

~Other Speakers G-L: Raymond Golsworthy:

“For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.”
Isaiah 9:6

There are three “incomparables”™ in this one sentence of Isaiah, namely!

Our Lord’s™ incomparable birth

“For unto us a child is born.” That is the simple human element, but look at the great divine fact: “Unto us a Son is given.” The same incomparable fact is recorded in John 3:16: “For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.” And in Rom.8:32 we have the assurance that “He that spared not his own Son, but delivered Him up for us all”!

Our Lord’s™ incomparable destiny

“And the government shall be upon His shoulder.” What a relief and comfort it is to know that a glorious kingdom is coming. It will be an age of glory under the headship of the Man of Calvary. And it will be forever (verse 7).

Our Lord’s™ incomparable character

The incomparable character of our Lord is summed up in five wonderful Names.

1. Wonderful “ He is wonderful in His works (Matt. 21:15) and in His words (John 7:4-6).
2. Counsellor “ Truly, “A greater that Solomon is here” (Matt. 12:4-2). His counsels perhaps reducible to come (Matt. 11:28) and go (John 8:11).
3. The mighty God “ His deity was attested by demons (Mark 1:24), by men (Matt. 27:54), by His Father (Matt. 3:17; 17:5) and also by Himself (John 9:35-37; 10:36).
4. The everlasting Father “ Basically He is called by this name, because He is one with His Father (John 10:30), but also because, as the ascended second man, He fathers, i.e. brings into being, a new human family, His church. And is it not true as well that He everlastingly fathers, and cares for, those to whom He imparts His life? A beautiful example of this is Jairus’s™ daughter. He gave her life (Mark 5:41, 42) and then “commanded that something should be given her to eat” (verse 43). Yes, He is the father-provider to all His children. And how He stands up always for their defence! Also see Mark 2:18, 19 and 24-28).
5. The Prince of Peace “ Yes, He shall reign, and His Kingdom shall be a Kingdom of peace; blessed thought indeed! But there is a further sense in which our Saviour bears that Name. Christ is called Prince three times in the New Testament (Acts.3:15; Acts 5:31; Rev.1:5) and in the first two of these the Greek word “archegos”™ is employed, signifying particularly a file-leader. (See also Captain in Heb. 2:10). How true it is that that true inward peace (John 14:27) can only be found by following in His steps, as He leads us in the way He took, the way of Calvary. We read that, “There remaineth a rest to the people of God” (Heb. 4:9) and we believe that Christians may know that rest by following in His train. As the hymn-writer puts it: “Dying with Jesus, by death reckoned mine; living with Jesus a new life divine”. And as we live that life, in resurrection-union with the Lord, we find we have a, “Peace which passeth understanding” (Phil. 4:7); a peace which is not of this world (John 14:27). Our great Archegos of Peace has led us into it. All praise to His Name!