

ISAIAH 9:6-7 (PART 1)

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Isaiah 9:6-7 says, *“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, Counselor, 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 forever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.* This is truly one of the great prophecies found in the Old Testament, foretelling the coming of the Messiah, and the establishment of the eternal kingdom of God, the church of Christ.

The coming of Christ

Isaiah 9:6 prophesied that *“unto us a child is born.”* Jesus is the child that was born. When he was born, an angel told the shepherds around Bethlehem, *“For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord”* (Luke 2:11). Isaiah 9:6 also emphasized that a child would be born unto *us*, meaning Israel. Jesus was indeed an Israelite (Matt 2:6; Luke 1:68-75; 2:25-34; John 1:11; Acts 3:25-26; 13:22-23; Heb 7:14), and his work on earth was centered among the Israelites (Matt 15:24; John 1:31; Acts 5:31; 10:36). Isaiah 9:6 says, *“unto us a son is given.”* Jesus is the Son of God (Matt 3:17; 17:5; 26:63-64; 28:19; Mark 1:1,11; 9:7; 14:61-62; Luke 1:32,35; 3:22; 9:35; 22:70; John 1:18,34; 3:16-18; 9:35-37; 10:36; 11:4; 20:30-31), and because he partook of flesh and blood he is also called the Son of man (Matt 8:20; John 5:26-27; Acts 7:56; Rev 1:13; 14:14), or Son of David (Matt 21:15-16; 22:42-45; Mark 12:35-37).

The coming of the church

Isaiah 9:6 says, *“and the government shall be upon his shoulder.”* The “government” of both the world and the church is upon the shoulders of the Lord Jesus Christ. He is sitting at the right hand of God as Lord of all the earth (Matt 28:18; Acts 2:36; 10:36) and as the Christ (king) over his spiritual kingdom, the church (Matt 2:1-6; 16:18-19; John 18:33-37; Acts 2:29-36; Eph 1:22-23; 5:23; Col 1:18). Isaiah 9:7 prophesied in detail about the church: *“Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end.”* Jesus has *all* authority in heaven and in earth. Therefore, there is no end to the amount of authority he possesses. But this verse also foretold the magnitude of the church. The church included the Gentiles (Isa 2:2; Rom 1:16), and grew and spread throughout the world (Isa 2:3; Matt 28:19; Mark 16:15; Acts 1:8; Rom

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16:25-26; Col 1:5-6,23; Rev 5:9; 7:9-14; 14:6). There has been “no end” to its increase. There is also no end to its peace. Those in the church have peace with God and spiritual safety (Jer 33:15-16; Rom 5:1; Eph 2:13-17; Col 1:19-23). Isaiah 9:7 further prophesied that Jesus would sit “*upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it.*” This great prophecy asserts that Jesus would come and sit upon the throne of David. But this is not a prophecy that Jesus would reign over an earthly kingdom. This verse says that Jesus would *order and establish* the kingdom. If Christ’s kingdom were merely the restoration of the physical kingdom of Israel, then “order and establish” would not apply. But the physical throne of David became extinct with Jeconiah and Zedekiah (Jer 22:28-30). That is why Jesus refused to be an earthly king (Jn 6:14-15; 18:36). Jesus fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah 9:7 in that, first of all, he descended from David physically (Matt 1:1; 9:27; 12:23; 15:22; 20:30-31; 21:9,15; 22:45-46; Mark 10:47-48; Luke 18:38-39; Rom 1:3). Secondly, he is sitting on the throne of David, which has been transferred to heaven itself as a spiritual throne. Jesus is on David’s throne as the king of God’s spiritual kingdom, the church (Luke 1:31-33; Matt 16:18-19; John 18:36-37; Acts 2:29-36; Col 1:13; Eph 1:22-23; 5:23; Col 1:18). The nature of the church, God’s spiritual kingdom, is foretold in Isaiah 9:7 which says the Lord would establish it “with judgment and with justice.” Judgment is a characteristic of the church (Matt 23:23; Luke 11:42; John 7:24; 1 Cor 1:10; 2:15; Php 1:9). And Jesus has provided the way for those in his kingdom to be righteous before God by his sacrifice, his teachings, and his example (Matt 5:6; 6:33; Luke 1:68-75; Rom 1:16-17; 3:20-30; 5:17-19; 2 Cor 5:21; Eph 4:20-24; Titus 2:11-14; 1 Pet 2:21-25; 1 John 2:29; 3:7). Isaiah 9:7 prophesied that the Lord’s kingdom would last “from henceforth even forever.” The church is God’s *eternal* kingdom, and it will never be destroyed or come to an end (Dan 2:44-45; Matt 16:18-19; Luke 1:31-33; Eph 3:10-11,21; Heb 12:28; 2 Pet 1:11; Rev 11:15). Isaiah 9:7 concludes with an affirmation of the surety of the prophecy: “The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.” We have the privilege of being able to look backward and confidently proclaim that “the zeal of the Lord of hosts *has performed this!*”