Jesus Christ in the Old Testament

(Part 15 – The Promised Birth of the Messiah)

(Daniel 9:25; Micah 5:2; Isaiah 7:14, 9:6-7)

5/17/2015

I. God Predicted <u>WHEN</u> the Messiah would be in the world:
483 YEARS after Artaxerxes' degree to rebuild Jerusalem (Dan.9:25; Neh.2:5)
So you are to know and discern that from the issuing of a decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem until Messiah the Prince there will be seven weeks (sevens) and sixty-two weeks (sevens)… 7-7's = 49 62-7's = 434 49+434 = 483 years

II. God Predicted <u>WHERE</u> the Messiah would be born:
<u>BETHLEHEM</u> (Micah 5:2)
But as for you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, Too little to be among the clans of Judah, From you One will go forth for Me to be ruler in Israel. His goings forth are from long ago, From the days of eternity. Micah 5:2

III. God Predicted <u>HOW</u> the Messiah would be born:
Of a <u>VIRGIN</u> (Is.7:14; Mt.1:23)
Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, a virgin will be with child and bear a son, and she will call His name Immanuel. Isaiah 7:14

IV. God Predicted <u>WHY</u> the Messiah would be born:
To <u>RULE</u> and <u>REIGN</u> as King upon the throne of David (Isaiah 9:6-7)
For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; And the government will rest on His shoulders; And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace. There will be no end to the increase of His government or of peace, On the throne of David and over his kingdom, To establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness From then on and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will accomplish this. Isaiah 9:6-7

A. Jesus will reign as the "Wonderful Counsellor"

B. Jesus will reign as the "Mighty God"

C. Jesus will reign as the "Eternal Father"

D. Jesus will reign as the "Prince of Peace"

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What a happy occasion the birth of a child is! The parents and family all want a chance to hold the baby, hug the baby, and kiss the baby. Family and friends many times celebrate the birth by bringing gifts, balloons and cards.

The birth of one baby stands out as unique. This Baby is the One whose incarnation much of the world remembers each year on December 25. This Baby, no doubt, received all of the affection and hugs that other children in His day received.

However, this Child received something no other child has ever received. This Child received worship from angels! (Heb. 1:6 - "And again, when He bringeth in the First-begotten into the world, He saith, And let all the angels of God worship Him.").

Not only did an angel foretell His birth (Mt. 1:20-24), announce His birth (Lk. 2:10-12), and sing praises at His birth (Lk. 2:13-14), but the Bible teaches that the angels worshipped Him at His birth (Heb. 1:6).

The Baby Jesus was honored and adored beyond that of any other child. He was glorified by shepherds (Lk. 2:16-20) and extolled by Simeon & Anna (Lk. 2:25-38).

Another interesting fact regarding Christ's birth is that it was predicted on several occasions in the O.T. Hebrew Scriptures.

A vast portion of the Bible is given to predictive prophecy. It is said that 333 distinct prophecies were literally and exactly fulfilled at the first coming of Christ (the chances of this happening by accident have been computed as 1 in 87,000--plus 90 more zeros).

The World in general is quite familiar with some of the details involving Christ's birth.

Many know of the angels announcement to the shepherds…
Many know of the humble stable and manger…
Many know of the wise men who came to worship him…etc.

I. God Predicted <u>WHEN</u> the Messiah would be in the world:
483 YEARS after Artaxerxes' degree to rebuild Jerusalem (Dan.9:25; Neh.2:5)

Da 9:25 Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem unto the Messiah the Prince shall be seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks: the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublous times.

HOW LONG UNTIL <u>MESSIAH</u>?

69 sevens (483 years) would pass <u>before</u> Messiah was to come (v. 25-26).

V. 25
"The commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem" - this command refers to the decree of "Artaxerxes Longimanus given in 445 B.C. (Neh. 2:5). Earlier, Cyrus had authorized the rebuilding of the temple (in 5:38; II Chron. 36:22-23; Ezra 1:1-4)." Ryrie note

The rebuilding of the <u>wall</u> would transpire during "<u>troublous times</u>" - cp. Nehemiah 4-6.

The work was attacked by Sanballat and Tobiah as well as the Arabians, Ammonites, and Ashdodites.

