

# **“For unto Us A Child is Born”**

**Isaiah 9:6**

**Pastor Duane Lawrence**

“For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon his shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.” (NKJV)

So, today, as we look at The Scriptures and particularly Isaiah 9:6, we want to remind you that the whole essence of Christmas is that Jesus was born so that your sins and my sins would be forgiven and that we could have a relationship with The Creator of the universe.

Matthew 1:21 – “And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins.”

The primary reason that Jesus came was to save us from our sins -

As we look further at Matthew 1 – verses 1-17 establishes the fact of Jesus as a legal son of Joseph; verses 18-25 deny that Joseph was Jesus’ physical father. The first was necessary to establish Jesus’ lineage to David and His royal right to be King. The second was necessary to establish His qualifications to be the Savior of all people: Jesus was God’s Son and not merely Joseph’s. Matthew elaborated on Jesus’s kingship while Luke detailed His miraculous conception by the Holy Spirit (Luke 1:26-56).

Let’s take a look at Isaiah 7:14 – “Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel.” (NKJV)

This same title of Immanuel here in Isaiah 7:14 is the same which is in Matthew 1:23, “Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel,” which is translated, “God with us.”

Matthew makes it clear that Isaiah's words find their ultimate fulfillment in the virgin birth of Jesus, a sign to people of all ages that God was with them.

God desires to have a meaningful relationship with us.

Another passage in Isaiah says, "Come now, and let us reason together," Says the LORD, "Though your sins are like scarlet, They shall be as white as snow; Though they are red like crimson, They shall be as wool." (Isaiah 1:18 NKJV)

Reason together means "to come to a legal decision." There is no call for a compromise here; the people were to come to an agreement with God concerning the immense weight of their sin.

God was not declaring His people to be innocent of wickedness, but He was prepared to forgive their sins if they would repent of their sins and turn to Him for forgiveness.

God offers forgiveness and pardon to those of us who will repent and turn to Him to forgive us of our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. He knows that we stand in need of forgiveness and He will forgive us based on the payment for sin in the death of the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus came to die on the cross because of our sins and the only payment that God accepts for sin is through the death, burial, and resurrection of His Son Jesus.

God offers to us a repeated offering of grace. You say, "How is that preacher?" Glad you asked –

Lamentations 3:22-23 – "Through the LORD's mercies we are not consumed, Because His compassions fail not. 23 They are new every morning; Great is Your faithfulness." (NKJV)

The people of Israel had chosen to reject God. Yet even in this time of suffering there was hope. The Lord would not discipline His people forever; He would eventually restore those who waited on Him.

The very fact that there was a prophet left to write these words and a remnant left to read then shows that not every person in Jerusalem had been consumed.

The fact that there was remnant at all was due to the mercies and compassions of God. Even in His wrath (2:1-4), God remembers to be merciful.

We today do not deserve the mercy of God as well as His grace but He continues to bless us in spite of us. Every day presents us with a new opportunity to discover and experience more of the love of God.

Look at our world today – it is as II Timothy 3:1-5 declares, “But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: 2 For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, 3 unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, 4 traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, 5 having a form of godliness but denying its power.”

There were other times before the writing of II Timothy 3:1-5 that men were of the same persuasion.

Genesis 6:5-6 – “Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. 6 And the LORD was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart.” (NKJV)

This is one of the strongest and clearest statements about the condition of man’s nature – sinful. The people of Noah’s day were exceedingly wicked, from the inside out.

Sounds like some of the people in our present day and time – exceedingly wicked, from the inside out – sinful.

Yet God, because of His great love for mankind, had a plan to redeem, regenerate, and restore mankind.

God had to have someone who could relate to mankind in every way thus “... a Child is born...” Jesus was fully human (born) and yet, at the same time fully God, “...a Son is given;...” (Isaiah 9:6)

Hebrews 4:14-16 – “Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. 15 For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. 16 Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.” (NKJV)

Our High Priest, Jesus, “passed through the heavens” to the very presence of God, where He sits at God’s right hand (1:3), where He is constantly making intercession on our behalf.

Since Jesus was “tempted as we are, yet without sin” He can sympathize with us. This is why we can “come boldly to the throne of grace” so that we can “obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.”

Our Wonderful Counselor, the coming Son of David will carry out a royal program that will cause all the world to marvel and to benefit from it. What that program will look like can be found in Isaiah 11.

Our Mighty God is a powerful warrior –

Everlasting Father – describes a King and Father who provides for and protects His people forever –

Prince of Peace – The Child is the true Prince – the one who has the right to reign and who will usher in peace – He provides healing of the fatal dissension between God and mankind and ends the “hostility” through the cross –

II Corinthians 5:21 – “For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.” (NKJV)

Jesus never did anything wrong that is why He could die for your sins and mine because He is perfect in every way. He is indeed The Lamb that was slain for the sins of the world. Jesus died for us and as a result we have been made right before God because of Him, providing that you have received Him into your life.

John 1:29 – “The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, “Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.”

The use of a lamb for sacrifice was very familiar to Jews. In the Old Testament, the Israelites sacrificed lambs at the Passover feast (Exod. 12:21) and as offerings (Lev. 14:10-25). Jesus Christ is the Lamb that God would give as a sacrifice for the sins not only of Israel, but of the whole world.

John the Baptist used this expression (The Lamb of God) as a reference to the ultimate sacrifice of Jesus on the cross to atone for the sins of the world.

The birth of Jesus is in fulfillment of the promise that God made to provide salvation to those who would believe in and receive His Son as Savior.

“So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying: 23 “Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel,” which is translated, “God with us.”

Because of the birth of Jesus and His death, burial, and resurrection, God is with us –

He is with us in our agony – our burdens – our calamities – our defeats – our errors – our failures – our grief – our heartaches – our infirmities – whatever you are going through – He is with you.

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**Duane M. Lawrence, Associate Pastor**  
**Living Word Fellowship Church**  
**Houston, Texas 77088**