

J.J.

A KING IS BORN

Isaiah 9:6-7

INTRODUCTION

One of my favorite Christmas stories is about the baker who dreamed one Christmas Eve that Jesus would come to visit him the next day. The dream was so real that he was convinced it would come true.

So the next morning he got up and went out and cut green boughs and decorated his little bakery and got all ready for Jesus to come and visit. He was so sure that Jesus was going to come that he just sat down and waited for Him.

The hours passed and Jesus didn't come. But an old man came. He came inside for a moment to get warm out of the winter cold. As the baker talked with him he noticed the holes in the old man's shoes, so he reached up on the shelf and got him a new pair of shoes. He made sure they fit and that his socks were dry and sent him on his way.

Still he waited. But Jesus didn't come. An old woman came. A woman who hadn't had a decent meal in two days. They sat and visited for a while, and then he prepared some food for her to eat. He gave her a nourishing meal and sent her on her way.

Then he sat down again to wait for Jesus. But Jesus still didn't come.

Then he heard a little boy crying out in front of his shop. He went out and talked with the boy, and discovered that the boy had been separated from his parents and didn't know how to get home. So he put on his coat, took the boy by the hand and led him home.

When he came back to his little shoe shop it was almost dark and the streets were emptied of people. And then in a moment of despair he lifted his voice to heaven and said, "Oh Lord Jesus, why didn't you come?"

And then in a moment of silence he seemed to hear a voice saying, "Oh baker, lift up your heart. I kept my word. Three times I knocked at your friendly door. Three times my shadow fell across your floor. I was the man with the bruised feet. I was the woman you gave to eat. I was the boy on the homeless street."

Jesus had come. The baker just didn't realize it.

Matthew 25:40 "The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'

By God's grace, the sermon last week and for next week is all about the Reason for the Celebration. Last week, (check it out in Facebook), we talked about the reasons - the promise fulfilled, the purpose behind the birth and of course the person who was born and we ended up with the verse in Isaiah 9. "For to us a child is born..." Today, by God's grace, we will preach on that so you will understand that.

Isaiah 9

*⁶ For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given,
and the government will be on his shoulders.
And he will be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
⁷ Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end.*

Pray

Quick Background :

- Isaiah was a prophet in (God's spokesperson) in the nation of Judah
- Judah was ruled by a king called Ahaz – he is wicked and did not listen to the Lord, because of the constant disobedience
- Israel was going to be crushed by an oppressive conqueror

This is the reason God is telling the people of Israel through Isaiah not to lose hope because one day, He will send His own Son to BE THE KING.

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

Now here is one of the reasons why we celebrate Christmas.

Canada Day : July 1

Independence Day of the U.S. : July 4

Philippine Independence Day : June 12

What do they celebrate? Celebrating the establishing of a nation

One of the reasons we celebrate Christmas : It is the celebration of the establishment of Christ's government.

CHRISTMAS : It's the celebration of the birth of our God-King.

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

That's why God also told Isaiah

Isaiah 7:14 Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.

Immanuel means "God with us." Literally means "with us is God"

Corrie Ten Boom was a Holocaust prisoner. When was a little girl, her father used to tuck her into bed at night. He talked and prayed with her, then laid his big hand on her

little face. Later, when Corrie was imprisoned in a brutal concentration camp, she would ask God to tuck her in and lay His hand on her face. "That would bring me peace, and I would be able to sleep," Corrie wrote in her book, Each New Day.

Application : This is also what we should do when we are worried or anxious or in trouble. **We have to remember that God-King is with us literally.** We can talk with Him and tell Him all our anxiety and we know He will take care of us.

and the government will be on his shoulders.

This means He will be the one to carry our concerns, our problems or take care of what we need.

Look at His promises :

Psalm 55:22 Give your burdens to the LORD, and he will take care of you. (NLT)

1 Peter 5:7 Give all your worries and cares to God, for he cares about you. (NLT)

That's why we need to let God lead us, to rule over us. Here's what happens when Jesus Christ is the Lord or ruler of our life.

If the Jesus Christ is King of your life.

1. He guides us.

He is called *WONDERFUL COUNSELOR*

Explain : "pele" Wonderful - something out of the ordinary

Example : You don't say wonderful on everyday things like "walking, eating, yawning".

In short : When the Bible say that Jesus is the Wonderful Counselor, it means when He guides you...it is something out of the ordinary and it will result to what's best for us.

Sometimes His counsel will come through circumstances. Sometimes, you know deep in your heart that it's what God wants you to do. Sometimes, He will use a godly friend. Sometimes, He will use a pastor.

