



Isaiah 9: 6-7

*For a child is born to us; a son is given to us. The government will rest on his shoulders. And he will be called: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His government and its peace will never end. He will rule with fairness and justice from the throne of his ancestor David for all eternity. The passionate commitment of the LORD of Heaven's Armies will make this happen! (NLT)*

It was 740 BC. Righteous King Uzziah has died and his successor, Ahaz, was a polar opposite. The Jewish people are rushing headlong into destruction and exile. Isaiah prophesied it and now they see it looming on the horizon. Fear and despair ruled the day. This is the historical context of this passage that we will look at over the next four Sundays this Christmas season.

## **A CHILD BORN...A SON GIVEN**

God would deliver his people and all people through the birth of a child.

A child would be born, but the Son is not **born**. He is **given**.

The Son was not born in time. He transcends time.

*John 1:1-5, In the beginning the Word already existed. The Word was with God, and the Word was God. He existed in the beginning with God. God created everything through him, and nothing was created except through*

*him. The Word gave life to everything that was created, and his life brought light to everyone. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness can never extinguish it.*  
(NLT)

He comes as the initiator and King of a new Kingdom: A Kingdom of peace and justice, grace and fairness.

## **HE SHALL BE CALLED WONDERFUL COUNSELOR**

In the middle of hopelessness, God promises to give a Son who is an **Extraordinary Strategist**.

*And he is called Extraordinary Strategist* (NET Bible)

A strategy plan of action designed to achieve a particular goal, most often described as "**winning**."

During his ministry on earth, the people were amazed by the power and wisdom of Jesus' words.

*Matthew 7:28-29, When Jesus concluded his address, the crowd burst into applause. They had never heard teaching like this. It was apparent that he was living everything he was saying—quite a contrast to their religion teachers! This was the best teaching they had ever heard.* (Msg)

*Mark 1:22, The people were amazed at his teaching, because he taught like a person who had authority, not like their teachers of the law.* (NLT)

*John 3:2, Nicodemus said...‘We know you are a teacher who has come from God.’* (NIV)

## HE HAS BEEN GIVEN TO US

Jesus **understands** our struggles.

Hebrews 4:15-16, *For our high priest is able to understand our weaknesses. He was tempted in every way that we are, but he did not sin. Let us, then, feel very sure that we can come before God's throne where there is grace. There we can receive mercy and grace to help us when we need it.* (NCV)

Jesus **cares** about us.

1 Peter 5:7, *God cares for you, so turn all your worries over to him.* (CEV)

Matthew 6:26, *Look at the birds. They don't plant or harvest or store food in barns, for your heavenly Father feeds them. And aren't you far more valuable to him than they are?* (NLT)

Jesus is **committed** to us.

Philippians 1:6, *God began doing a good work in you, and I am sure he will continue it until it is finished.* (NCV)

Hebrews 13:5-6, *Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.*" So we say with confidence, "The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can man do to me?"