The Jews are without excuse for rejecting Christ. They should have <u>known</u> when He was to arrive based on Daniel's dates (Simeon knew the time of Christ's arrival - Luke 2:25-26); but Israel as a nation did not know (*SEE: Luke 19:41-44).

Sir Robert Anderson suggested that the dating should be calculated by "prophetic years" from 445 B.C.

1) His proof of prophetic years (lunar dating - Jewish calendar)
--Rev. 11:2, 3; 3 1/2 years; 42 months; 1260 days.
--Cp. Rev. 13:4-7 & 12:13-14 with Rev. 12:6

2) March 14, 445 B.C. to April 6, 32 A.D. totals 173,880 days.
Exactly 69 seven's of prophetic years [a prophetic year has 360 days]

476 x 365 =	173,740 days
Leap year =	116 days
March 14-April 6 =	24 days
	173,880 days

173,880 360 = 483 prophetic years (or 69 sevens)

Decree of Artaxerxes Neh. 2:5-8, 17, 18	Wall street completely Rebuilt	then Christ's Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem

After 69 sevens Messiah would die (v. 26a)

"After threescore and two weeks (62 seven's (or 434 years) from the completed 7 weeks) shall Messiah be cut off"

"Messiah" = Jesus Christ

"Cut off" = to kill or put to death.

In a Messianic prophecy describing the suffering and death of the Messiah, Isaiah said "He was <u>cut off</u> out of the land of the living: for the transgression of my people was He striken" (Is. 53:8) ("cut off" - cp. Gen. 9:11; Deut. 20:20).

"But not for Himself" - Two possible translations:

1) "And have nothing" (NASV; NIV)

"There is nothing for Him" Nothing that rightly belonged to Messiah the Prince was given to Him at that time. His Kingdom would be future.

2) "But not for Himself" (KJV; NKJV) - Jesus would be "cut off" but not for His sin (he was sinless [II Cor. 5:20]); but for the sins of the world (Is. 53; I Cor. 15:3; I Pet. 2:24, 3:18).

II. God Predicted <u>WHERE</u> the Messiah would be born:

<u>BETHLEHEM</u> (Micah 5:2)

Micah 5:2

But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting.

"Bethlehem" – The house of Bread. Isn't it interesting how the "Bread of Life" would be born in the "house of bread"

"Ephratah" – Fruitful.

"thousands of Judah" – out of the thousands of cities and districts in Israel, God chose Bethlehem as the birthplace of the Messiah.

Bethlehem was also the birthplace of King David (1 Sam. 16:1). Very fitting, since Christ would eternally rule on David's throne (2 Sam. 7:12-13).

"unto me" – unto God, the Father; Messiah would accomplish His will perfectly.

"ruler" – Christ would be the ultimate governor, who would exercise dominion is Israel.

Note: King Herod the Great would be petrified at the thought of a rival king being born in Bethlehem – Matthew 2.

Mt.2: 3

Herod was troubled because his "job was on the line" if Jesus indeed was king!. As a typical, worried politician, Herod feared that his dynasty would soon end if this child of Bethlehem were truly the King of the Jews.

"Herod was an Edomite, not a Jew, and had no legitimate claim to be the Jews' king. He therefore feared and hated even the suggestion of a rival claimant" (MacArthur, p. 24).

Mt. 2:7

Why such a diligent inquiry? Herod wanted to know about how old Jesus would be.

V. 8

Herod's intention was anything but worship. He wanted blood! Infanticide!

"from of old, from everlasting" – Christ would not have His origin in Bethlehem; He is eternal. The Alpha and Omega, the Beginning and the End of all things.

III. God Predicted <u>HOW</u> the Messiah would be born:
Of a <u>VIRGIN</u> (Is.7:14; Mt.1:23)

Isaiah 7:14 - Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

Introduction: Isaiah 7:1
People's hearts were moved with fear as Syria and Ephraim (the Northern 10 tribes) conspire to conquer and take over Judah. Yet God gave a sign and a promise to expel all fear.

Despite her wickedness, God promises His presence to Judah & Jerusalem!

God's promise of His presence applies to believers today!

7:1
Although Ahaz had a godly great-grandfather (Amaziah – 2 Ki. 14:1-22), and a godly grandfather (Uzziah/Azariah – 2 Ki. 15:1-7), and a godly father (Jotham – 2 Ki. 15:32-38), this king Ahaz was a wicked king over Judah (2 Ki. 16).