Story: One Christian can't seem to forgive his brother. For years, he held this grudge against his brother. People around him kept telling him to love his brother. Until he talked to a pastor and he said, "I can't love him because of what he did. From now on, I don't consider him as my brother." The pastor said, "Good. Because what I really want you to do is consider him as your enemy." The Christian was perplexed, "Why?" he asked. The pastor answered, "Because the Bible says, 'to love your enemy.'"

If you follow the Lord and really seek His counsel, He will surely guide you.

Isaiah 30:21 Whether you turn to the right or to the left, your ears will hear a voice behind you, saying, "This is the way; walk in it."

Psalm 32:8 I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with my loving eye on you.

James 1:5 If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him.

Anyway, whatever or whoever He uses to guide you, it's going to be wonderful. It's not something that we expect and sometimes it will baffle us but trust He it is for our best.

*Isaiah 55: 8 "For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
neither are your ways my ways,"
declares the Lord.*

*9 "As the heavens are higher than the earth,
so are my ways higher than your ways
and my thoughts than your thoughts.*

And his guidance will be beyond what your mind could have conceived.

Ephesians 3:20 Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us,

The only thing He asks you to do is trust Him – Your King.

But one thing is for sure, His counsel will never contradict His Written Word in the Bible.

This is the reason I ask you to read the Bible, to be so familiar with it so you will know if the counsel comes from God Himself.

Colossians 3:16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom

***2. He fights our battles.**

MIGHTY GOD

Etymology : ghibore "strong" or "warrior" He is our warrior God

If we are under the government of Christ, we are under His protection

Remember the story of David and Goliath. (1 Samuel 17)

He brought food to his brothers in the field and then he saw Goliath insulting the armies of God and he was asking someone to fight him and everyone was shaking. So he volunteered to fight to the dismay of his brothers. King Saul said he's too young. But he reminded Saul that God rescued him in fighting a lion and a bear. So Saul lent him his armour and sword but it was too big for him. Instead he got five smooth stones from the stream and a sling shot and approached Goliath. Goliath felt insulted. Let's look at the Bible :

1 Samuel 17: 42 He looked David over and saw that he was little more than a boy, glowing with health and handsome and he despised him. 43 He said to David, "Am I a dog, that you come at me with sticks?" And the Philistine cursed David by his gods. 44 "Come here," he said, "and I'll give your flesh to the birds and the wild animals!"

How did David reply? (Did he say, "I'm sorry sir, I made a mistake...")

*45 David replied to the Philistine, "You come to me with sword, spear, and javelin, but I come to you in the name of the Lord of Heaven's Armies (Jehovah Sabaoth) —the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. 46 Today the Lord will conquer you, and I will kill you and cut off your head. And then I will give the dead bodies of your men to the birds and wild animals, and the whole world will know that there is a God in Israel! 47 And everyone assembled here will know that the Lord rescues his people, but not with sword and spear. **This is the Lord's battle**, and he will give you to us!" (NLT)*

Who or what is your Goliath right now? In short, do you have a problem right now that is so big that it seems that you cannot defeat it.

Is it your boss? Is it a financial problem? Is it a health problem? Is it a work problem? Do not be afraid! THE LORD WILL RESCUE YOU FROM IT. HAVE CONFIDENCE BECAUSE GOD IS WITH US – IMMANUEL. Christmas is a time that we need to remind ourselves that God-KING is with us, so who can be against us? HE'S GOT AN ARMY OF ANGELS WHO CAN HELP US.

Biblical Illustration : King Aram sent an army to capture Elisha

2 Kings 6: 15 When the servant of the man of God got up and went out early the next morning, an army with horses and chariots had surrounded the city. "Oh no, my lord! What shall we do?" the servant asked.

16 "Don't be afraid," the prophet answered. "Those who are with us are more than those who are with them."

17 And Elisha prayed, "Open his eyes, Lord, so that he may see." Then the Lord opened the servant's eyes, and he looked and saw the hills full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.

Yesterday, I was talking to Lily Mae and what she said to me was so encouraging. She said this to me in her Germanic (Ilonggo) sweet words something like this..

"I'm ok pastor. Jesus is with me and I am surrounded by His angels."

Hebrews 1:14 Are not all angels ministering spirits sent to serve those who will inherit salvation?

***3. He provides for our needs**

EVERLASTING FATHER

Definition : "ad" Everlasting – meaning – continuous and no end.

An example : Let's look at the verses on how our Lord Jesus Christ described our Father in His first sermon.

Matthew 6:4 Give your gifts in private, and your Father, who sees everything, will reward you.

Remember Andrew Abbott's story (the person who ministered to us) When he only had a few dollars in his wallet and he had to buy diapers and when he went to this store, he met a poor man who inside the store and God led him to give him a good portion of his money. What happened next is at the end of his work at Compassion Canada, there was an envelope on his windshield with a cheque of \$1000 inside.

