

## Isaiah 9: The Coming of the Christ 08-21-16 AM

Isaiah is an important book for New Testament Christians. We might recall how in Acts 8 Philip began in Isaiah 53 and taught the Ethiopian Eunuch about Jesus. More quotes in the NT are from Isaiah than any other book.

Isaiah 8 ends with a warning that the children of Israel are lost in the dark. God says in verse 20 "To the law and to the testimony! If they do not speak according to this word, it is because there is no light in them." The word is the light, and when men do not seek Him through it, they are in darkness. But in Isaiah 9, the text continues by giving a ray of hope: "*By the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, In Galilee of the Gentiles. The people who walked in darkness Have seen a great light*". We know from the NT (Matthew 4:16) that this is the promise of Jesus Christ, the light of the World. "*In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it*" (John 1:4-5).

Isaiah 9 makes some marvelous promises regarding the coming savior. It speaks to the Child born to us to end darkness: His authority; His identity; His purpose.

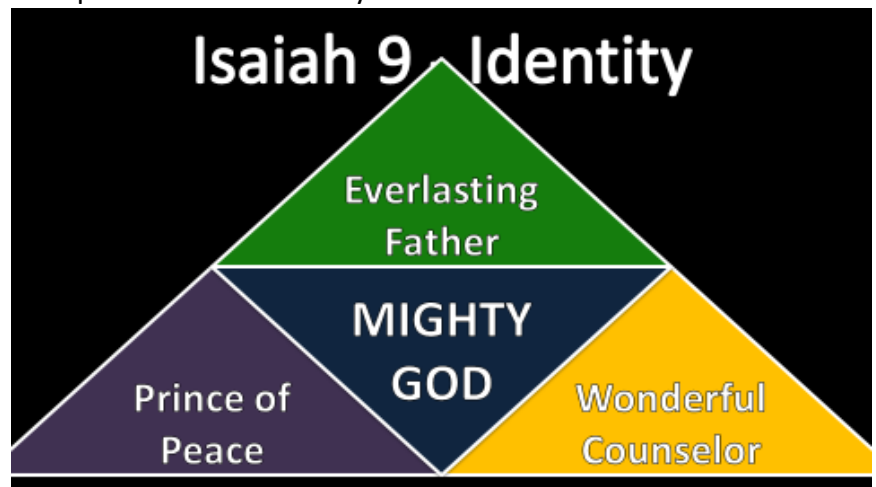
His marriage authority: The passage which states "*The government will rest on His shoulders*" refers to a part of the marriage ceremony where the veil of the bride is placed on the shoulder of the groom<sup>1</sup>. Such marriage language is not new to the OT; consider Psalm 45. This same language is part of the NT promise of Jesus, seen in places like Revelation 19:7-9. When we are joined to Christ, our righteous deeds are placed in His authority.

His identity:

We see His three part identity in the language of His name. He is God, yet He embodies the Father, the Son (Prince) and the Holy Spirit (Counselor). We Are reminded that "*in Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form*" (Colossians 2:9).

His Purpose:

He was born to be a king; this was His purpose (John 18). He has An endless kingdom (Luke 1:31-33) that is from David. His kingdom establishes peace between our greatest adversary, God (Romans 5:1). Finally, in His authority He establishes justice AND righteousness (Romans 5:10).



<sup>1</sup> Ralph Gower, The New Manners and Customs of Bible Times, p66