Ahaz started his reign at the age of 20 and was an evil man (2 Ki. 16:2).

--Ahaz sacrificed his son to Molech (v. 3)

--Ahaz built pagan altars on various high places and sacrificed there (v. 4)

--Ahaz gave the silver and gold found in the house of the Lord to the Assyrian king Tiglathpileser to "butter him up" and obtain his services over his enemies (made allegiance with an enemy of God) (v. 7-8)

--Ahaz copied the pagan worship altar of Damascus and had a replica built for worship at God's Temple (v. 101-16)

Yet despite Ahaz's wickedness, God would spare him and the people of Judah from an attempted conquest by Syria and Ephraim, who "went up toward Jerusalem to war against it, but could not prevail against it" (Is. 7:1).

7:2
“His heart was moved, and the heart of his people. . .” – They were scared spitless and were trembling greatly.

Can you imagine the fear that would grip your heart if your neighborhood was under attack by an invading enemy?!

7:4
“Fear not” - Relax and be calm, because these two stubs of smoldering firebrands (i.e. these two extinguished small pieces of firewood with no fire left in them – just smoke) will not stand (v. 7) in their endeavor.

7:7
Yahweh Elohim promised, “It shall not stand, neither shall it come to pass”

Kings may plan to conquer and rule, but God overrules!

Nothing can take place outside of His sovereign control.

7:8-9
These kings may be the head of their respective cities and countries, but they will never be the head of Judah, because God would not allow it. (The next head of Judah would be one of the most godly kings ever – King Hezekiah.)

“If ye will not believe, surely ye shall not be established” – A play on words – “Unsure – insecure.” Or No faith – no foundation. Faith drives out fear (the two cannot co-exist).

“Faith is the victory that overcomes the world.”

7:11
“Ask thee a sign” - Jews always seek signs. God offers Ahaz the option: High in the sky or low on the earth. God offered him a blank check and all he had to do was fill it in.

Outside of God’s sovereign control, nothing planned against us will stand.

7:12
Note the pious pride and arrogance of King Ahaz. God offered him unlimited grace. However, Ahaz was a fake, a phony, a hypocrite with absolutely no heart for God.

Why did he refuse? Because he had already asked the Assyrian King Tiglathpelezar to come and destroy Syria (cp. 2 Ki. 16 & 2 Chron. 28). The reason he did not like God's offer is because there was nothing material or physical for Ahaz to trust.

7:14
In context, the promise of "Immanuel" had a historical reference (v. 15-16). However, ultimately the promise of "Immanuel" had a future reference to the Messiah (Matthew 1:23).
(Immediate vs. ultimate fulfillment --- compare: "Out of Egypt have I called my Son" – Historically, Son referred to the nation of Israel coming out of Egypt, but prophetically the "Son" was Jesus Christ who, with Mary and Joseph, would come out of Egypt.)

"Of course, the ultimate fulfillment of this prophecy is in our Lord Jesus Christ, who is "God with us" (Mt. 1:18-25; Lk. 1:31-35). The virgin birth of Christ is a key doctrine; for if Jesus Christ is not God come in sinless human flesh, then we have no Savior. Jesus had to be born of a virgin, apart from human generation, because He existed before His mother. He was not just born in this world; He came down from heaven into the world (Jn. 3:13; 6:33, 38, 41-42, 50-51, 58). Jesus was sent by the Father and therefore came into the world having a human mother but not a human father (4:34; 5:23-24, 30; 9:4).

"However, this "sign" had an immediate significance to Ahaz and the people of Judah. A woman who was then a virgin would get married, conceive, and bear a son whose name would be "Immanuel." This son would be a reminder that God was with His people and would care for them. It is likely that this virgin was Isaiah's second wife, his first wife having died after Shear-jashub was born; and that Isaiah's second son was named both "Immanuel" and "Maher-shalal-hash-baz" (8:1-4; note vv. 8 and 10).

