

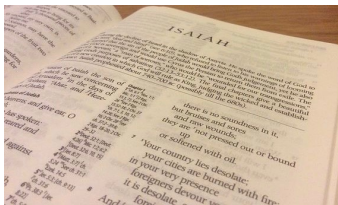
THE BELLS OF BETHLEHEM

TEXT: *Isaiah 9:6-7a:*

⁶ 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.

^{7a} Of the increase of His government and peace there shall be no end.

The cheerful anthems of the coming King were proclaimed by the prophet Isaiah in the midst of the discordant tones of despair and captivity to the Children of Israel. The Word of God is Yea and Amen to us in Christ Jesus to the glory of God the Father. When God told Adam who had been disobedient, and Eve who had been beguiled and deceived by the devil, that the seed of the woman was to come in the fullness of time and bruise the Serpent's head, He meant it.



Weary years dragged by slowly until the prophet Isaiah began to ring out the word of hope and cheer as a light coming out of the midnight darkness. He told of the coming day when a virgin mother would bring forth a Son who was to be called WONDERFUL. This was the long, looked-for Messiah of Whom the prophets foretold:

1 Peter 1:11: Searching what, or what manner of the Spirit of Christ which was in them did signify, when it testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ, and the glory that should follow.

The prophets did not see Him for Whom they lovingly wrote and searched, but could only write the message of the Spirit of Christ Who was in them. Their disappointed hopes, dreams, and visions finally came to an end on that most wonderful Christmas Eve when the angelic hosts rang anew the hope of the world in the Child born and the Son given.



Luke 2:11: For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour which is Christ the Lord.

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

The angel cautioned Joseph afore time that he should not fear to take Mary as his wife, for that which was conceived in her was of the Holy Spirit, that she would bring forth a Son, and was to call His Name Jesus, for He would save His people from their sins.

Matthew 1:18-21:

18 Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as His mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost.



19 Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not willing to make her a public example, was minded to put her away privily.

20 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.

21 And she shall bring forth a Son, and thou shalt call His Name JESUS: for He shall save His people from their sins.

Matthew 1:23b: . . . and they shall call His Name Emmanuel which being interpreted is GOD WITH US.

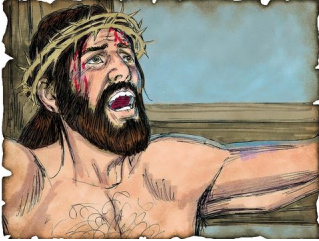
Jesus is the fulfillment of all prophecy, and all His ancestral names tell us that He is precious above all words unspeakable. He shall be called **WONDERFUL**.

Without controversy, great is the mystery of godliness. God was manifested in the flesh — the strange mystery of deity clothed in humanity.

He is wonderful in life:

- *healing all manner of sickness and disease without any charge for His services,*
- *taking away the burden of sin, and*
- *making fetters of darkness break by His spoken Word.*

He is wonderful in His death on the Cross:



- *taking upon Himself the sins of the whole world,*
- *giving Himself for our sins that He might deliver us from all iniquity,*
- *cancelling our debt, and*
- *giving Himself a ransom for us all.*

He is wonderful in His resurrection:

- *ascending up on high, leading captivity captive, and*
- *giving gifts that are spiritual unto men.*



He is wonderful today in that:

- *He is the same yesterday, and today, and forever, and*
- *He ever liveth to make intercession for us who continue to do now what He did while here on earth.*

COUNSELLOR

We in the world need counsel, and we need to know the way out of sin. We need to know the way back to God, and how to have a closer walk with Him.

THE MIGHTY GOD

Great is the mystery of Godliness. God was manifested in flesh.

John 1:14: And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

THE EVERLASTING FATHER.

John 14:8-9:

8 Philip saith unto Him, Lord, shew us the Father, and it sufficeth us.

9 Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known Me, Philip? he that hath seen Me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Shew us the Father?

THE PRINCE OF PEACE

The Gospel of Christ is the reconciliation between God and man, through Christ.

Ephesians 2:14: For HE is our peace, Who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us.

2 Thessalonians 3:16: Now the Lord of Peace Himself give you peace always by all means. The Lord be with you all.

Colossians 1:20: And, having made peace through the Blood of His Cross, by Him to reconcile all things unto Himself; by Him, I sat, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven.

Acts 10:36: The Word which God sent unto the Children of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ, (He is Lord of all)

John 16:33: These things have I spoken unto you, that in Me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.



John 14:27: Peace I leave with you, My peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.

Mark 4:39: And He arose, and rebuked the wind, and said unto the sea, Peace, be still. And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm.

Isaiah 57:21: There is no peace, saith my God, to the wicked.

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