apostles, part of Paul's apostolic team, and they make sure sound doctrine is being taught.

(Acts 15:2) "And when Paul and Barnabas had great dissension and debate with them, *the brethren* determined that Paul and Barnabas and some others of them should go up to Jerusalem to the apostles and elders concerning this issue."

(1 Tim 1:3) "As I urged you upon my departure for Macedonia, remain on at Ephesus so that you may instruct certain men not to teach strange doctrines,"

(Titus 1:10-11) "For there are many rebellious men, empty talkers and deceivers, especially those of the circumcision, {11} who must be silenced because they are upsetting whole families, teaching things they should not *teach* for the sake of sordid gain."

The apostles, like the Apostle Jesus, prayed and laid hands on men, setting them into governmental roles in local churches. In Acts 14:23, Barnabas and Paul, who were both apostles, went on their first apostolic journey. They went about preaching the kingdom of God and making disciples. We read that they appointed elders in every church, having prayed with fasting.

(Acts 14:23) "When they had appointed elders for them in every church, having prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord in whom they had believed."

In Titus 1:5-6, Paul told Titus to set things in order in Crete and appoint elders in every church. Titus, being an apostle, was going to pray, fast, and ordain men into governmental positions in all of the five churches in Crete. Isaiah prophesied that the government would rest on Jesus' shoulders, and it does; He is the head. Isaiah prophesied that He would establish it, and that there would be no end to the increase of His government. The apostles went about laying hands on men and raising up elders in the church. The government of God kept increasing, just as Isaiah prophesied, and there is no end to the increase of the government. Jesus fulfilled and is fulfilling this mission. The government in the kingdom needed to be established so that things would be set in order. God is a God of order, and the government is critical.

(Titus 1:5-6) "For this reason I left you in Crete, that you would set in order what remains and appoint elders in every city as I directed you, {6} *namely*, if any man is above reproach, the husband of one wife, having children who believe, not accused of dissipation or rebellion."

## 2. Save His people from their sins. (Matt 1:18-25)

In Isaiah's account of the birth, he prophesied that Jesus' mission would be to establish the kingdom government. In Matthew's account of the birth of Christ, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph and told him not to be afraid of taking Mary as his wife, for the Child who had been conceived is of the Holy Spirit. Then, the angel told Joseph to name the baby Jesus. The name, Jesus (Strong's H3091), is Jehoshua in Hebrew. It is a compound word: Jehovah and Yasha. Jehovah is God Almighty and Yasha is to save. So, the name, Jesus, means God saves. The name is tied to the mission that Jesus came to do. He came to save, which is the next thing that the angel explained to Joseph, "for He will save His people from their sins." Jesus woke up from His sleep and did exactly as the angel had instructed him, and took Mary as his wife.

(Matt 1:18-25) "Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: when His mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child by the Holy Spirit. {19} And Joseph her husband, being a righteous man and not wanting to disgrace her, planned to send her away secretly. {20} But when he had considered this, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife; for the Child who has been conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. {21} **"She will bear a Son; and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins."** {22} Now all this took place to fulfill what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet: {23} "BEHOLD, THE VIRGIN SHALL BE WITH CHILD AND SHALL BEAR A SON, AND THEY SHALL CALL HIS NAME IMMANUEL," which translated means, "GOD WITH US." {24} And Joseph awoke from his sleep and did as the angel of the Lord commanded him, and took *Mary* as his wife, {25} but kept her a virgin until she gave birth to a Son; and he called His name Jesus."

When John the Baptist saw Jesus coming to him to be baptized, he prophesied, "Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!" He was going to be the Passover Lamb that would be sacrificed for the sins of the world.

(John 1:29) "The next day he \*saw Jesus coming to him and \*said, "Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!"

John focused a lot on this mission in his writings. In 1 John 2:1-2, he wrote that Jesus was the propitiation for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for those of the whole world." That was Jesus' mission, and Jesus accomplished that on the cross.