"Orthodox Jewish boys become "sons of the Law" at the age of twelve. This special son was a reminder that Syria and Ephraim would be out of the picture within the next twelve years. Isaiah delivered this prophecy in 734 BC. In 732 BC

Assyria defeated Syria; and in 722 BC Assyria invaded the Northern Kingdom. The prophecy was fulfilled." (Wiersbe, p. 33)

Isaiah and his sons (Shear-Jashub and Immanuel, also called Maher-shalal-hash-baz – 8:1-3) were for signs (8:18).

In context, God is saying, "You can stop shaking in the wind (v. 2) because God has great expectations for the house of David (not King Ahaz!)."

Both in the immediate future (with political victory) and in the distant future (a little over seven centuries later), God would bring spiritual victory by sending Immanuel.

Isaiah 7:14 - Hebrew for "virgin" is "alma" - Never is used of a married woman in the Bible, but only of virgins (Gen. 24:43; Ex. 2:8; Ps. 68:25; Prov. 30:19; Son 1:3, 6:8)

LXX translated "alma" as "panthenos" which exclusively means virgin.

Matthew 1:20-23
But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying,
Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of
the Holy Ghost. And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his
people from their sins. Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by
the prophet, saying, Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his
name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.

The reason why Matthew interpreted the name is to add emphasis to Christ's deity.

Whereas the name "Jesus" describes what He came to do (save His people), the name

In Bible days, a name had meaning. It described one's character or nature. It revealed attributes.

So it is with every name applied to Jesus Christ.

He is called Jesus (Mt. 1:21), Christ (Jn. 1:41), Messiah (Jn. 4:25), Lord (Lk. 23:42), the "I AM" (Jn. 8:58, 18:6), the Son of God (Lk. 1:32), the Son of man (Mt. 8:20), the Son of Abraham (Mt. 1:1), Son of David (Mk. 10:47), the Son of the Highest (Lk. 1:32), the last Adam (I Cor. 15:45), the Word (Jn. 1:1, 14), Savior (Lk. 2:11), Rabbi (Jn. 1:38), Master (Mt. 9:11), Alpha & Omega (Rev. 1:17), King of kings and Lord of lords (Rev. 19:16), Faithful and True (Rev. 19:11), the Way, truth, life (Jn. 14:6), Bread of life (Jn. 6), the living water (Jn. 4), the Good Shepherd (Jn. 10), the Light of the World (Jn. 8), the Door (Jn. 10:9), the Branch and the Vine (Jn. 15), the Cornerstone (Mt. 21:42), the Messenger (Mt. 21:37), the Morning Star (II Pet. 1:19), the Prophet (Jn. 4:19), the Rock of Offense (I Cor. 1:23), the only begotten Son (Jn. 3:16), the Lord of Glory (Ja. 2:1), the Great High Priest (Heb. 4:14), the Redeemer (Eph. 1:7), Wonderful, Counselor, the mighty God, the everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace (Is. 9:6).

There are over 200 names and titles applied to Christ in the bible, but no name is as miraculous, no name is as awe-inspiring as the name "Immanuel." For this name means "God with us" and points to the miracle of miracles - the virgin birth - the incarnation of deity!

Immanuel" - from the Hebrew (Is. 7:14)
"Im" = with (together with)
"(Ma)nu = us
"El" = God
Hence, "With us (is) God"!

IV. God Predicted <u>WHY</u> the Messiah would be born:
To <u>RULE</u> and <u>REIGN</u> as King upon the throne of David (Isaiah 9:6-7)

Isaiah 9:6-7 - For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.

At Messiah's First Coming, He Brought <u>LIGHT</u> to People in <u>Darkness</u> (Isaiah 9:1-2)

Isaiah 9 is a continuation of 8:22

Israel in desperate times rather than seeking God, had sought help from the Mediums and the Wizards (8:19). Because of this they would remain in darkness with no light in them (v.20). They would look to the earth but find only trouble, anguish, and darkness (v.22).

It was to such people in darkness that Messiah came.

Matthew 4:15-16
The land of Zabulon, and the land of Nephthalim, by the way of the sea, beyond Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles; [16] The people which sat in darkness saw great light; and to them which sat in the region and shadow of death light is sprung up.

V. 15
Zabulon & Nephthalim" - two northern tribes of Israel that settled side by side on the northwest side of the sea of Galilee. (Nazareth was in Zabulon and Capernaum was in Nephthalim).

