Emmanuel **– wk 2: No Ordinary Baby**

**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, even bible writers**

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

**Background check:**

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

**To get an idea of the time: 14th century - Ming Dynasty - The renaissance – the plague / black death – it seems so far away.**

* **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**

**But also tells them God loves you and a messiah coming!**

**This verse speaks of that Messiah - 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.**

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

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… God is sending a political leader to reestablish a nation & destroy all our surrounding enemies. A warrior to 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 2022 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 Christmas.**

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

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

**It’s not really about a baby in a manger - but 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** **All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags; we all shrivel up like a leaf, and like the wind our sins sweep us away. 7 No one calls on your name or strives to lay hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us and have given us over to our sins. (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.**

**Christmas reminds us of a massive problem & a magnificent promise. So complex and unique, only God could orchestrate it.**

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

**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 – …all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,**

**Romans 3:10 There is no one righteous, not even one…**

[**Gen 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 how great the wickedness of the human race had become on the earth, and that every inclination of the thoughts of the human heart was only evil all the time. / Gen 8:21 - every inclination of the human heart is evil from childhood (Our heart - always thinking what can I get, how can I get it, and get more – how can I get my way)**

**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 struggling with sin – hours later he delivered to Billy’s room was a – phonebook.**

**You know what the problem with the world is – It’s ME!**

**No pointing fingers – It’s all of us!**

**That’s what Isaiah 9:6 describes 700 yrs earlier - Good news?**

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

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

**Jesus is the promise! Jesus is the good news. Let’s break it down.**

* **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 5:6 For while we were still weak (powerless), 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. 9 Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God’s wrath through him! 10 For if, while 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!**

**While we were still powerless, still ungodly, still sinners, still worthy of wrath, still haters of God – God reached out to us!**

**Christmas is God moving towards us!**

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

**When you think of the scale 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 - and grew up in your shoes. 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…**

**Not just anyone - God himself stepped out and stepped down to meet us. Son is not offspring – but a place of position and authority w/ God.**

**\*\*\* 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, (next is 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 to bear (he will carry it)**

**Realize - The worlds Government’s cannot fix the world**

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

**We pray for our leaders, but they’re not the 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 (Perfect kingdom) from this time forth and forevermore. (Endless Kingdom) The zeal of the LORD of hosts (Powerful kingdom) will do this. (A Promised kingdom)**

**Notice it’s his ZEAL (passion) that powers this - his intense love and passion for us guarantees it. His return and Kingdom are sure!**

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

**They are more than just 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 counselor - therapist, passive, non-directive, advice giver – with no responsibility attached.**

**\*\*Jesus is not a passive listener, but an active help!**

**He is 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 good shepherd and wonderful guide.**

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

**Isaiah 9:6 …he will be called… Mighty God (omnipotent 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 unpacked this last week – He’s not God Jr.**

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

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

**We will know 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. “come 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?**

**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 encourage them…**

**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?**

**A Father who will never walk out on you! Never abuse you, always stand up for you, defend you, fight for you!**

**But not all are his children - 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.**

**God himself came on a rescue mission to transform us from sinners to sons – and daughters! (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)**

**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 – When we are abandoned –**

**When we face painful loss – When it seems, things get worse**

**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 w/ God. Our sin problem.**

**Angel to Joseph - Matthew 1:21 She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.**

**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 - Thru Jesus we can dwell with God**

**\* Peace of God - 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.**