The Revelation of Jesus Christ

Isaiah 9:6  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, Counselor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

Intro
I’ve taken my text tonight from an extremely well known passage of scripture.

• We tend to think of Isaiah 9:6 as a Christmas verse,
  o it is prominently featured in that time of year
  o but I have selected it tonight
  o because it gives such a comprehensive view of this mighty God that we serve!
• I want you to stop and consider Jesus tonight.
  o I want you to stop and consider who he really is!
• In five distinct titles,
  o the prophet gives us an incredible overview
  o of how this amazing God relates to us.
• In five descriptive words or phrases,
  o Isaiah introduces the whole world to Jesus Christ.
• His name shall be called:
  o Wonderful.
  o Counselor.
  o Mighty God.
  o Everlasting Father.
  o The Prince of Peace.

I have a singular purpose for coming to this pulpit tonight:
• I want to compel you to stop and consider Jesus!
  o We spend a lot of time considering our problems,
  o we spend a lot of time contemplating the troubles that come upon us,
  o we spend a lot of time focusing on the obstacles that stand before us,
    ▪ but tonight I want to ask you to stop and consider your God!
• For a moment this evening I want to compel you
  o to lift your eyes from all of the cares of this life
  o and catch a glimpse
  o of the revelation of who Jesus really is.

Wonderful
He is wonderful.

• The first thing we learn about Jesus is that He is wonderful!
  o The word conveys the meaning of inspiring wonder,
    ▪ or awe,
    ▪ or amazement.
• He is extraordinary.
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- He is beyond comprehension.
  - We can’t even begin to understand him.

- He is full of wonder.
  - We can’t grasp the magnitude of his majesty.
  - We can’t comprehend the greatness of his glory.
  - We will never plumb the depths of his love for us.

- Think about it tonight!
  - Press beyond your circumstance and consider your God.

- When you really begin to think about him,
  - when your soul catches a glimpse of him,
    - words will fail to describe him.
  - Your vocabulary isn't big enough.
    - He is wonderful!

Early Tuesday morning as I was spending some time with the Lord
- meditating on his word
  - I found myself reading from the book of Jeremiah.

- It wasn’t really something I planned.
  - I had gone to my study,
  - picked up a Bible,
  - brought it into the kitchen
  - and laid it upon the table,
  - randomly opening it,
  - before I went off to prepare a cup of coffee.

- When I returned to the table I decided, on a whim,
  - to begin reading in the passage that lay before me,
    - which is how I found myself reading
    - from the last two chapters of Jeremiah.

- The Lord spoke several things into my heart
  - in the course of those two chapters
    - and I highlighted several verses.

- However, one verse stood out to me and later in the day.
  - As I began to contemplate some situations in my life
    - that were worrying me,
    - the word of God came flooding back to me.

In Jeremiah 51:15, the prophet begins to describe God.
- He says,
  - "He hath made the earth by his power, he hath established the world by his wisdom, and he hath stretched out the heavens by his understanding."

- What an amazing description of the incredible God that we serve!
  - When you read it, you have to stop and contemplate the Wonder of God!

- By his power he made the earth!
  - And he didn’t even break a sweat doing it.
• By the power of his spoken word alone,
  o he didn’t even have to act,
  o he only had to speak
  o and by the power of his word,
    ▪ the whole earth came into existence.
• By his power everything that is,
  o was brought into being.
• By his power,
  o an ecosphere that amazes the most brilliant minds in the world
    ▪ was created.
• By his power, alone,
  o birds, animals and fish,
  o plants, trees and flowers...
    ▪ It all came into existence by his power.
• Who ever heard of such a thing?
  o He is wonderful!

But the prophet didn’t stop there.
• It is his wisdom that establishes the world.
  o It is his wisdom that governs everything that he has made.
• It is his wisdom that holds the earth in its orbit.
  o It is his wisdom that has established the order
    ▪ that defines his creation.
• By his power he made it,
  o but by his wisdom he sustains it!
• By his power he created it,
  o but his wisdom governs it!
• We understand the principle of gravity
  o but we can’t even begin to comprehend the wisdom that makes it work!
• Einstein figured out that the speed of light is the fastest constant in the universe
  o and he based the entire theory of relativity upon it,
    ▪ and we know it works,
  o but our greatest minds can’t comprehend
    ▪ the wisdom that makes it work!
• By his wisdom he established the world!
  o Can I tell you tonight that he is wonderful?!?!?

