

“God Speaks”

Isaiah 9:2–7



“Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, ² but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world.”

That’s how our epistle reading this morning begins. The Word has become flesh, and this morning we do give thanks to God for the wonderful news of Christmas.

God has spoken, and when God speaks, things are made and they are redeemed. It is through Jesus, the Word, that God created the

world. Jesus is Lord, God in the flesh who now has come to redeem us.

It the one whom the prophet Isaiah had foretold long ago, He is the light that has come to shine over our dark world.

The words of the prophet are recorded in Isaiah chapter 9 verses 2 to 7, which will be the bases for our meditation this morning. The prophet said: “The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined. ³ You have multiplied the nation; you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as they are glad when they divide the spoil. ⁴ For the yoke of his burden, and the staff for his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult and every garment rolled in blood will be burned as fuel for the fire. 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 Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷ Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and for evermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.”

God speaks, in fact he has spoken through His Son Jesus, for the Baby that Isaiah mentions is Christ, and God speaks through him makes this Christmas very special. And this special that I’m talking about is found in what the Child born to us, has come to do.

I. The people who wandered in darkness have seen a Great Light.

First, the prophet says that “The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined.” (v 2).

Isaiah preaches of spiritual darkness which is the greatest tragedy of human kind. But the light is the spiritual light which is Christ bringing God’s grace.

It is a great tragedy that the world live in darkness, for it is blindness of the heart and ignorance of the things of God. It is the work of the enemy. In his plan is that sins would reign, that people would stay under his dominion. But the Good News is that this great light has come to free those who are in that darkness, to free those who are under satan's dominion, and more to show us God and bring about all kinds of blessings. And one of the blessings is to show us God's heart, his grace and mercy, but also to show us how to recognize the thoughts of the devil, and what sins are and how one can become free of them. But there is more, for this Light also shows us what death is and how one shall come out of it. It is a surpassing light that the wisdom of this world even with such sumptuous power, or so as the world believes, can't even begin to comprehend, but is found in the simplicity of the light of Christ, the One through whom God' speaks.

Actually, Isaiah calls even this wisdom of the world, ignorance and blindness in which we dwell, in fact this darkness manifest itself in hatred and anger; isn't that what you hear of, wars and rumors of wars?

But the Light has come and now shines over our hearts, revealing our confusions, but bringing the clarity of his word, through the ever presence of His spirit, through Christ.

II. For unto us this Christ Child is born.

Then Isaiah writes: "For to us a child is born, to us a son is given" (v 6a).

The Child born on that first Christmas Day is our wondrous king, he is the Christ. He shall conquer death, sin, the law, and he will rule without a sword, and by this he will fill the world with joy. Isaiah clearly says we shall encounter all of this because this child is born and a Son is given us. He is saying that through the child, through the Son, come all these things. He is the mediator who shall administer it, in fact he is the one who will inaugurate a new Kingdom and he will be the king.

But notice what the prophet says, he says to "Us". Not to other kind of people, but to us. That's the power of today's reading isn't it. Think about this, every child that is born, is born for his own sake or because of his parents. But this Baby is born not for himself but "us." This child is born for the good of all of us. For this reason, everything that he is, has, and does, from birth, or according to his humanity, is all meant only for us. Our salvation and our holiness, he is for us. That's what the new King will do.

And this King the prophet says, is born a true, natural man, yet a holy, innocent man. And because he is innocent and holy, we, us, in faith can partake of his innocence and holiness as he, the king brings us to God the Father, who is holy.

He, the baby King, is not just born among us, but given, is a gift to each one, a gift that we can have and belong to us. "To us a child is born."

III. His government is upon his shoulder on the cross.

Now, here is another word that God speaks through the prophet, he says "The government shall be upon his shoulder" (v 6b).

Actually, more than his shoulder the government is not so much of this world, but of the new kingdom that he has come to inaugurate, the Church, but in order for this kingdom to become, a crown of thorns must be put on his head, and raised up on a cross, soon to die, but will come back to life to give life. And as a result of his crown

of thorns and his coming back to life, he will you and all those who are in him, a different kind of people, “royal priesthood and holy nation.” (1 Peter 2)

Yes, his kingdom is on his shoulders, and that is good news. The prophet does not say, “His government is in Jerusalem, in Syria, or the US, or some other place in the world,” but rather, “on his shoulder.” Where he is, there is everything! It is free. It is not bound to any place, time, or person. It is bound to nothing, except to himself alone.

His shoulders are strong and mighty that he bears his government and in that government you will find the Fatherly love that carries you like a shepherd carries a little lamb. He does not get rid of them because of their sins, but rather heals them and helps them. For his kingdom is a kingdom of grace, a kingdom of help, a kingdom of comfort for all poor sinners. This is good news that God speaks to your heart on this Christmas day.

IV. This Christ shall be called Various Powerful names.

For what the King does for you, he is called different powerful names: “Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.” (v.6b)

No, these are not just names, but these names declare his deeds, to the praise of his name.

The first name reveals his nature and how he is going to rule his kingdom, with wisdom and righteousness! Not in the ways of the world, but in God’s way and in the wisdom of his heart.

This name tells us that he stands by us in this life of suffering, death, and as we carry our own crosses, so that we do not falter or be destroyed by them. As we suffer he does speak us his counsel, rich and peace giving. Yes through the Gospel he tells even today “But take heart; I have overcome the world.” (John 16:33c) Through Christ God speaks victory over and for each one of us. “Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. ² In my Father’s house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? ³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also.” (John 14:1-3) These are the word of a Mighty Counselor.

Then we hear he is our “Mighty God,” and if he is our mighty God, then surely his counsel is also mighty. He now, counsels us with the Word of the Gospel, following with his mighty deeds in our lives so that we can believe it and remain and continue in it and in the end also break through to receive the victory. For it is not Christ’s plan that whenever we go through suffering and cross, that we would come out of our trials and sufferings with victory, victory of an evil end.

“Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace,” these news reveal the reward and treasure possessed by those in the kingdom of Christ. This king shall be called “eternal father” because he is always fatherly to us and for us.

All these names are given altogether for our sake and for the sake demonstrating what God’s gift will do for us. Yes God speaks through his Son, through Christ the one who shall be called eternal father in his kingdom because he holds us and makes himself known to us always and always as a father. He draws and invites us as a father does his children.

There is no fear for you know where you’re going and whose wisdom and hands you are now. And on the last day, he will welcome you with open arms. For he

is your prince of peace! Oh, how blessed we will be if we believe this. For it is certainly true! Because he is also our "Prince of Peace."

This name has nothing to do with worldly peace, although he leads us in peace and declares peace makers, but it refers to peace in the conscience before God, peace with God, and because there is peace with God there should be peace with one another. For this peace is brought us so that we regard ourselves as children and we know the eternal father by whom we are safe and sound in grace. We have a sure access to him as to our dear father.

There, we have God communicating with us through Christ who bears several names. Names that portray his government and a wondrous kingdom for you his beloved child.

This is Jesus Christ our Lord, God's Son by nature and Mary's Son according to the flesh. Blessed are all who believe this, for the Scripture does not lie or mislead us.

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In His name, amen.