God With Us **– wk 2: You said what?**

**As a communicator, everything we say or write has 3 diff meanings… What I mean to say - What I actually say - What people think I say**

**(If married you already know that) No one is immune – bible writers**

**Today a famous Christmas prophecy - Isaiah 9:6. You’ve heard it, sang it, read it on cards - what does it really mean?**

**Background check on the writer**

**Isaiah was a prophet who lived 700 yrs before Jesus.**

**To get an idea of the time: Ming Dynasty - The renaissance – the plague / black death - 200 million died. 60% of Europe**

* **It was in a time of great turmoil – a division of a nation / north & south**
* **The north was pure evil / southern was on & off again with God**
* **The Assyrian / Egypt Kingdoms were threating a major attack.**
* **Isaiah was prophesying to the southern kingdom – just trust God!**
* **Don’t make alliance with them, don’t compromise - it will only hurt.**

**When faced with tough decisions don’t compromise, trust God**

**He told them - If you give in to the temptation - this will happen… but he also tells them God deeply loves you and a messiah coming!**

**THREE DIFFERENT VERSIONS OF - Isaiah 9:6**

**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.**

1. **What the prophet PROMISED - A great savior is coming**

**Who will be known by many dynamic characteristics.**

1. **What everyone thought he SAID - A great warrior / leader is coming**

**This is what Israel thought it meant then… God is sending a political leader to reestablish our nation & destroy all our surrounding enemies. He will be a warrior and make Israel great again - like David & Solomon.**

**700 yrs later when Jesus showed up - that’s still what they expected - Shouting Hosanna – (save us now!) - Even his disciples…**

**It’s why so many rejected him then and still do today…**

**Fast forward 2017 yrs – what do we tend to think of when we hear this?**

1. **What we think Isaiah PROPHESIED - A baby has come**

 **I think Isaiah would be shocked to hear it was about Christmas.**

 **Sing the carols, light a candle - let’s have ham and open presents.**

**This prophecy is more than Christmas decorations or cards.**

**It’s not about a baby on a manger, this is about a Messiah on a throne**

**By the time Jesus showed up – they had already decided what kind of messiah they were looking for. They did not even recognize him.**

**Today many have already decided what kind of Jesus they are looking for and want. They missed him, will you miss him too?**

**Jesus wasn’t born on Dec 25, but that's when the world celebrates. It seems happy – but Christmas starts with a problem.**

**Isaiah knew the problem - Isaiah 64:6 We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a polluted garment… (Not one of us can solve it - even our good actions are prideful self-righteousness attempts)**

**Ever notice how we don’t appreciate good news unless we know the bad first? We often can’t grasp the solution w/out understanding the problem. To understand the promise…**

**Christmas reminds us of a massive problem & a magnificent promise.**

**So complex and unique, that only God could orchestrate it.**

**The problem with Christmas... Chata (khaw-taw') = SIN**

**Post – 1st part of cross – separated from God. Problem of Christmas is we are filthy, dirty, & spiritually dead in our sin - and we need a savior.**

**It’s the reason Jesus came - we have a serious sin problem.**

**Romans 3:23, 3:10 – All of us have sinned & fall short – not even one is good.**

[**Genesis 6:5:**](http://www.studylight.org/desk/?l=en&query=Genesis+6:5&section=0&translation=esv&oq=ro%25203:12&new=1&sr=1&nb=ro&ng=3&ncc=3) **The Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intention of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. (That’s our heart - always thinking what can I get, how can I get it, and get more)**

**We tend to live our life trying to satisfy – The “ME”**

**Billy Sunday – 1800’s baseball player turned preacher – asked Columbus OH mayor to bring a list of everyone in the city that was really struggling with sin – hours later he delivered to Billy’s room was a – phonebook – we are all sinful.**

**You know what the problem with the world is - ME!**

**No pointing fingers - We can’t grasp the beauty of the promise of Christmas unless we understand the depth of the problem!**

