

THE REIGN OF CHRIST

SIMPLY TEACHING THE WORD SIMPLY—PASTOR CHUCK SMITH



This column is condensed from Pastor Chuck's recorded sermons on Isaiah 9.

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. Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end ... with judgment and justice from that time forward, even forever.

ISAIAH 9:6-7a

Unto Us a Son is Given

In this beautiful flash of prophetic inspiration—740 years before Jesus' birth took place—Isaiah looks beyond the immediate turmoil of Israel. Previously in the Book of Isaiah, he had been writing about the darkness that was around them from a national, spiritual standpoint. The nation had in essence turned its back on God. The whole scene is very dark and bleak indeed, but out of the darkness there was hope. A light was going to shine—the special, unique Child, Jesus Christ. Emmanuel, God with Us.

Who gave this Son to mankind? *“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life”* (John 3:16). More than 15 times in the Gospel of John, Jesus asserts that God was His Father and had sent Him into the world.

Prince of Peace

Two thousand years ago, Jesus gave His life as a ransom for our sins. That was His first coming; and now we await the day when He will come again. When Jesus returns to set up His kingdom on the earth, *the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.* These names are what the world will call Jesus Christ as our ruler and king.

“Wonderful” is also translated as a “Marvelous” Counselor. As a leader, Jesus will exercise tremendous wisdom, for His ways

When the Prince of Peace comes, then we will have true, lasting peace on earth. The wonderful prophecy in Micah states: *They shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore. But everyone shall sit under his vine and under his fig tree, and no one shall*

make them afraid (Micah 4:3b-4a). His reign will be a righteous and just reign. War will be a thing of the past. Everyone will live in his own house peacefully and unafraid. Children will play safely in the streets. The lion will lay down with the lamb. You will be able to go out at night without fear.

In Revelation 21:3-4, John describes the new earth and the holy city: *And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, “Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself will be with them and be their God. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away.”*

Jesus came as a Child, bore your sins in His death on the cross, and is coming again in power and glory to reign forever. And when He establishes His kingdom, you will either be there rejoicing in His kingdom with Him, or you will be with those who have been cast out. Those in His kingdom will be there because they have chosen Jesus as their King. The Bible says, *“Choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve ...”* (Joshua 24:15b). I encourage you to make the right choice, to follow Jesus Christ, our coming King. ✨

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are always right. As a reigning monarch, He will always be a wonderful counselor for He is also the Mighty God. This can only refer to Jesus, for as John said, *In the beginning was the Word ... and the Word was God* (John 1:1). Jesus is God in the flesh. He will also be called Everlasting Father. Another translation of this, and more literal, is “the Father eternal.” It does not refer to God the Father but to Jesus having the characteristics of the Father eternal.

And finally, He will be called the Prince of Peace. The world is so hungry for peace today; there are many movements and efforts for peace. However, I have enough knowledge of man and the Word of God to know there will be no real peace until the Prince of Peace comes and reigns over the earth. If there is one thing that history has demonstrated very clearly, it is this: Man is completely incapable of governing over his fellow man—without ultimately becoming so corrupted that he no longer governs for the people but for his own selfish interest. Even in America, our country is eroding from within because of moral rotteness. Scripture tells us: *Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people* (Proverbs 14:34). A nation that forgets God cannot stand.

Jesus' Eternal Reign

Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end (Isaiah 9:7a).