

THE PRINCE OF FOUR NAMES Isaiah 9:6-7

Int: Seven centuries before angels broke the silence of Bethlehem, the prophet described the Christ as *a child who will be born*. He would enter the human race by birth just as all other children. He is also *a son who will be given*. Birth in Bethlehem was not his beginning. The Father sent him forth from eternity past where he had always been the Son. He is also *a prince who will come*. “Government” means “princely power,” displayed on his shoulder proudly and publicly. At his first coming he was the Ruler Who Served, his government hidden to all but his own. He will come again as the Servant Who Rules and all will see that he is Lord!

To this prince Isaiah gave four names. Titles worn by human rulers often ring hollow. But millions have found Jesus exactly what the prophet said. He is the

WONDERFUL COUNSELOR

Earthly rulers surround themselves with counselors but this Prince governs by his own counsel and gives counsel to others freely. He is a “wonder of a counselor.” In the Old Testament “wonder” described divine miracles as unique, out of the ordinary, unmatched and astounding events. Used of Jesus the word indicates he stands alone, without equal among earth’s counselors.

He is a wonder because of his ABILITY. He is the world’s most capable counselor.

He is a wonder because of his AVAILABILITY. Always near, he is ready to help whomever, for whatever, just whenever!

MIGHTY GOD

This Prince is “the God of might,” a title that indicates deity. No enemy can defeat him. Satan did his best but the Mighty God led the Dark Lord captive from the open tomb! The Caesars tried to wipe his name from the face of the earth but they died and their empire crumbled. Jesus, the Victor, lives!

EVERLASTING FATHER

More than impersonal power, this Prince is a “Father forever.” All earthly fathers die and leave their children on their own. But this Prince is a father who never dies and so walks with his children every step of their way forever.

PRINCE OF PEACE

Some think if they rid the world of weapons, ignorance, poverty and disease, they will rid it of war. But this Prince is the only hope for peace. Men see weapons as things to be paraded but God sees them as fuel for the fire (Isa 9:5). All other governments run out of time or territory but the rule of the Prince of Four Names goes on and on forever, universally and eternally!

Fulfillment of this promise rests in God’s hands! He will bring it to pass!