V. 15-16
Galilee is called the region of the "Gentiles" because Assyria conquered and scattered the northern tribes of Israel in 722 B.C. The land was then populated by Gentiles.

9:1

"A time will come when **gloom** and darkness (8:22) will be a thing of **the past**. The gloom on the northern section of Israel came because of discipline. God **and . . . Naphtali** for a while. Though Isaiah was probably using these two tribal names to represent the Northern Kingdom, it is striking that Jesus' upbringing and early ministry was mostly in that very area near the Sea of Galilee. His presence certainly "honored" that area. In 732 BC this northern portion of Israel became an Assyrian province under Tiglath-Pileser III, thus humbling the people there and putting them in gloom. Under Gentile domination, that area was called **Galilee of the Gentiles.**" (Walvoord & Zuck, p. 1052)

Isaiah 9:1 - Zebulon and Naphtali came under the yoke of Assyria (II Ki. 15:29).

"Galilee of the nations" - Galilee of the Gentiles

Isaiah 9:2 - "Because Christ would <u>minister</u> and <u>live</u> in Galilee, it would be glorious" (Ryrie footnote)

NOTE: Isaiah 9:1-2 clearly refers to Jesus as evident by verses 6-7.

"Darkness" = referring to <u>spiritual</u> darkness (Judea had God's Law; Jerusalem was the place of worship, and the Galileans were viewed as pagans since they did not have God's revelation, the Bible).

"After the fall, mankind had two "candles" as it were, that continued to give light about God and His will - the candle of <u>creation</u> and the candle of <u>conscience</u>. But man paid little attention to either, preferring to walk in the darkness of his own corrupted will (See: Rom. 1:18-21)" (MacArthur, p. 102)

"Sat. . .sat" - Why the word "sat" rather than walked, etc.? ANSWER: When you are in darkness, you can't see where you are going; so rather than walking and stumbling (Jn. 12:35), they complacently sat.

The metaphor of "light" "conveys the idea of the illuminating, truth-revealing and sin-exposing ministry of the Son of God." (MacArthur, p. 101).

"<u>Great</u> light" - Jesus is not merely light, He is <u>great</u> light.

Cp. Is. 42:6-7. The Father prophesied this of the Son (His "Servant") - "I the LORD have called thee in righteousness, and will hold thine hand, and will keep thee, and give thee for a covenant of the people, for a light of the Gentiles; to open the blind eyes, to bring out the prisoners from the prison and them that sit in darkness out of the prison house."

"Shadow of death" - a common Hebrew expression (EX: Job 3:5, 10:21-22, 12:22, 16:16, 24:17, 28:3, 34:22, 38:17; Psalm 23:4, 44:19, 107:10, 14; Is. 9:2; Jer. 2:6, 13:16).

This phrase means to be on the verge of death; to be i an absolute pitch black region, surrounded by a host of demons, all whose aim is to kill, steal, and destroy.

“Light Shined” – N.T. - "Sprung up" - NOTE: the light did not gradually come; but rather, wherever Jesus is there is total light, instant light, because in Him there is "No darkness at all" (I Jn. 1:5).

Instant light - EX: the light switch brings immediate light.

The life of Christ is called "the light of men" (Jn. 1:4).

"Light is come into the world and men loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil" (Jn. 3:19).

"I am the light of the world: he that followeth Me shall not walk in darkness but shall have the light of life" (Jn. 8:12; cp. Jn. 9:5).

"I am come a light into the world, that whosoever believeth on Me should not abide in darkness" (Jn. 12:46).

While we, like John the Baptist, reflect the light of Christ (Mt. 5:14), we are "not that Light" but are sent to "bear witness of the Light" (Jn. 1:7).

Like Paul, it is our privilege to "open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins,a nd inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me" (Acts 26:18).

If such a privilege is ours, what will Satan's chief aim be? -- II Cor. 4:4 - "In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ who is the image of God, should shine unto them."

God "hath called you out of darkness into His marvellous light" (I Pet. 2:9).

CONTEXT: Isaiah 9:6 is usually taken out of its context. Is. 9:3-7 describe Christ's future conquest and kingdom.

God is describing a future time (after the Tribulation) when the nation of Israel will express triumphant joy!

