

THE AMAZING BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT

(Isaiah 9:1-7)

Series: The Wonder of Christmas (Part 2)

...One of the joys of having a brand new baby is the fun of sending out the birth announcements to your family and friends. We had this joy three times and each time loved telling how God had blessed us with child. Soon we were asked when they might visit and see our baby, usually bringing a gift in hand. Sweet times indeed!

...The unusual thing about our text this morning is that God sent a birth announcement of His Son 700 years before Jesus was born. And not only this, the child born would be bringing gifts, the ones most needed.

FOUR GIFTS BROUGHT BY JESUS FROM HEAVEN WHEN HE CAME TO DELIVER US FROM DARKNESS.

"Come and worship Christ the Lord!"

...Isaiah told of these gifts in the names given to Jesus. The names reveal Jesus' nature and His work.

I. Wisdom: Jesus Brought The Wisdom We Need For Living. "Wonderful Counselor"

- A. The setting for Isaiah's passage: Israel, the Northern Kingdom, had just been destroyed by the Assyrian army. As God had warned, they were now defeated and most of the people were deported to other lands. Defeat was everywhere. Soon the Assyrians would come to Jerusalem.
- B. Isaiah, looking down the corridor of time, told of the ultimate and final victory that would come through, "A baby born, a Son given." This is unusual language, describing the 2 natures of Jesus.
- C. Jesus is named, "The Wonderful Counselor." He is beyond extraordinary. His counsel imparts wisdom, He provides us with ultimate truth about everything we need.
 1. It is possible to get a great education today and yet lack knowledge of what really matters in life. There are many highly educated people in the world who cannot answer simple questions like, "Who am I?", "Why am I here?", "Where am I going?"
 2. Apart from God's revelation, in both the written and living Word, there are no answers to such questions. In Jesus we receive the gift of such knowledge. What a gift!

II. Power: Jesus Brought God's Enabling Power For Us To Do His Will. "Mighty God"

...In some sense, this One born, this Son given was God Almighty. His power is absolute.

- A. Today people seem to be into "Power." Power is thought to be through position, possessions, or politics. But mostly, people sense they lack power, and are quite powerless. (In life, work, etc.)
- B. Jesus is the "El Gibbor," the Mighty God, who provides strength to do His will, so that we can make a real difference in this world for Him. He is on our side, enabling us to do His will.

..."They that wait upon the Lord will renew their strength..." (Isaiah 40:31)

..."I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." (Philippians 4:13)
- C. We need to recapture what it means to have the Mighty God as our God, and know that we can actually make a difference in our world. Ask the Lord for His strength to do His will. He will...

III. Family: Jesus Is The "Everlasting Father" Who Brings Us Into God's Family.

...We may not belong anywhere else, but we do belong to Him forever. His care for us will never end!

- A. This title does not confuse the Trinity, but it speaks of function. Jesus is "Father-like" to us.
- B. This tells about becoming members of God's family. We belong to Him. We are His family.
 1. Apart from the work of Jesus and the gifts God provides in Him, we do not belong...
 2. Through His work: By paying for the penalty...we are adopted into His family forever!

- C. We now enjoy great privileges: If discouraged, we can pray and He promised to hear us. If defeated, broken-hearted, and more we can tell it to Jesus.
...We can pray to Him and He promised to answer our prayers in perfect love and according to His own wise purposes for us. "I am the Good Shepherd..."

IV. Peace: Jesus Brought The Peace We Desperately Needed Through His Cross.

...Jesus is the "Prince of Peace." He brings peace to us in the restless world.

- A. Until we are Christians, we are actually at war with God. We fight Him with all of our heart, mind, soul and strength because what we want to be is God in our own lives.
- B. Jesus overcame this "enmity" by His death and provided for us peace with God. He bridged the vast chasm that separated us from God. He removed the cause of disharmony: sin.
- C. Now that peace with God is sure, we possess the peace of God. (Philippians 4:6-7) What a gift!
...We now have peace inward, outward and upward. Life without Him is restless and miserable!

SO WHAT? WHAT DIFFERENCE SHOULD THIS MAKE IN MY LIFE?

1. Marvel at the greatness of our all-knowing God, who gave us the birth announcement of His Son 700 years before Bethlehem. He knows the future because the future is merely the unfolding of His marvelous plan. What an amazing birth announcement!
2. If you are saved, you belong, you belong to Jesus. You may not fit in or belong anywhere else, but you belong to Him. How great is that? It is wonderful. "I am His, and He is mine." Forever! "He will never desert me, He is my Everlasting Father."
3. Though we are weak and frail as human beings, Jesus provides us with the strength and power to do His will. Therefore, our lives can make a difference in this broken dying world. Your life does count for something beyond yourself...He can and will use you for His purposes.
4. Jesus provides us with peace, real and lasting peace. It is wonderful. Our restless world longs for this, but it is only found in Him.
5. Have you received the Lord Jesus as your Savior and Lord? You must come to the end of yourself, and run to Him just as you are and He will forgive you and bring you into His family. "Saved, Secure, and Safe forever."