



the story behind the songs

Part 2: For Unto Us A Child Is Born

God's greatest gift to us is _____!

"The Lord Himself will give you a sign: The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son and will call Him Immanuel (God With Us)" Isaiah 7:14

"For unto 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." Isaiah 9:6

The context of Isaiah's prophecies:

The people thought their greatest need was _____;
God shows them their greatest need is _____.

"For unto us a child is born, to us a son is given..." (Christ's _____ coming)
"...and the government will be on his shoulders..." (Christ's _____ coming)

What God gave at Christmas: Through Jesus Christ, God...

1. _____ me

*"And he will be called Wonderful **Counselor**..."*

Jesus is the ultimate counselor: Being _____, he knows how I _____;
being _____, he knows what I _____.

2. _____ me

*"And he will be called... **Mighty God**"*

Hebrew: _____ God; the One who brings _____ out of _____.

3. _____ me

*"And he will be called... Everlasting **Father**"*

4. _____ me

*"And he will be called... the Prince of **Peace**." Isa. 9:6*

*"And the **peace of God**, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." Phil. 4:7*

*"...we have **peace with God** through our Lord Jesus Christ." Rom. 5:1*

How can I experience this?

*"...and the **government** will be on his shoulders..."*

The key: I allow God to _____

Daily Meditations

Brief daily Bible studies and questions for reflection on today's topic!

This week's memory verse:

"For unto 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." Isa. 9:6

Monday

Read Isaiah 9:6 again. In what areas of your life do you need to see these four aspects of Jesus: Where do you need His "Wonderful Counsel"?

Where do you need the power of the "Mighty God"?

How do you need to sense the care of your "Everlasting Father"?

Where are you restless and need the "Prince of Peace"?

Take some time today to write a prayer thanking God for sending Jesus to save you, using Isaiah 9:6 as a template for your prayer.

Now pray your written prayer-- thank God today for all the ways He meets your needs.

Tuesday

Read Philippians 2:1-11. Starting in verse five, Paul essentially describes what Christmas must have been like for Jesus! Paul says we are to have the same attitude as Jesus had when he became human. What do you think he means by that?

In what practical ways can you have an incarnational spirit this week?

Thank God that he came to earth as Jesus for you!

Wednesday

Most of our weekend services will be focused on the prophecies of Isaiah and John as sung in Handel's Messiah. So let's spend some devotional time this week reading the *fulfillment* of some of those Scriptures. Read Luke 2:1-20. Luke emphasizes the extremely humble circumstances of Jesus' birth: No room in the inn, a feeding trough for a bed-- even the angels appear not to kings or priests but to shepherds, one of the lowest classes in society at the time. Why do you think the Bible emphasizes this?

Why do you think God came like this instead of in comfortable surroundings?

Why do you think God chose shepherds instead of others?

The angels said that Jesus brought "peace" and "favor". How has Jesus specifically done that in your life?

Spend time today thanking God for what He did that first Christmas.

Thursday

Read Luke 2:26-38. What interests or impresses you about this story?

Gabriel says Mary has found "God's favor". Someone once said that God wants to give us His *favor*, while we want his *favours*. What's the difference?

How does Gabriel's message to Mary support the idea that Jesus is divine?

How can you apply Gabriel's words in verse 37 to something you are facing right now-- a challenge, a temptation, a doubt?

How can Mary's attitude in verse 38 inform your own attitude when God brings unexpected circumstances into your life?

Pray Mary's prayer in verse 38 to God today: Give your will, your heart, your thoughts, your life, completely over to Him.

Friday

Read Rev. 19:4-9. This is one of the verses on which the *Messiah* selection for next weekend, the *Hallelujah Chorus*, is based. We think of the *Messiah* as a Christmas cantata, but actually the famous *Hallelujah Chorus* is about the *second* coming of Jesus, when He shows His power and glory to the whole world! The famous Christmas carol *Joy to the World* is about the same future event. Meditate for a while on the contrasting imagery from the first advent of Christ (humble, born in a barn) and the second advent (powerful, glorious). Why do you suppose we think more about the first but not about the second?

How can it inspire you today to think of Jesus' second coming?

Like the heavenly beings in Revelation 19, sing a song of worship to Jesus, or simply pray in adoration, thanking Him for what He has done for you!

Saturday

First, please pray for our services and special events this Christmas season listed on the next page. Pray that they will be effective. Pray about who you can invite! Second, please review the memory verse for this week. Have you received this wonderful gift of God? If not, why not do so today by praying a simple prayer like this: *Lord, I admit my need for you. I believe you came that first Christmas as God in human form, and that you died for my sins and rose again. I give you my life. Lead me as you desire.*