**Have You Heard?**

**He Has a Name – Part 4**

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**Introduction**

**Isaiah 9:6-7**

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this. (ESV)

A few years ago, I receive a Christmas card in the mail wishing me a Merry Christmas from someone I did not know. I was so confused so I began thinking that maybe I did know this person and I failed to remember. I then checked social media to see if I knew this person so I could thank them for the card. I searched the name, but nothing came up. A couple of months later I was having coffee with a friend, and with a smirk on his face asks me, “Hey, did you get a Christmas card from Madison?” In shock I said, “Yes, did you get one to too? Who is she? Was she in school with us?” My friend then begins to laugh and reveals that she is his wife’s cousin, and she sends cards during Christmas, and he thought it would be funny if he gave her my name and address. We both started laughing.

But I remember as I stared at the name on the card, confusion filled my mind because I did not recognize the name.

What are the emotions you feel as you think about the names of Jesus? The Bible, of course, is full of the names given to our God. Isaiah, the prophet, wants us to focus on four names in particular.

**Isaiah 9:6**

“His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

These names for the people of ancient Israel pointed to the future they were all hoping for. Eagerly waiting for the arrival of the One whose name they had heard. Waiting for the One who would deliver them from their enemies. And so, the prophet says that He shall be called:

**Wonderful Counsellor**

* The qualification for ruling (Wonderful Counsellor)
* Wonderful Counsellor literally means, “A wonder of a counsellor” [[1]](#footnote-1) – supernatural wisdom
* Are you tired of human leadership? Do you think one day it will come to an end?
* The only One qualified to be in charge will finally rule with His deep and divine wisdom.

**Mighty God**

* This points to His person and power (Mighty God)
* Mighty God: People requested a king, but God gave Himself
* Since Moses, Israel wanted a human leader to lead and guide them. But God gave them Himself.

**Everlasting Father**

* This points to His relationship to His people (Everlasting Father)
* Everlasting Father – His concern, care, and discipline
* Benevolent protector; a King who will protect His people as a good father does his children.

**Prince of Peace**

* This points to the society His rule creates (Prince of Peace)
* Peace: “Personal fulfillment, well-being, harmony and peace with God”
* The promise of peace is attached to the Messiah. Wherever Jesus is, peace is there also.
* Whenever you invite Jesus, you are inviting peace.

We have heard His name: Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

We could end the message here, but that would be rushing it. We can attribute it to the example of when Christmas is over, and we are ready to move on to the next thing. When should we remove the decorations? If you are like me you want to leave them up not only because they look good but also because of the work required to put them away. But as we think about the next thing and packing the tree and putting away the décor, make no mistake, even though Christmas Day has passed, the message of Christmas is not done away with.

Christmas is the introduction to a new journey and a new direction in life. As we get acquainted with our God in human flesh that has come to take our place on the cross while at the same time revealing who He is and fulfilling prophecies of old.

On Christmas Eve we often sing the song, “*Silent Night”,* but there is a silence we do not often talk about. The centuries leading to Christmas were full of silence. People stopped hearing from God and for centuries, the Jewish people were broken under the idea that God had withdrawn; that He had finally given up on them.

Prophecy had stopped and Rome ruled over Israel. The people eagerly awaited the visitation of God and, there was great expectation. Just like there is expectation when someone is opening their Christmas gift and they are taking too long so the anticipation is building, expectation is rising. The people were eagerly waiting…any day now, God will come. The Messiah will save us.

He did not just come as a man on a mission, zoned in, marching straight to the cross and ignoring the world around Him shouting, “Excuse me, I do not have time for this! Do you not know who I am? I am on a mission; get out of my way I need to get to the cross”. NO, He did not just carry the cross, He demonstrated and revealed His character. The God in whose image we were created reminded us again what His image looks like. His character was on display. He slowed down to touch the imperfections of humanity.

Touching the untouchable, healing the blind, coming into proximity with the people who had been shunned and told they had no value and the ones who were told they had nothing good to contribute to society. These are the people He first approached as He begins to turn the world upside down.

So, as we bring the Christmas season to a close – the visitation of God to our world – I wonder, what should happen to a world God decided to visit? What should happen to people after encountering the creator?

God is the only One, who after He visits, we see more of and not less of Him and we continue to see more of Him. His proximity to us only grows.

**The Result**

**Isaiah 9:6-7**

“For a child has been born—for us! the gift of a son—for us! He’ll take over the running of the world. His names will be: Amazing Counselor, Strong God, Eternal Father, Prince of Wholeness. His ruling authority will grow, and there’ll be no limits to the wholeness he brings.” *(The Message Bible)*

* End of verse seven, “The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this”
* This is not a matter of human effort—this is the doing of God
* There will be no limits to the wholeness He brings.

So, as we pack away the tree and other things pertaining to this season; make no mistake, you have only begun to unravel what God has in store for you.

I want to prophecy over our church, that our life will be marked by the wholeness He brings. Wholeness is only possible as we get to know more of Him – we know His name! We have been introduced. Now let’s live a life that is marked by the freedom and transformation Jesus brings.

**Hebrews 2:14-15**

Because God’s children are human beings—made of flesh and blood—the Son also became flesh and blood. For only as a human being could he die, and only by dying could he break the power of the devil, who had the power of death. 15 Only in this way could he set free all who have lived their lives as slaves to the fear of dying.(NLT)

The end that the Bible promises us is meant to end the slavery of fear now. If the fear of what our end will be has been removed, then fear has no place along this journey. If we can see the cross from Christmas, then we can live a life that is whole and free because what we have received is not just a fulfilled expectation. What we have receive is the forgiveness that has purchased for us an eternity with our God – He has a name; and His name is Jesus. He is a Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

1. Motyer, J. A. (1999). [*Isaiah: an introduction and commentary*](https://ref.ly/logosres/totc23isus?ref=Bible.Is9.6-7&off=934&ctx=+(Prince+of+Peace).+~Wonderful:+literally) (Vol. 20, p. 101). Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)