

# For To Us A Child Is Born – To Us A Son Is Given

**Isaiah 9:6(a)** [NIV] *“For to us a child is born, to us a son is given...”*

What is the significance of this simple statement?

This is the middle prophecy that we find about the Messiah in the early chapters of Isaiah.

**Isaiah 7:14** [NIV] *“Therefore 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.”*

In this verse we are given the statement of **Messiah’s unique birth**.

**Isaiah 11:1-5** [NIV] *“A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit. The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him, the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of power, the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD, and he will delight in the fear of the LORD. He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes, or decide by what he hears with his ears; but with righteousness he will judge the needy, with justice he will give decisions for the poor of the earth. He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth; with the breath of his lips he will slay the wicked. Righteousness will be his belt and faithfulness the sash round his waist.”*

In these prophetic verses the **Messiah’s Kingdom and His rulership** are the subject covered.

**Isaiah 9:6-7** [NIV] *“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 Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David’s throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and for ever. The zeal of the LORD Almighty will accomplish this.”*

These verses chiefly emphasise the **personality of the Messiah**.

This personality of the Messiah is depicted in the titles that are given to Him.

**Isaiah 9:6(a)** [NIV] *“For to us a child is born, to us a son is given...”*

*“unto us”* for the benefit of the Jews first.

**Luke 2:11** [NIV] *“Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord.”*

*“unto you”*. The angel was specific in this statement.

The Messiah came to His people first born into the tribe of Judah through His physical mother Mary.

**Romans 1:16** [NIV] *“I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile.”*

The Jews were a people with the historical background and knowledge, the *“shadow”* of the reality that Jesus was and is.

The Gentiles were to learn then from those who had experienced the prophecies of the coming Messiah, that He is their Saviour also.

**John 3:16** [NIV] *“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.”*

A gift to all people, Jews and Gentiles, those who knew the true God and those blinded to such truth.

Part of the belief was to be the prophetic writings of the Jewish prophets, the “*shadow*” of Christ the reality.

The physical God given rituals of the Old Covenant were such sacrificial “*shadows*”.

**Romans 6:23** [NIV] *“For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”*

We can of ourselves only earn death.

We have had all of the history of this society through 1000s of years to prove this.

We have to accept eternal life as a gift, and that gift is personified by Jesus the Christ.

**John 1:1-14** [NIV] *“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. **Through him all things were made;** without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it. There came a man who was sent from God; his name was John. He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all men might believe. He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light. The true light that gives light to every man was coming into the world. He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognise him. **He came to that which was his own,** but his own did not receive him. Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband’s will, but born of God. **The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us.** We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.”*

The Creator God Himself had to step into time [something He created] and become flesh [something He created] to save His created people from their own self-destructive ways.

**Philippians 2:1-8** [NIV] *“If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose. Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. **Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus:** Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death, even death on a cross!”*

For us to be united with Christ we have to have the same attitude of mind as Christ Jesus [that is God].

#### a) **To be born again into a new life**

**John 3:3-5** [NIV] *“In reply Jesus declared, “I tell you the truth, no-one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again.” “How can a man be born when he is old?” Nicodemus asked. “Surely he cannot enter a second time into his mother’s womb to be born!” Jesus answered, “I tell you the truth, no-one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is **born of water and the Spirit.**”*

We have to experience a spiritual rebirth. Allowing the Holy Spirit to enter into us and create in us a new being with His characteristics.

#### b) **As a sacrifice we have to offer our bodies**

**Romans 12:1-3** [NIV] *“Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God, this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is, his good, pleasing and perfect will. For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the measure of faith God has given you.”*

The body as a whole, body, mind and spirit.

**Isaiah 9:6-7** [NIV] *“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 Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David’s throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and for ever. The zeal of the LORD Almighty will accomplish this.”*

**The titles that are given to the Messiah [Jesus the Christ] are also attitudes that we should reflect as “born again” Christians.**

## Wonderful

Hebrew “*pele*” marvellous – a miracle – used to mean something supernatural.

Jesus being God was and is supernatural.

We can reflect this in our lives by being totally dependent on Jesus.

**John 15:5** [NIV] *“I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.”*

Without the supernatural spiritual help of Jesus, through the special presence of the Holy Spirit, we can never accomplish anything “*spiritual*”.

Remember the main goal in physical life is eternal [spiritual] life!

## Counsellor

The supernatural is linked with wise counsel.

**Isaiah 28:29** [NIV] *“All this also comes from the LORD Almighty, wonderful in counsel and magnificent in wisdom.”*

It is “*Yahweh*” who is the source of all wisdom.

**John 14:15-17, 26** [NIV] *“If you love me, you will obey what I command. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counsellor to be with you for ever, the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you.” ... “But the Counsellor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.”*

We can “*tap into*” the Wisdom of God by allowing the Holy Spirit to lead us through life, knowing the truth and being taught by Him.

## Mighty God

The Hebrew word implies that God is a powerful warrior, our champion and our protector.

**Philippians 2:4** [NIV] *“Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.”*

We too are to “*champion*” other people’s needs, showing God’s Love for them.

**1 John 4:19-21** [NIV] *“We love because he first loved us. If anyone says, “I love God,” yet hates his brother, he is a liar. For anyone who does not love his brother, whom he has seen, cannot love God, whom he has not seen. And he has given us this command: Whoever loves God must also love his brother.”*

It is through love for others that we can reflect this attitude of our God.

## Everlasting Father

**1 John 5:1-2** [NIV] *“Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and everyone who loves the father loves his child as well. This is how we know that we love the children of God: by loving God and carrying out his commands.”*

We can reflect this attitude by a constant “*father like*” concern for all other people.

To a loving father his child is very precious.

This is how we are to treat all other people, irrespective of how they respond to our love.

When we reflect the Love of God, we have “*agapé*” love in our lives.

“*Agapé*” love is a love that can only come from God, as it is one of the “*fruits*” of the indwelling of the Holy Spirit.

“*Agapé*” love is a spontaneous love that flows out to others irrespective of their or our “*rights*” and does not depend on the response of the recipient.

**Matthew 5:43-48** [NIV] *“You have heard that it was said, ‘Love your neighbour and hate your enemy.’ But I tell you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be sons of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? And if you greet only your brothers, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that? Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.”*

Only “*father like*”, “*agapé*” [God given] love can love our enemies.

**Romans 5:10-11** [NIV] *“For if, when we were God’s enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life! Not only is this so, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.”*

By loving our enemies can become reconciled to them, even as the love of Christ brings reconciliation between us and our Creator God.

## Prince of Peace

**Romans 12:18** [NIV] *“If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.”*

This is the goal but how do we accomplish this goal?

**Romans 12:1** [NIV] *“Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God, this is your spiritual act of worship.”*

We are to be a Christ like living sacrifice, in love laying down our lives for the benefit of others.

**Romans 12:10-17** [NIV] *“Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honour one another above yourselves. Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervour, serving the Lord. Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Share with God's people who are in need. Practise hospitality. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited. Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everybody.”*

Here is the perfect recipe for peace, not yet understood by all people.

By living in such a way we will be right now reflecting the attitude of our Saviour, the Prince of Peace.

Jesus Christ was born to become our Saviour by sacrificing His perfect life.

We have to be called to allow Christ to live His life again through us by our reflecting these prophesied titles and characteristics of our Creator God.

This can only happen when we too are *“born again”* and become a *“living sacrifice”* to this hurting world that needs to be saved from itself.