8 Don't be like them, for your Father knows exactly what you need even before you ask him!

He knows what we need before we ask our Father.

26 Look at the birds. They don't plant or harvest or store food in barns, for your heavenly Father feeds them. And aren't you far more valuable to him than they are?

31 "So don't worry about these things, saying, 'What will we eat? What will we drink? What will we wear?'" 32 These things dominate the thoughts of unbelievers, but your heavenly Father already knows all your needs.

This is what happens when you follow the Lord, when we are under His government. David said,

Psalms 23:1 The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing.

When Jesus Christ says, the the government will be on his shoulders., it means, He will take care of everything for you... YES, EVEN YOUR PROVISIONS, THAT'S HIS RESPONSIBILITY.

We have a slang term in Tagalog that says, "Kargo ko na yan". (that's already my kargo). It means, that's my responsibility already. God is saying to us, "Kargo ka nya" You are His responsibility.

***4. He will give us peace.**

PRINCE OF PEACE

Note : If there is one thing the world longs for and even our hearts long for is "peace"... The Hebrew word is "shalom"...

Etymology : Shalom – completeness – wholeness – tagalog "walang kulang" "success"
Remember :

- Peace is not the absence of war or conflict.
- Peace is not resting (proof : bored palagi...hindi mapakali, kailangang may gawin o gimik palagi)

Peace is completeness.

That's why our Lord said,

John 14:27 "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid."

That's why He's called Prince – why not king

Remember : these are job functions

Etymology : "sar" prince is the implementor. When the king commands, the prince implements. That's why princes are commanders of an army.

Example : Michael the archangel – one of the chief princes Daniel 10 and then he fought against the prince of Persia

Jesus is called the Prince of Peace

In short : Anything or anyone who makes war with our souls, He is the one who makes sure we are at peace.

Remember peace is not the absence of conflict. (That's why some people just go away or run away...it's because they don't have peace really in their own hearts)

Peace is not the absence of problems.... PEACE IS TRULY TRUSTING JESUS CHRIST IN YOUR LIFE IN EVERY ASPECT IN YOUR LIFE THAT THE PRINCE IS UNDER CONTROL.

CHRISTIANS SHOULD KNOW THIS AND SHOULD SUBMIT TO THIS, IF THEY WANT PEACE.

Look at what is says In Ephesians

Ephesians 2:14 "For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility."

Again, it's not because we have a good government or there's no COVID or we have lots of money or we have good friends or we stay away from people who are annoying...HE HIMSELF IS OUR PEACE.

But let me tell you why a lot of people in the world doesn't have peace.

Explain : Because of sin, there's a huge hole in our hearts because God isn't there.

Illustration : That's the reason why the phrase, "**You complete me**" became very popular because it touched the deepest need of man simply because He is far away from God. The problem is people are looking for "wholeness" – another term "shalom", by other means...through other people, through material things, through activities...but still it doesn't suffice. So what's the answer of people, more relationships (jumping from one bed to another or one relationship to another), more material things (buy here, buy there), more activities. It's because it provide temporary happiness but given a few days, the person feels empty again..

THE reason : It's because they are alienated from God. It's because they do not have that relationship with God our Father...

WHAT IS THE ONLY WAY WE WILL HAVE A RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD? BY GOING TO CHURCH? BY PRAYING THE ROSARY? BY PRAYING TO SAINTS OR SANTO NINO'S...THOSE ARE ALL RELIGIOUS DUTIES...THAT WILL NEVER GRANT US A RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD.

HOW? THROUGH JESUS CHRIST!!!

Romans 5:1 "Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ."

Sin is the cause why we are separated from God and no good works will ever bring us back to God...ONLY THROUGH WHAT JESUS CHRIST DID!.

Knowing that we are under Jesus' Christ's government, already gives us peace.

CONCLUSION :

Last week.

Remember what the angel sang when Jesus was born :

Luke 2: 11Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. 12This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

*13Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, **praising God and saying,***

*14"Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."*

SHALOM Peace is when the outside and inside lack nothing.

Based on what the angels were saying, it is a favor from God. It is something that He gives. How do we get this? The Bible always shows if we trust in Him as King and Lord of our lives.

If you trust in God, you become part of His Kingdom...and look at what is His Kingdom is all about..

*Romans 14: 17 "For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking **but of righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit."***

And to be part of His Kingdom is to be part of His government...and look at what the Bible says again...if JESUS IS YOUR GOD-KING!

And when you do, here's what Isaiah says :

7 Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end

Now that's stability, governments come and go, situations comes and go BUT ONE THING IS FOR SURE, WHEN WE TRUST IN JESUS THE KING, WE HAVE SHALOM.

Let's say this to the person beside you...Our Lord be with you. Shalom be with you.

S.G.D.