(1 John 2:1-2) "My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; {2} and He Himself is the propitiation for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for *those of the whole world.*"

Later on in 1 John, he wrote, "You know that He appeared in order to take away sins; and in Him there is no sin." John understood that the mission of Jesus was to reconcile the world to God by paying for all of our sins.

(1 John 3:5) "You know that He appeared in order to take away sins; and in Him there is no sin."

How did Jesus do with this mission? When Jesus was on the cross, He said, “It is finished!” Then, He bowed His head and gave up His spirit. Jesus had accomplished the mission. The Greek word that is translated as finished is *teleo* (Strong’s G5055), which means to reach a goal, complete, or bring to an end. The root word is *telos* (Strong’s G5056), which means to set out for a definite point or goal. This is very appropriate, since at the beginning of His life, the angel told us that this was what Jesus was coming to do, save His people from their sins and take away the sins of the world. Jesus had accomplished this part of His mission.

(John 19:30) “Therefore when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, “It is finished!” And He bowed His head and gave up His spirit.”

### 3. Shepherd Israel (Matt 2:1-6)

The third account that we will look at this morning is also found in Matthew, and it is a prophecy given by Micah. The magi had followed the star to Jerusalem to find and worship Jesus. When Herod the king heard about it, he was troubled. Herod gathered the chief priests and scribes and inquired of them where the Messiah was going to be born. They answered, “In Bethlehem of Judea.” Then, they quoted Micah 5:2-4, “And you, Bethlehem, land of Judah, are by no means least among the leaders of Judah; for out of you shall come forth a ruler who will shepherd My people Israel.”

(Matt 2:1-6) “Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying, {2} “Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we saw His star in the east and have come to worship Him.” {3} When Herod the king heard *this*, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. {4} Gathering together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. {5} They said to him, “In Bethlehem of Judea; for this is what has been written by the prophet: {6} ‘AND YOU, BETHLEHEM, LAND OF JUDAH, ARE BY NO MEANS LEAST AMONG THE LEADERS OF JUDAH; FOR OUT OF YOU SHALL COME FORTH A RULER WHO WILL SHEPHERD MY PEOPLE ISRAEL.’”

(Micah 5:2-4) “But as for you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, *too* little to be among the clans of Judah, from you One will go forth for Me to be ruler in Israel. His goings forth are from long ago, from the days of eternity.” {3} Therefore He will give them *up* until the time when she who is in labor has borne a child. Then the remainder of His brethren will return to the sons of Israel. {4} And He will arise and shepherd *His flock* in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD His God. And they will remain, because at that time He will be great to the ends of the earth.”

Herod may have felt threatened and been disturbed because of thinking in the earthly sense. Both Herod and Pilate asked Jesus if He was the king of the Jews. When Jesus was standing before Pilate in the Praetorium, Pilate asked Him, “Are You the King of the Jews?” Jesus answered, “My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, then My servants would be fighting so that I would not be handed over to the Jews; but as it is, My kingdom is not of this realm.” After Jesus’ explanation, Pilate went out to the Jews and said, “I find no guilt in Him.” He was no longer threatened. This part of Micah’s prophecy lined up with Isaiah’s prophecy that the government would rest on His shoulders and there would be no end to the increase of His government. There will be end to the government of the kingdom of God that Jesus established.

(John 18:33-38) “Therefore Pilate entered again into the Praetorium, and summoned Jesus and said to Him, "Are You the King of the Jews?" {34} Jesus answered, "Are you saying this on your own initiative, or did others tell you about Me?" {35} Pilate answered, "I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests delivered You to me; what have You done?" {36} Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, then My servants would be fighting so that I would not be handed over to the Jews; but as it is, My kingdom is not of this realm." {37} Therefore Pilate said to Him, "So You are a king?" Jesus answered, "You say *correctly* that I am a king. For this I have been born, and for this I have come into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice.” {38} Pilate \*said to Him, "What is truth?" And when he had said this, he went out again to the Jews and \*said to them, "I find no guilt in Him.”

