

AWE # 6

# In AWE of the incarnation

## Isaiah 9<sup>6-7</sup>

Isaiah's anticipation: the King with 4 names



### Introduction

It is 725BC:

- **Assyrian Empire** is in arrogant advance across known world;
  - **Israel** is described in our text (2) as in gloom / darkness / deep darkness / anguish
    - militarily weak;
    - morally corrupt;
    - spiritually almost bankrupt;
- ⇒ ripe for invasion / ruination.  
= what actually happened just 3 yrs later.

Yet this is time when God gives one of most **profound promises** ever:

- begins w (2) **The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined.**
- next few verses give impression : God is going to give them victory in battle;
  - (3) speaks of them dividing the spoil.
  - (4) speaks of breaking the rod of their oppressor;
  - (5) speaks of burning the bloodied battle garments presumably in victory;
- then ∃s the totally unexpected:
  - (6) **For to us a child is born, to us a son is given;**
    - **Is God saying that all this triumph is going to be accomplished thru a baby?**
    - this is way God chooses to announce the coming into this world of His Son;
      - coming of 2<sup>nd</sup> person of Trinity;
      - into this resistant / rebellious / renegade world.
    - God announces this in way which is meant to leave us awestruck!

For those of you who been with us in recent weeks:

- this has been **theme of our worship** for a while;
- AWE is what is meant to characterise our attitude towards God;
  - God is into doing awesome things;
  - God is into taking our breath away by what He does;
  - God is into leaving us awestruck to v core of our being;
- AWE is what God wants us to be on about as His church;
  - in awe of Who He is / How He came to intervene / rescue us out of mess.

## In awe of how He came

(6) For to us a **child** is born, to us a son is given.

- God chooses to come to His people as child / new-born child / baby;
- presents Himself in most vulnerable of human conditions;

For to us a child is born, to us a **son** is given.

Is this repetition, or is son hinting at something more?

Is this taking us deeper – far deeper?

Is this Israel's son or God's Son?

- He is given to Israel – so looking like He could be God's Son;
- Son of God / child of man;
- fully God / fully man.

If there is some **doubt** as to whether that is intention,

- all doubt is suddenly **dispelled**:

for the government shall be upon His shoulder, and His name shall be called  
Wonderful Counsellor / Mighty God / Everlasting Father / Prince of Peace.

(In awe of who He is)

**4 names** / **4 descriptions** / **4 aspects** / **4 identifiers** encapsulating essence of Who He is;

- our task / privilege to unpack meaning of these 4 names ascribed to child to come.

## (1) Wonderful Counsellor

Word **wonderful** is never used in Scripture of man;

- always / only for God;
- He alone excites true wonder / awe.

What is so wonderful here is His **counsel**;

- if we know anything about ourselves as we ought
  - ⇒ we know that we don't know everything;
  - ⇒ we need a counsellor;
  - ⇒ we need someone who knows us even better than we know ourselves;
- role of counsellor is to diagnose our problem – point us in right direction;
- good counsellor gets it right most of time;
- Wonderful Counsellor gets right to heart of problem everytime
  - knows solution / presents solution / persuades us to embrace solution.

Think about what happened in **beginning of human race**;

- serpent subtly assumed role of counsellor;
- counselled Eve to do what a lot of secular counsellors would still say today:
  - believe in yourself / trust yourself / inside intuition / go w your gut feeling;
- successful in sowing seeds of confusion in beginning & ever since.

(He solves my confusion)

What we need is a truly **wonderful counsellor** to **undo counsel** of serpent;

- resolve confusion sown in beginning – compounded ever since;
- **solve our confusion**.

If you come along today **confused about your purpose** in life;

- perplexed about suffering – not make sense;
- uncertain about your direction / determinations in life;
- ⇒ you've come to right place – to meet world's **Wonderful Counsellor** in Jesus;
- born this day 2000yrs ago;
- Son of God incarnate in womb – born human baby;
- to experience in Himself all trials / tribulations of humanity;
- sympathetic / empathetic **Wonderful Counsellor** we all need to know.