**That’s when Isaiah 9:6 steps in - with the good news?**

**We caused a problem, but God brought a promise**

**The Promise of Christmas - Messiah (the promised anointed ONE)**

**Jesus is the promise! Jesus is the good news. Redemption thru Jesus.**

* **God took the first step - Isaiah 9:6 - For to us…**

**God came to us - reached out to us - He cares so much to come to you - this was God coming to us - He stepped down**

**We cannot get to him, so he came to us! Even before we wanted him.**

**Romans 1:6 For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. 7 For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die - 8 but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.**

**Christmas is God moving towards us! God reaching out to us!**

* **God humbled himself …a child is born…**

**When you think of the magnitude of the problem – do you think "a baby?" Why send a child to do a man's job... but that is what God did.**

**WHY? The means is evidence of His heart - God wasn’t - Fine! I’ll solve your stupid problem!!! No – that is not his character.**

**God himself - became a baby? Do you understand God’s heart for you?**

**Not born to a queen - but to a peasant girl - barley a teenager**

**Not born in a big city - but a tiny dusty town - Bethlehem**

**Not born to a party - but into poverty**

**Not in majesty – but in humility. (Phil 2:1-11) \* God expects us to respond to Him and others in humility - laying down pride**

* **God made it personal …to us a son is given…**

**God himself stepped out and stepped down to meet us, giving his son**

**\*\*\* God personally cares about what you are dealing with!**

**Isaiah 9:6 For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the (a very specific, intentional act - was an answer to the problem of pain and suffering – next part often skipped…) …and the government will be on his shoulders.**

* **God has a plan to finish – what he started**

**“Government” = misrah (mis-raw) – used only 2X in OT - Means the seat of control – it will be His (he will carry it)**

**Realize this - The Worlds Government’s cannot fix the world**

**Human Govt. is broken / motives are suspect / hearts are sinful**

**We are to pray for our leaders, but they’re not a promised solution**

**Jesus mission is a 2-part plan**

* **"Unto a child is born" The 1st Advent (the arrival)**
* **"And the Govt will be upon his shoulders" - His 2nd Advent (the rule)**

**Christmas is the celebration of the fist advent (Savior is born) and the guarantee of the second advent (King is coming)**

**Interestingly, of all the things in Isaiah 9:6, the only thing expanded on is this – 9:7 Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, (Forever kingdom) on the throne of David and over his kingdom, (Forever King) to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. (A kingdom of perfection) The zeal of the LORD (A kingdom of Power - zeal = intense passion) of hosts will do this. (A kingdom promise – notice his ZEAL powers this - his intense love and passion for us guarantees he will do this.)**

**Understand Jesus is has been and already is Lord of all - already King of Kings- Acts 10:36, Philippians 2:9-11 - But on upon his return he will be known to all as the Lord of all**

**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.**

**When you read that verse it is merely a trailer for Jesus, not the movie. A glimpse (for the listeners) that was to come**

**I think of Star Wars trailers dissected and speculated over.**

**Now that Jesus has come – we understand the trailer.**

**What the promised Messiah – will be known for**

**FOUR THINGS / Characteristics / JESUS IS KNOWN FOR**

**When we hear counselor, mighty God, father, giver of peace – many gratefully know - others see it as only Christmas cliques.**

**Is 9:6 …And he will be called Wonderful (beyond understanding) Counselor…**

* **Wonderful Counselor = WISDOM (Ps 23:1-3, Pro 3:5-6, John 10:11)**

**Not in the way we generally think of a counselor – therapist, passive, non-directive, advice giver – with no responsibility attached.**

**\* Jesus, God with us, will guide and lead you to places beyond our imagination. He’s not a passive listener, but an active help**