Micah’s prophecy also said that the Messiah would shepherd His flock. We know from Psalm 23 that the Lord is our Shepherd. But this prophecy specifically addresses the Son of God as the Shepherd. Jesus is part of the trinity, and is both Lord and Shepherd.

(Micah 5:4) “And He will arise and shepherd *His flock* in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD His God. And they will remain, because at that time He will be great to the ends of the earth.”

In 1 Peter 5, Peter addresses the elders, which is synonymous with pastor or shepherd. He gives three exhortations to pastors about how to shepherd the flock. He speaks of having the right mindset, the right motives, and the right methods. Pastors are to shepherd voluntarily, not under compulsion. This does not mean without pay, but is speaking of a desire to shepherd. It must be something they want to do. Pastors are also not to do it for sordid gain, but with eagerness. They should be paid well, but financial remuneration should not be the reason they pastor. Instead, they are to be passionate about shepherding the flock of God. The flock belongs to God, not to pastors. Pastors are stewards of the flock. Third, Peter tells them to lead by example. Then, in verse four, he said, “And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory.” Local pastors are under-shepherds, serving under the Chief Shepherd, Jesus.

(1 Pet 5:1-4) “Therefore, I exhort the elders among you, as *your* fellow elder and witness of the sufferings of Christ, and a partaker also of the glory that is to be revealed, {2} shepherd the flock of God among you, exercising oversight not under compulsion, but voluntarily, according to *the will of* God; and not for sordid gain, but with eagerness; {3} nor yet as lording it over those allotted to your charge, but proving to be examples to the flock. {4} And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory.”

There are several other references to Jesus as the Shepherd. In John 10, Jesus said, “I am the good shepherd; the good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep.” Jesus said that as a good shepherd, He knows His own and they know Him. Jesus also said that He had other sheep, which are not of this fold, and He must bring them also. I believe that He is referring to Gentiles, who were not part of the nation of Israel.

(John 10:11-16) “I am the good shepherd; the good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep. {12} He who is a hired hand, and not a shepherd, who is not the owner of the sheep, sees the wolf coming, and leaves the sheep and flees, and the wolf snatches them and scatters *them*. {13} *He flees* because he is a hired hand and is not concerned about the sheep. {14} I am the good shepherd, and I know My own and My own know Me, {15} even as the Father

knows Me and I know the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep. {16} I have other sheep, which are not of this fold; I must bring them also, and they will hear My voice; and they will become one flock *with* one shepherd.”

Right before Jesus’ crucifixion, Jesus told His disciples that they would all fall away that night. He quoted Zechariah 13:7, “I will strike down the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock shall be scattered.”

(Matt 26:31) “Then Jesus \*said to them, "You will all fall away because of Me this night, for it is written, 'I WILL STRIKE DOWN THE SHEPHERD, AND THE SHEEP OF THE FLOCK SHALL BE SCATTERED.'”

In Hebrews 13:20, Jesus is referred to as the great Shepherd of the sheep who was brought up from the dead. Shepherd is a name, but it is also a work. Jesus did not come for a title; He came to Shepherd the flock and to lay His life down for the flock. That was His mission, and He accomplished this.

(Heb 13:20) “Now the God of peace, who brought up from the dead the great Shepherd of the sheep through the blood of the eternal covenant, *even* Jesus our Lord,”

### Conclusion and Applications

The Child, the Son, who was promised to us and that we celebrate at Christmas was given very appropriate names. He was also given three very specific missions. Jesus came to establish the government of the kingdom, and much of His earthly ministry was devoted to raising up the apostles that would establish the church. Jesus also came to take away the sins of the world. Third, Jesus came as the Shepherd of Israel, and as a good shepherd, He laid His life down for the flock.

