

“A child is born”: Isaiah 9:6-7

First Sunday of Advent - Nov 29, 2020

Holy Trinity Church - Tom Mount

Introduction

1. In 25 days, Christians around the world will celebrate Christmas, commemorating that singular event **when the infinite, eternal God joined Himself irrevocably to our humanity in the person of Jesus Christ.**
2. There s no better occasion for us to ponder the questions: **Who, exactly, is this Jesus? What is He like? What is it like to be in relationship with Him?**

Context

- Like us, Isaiah lived in politically uncertain times. Change of administrations a few years before, when King Uzziah died after 52 years in office.
- To make matters worse, a newly ascendant power was threatening the nation from the east: Assyrian empire.
- **Isaiah 9:1 “Nevertheless, there will be no more gloom for those who were in distress. In the past he humbled the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the future he will honor Galilee of the nations, by the Way of the Sea, beyond the Jordan.”**
- Northern lands of Israel—tribal areas of Zebulun and Naphtali—were devastated by Assyria in 733 when they were annexed as Assyrian territory.
- But God says he’s going to remove their darkness and sadness:
- Notice the use of perfect tense in v.2.

**“The people walking in darkness
have seen a great light;
on those living in the land of deep darkness
a light has dawned.**

**You have enlarged the nation
and increased their joy;
they rejoice before you
as people rejoice at the harvest,
as warriors rejoice
when dividing the plunder.”**

- How's He going to do it? He tells us in vv.6-7: it will be done through the birth of a baby who will become a great king.

Isaiah 9:6-7

**For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given,
and the government will be on his shoulders.**

- **“a child is born”** – Indicates His humanity. He takes on flesh and blood, John 1:14; Heb 2:14
- **“a son is given”** – indicates His deity; he will preexist in a Father-Son relationship, and out of that relationship, given to people, Jn 3:16
- **“the government will be on his shoulders”** – Contrasts with v.4: break the yoke on shoulders of people; broken when He takes gov't on His shoulders

**And His name will be called
Mind-blowing,
Life coach,
Warrior God,
Forever Father,
Shalom bringer.**

- In ANE, the anticipated birth of a royal heir was a portentous event. It was customary to give a king about to ascend to a throne titular names. In Egypt, 5 throne-names were typically given as part of the accession ceremony.

**⁷ Of the increase of his government and shalom
there will be no end.
He will reign on David's throne
and over his kingdom,
establishing and upholding it**

**with justice and righteousness
from that time on and forever.**

- Note the inflationary quality to the rein of Messiah.
- But they would have to wait. After Assyrians, Babylonians, Medes-Persians, Macedonians, Selucids, Romans, and then Christ (but only in part). Christ is crowned in heaven but not yet recognized on earth. (Cf. Lk 19:12).

**The zeal of Yahweh-of-the-angel-armies
will accomplish this.**

- The zeal of God drives Him to accomplish the salvation depicted here. God could not adopt a blasé attitude toward establishing his Son's eternal rule for the good of his beloved people.
- *Yahweh tsava*: "Yahweh of armies" or "LORD of hosts".

Exposition of throne-names

"And His name will be called Mind-blowing, Life-coach, Warrior God, Forever Father, Shalom bringer."

Mind-blowing

- *Peleh* : Most versions: *Wonderful*.
- Yours may say "wonderful counselor". *Peleh* can be used adjectivally to modify a noun but its normal use is as a noun; used this way 13x in OT.
- Jud 13:18 good example: "Why do you ask my name? It is mind-blowing."
- Paul expressed the same sentiment in Rom 11:33: "Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable his judgments, and his paths beyond tracing out!"
- Jesus Christ is mind-blowing. He defies all description or comprehension. One example. Bible tells us Jesus created all that exists: Colossians 1:15-16a: "¹⁵ The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. ¹⁶ For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth."

Life-coach

- *Yaats*: trans. "Counselor": authoritative: teacher, adviser, wisdom-impartar. It is someone who knows us thoroughly and is thus in a position to instruct, correct and encourage us how to live.
- Psalm 139:1-4, 13-16: "You have searched me, Lord, and you know me. You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar. You discern my going out and my lying down; you are familiar with all my ways." Before a word is on my tongue you, Lord, know it completely. For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb... My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place, when I was woven together in the depths of the earth. Your eyes saw my unformed body; all the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be." As our Life-Coach, Jesus knows us perfectly and instructs us unfailingly.

Warrior God

- *Gibbor El*: God the Warrior, God the Mighty
- Jesus defeated Satan and all the powers of darkness on our behalf; defeated death; defeated sin and all its penalty, power and presence.

Forever Father

- *Ad Av*: Everlasting Father, Father of eternity.
- Jesus is the father or possessor of eternity (inhabits eternity: Isa 57:17). He gives eternal life to us (John 10:28).
- Jesus is like an affectionate, provident father who cares for us.

Shalom bringer

- *Sair Shalom*: Ruler of shalom or Dispenser of Shalom.
- "shalom" - Peace, but more: wholeness, prosperity, flourishing, thriving, health, joy, celebration, well being, rest, quietness, salvation.
- It implies the total enjoyment of God's comprehensive blessings: physical, emotional, financial, relational. John 10:10: "life to the fullest".

- Lk 2:14: “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace and goodwill toward men and women”