God then gives 3 reasons (Note: "for" v. 4, 5, 6) for such joy (the grounds for such great expectations).

The Messiah will bring:

1) (v. 4) - Deliverance (like Joshua's deliverance over Midian - Jud. 8:24-27)

> "Of course, some of this occurred when God defeated Assyria and delivered Jerusalem (Isa. 37). But the ultimate fulfillment is still future; all military material will be destroyed (9:5) because the nations will not learn war any more (2:4)." (Wiersbe, p. 37)

2) (v. 5) - Conquest (All remnants of war will be burned when Christ returns for the battle of Armageddon - Rev. 19:11-21; II Th. 1:7-8 - "And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ"; II Pet. 3:10 - "Elements shall melt...")

> "At that time, after the Child-Messiah will come, the implements of warfare will be destroyed (v. 5) because in His reign of universal peace implements of war will not be needed (cf. 2:4)." (Walvoord & Zuck, p.1053)

3) (v. 6-7) - Kingdom (when Christ rules over the world - Rev. 20:6).

Handel included these words in one of the famous choruses in Handel's "Messiah."

Isaiah penned this verse some 600 years before the birth of Christ.

At Christmas time, the world remembers the Babe in the manger without thinking about Him as the King of kings and Lord of lords; the Master of the universe.

Both of Christ's comings appear in one verse (a typical occurrence in O.T. prophecy).

In the first part of verse six, Christ's incarnation is in view; in the second, His conquest of the world's governments.

In the first part of the verse He is called "child...son"; in the second, "God...Father...Prince"

In the first part His humanity is emphasized and in the second, His deity.

"Unto us" - we are the objects of God's gift. The recipients of God's gift.

Christmas time should be a time of thanking God for "His unspeakable gift" (9:15).

"A son is given" - the Son is a gift from the heart of the Father (Jn. 3:16).

I Jn. 4:9 - "In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him."

"Government" - the burden of office will rest exclusively on the shoulders of the Son of God. Jesus alone will be a one world ruler, the only Law giver, the sole Law enforcement (Ps. 2:9).

The government upon Christ's shoulder is contrasted with the staff (rod) that had been previously on his people's shoulder
(v. 4).

"His name" - a name that describes the character or attributes of a person.

Christ has many names that are descriptive of His essence.

Kings, queens, monarchs, princes, presidents, and rulers have come and gone; but Jesus is the perfect governor.

A. Jesus will reign as the "Wonderful Counsellor"

"Wonderful" = indescribable. Something that is beyond human words. Something that causes wonder or amazement, because of its miraculous supernatural nature. It comes from a root meaning "surpassing." Jesus has a name which is above every name (Phil. 2:9).

Jesus appeared to Samson's father as the "messenger of Yahweh." Manaoah asked, "What is thy name, that when thy sayings come to pass we may do thee honor? and the Angel of the Lord said unto him, Why askest thou thus after my name, seeing it is secret?" (indescribably wonderful)

(Cp. Rev. 2:17 - "a new name...which no man knoweth)

Jesus will be called wonderful because He is wonderful. Words cannot describe Him.

Hymn - "Christ the blessed one gives to all wonderful words of life..."

"Wonderful Counsellor" = most likely should be tied together like the following three descriptions - revealing Jesus to be a "Wonder of a Counsellor" or a wonderful Counsellor, without the comma.

"Counsellor" - the word is a present, active participle. = "the One counselling."

The word implies continual wisdom, understanding and skill in speaking (Is. 11:2 - "And the spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD.").

Jesus, who is the living Word (Jn. 1:1) will be called such forever!

This one who "spake like no man spake"will do so forever! This one who spoke with "authority and not as the scribes" (Mt. 7) will be called Counsellor forever!

When you need advice and direction, go to the One who is wisdom incarnate. Go to the one whose intelligence as a boy puzzled the doctors. Go to the one whose responses shut the mouths of His critics. Go to the one who "alone has the words of eternal life."

"Unfortunately, most people turn everywhere else for counsel. They go to psychologists, psychiatrists, analysts, philosophers, religious quacks, astrologers and other human advisers." (MacArthur - Masterpiece, Winter, 1988, p. 12).
However, the truth is in Jesus! (Jn. 14:6)

Rom. 11:33-34 - "O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments, and His ways past finding out! For who hath known the mind of the Lord? or who hath been his counsellor?"

