

“FOR US?”

- ISAIAH 9:6 -7 (ENGLISH STANDARD VERSION)

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.

⁷ 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.

I. WHO IS THE ‘US’ ISAIAH WAS TALKING ABOUT?

- ISAIAH SPEAKS INTO A WORLD FILLED WITH POLITICAL CONFLICT, FEAR, SPIRITUAL CONFUSION, AND GLOBAL TURMOIL.

II. HISTORICAL TIME FRAME OF ISAIAH’S WRITING

- ISAIAH PROPHESED MORE THAN **700 YEARS** BEFORE THE BIRTH OF CHRIST
- ISRAEL WAS IN POLITICAL UPHEAVAL, SPIRITUAL DECLINE, AND INTERNATIONAL CONFLICT.

III. HISTORICAL DRAMA BEHIND ISAIAH CHAPTER 9-

- ISAIAH 7–9 CONTEXT: JUDAH UNDER KING AHAZ
 - AHAZ IS AN UNGODLY, CORRUPT, REBELLIOUS, IDOLATROUS, A NARCISSISTIC OPPORTUNIST
- A DIVIDED NATION: JUDAH (SOUTH) VS. ISRAEL/EPHRAIM (NORTH).
- ISRAEL + SYRIA ATTACK JUDAH (ISAIAH 7:1–2).

- THE LOOMING THREAT OF ASSYRIA — THE GLOBAL SUPERPOWER (ISAIAH 8:7–8).
- INTERNAL FRACTURES: FAITHFUL REMNANT (ISAIAH 1:9), CORRUPT LEADERS (ISAIAH 1:23), OPPRESSED POOR (ISAIAH 1:17).

IV. WHO WAS “US” FROM ISAIAH’S PERSPECTIVE

- ‘US’ = GOD’S COVENANT PEOPLE, THE ENTIRE AND NOW DIVIDED NATION OF ISRAEL
- INCLUDED BOTH THE FAITHFUL AND UNFAITHFUL
- A PEOPLE LIVING IN THE DARKNESS OF MORAL AND POLITICAL CORRUPTION
- A COMMUNITY DIVIDED, THREATENED BY ENEMIES, AND SPIRITUALLY COMPROMISED.

V. WHO WAS “US”? FROM GOD’S PERSPECTIVE -THE WHOLE WORLD

- **EGYPT & KUSH (“AFRICA”):** POLYTHEISM — RA, ISIS, OSIRIS; ANCESTOR RITUALS.
- **MESOPOTAMIA:** WORSHIP OF MARDUK, ISHTAR; ASTROLOGY AND DIVINATION.
- **PERSIA (EARLY):** PROTO-ZOROASTRIAN CONCEPTS OF COSMIC STRUGGLE.
- **INDIA:** VEDIC RELIGION — BRAHMANIC RITUALS AND MANY DEITIES.
- **CHINA:** ZHOU DYNASTY — ANCESTOR VENERATION, MANDATE OF HEAVEN.
- **GREECE:** OLYMPIAN GODS — ZEUS, ATHENA; EARLY PHILOSOPHY.
- **EUROPE:** DOMINATED BY MARAUDING CELTIC TRIBES
- **NORTH AMERICAN:** INDIGENOUS MOUND-BUILDING TRIBES STARTING TO EMERGE
- **ISAIAH’S PROOHECY IN CHAPTER 9 EMERGES WITHIN A DARK WORLD FULL OF COMPETING RELIGIOUS IDEOLOGIES AND NOTIONS**

VI. THE PROPHETIC PROMISE — “FOR US A CHILD IS BORN”

- GOD GIVES **HOPE** DESPITE REBELLION AND CHAOS
- MESSIANIC TITLES: WONDERFUL COUNSELOR, MIGHTY GOD, EVERLASTING FATHER, PRINCE OF PEACE.

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- AN ETERNAL KINGDOM OF JUSTICE AND RIGHTEOUSNESS (ISAIAH 9:7).
- GOD REMAINS FAITHFUL EVEN WHEN HIS PEOPLE ARE NOT (2 TIMOTHY 2:13).

VII. MAJOR HUMAN EVENTS IN THE 700 YEARS BETWEEN ISAIAH'S TIME AND THE BIRTH OF CHRIST-THE WORLD THAT ISAIAH KNEW IS DESTROYED

- 722 B.C. — FALL OF NORTHERN KINGDOM (ISRAEL) TO ASSYRIA.
- 701 B.C. — ASSYRIAN INVASION OF JUDAH; JERUSALEM SPARED (ISAIAH 37).
- 586 B.C. — BABYLON DESTROYS JERUSALEM; EXILE BEGINS.
- 539 B.C. — PERSIA CONQUERS BABYLON; EXILES RETURN.
- 516 B.C. — SECOND TEMPLE COMPLETED.
- 333 B.C. — ALEXANDER THE GREAT SPREADS GREEK CULTURE.
- 167–160 B.C. — MACCABEAN REVOLT; JEWISH INDEPENDENCE.
- 63 B.C. — ROME CONQUERS JERUSALEM.
- 4–6 B.C. — BIRTH OF JESUS CHRIST (MATTHEW 2; LUKE 2).

VIII. THE SCRIPTURES CONFIRM THAT ISAIAH'S PROPHESED CHILD IS FOR ALL OF US

- JESUS FULFILLS ISAIAH'S PROPHECY -**MATTHEW 4:13–16** .
- CHRIST IS "A LIGHT TO THE GENTILES."-- **LUKE 2:30–32**
- CHRIST BREAKS DOWN DIVIDING WALLS BETWEEN THE JEWS AND **ALL GENTILES -- EPHESIANS 2:11–19**
- JESUS IS THE LIGHT OF THE ENTIRE WORLD -.**JOHN 8:12**
- A GLOBAL 'US' GATHERED BEFORE GOD - **REVELATION 7:9**.

IX. MAJOR EVENTS FROM THE BIRTH OF CHRIST TO NOW PROVING JESUS IS STILL "FOR US"

- 33 A.D. — JESUS' DEATH AND RESURRECTION.
- 70 A.D. — TEMPLE DESTROYED; GOSPEL SPREADS GLOBALLY.

- 313 A.D. —ROMAN EMPIRE ADOPTS AND LEGALIZES CHRISTIANITY; EXPANSION ACCELERATES.
- 1054 — GREAT SCHISM; THE GOSPEL CONTINUES EAST AND WEST.
- 1517 — PROTESTANT REFORMATION; SCRIPTURE IN PEOPLE’S HANDS.
- 1611 — KING JAMES BIBLE PUBLISHED.
- 1800S — GREAT AWAKENINGS; GLOBAL REVIVAL.
- 1856- SHILOH BAPTIST CHURCH OF SACRAMENTO WAS ORGANIZED
- 1985- 55 MEMBERS OF SHLOH LEFT TO ORGANIZE THE ANTIOCH PROGRESSIVE CHURCH

AND THAT SAME JESUS, THAT WONDERFUL COUNSELOR, MIGHTY GOD, EVERLASTING FATHER, AND PRINCE OF PEACE IS STILL WITH “**US**”, WITH OUR CONGREGATION AND AVAILABLE TO THE ENTIRE WORLD! .

X. CHRIST REMAINS FOR ‘US’ TODAY!

- A DIVIDED SOCIETY
- A CHURCH SEEKING UNITY
- PEOPLE LIVING IN EMOTIONAL, POLITICAL, AND SPIRITUAL DARKNESS.
- DIVERSE AND WARRING NATIONS
- CHRIST REMAINS FOR US — FOR THE HURTING, FORGOTTEN, OUTSIDER, AND SINNER (ROMANS 5:8).

XI. CONCLUSION- THE THEME FOR THIS FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT IS HOPE — WE HAVE HOPE IN KNOWING THAT CHRIST IS SPECIFICALLY “FOR US!”

- **HOPE** IS “A CONFIDENT EXPECTATION THAT GOD WILL DO WHAT HE PROMISED HE WOULD DO. HOPE LOOKS FORWARD. IT’S NOT WISHFUL THINKING. IT IS TRUSTING AND BELIEVING.
- **FAITH** IS THE PRESENT-TENSE TRUST THAT GOD IS WHO HE SAYS HE IS, IT’S THE ACTIONS YOU TAKE RIGHT NOW BECAUSE YOU TRUST HIM.
- IN CHRIST THERE IS ALWAYS A BRIGHTER DAY AHEAD!