But it goes even further.
• By his understanding he stretched out the heavens!
  o By his understanding the stars were aligned
  o in such a way that ancient sailors could navigate by them.
• By his understanding the movement of celestial bodies was set in motion.
  o By his understanding he stretched out the universe.
• Stop and think about it for a minute.
  o The heavens absolutely boggle the mind.
    ▪ The vast expanse of the universe
    ▪ is far and away beyond our understanding.
  o We can’t even begin to fathom the vast expanse of space.
    ▪ It is absolutely incomprehensible.
• Just the size of our own galaxy is way beyond our grasp,
  o but there are untold galaxies beyond ours
    ▪ and the size of them is completely beyond our understanding.
• But the prophet said that, out of his understanding,
  o God put it all into place!
• We can’t even begin to comprehend it,
  o But the bible says that he measures it
  o in the span of his hand!
• We could never number the stars
  o but the Psalmist says that he calls them each by name!
• He is wonderful!

What a mighty God we serve!
• What an incredible God.
  o If he can do all of that by his power,
  o if he can establish it all by his wisdom
  o and if he can stretch it out according to his understanding,
• then I can’t help but believe
  o that he is well able to take care of me!
• I can’t help but believe
  o that his power can sustain me.
  o That his providence can provide for me.
  o That his strength is enough for me!

There’s something about catching a glimpse of the wonder of God
• that lifts you above your circumstances,
  o that compels you to rise for a moment above your problems.
• David said, he makes my feet like hinds feet,
  o there’s something about the revelation of who he is
    ▪ that causes me to stand in high places!

Not only is he wonderful in creation,
• he is wonderful in his dealings with men.
  o His mercy is wonderful.
  o His grace is amazing.
  o His provision is mind-boggling.
• He watches over me
  o and he never sleeps nor slumbers.
• He knows what I need
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- before I’m even aware that I need it!
- He knows, today, what tomorrow will bring
  o and every temptation,
  o every trial,
  o every struggle that I encounter,
    ▪ he has already made a way through it.
- He is wonderful!

The Psalmist said, in Psalm 40:5:
- “Many, O Lord my God, are thy wonderful works which thou hast done, and thy thoughts which are to us-ward: they cannot be reckoned up in order unto thee: if I would declare and speak of them, they are more than can be numbered.”
  o He’s so wonderful that I can’t even begin to tell it all!
    ▪ His wonderful works are so plentiful that they are more than can be numbered.
- Like the stars in the heavens,
  o we can’t even begin to grasp the wonder of his mighty works.
- Perhaps that is why the Psalmist said in the closing Psalm, Psalm 150:
  o “Praise him for his mighty acts; praise him according to his excellent greatness... Let everything that has breath praise the Lord!”
    ▪ Because he is wonderful!

I think we ought to stop right here
- and worship the wonder of our God for a moment.
- Why don’t you lift your hands
  o and tell him just how wonderful he is!

Counselor
We could spend all night long on the wonder of God but Isaiah didn’t stop there.
- He is our counselor.
  o Paul said, in Colossians 2:3
    ▪ that in him are hidden all of the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.
- I want you to know tonight that he is your counselor!
  o We don’t always know where to turn
    ▪ or what we should do in a given circumstance
- but He is more than just a wonderful God that we can shout about:
  o He is our counselor!
- He is the one who declares in Proverbs 8:14:
  o “Counsel is mine, and sound wisdom: I am Understanding.”
- If you want understanding, talk to your counselor!
  o If you want help making important decisions in your life,
    ▪ talk to your counselor.
“His word,” the scripture says, (Psalm 119:105) “is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.”

- Don’t navigate the dark paths of this world
  - without seeking the illuminating light of his godly counsel.
- I’m all about pastoral counseling,
  - I’m all about helping you work through troubles
  - and situations that come into your life
- but I’ll be the first to tell you
  - that I don’t have all the answers.
- And sometimes God isn’t going to give me your answer
  - because the whole reason
  - that the storm has been turned loose in your life
  - is so that you will seek a word
  - from your heavenly counselor.
- Hear your pastor tonight,
  - a lot of counseling issues would be resolved
    - if you would spend a little time
    - seeking direction from God.

The Psalmist said in Psalm 16:7: *I bless the Lord who gives me counsel.*

- He directs your paths.
  - He orders your life.
- Nothing that has happened to you
  - has taken him by surprise.
- He doesn’t just know
  - what you are going through right now,
    - he knows what you are going to face tomorrow.
- And he’s not trying to withhold his counsel from you!
  - He will give you counsel!
- He’s not a God afar off.
  - He’s not so far removed from your life
    - that he can’t direct you.
- He is your counselor
  - and he will open the right doors,
    - if only you will ask.
  - He can close the doors that you don’t need to walk through,
    - if only you will ask.
- He can give you confidence about life’s choices,
  - he can help you make those important decisions.
    - He is your counselor!