I Cor. 1:24 - "But unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God."

Col. 2:3 - "In whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge."

B. Jesus will reign as the "Mighty God"

"The Mighty God" -

"Mighty" = points to Christ as a battle champion or a powerful warrior.

"God" = points to Christ's divinity. It is the Hebrew word "EL" (the strong God) (cp. "Immanu**el**" - Is. 7:14; 8:8, 10; Mt. 1:23).

The title "mighty God" is one used exclusively of Yahweh (EX: Dt. 10:17 - For the LORD your God is God of gods, and Lord of lords, a great God, a mighty, and a terrible, which regardeth not persons, nor taketh reward").

He is called "the great, the mighty God, the Lord of hosts, is His name" (Jer. 32:18; cp. Is. 10:21).

It would be blasphemy to call Jesus "God" if He were not God (Is. 44:6 - "Thus saith the LORD the King of Israel and his redeemer the LORD of hosts; I am the first and I am the last; and beside me there is no God.")

Yahweh said, "Before me there was no God formed, neither shall there be after me" (Is. 43:10).

*What is so special about that little baby in the manger?

--That little baby was God in the flesh!

--That was God in that manger!

--It was God wrapped in swaddling clothes.

--It was God who was given gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

C. Jesus will reign as the "Everlasting Father"

"The everlasting Father" - lit. "the father of eternity."

This verse is not teaching that jesus is "God the Father" [yet He is one with the Father - Jn. 10:30; 14:9] but it is teaching that Jesus Christ will be a Father to is people forever.

As a Father, He is our provider, protector, guide, and example to follow.

ILLUS: Fathers leaving their children today. Today, fathers don't last very long. Sad to say, if a child makes it to his teen years and still has a father living at home, a miracle has occurred!

Yet Jesus will never leave us or forsake us!

"Father" - Jesus being called "Father" points to His continual relationship to <u>His people Israel</u>.

Is. 63:16 - "Doubtless thou art our father, though Abraham be ignorant of us, and Israel acknowledge us not: thou, O LORD, art our father, our redeemer; thy name is from everlasting."
Jesus being called "Father" points to His being Creator.

Is. 64:8 - "But now, O Lord, thou art our father; we are the clay, and thou our potter; and we all are the work of thy hand."

READ Heb. 1:10-12.

D. Jesus will reign as the "Prince of Peace"

"Peace" = Shalom - a full peace - spiritual peace (for a sin-sick soul) and social peace (man to man).

Outside of Christ there is no peace with self (Is. 26:2 - "Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee."

Outside of Christ there is no peace with others ("h is our peace" - Eph. 2:14).

Outside of Christ there is no peace with God (Man only has "peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ" - Rom. 5:8 - cp. Is. 53:5).

Jesus offers peace from God (Rom. 1:7); peace with God (Rom. 5:1); and the peace of God (Phil. 4:7).

There is no lasting peace between governments until the "Prince of peace" returns.

Until Jesus returns and the government is set on His shoulders, wars and fighting will continue.

We say with Isaiah "Lord, thou wilt ordain peace for us" (Is. 26:12).

V. 7

"The Messiah, seated **on David's throne** (Luke 1:32-33), will have an eternal rule of **peace and justice**. His rule will have **no end**; it will go on **forever** (cf. Dan. 7:14, 27; Micah 4:7; Luke 1:33; Rev. 11:15). Following the kingdom on earth, He will rule for eternity. He will maintain **righteousness** (cf. Jer. 23:5), as His rule will conform to God's holy character and demands." (Walvoord & Zuck, p.1053)

Christ's government and its peace will <u>expand</u>, not end.

The millennial kingdom will flow right into the eternal state, and never end.

Hymn - "Like a river glorious is God's perfect peace . . . perfect yet it floweth fuller every day, perfect yet it groweth deeper all the way."

Luke 2:14 - "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men."

Is Jesus just a babe in a manger . . . or is He the governor of your life?

Paul stated the purpose for Christ's coming with these words:
1 Timothy 1:15 This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief.

The writer of Hebrews stated the purpose for Christ's incarnation with these words:
Hebrews 2:9 But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man.
Hebrews 2:14 - Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil;