

Series: To Us a Child Is Born; *Sermon:* **Wonderful Counselor**
Delivered by: **Dr. Josh Moody**, senior pastor; *Date:* **December 18, 2016**

Bible text explored: Isaiah 9:6

For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given;
and the government shall be upon his shoulder,
and his name shall be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. [ESV]

Review and application:

Early in Isaiah's prophetic ministry. Ahaz was the king of Judah. The kings of Israel and Syria had formed an alliance against Judah. A terrified King Ahaz (Isa. 7:2) was tempted to align with Assyria, the growing regional power, desperately trading independence for deliverance.

1. What did the Lord instruct Isaiah to tell Ahaz to do? (See Isa. 7:4, 7b-9.)
Whom were Isaiah and the king to trust? (See Isa. 8:12-13, 17.)
2. When King Ahaz rejected God's message and aligned with pagan Assyria, what was the short-term outcome? (See Isa. 8:22.)
But what long-term outcome through great David's greater Son was predicted? (See Isa. 9:1 and Matt. 4:12-17.)

Pastor Moody highlighted the triple reasons for joy that would erupt (Isa. 9:2-3) with the dawning of the great light.

3. What will replace their oppression? (See Isa. 9:4.)
What will replace their defeat? (Isa. 9:5)
What (9:6a, above) will replace arbitrary rule?
4. How do the words *born* and *given* accurately predict the dual nature of the anticipated Messiah?
5. To gauge the significance of the first title assigned to this Child/Son, ask yourself: How can I restore a sense of awe to the much depreciated word *wonderful*?
How, in our depressed darkness, can I turn to Christ as the shining light of truth and insight?
6. Pastor Josh said that if this title for our Lord and Savior is to extend beyond a seasonal celebration to practical daily living, we need to ask four things:
 - 1) How can I be still? (See Ps. 46:10.)
 - 2) How must I listen? (See Prov. 16:20.)
 - 3) How must I put what I hear into practice? (See James 1:22-25.)
 - 4) How can I begin to really long for my prepared future? (See Isaiah 65:17-25 and Rev. 21:1-4.)
7. How can I absorb Isaiah's major message, refusing to give way to fear and trusting our Lord unconditionally?

Note: *No sermon-based questions are being prepared for the sermon to be preached on Christmas Day, December 25.*