He can take the tangled chaos of your life

- and give you clarity like you never thought was possible,
  - if you will just seek him
  - in your time of need!
• The scripture says you have not because you ask not.
  o So many times we find ourselves
    ▪ all wrapped up in fear
    ▪ and confusion
    ▪ and uncertainty
  o simply because we haven’t taken the time
    ▪ to seek the counsel of God.
• How many bad choices would be avoided
  o if only we would seek his counsel?
• How many times would you have avoided
  o some difficulty in your life
  o if only you would have turned to your counselor!
• He is a present help in times of need,
  o he wants to direct your paths
  o and establish your ways,
    ▪ if you will but seek his counsel.

I don’t know what you are facing right now
• but I can’t help but believe
  o that you need to ask the Lord for his counsel!
• I can’t help but believe
  o that you need to turn your heart towards heaven
  o and beseech him to guide your footsteps.
• You won’t ever go wrong by following the counsel of the Lord.
  o Your foot will never slip
    ▪ as long as it walks on the path
    ▪ that he determines for your life.
  o Your decisions will not come back to haunt you
    ▪ if you will make them
    ▪ in light of the counsel of the Lord!
• I want you to consider your God tonight.
  o He is your counselor.

_We spend so much time telling everybody else about our problems,_
• _why don’t you take a moment this evening_
  o _and tell the counselor what’s going on in your life?_
• _Why don’t you tell him: Lord, lead me and I will follow!”_

_Mighty God_
Isaiah’s third title is a reference to the revelation of the Mighty God in Christ!
• One translator of old
  o translated this Hebrew phrase as:
    ▪ God, the mighty man.
• He is the mighty God manifest in flesh and blood.
He is not a God that is far removed from his people.
He is not a God who cannot be touched
  - by our troubles, worries, doubts and fears.

He is a God who has experienced our infirmities,
  - a God who has walked where we walk,
  - a God who has wept at the tomb of a friend,
  - a God who knows what it is to experience rejection,
  - a God who knows what it is to be tired and frustrated.

He is the God who condescended to become a man.

- He is the God who made himself
  - a little lower than the angels!

- That wonderful God, that we just talked about,
  - the ancient of days,
  - the holy one of Israel,
    - He became a man
    - so he can share in your experience.

- He is your mighty God!
  - You aren’t facing anything
    - that he hasn’t faced,
  - you don’t have any struggles
    - that he hasn’t already struggled with,
  - you haven’t come upon any obstacle
    - that he hasn’t already encountered.

- He is the mighty God who robed himself in flesh and blood!
  - He knows what you are going through!
  - He knows what you are facing.
  - He has felt what you feel!

Sometimes we let a spirit of self-pity get ahold of us

- and we convince ourselves that we are all alone.
  - You aren’t alone in this thing!

- He walked where you walk.
  - He experienced what you experience.

- He has faced trial and temptation
  - and he has overcome it all.

- He overcame so that you might overcome.
  - He is your companion in your troubled times,
  - he is your mighty God!

Instead of letting your situation make you feel isolated and alone,
- why don’t you ask the one who is right there with you
  - to strengthen and encourage your spirit?
- He is your present help in times of trouble!
Everlasting Father
Isaiah called him an everlasting father!

- In Romans 8:15 Paul tells us
  - that we have "received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out Abba, Father."
- Abba is an Aramaic word which means "daddy."
  - What Paul is saying is that Jesus is your heavenly Father.
- The relationship is so deep and so personal
  - that you can call him "daddy."
- You almost have to know what it is to be a “daddy” or a “mommy”
  - to really grasp the full significance of that.
- When my precious child cries out "Daddy!"
  - everything within me reacts.
- I’m going to take care of him
  - because he is my child
  - and I am his daddy.
- I want you to know, this evening that God is your heavenly father!

Some of you don’t have a good earthly role model to lean on.
- You don’t have a strong supportive father.
  - You don’t know what it is to pick up the phone
    - and call your daddy and say,  
      - “Hey dad, I’ve got a problem that I need your help with”
      - and then just sit back and listen
      - as the wisdom of years of experience
      - speaks into your life.
  - But all of us have a heavenly father!
    - He is your Everlasting Father!

