

Advent Reading for Wednesday, December 6, 2017 ***“A Child is Born, and a Son is Given” (Isaiah 9:6-7)***

Today’s Advent reading focuses on one of the most loved and well-known of the Old Testament prophecies: *“For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; and the government will be upon His shoulders; and His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, and Prince of Peace. There will 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.”* (Isaiah 9:6-7)

When Isaiah speaks of a child being born and a son being given, his words further describe the child we discussed in Day One of our Advent readings; of *Immanuel*, who would be born to the virgin. Here Isaiah tells us of a *child to be born* of a woman, even as we were born. But unlike us, Isaiah indicates that He was the *Son given* by the Father. *“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son...”* (John 3:16). Just as His name, *Immanuel*, points to His deity and His humanity, so do these two descriptive phrases in our verse for today.

Isaiah also gives us additional information about the Messiah, including far-reaching truths that will not be fulfilled until Christ returns a second time. This pattern is one we see frequently with the Old Testament prophets. As careful students of Scripture, our task is to prayerfully discern when each prophecy is to be fulfilled. Of special note here, however, are the additional names by which the Messiah will be called, each one reminding us of who our Lord wants to be in our lives here and now.

First, His name is *Wonderful*, a word that comes from the root word, *wonder*, meaning *a sense of awe*. Knowing our Lord is meant to inspire a sense of awe in our lives. The more we learn to follow Him, the more we discover just how wonderful He is.

Second, His name is *Counselor*. Some put these first two names together, meaning He is a *Wonderful Counselor*. Whether viewed together or separately, His desire is to give us His perfect counsel and guidance. The Psalmist viewed the Lord in this way: “*With Your counsel You will guide me, and afterwards receive me into glory*” (73:24). We do not have to wander aimlessly through life; through His Word and by His Spirit, He reveals His will to us.

Third, His name is *the Mighty God*. Jesus has unlimited power to guide us through this fallen world on our journey to be with Him forever. While we all struggle because of *the world, the flesh, and the devil*, the Apostle John assures us, “*Greater is He who is within you than he who is in the world*” (1 John 4:4). And the Apostle Paul also affirmed, “*I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me*” (Philippians 4:13).

Fourth, His name is *Everlasting Father*. Though He is the Son, He is fully God; as such He will eternally be Father to His children, never forgetting us or abandoning us. In John 13:33, the night of His arrest, Jesus referred to His followers as *little children*. They were given to Him by His Father, and He saw them as *the children the Father had given to Him* (Hebrews 2:13).

Fifth, His name is *Prince of Peace*. While we live in fearful times, our Lord has promised us His peace (John 16:33).

Giving Thanks – Thank You for Your name and all it represents!