

Thoughts for Advent – 1:-

As we approach the celebration of the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ, some thoughts on the familiar reading from Isaiah chapter 9, verse 6. We take time to pause and reflect on the names given by the prophet some 700 years before the Saviour was born.

“For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government will be upon his shoulder, and his name will be called ‘Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace’.

The child to be born would rule over God’s kingdom for ever. His birth in the ‘City of David’, Bethlehem emphasised his coming rule *‘upon the throne of David’* - remember the Lord’s words to Pilate *‘my kingship is not of this world’* (see John chapter 18, verses 36 – 38) and the words written on the cross *‘Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews.’* (John, chapter 19, verse 19).

“Wonderful Counsellor” :-

As a person of two distinct natures, God and man he was truly a wonder from Jehovah. He was to be a counsellor as no other. As the One who alone had the words of eternal life he was to be listened to – Matthew chapter 17, verse 5 and John chapter 6, verse 68.

“Mighty God” :-

Jeremiah prays to the Lord God, referring to Him as the *“great and mighty God whose name is the Lord of hosts”* (Jeremiah chapter 32, verse 18). This child was to be an unconquerable warrior, ruler of the hosts of heaven – see Revelation chapter 19, verses 11 – 16.

“Everlasting Father” :-

My commentary says that this is literally *“Father of Eternity”*. The child will be not only Lord of Eternity but the author and giver of eternal life. He was *“before Abraham”*. (John chapter 8, verse 58). Note that in this verse the Lord Jesus Christ claims the ‘name’ of the Lord God as given to Moses at the burning bush (Exodus chapter 3, verses 13 – 15).

“Prince of Peace” :-

The coming child will bring *“shalom”* to his people. The words of our Lord himself from the Gospel of John, chapter 14, verse 27 – *“Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.”*

May we, and the whole Church of Christ know that peace this Christmas time.

Terry Brighton 7 / 12 / 2023