The Psalmist declares in Psalm 68 that God is a father to the fatherless,
- he is the champion of widows,
  - he is the one who makes a home for the homeless
  - and he sets at liberty those who are bound.
- He is your everlasting father!
  - You may not have anybody else who provides for you
    - and watches over you
    - and cares about your life
    - but he is your everlasting father.
- He provides for his children.
  - He watches over your life.
    - He cares about the things that worry you and confound you.
  - He defends the weak and the weary.
    - He is the advocate for the downtrodden.
- He is the mighty lion of Judah
  - who roars out his defiance
• to all who would oppose those
   who have been entrusted to his care.

• He is the Everlasting Father!

Jesus said, in Matthew 7:9:

• “Or what man is there of you, whom if his son ask bread, will he give him a stone?
  o Or if he ask a fish, will he give him a serpent?
• If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children,
  o how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?”
• He is your everlasting father!
  o He delights in meeting your need.
    ▪ He takes great joy in giving you good things!
  o They always said it is more blessed to give than it is to receive;
    ▪ I never fully grasped how true that was...
    ▪ Until I became a daddy!
    ▪ Oh my!
• When Christmas rolls around I want to spend every dime I have on my boys.
  o I don’t want to keep anything back for myself.
    ▪ Because I take delight in blessing my children
      • and I’m just a carnal man.
  o There’s nothing good in me.
• If I can do that for my kids,
  o how much more will your Father which is in heaven
    ▪ give good gifts to them that ask him?
• I said it before, you have not because you ask not!

It’s about time that you called on your heavenly father!

• It’s about time that you turned some things over to him!
  o It’s about time you let him take care of you!
  o Why don’t you let him be your heavenly father tonight?

Prince of Peace

After all of that, Isaiah gives us one final attribute of Jesus.

• His name shall be called The Prince of Peace!
  o God never promised us a life without storms,
    ▪ he never promised us all sunshine and fair winds.
• But, what he did promise is much more valuable,
  o He promised to be your peace in the middle of your storms!
    ▪ He is the prince of peace.
    ▪ He speaks peace to a troubled mind.
    ▪ He brings peace in the middle of chaotic circumstances.
    ▪ He alone gives confidence in the face of doubt.
    ▪ He alone grants clarity in the face of confusion.
He alone brings peace in the middle of your turmoil.

- He is the prince of peace.

In John 14:27 He said:

- 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.

- This is not the kind of peace that the world gives.
  - The world’s peace is dependent on circumstances,
  - the world’s peace is established on bank accounts,
  - the world’s peace relies on health and security.

- When those things fail, the heart is troubled
  - and fear reigns where peace used to be.

- But Jesus said, I give you a different kind of peace than what the world has.
  - The peace that he gives is a peace that passes all understanding!
    - It is real peace.
    - It is everlasting peace.
    - It is peace that isn’t subject to the affairs of your life.
    - It is peace that doesn’t flee when the strong winds blow.
    - It is peace that isn’t overwhelmed by fear and doubt when trouble comes.
    - It is peace that goes with you through the middle of your valley.
  - It is a peace and a comfort that will not abandon you
    - that will not desert you,
    - a peace that will always sustain you!

- He is the prince of peace!

We all worry.

- It’s just human nature.
  - But I’m talking about a peace that consoles the worries of your soul.

- You can have real peace in the middle of your situation
  - if you will just allow the Prince of Peace
  - to work in your life tonight!

- Why don’t you invite the Prince of Peace into your circumstance tonight?

Jesus is everything you need!

I’ve come to tell you tonight that Jesus is everything you need!

- His wonder outshines the heavens,
  - his power and majesty is far greater than your problem.

- His name shall be Wonderful!

- His counsel is good,
• His name shall be Counselor!

  - He knows right where you are,
    - he is familiar with the struggles in your life,
    - He is your present help.

• His name shall be called Mighty God!

  - He cares about you,
    - he will provide for you,
    - he is your shelter in life’s storms,
    - he is your strong tower.

• His name shall be called Everlasting Father!

  - He will speak peace into your life tonight.
    - He will comfort you when nothing else can.
    - He will calm your fears,
    - settle your worries
    - and dispel your doubts.

• His name shall be the Prince of Peace!

  He is everything you need him to be tonight!

  • His name shall be called:
    - Wonderful,
    - Counselor,
    - Mighty God,
    - Everlasting Father,
    - the Prince of Peace.

  • Why don’t you call him by his name tonight?
    - Why don’t you call on Jesus
      - and let him be everything that you need tonight?