Has God been speaking to you today? Have you asked Jesus to take away your sins? Have you asked Him to forgive you? That is why He came. All of us have sinned and the wages of our sins is death, so we need God’s forgiveness. Jesus paid the price for our sins, and forgiveness is available in Christ. Would you like to receive Christ into your life? I invite you to pray with me right now.

Jesus, I believe that You are the Son of God, and that You came to take away the sins of the world, including mine. I believe that You came in the flesh, died on the cross, were buried, and raised from the dead on the third day. I ask You to come into my life and forgiven me of my sins. I want to follow You the rest of my life, and I now confess You as my Lord and Savior. I pray this in Jesus’ Name. Amen.

There may be some here today that do not know Jesus as their Shepherd. Have you joined a local flock where you can be cared for by a shepherd. God’s plan for all of us is that we are cared for and fed by a shepherd. At the Connection Church, we currently have people in our body living in many different places. But, they are prayed for and cared for regularly. We work hard at providing sound doctrine for the sheep to feed on. If you feel connected to the Connection Church, and would like to join our body, we would welcome you. Please let Tom, Karen, or I know that you want to be part of our body, and we will reach out to you.

There may be some today that are not sure of the mission that God has for you. I believe that God has a mission for each of us. I believe He has prepared good works in advance for all of us to walk in. I believe He has made each one of us in a unique way, given us unique gifts and abilities, and has made each of us to be a functioning member of the body of Christ. We are not all hands, or fingers, or feet. God has created each one of us to serve in a unique way. For those that may not be sure, I want to pray for you right now.

Father God, I believe that You fashioned each one of us while we were in our mothers' wombs. I believe You knew the days allotted to each of us before there was one. I believe that You called us to be prophets, teachers, servants, helpers, leaders, givers, healers, evangelists, or one of the other parts of the body. I believe You have prepared good works in advance for each of us to walk in. I ask You, Lord, to give clarity to each person today about their role and their place in Your body. Give them a clear sense of the mission that you have for them. I ask You to give wisdom and grace to each of them. I believe that You chose and appointed each of us to bear fruit and glorify You. I pray that this coming year will be a fruitful year. I pray Your blessings and favor on each person here this morning. I ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

(Ps 139:13) "For You formed my inward parts; You wove me in my mother's womb."

(Ps 139:16) "Your eyes have seen my unformed substance; And in Your book were all written The days that were ordained *for me*, When as yet there was not one of them."

(Jer 1:5) "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, And before you were born I consecrated you; I have appointed you a prophet to the nations."

(Eph 2:10) "For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them."

(Eph 4:16) "from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by what every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love."

(1 Cor 12:14-18) "For the body is not one member, but many. {15} If the foot says, "Because I am not a hand, I am not *a part* of the body," it is not for this reason any the less *a part* of the body. {16} And if the ear says, "Because I am not an eye, I am not *a part* of the body," it is not for this reason any the less *a part* of the body. {17} If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? {18} But now God has placed the members, each one of them, in the body, just as He desired."

**Introduction** (Is 9:6)

1. **Establish the government of the kingdom** (Is 9:6-7, Eph 1:22-23, Col 1:18, Eph 5:22-23, Luke 6:12-13, Heb 3:1, Acts 4:34-35, 1 Cor 12:28, Eph 2:19-20, Acts 15:2, 1 Tim 1:3, Tit 1:10-11, Acts 14:23, Tit 1:5-6)
2. **Save His people from their sins.** (Matt 1:18-25, John 1:29, 1 John 2:1-2, 3:5, John 19:30)
3. **Shepherd Israel** (Matt 2:1-6, Mic 5:2-4, John 18:33-38, 1 Pet 5:1-4, John 10:11-16, Zech 13:7, Matt 26:31, Heb 13:20)

**Conclusion and Applications** (Ps 139:13, 139:16, Jer 1:5, Eph 2:10, 4:16, 1 Cor 12:14-18)