We need Counsellor – but we **need more** than Counsellor – Jesus is more than a Counsellor:

## (2) Mighty God

Word here means **Warrior God** – fighting God – God who wages war on our behalf;

- ∃ that slippery serpent counsellor who seduces us all into sin;
- end result we all ended up under **condemnation** / guilty / death-deserving;
- even most **Wonderful Counsellor** cannot solve that problem;
- need more than advice / information – need power – to overcome evil;
- don't have it – can't get it.

(He shields me from condemnation)

**Need Warrior** to enter battle on our behalf – destroy power of serpent / sin / death all in one;

- this is Jesus – the child born to us;
- He would come to enter combat w our accuser;
- crush head / conquer him / destroy his stranglehold on us;
- ⇒ **shield** us from v **condemnation** we deserve;
- by taking that condemnation upon Himself.

If you come along today **unaware** that you were **under condemnation**;

- we have good news for you – enlightened to true condition by Counsellor;
- turn to Him – find Him as Mighty God
- shield you from condemnation now / forever.

**Wonderful Counsellor** / **Mighty God** – this baby to be born in manger is also ...

## (3) Everlasting Father

**Not** the Everlasting **Father to the everlasting Son** – not the Father within the Godhead;

- He is our Everlasting Father / father to us;
- the Son of God is Father to us.

(He showers me with compassion)

What this name says is that He **embraces us as His children** – adopts us into His family;

- He does what a Father does - provides for / protects;
- disciples / disciplines;
- covers us w care / compassion;
- shows / showers us w tender compassion;
- understands we but children – lot to learn;
- tenderly bringing us along w Him / in Him.

If you have **never known a Father** to be like this:

- part of God's plan to reveal to you today what true Fatherhood is all about;

If your earthly father did lead you to this Everlasting Father:

- even more reason to be thankful – you now see full realisation in Jesus.

Everlasting Father and ...

## (4) Prince of Peace

**Provider of Peace** – peace He purchased at cost of His own lifeblood;

- secured peace w God;

- secured peace of conscience;

- soothes our troubled **conscience** w assurance:

∃ no condemnation now for those in Christ Jesus.

(He soothes my conscience)

If you came along today in some **turmoil of soul**;

- God's intention has been to introduce you personally to **Prince of Peace**;

- the One conceived by power of Holy Spirit;

- the One who is fully God becoming fully man – in baby Jesus;

- the One born to Mary – who became Mary's Saviour;

- the One who proclaimed peace – not peace as world pursues;

- but true peace / everlasting peace / spiritual peace;

- internal / indwelling peace w God;

- proclaimed it because accomplished it

- convey it to all who will have it – could be you today.

This is the one who **governs the universe**:

(6) The government shall be upon his shoulder,

(7) Of the increase of His government and of peace there will be no end.

## Conclusion

Let me conclude by asking you **2 Qs** – deep Qs / personal Qs / profound Qs:

- about Jesus - One born of a virgin – son of man / son of God – entered 2000yrs ago:

### (1) Are you in awe of how He governs the universe?

Do you want the peace which passes understanding He secured on cross?

Do you want the compassion of a Father who will never neglect / forsake you?

Do you want the might of One who waged war – conquered stranglehold of sin / death?

Do you want the wonderful counsellor who diagnoses true state of everyone in world?

Then let's make it even **more personal**:

Are you in awe of how He governs you?

Am I in awe of how He governs me?

**4 names** / **4 designations** / **4 descriptors** of what He does:

- 4 applications not entirely original:

- adopted / adapted from anonymous source on internet:

- He **solves** my **confusion**;
  - He **shielded** me from **condemnation**;
  - He **showers** me w **compassion**;
  - He **soothes** my **conscience**;
- ⇒ He is my Lord & God.

**Tragic** for you to go thru this Christmas – miss message He has for you;  
- don't be distracted/ diverted by culture / consumerism of silly season.

**Terrific** that you are here to deepen your determination to devote your life  
to living in Awe of the one who is fully God / fully man;  
- God incarnate for your eternal life.

Pray

**Sing**            O come all ye faithful, joyful & triumphant ...

**Benediction** 2 Cor 13(14) The grace of the LJC.  
The love of God  
The fellowship of the HS be w you, now & for evermore.