**The counselor here is best known as the – Wonderful Truth giver!**

**Jesus says - I am here to tell you the truth – about me and you.**

**Therapist: what do you think you should do? Jesus: this is truth. I speak as God - my words are not optional.**

**John 14:6 - I am the one and only way, truth, life – no other way.**

**Jesus is our shepherd and guide. A good shepherd**

**\* Do you need wisdom / guidance / counsel / truth?**

**Isaiah 9:6 …he will be called… Mighty God**

* **Mighty God = POWER (Jo 2:1-11,11:38-43, Ma4:23-24,8:23-27**, **Is40:29-31)**

**Jesus is not just a deliverer, shepherd, or guide – his is the power of God in flesh! We really unpacked this last week – He’s not God Jr.**

**Not a created son, not an angel, or an enlightened man.**

**Jesus clearly defined and understood himself as God - not just aligned, empowered, or hotline - but actually the everlasting God of all creation**

**We will know him in his power – when we walk with him in His wisdom.**

**So often we get angry w/ God, but we are not living in his guidance, so we lack his power. “You want to know me? Walk with me.”**

**\*Jesus, God with us, can work in your life to do the impossible**

**Do you need the power of God to intervene in your life?**

**BTW - No matter how great your miracle in this life – it’s only a band-aid. They are the appetizer to the great meal of eternity.**

**The next one must have seemed strange to Isaiah – but now we get it.**

**Isaiah 9:6 …And he will be called… everlasting Father**

* **Everlasting Father = FAMILY**

**(John 10:30-33, 8:58-59, 14:9, Rev 1:17-18, 1 Peter 1:10-12,** **John 1:12, Heb 1:3)**

**Few things stir our heart like fathers… one of God’s favorite names. Even in a healthy home no human can fill the father hole in the heart.**

**Young woman looking for someone to fill your heart…**

**Young man looking for someone to do that…**

**Everything you need to know about the Father is in Jesus - Was Jesus patient? So is your father in heaven / was Jesus merciful / was Jesus gracious / was Jesus compassionate / was Jesus quick to forgive the humble & broken / was Jesus angered by the proud & hypocritical…**

**He’s a father who will never walk out on you! Never abuse you! Will always stand up for you, defend you, fight for you!!**

**John 1:12 Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God. (we become his children)**

**God himself came on a rescue mission to transform us from sinners to sons (John 3:16)**

**Isaiah 9:6 …And he will be called… prince of peace (Sar Shalom)**

* **Prince of Peace = SALVATION (Eternal salvation) (Phil 4:6-7)**

**Cross post - forming a cross – the cross brings peace**

**But - not necessarily peace as you think - John 14:27 / John 16:33 I have told you all this so that you may have peace in me. Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows. But take heart, because I have overcome the world.”**

**Until his return – the peace he gives is internal and eternal**

**Many of his followers in NT faced terrible persecution and death. There was little sense of peace outwardly, but Jesus is the giver of eternal peace thru salvation.**

**As the world spirals – we can still have peace**

**When the diagnosis is bad – we can still have peace**

**When we are abandoned – we can still have peace**

**When we are face with painful loss – we can still have peace**

**When it seems, things are getting worse – we can have peace**

**Isaiah knew our biggest problem is not our marriage, job, school, debt, gangs, political turmoil, the environment, or global conflict…**

**Our biggest problem is our relationship wit God. Our sin problem.**

**The promise of Isaiah was that the Messiah would bring peace between us and God! That - Enemies of God – thru Jesus – become not just friends, but become His very own sons & daughters. (Ro 5:8-10, Jo 1:12)**

**Jesus Brings Us…**

**\* Peace from God – Satisfies sins payment**

**\* Peace with God – Through Jesus the mediator, we can dwell with God**

**\* Peace of God – a supernatural peace - knowing God is in control…**

**I want to point one final thing about that verse – Isaiah 9:6: For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder…**

**There are no limits to his shoulders - no limit to what he can carry**

**If he can carry the weight of the world… he can carry you.**

**What are you going through today? He can carry you.**