

Isaiah 9:6

Nativity: When Hope was Born Part 2 Christmas Series 2020

Good morning – Here we are the Sunday before Christmas – hopefully - Shopping is all done.

A) A person in your life that is hard to shop for?

B) What do you buy the person who has everything

1) That was the Dilemma that Carrie Underwood's husband Mike faced this year.

C) He solved that problem by buying Carrie – not one but two things she didn't have – never expect

1) This year for Christmas Mike bought Carrie – 2 Cows

D) Remember that for next year.

I think we have all experienced this on a Christmas

You open a gift – what is it? What is it for ?

A) So the best gift – is something that you really want, really need and can really use

B) I remember one year – My wife – told me I got you the best gift this year! – I was so excited.

1) Christmas day – small box – Ear/nose trimmer
Needed yes – Useful yes – Wanted no

The first Christmas – God gave mankind – what we needed, wanted, and could use - A SAVIOR

A) Our Text once again is Isaiah 9:6 Isaiah is writing to a people – dwelling in darkness - a light would come

“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, Counselor, The Mighty God, The Everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace” (Isaiah 9:6).

A) Approximately 750 years before Jesus was born in Bethlehem – the prophet Isaiah wrote these words

B) I want to Focus today on one line – **the GOVT would be upon his shoulder**

C) Isaiah was prophesying that a Savior/ a redeemer a King was on his way!

However shortly after Isaiah gave this prophecy, **the Assyrians, swooped into Israel and conquered the ten northern tribes.**

A) They were **a Blood thirsty people**, who carried their captives back to Assyria, with extreme cruelty.

B) They led the Jews across the desert **with fishhooks in their mouths.**

C) They would cut off the heads of those who complained and stack the heads in large pyramids

1) to be left in the desert as a warning this is what happens to complainers and rebels.

D) The people of Israel wondered “When would the One come of whom Isaiah wrote?” – **The GOVT would be upon his Shoulders**

About 100 years after the Assyrian aggression, another invasion was launched against Israel.

A) Beginning in 605 B.C., the Babylonians launched a series of attacks against the southern part of the country. – **Judah**

B) These attacks climaxed in the year 586 B.C., when the soldiers of Nebuchadnezzar, led by Sennacherib,

1) marched into the Holy City of Jerusalem, raped the women, tortured the children, and destroyed the temple.

C) Once again the people of Israel were terrified.

1) Their hearts cried for the day when He might come of whom Isaiah spoke: **the Wonderful Counselor, the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace who would carry the government on His shoulders.**

D) But the time was not yet.

The Babylonians were followed by the Greeks.

A) On his deathbed, **Alexander the Great** turned over control of Israel to the Seleucid family.

B) From that dynasty came a man named Antiochus Epiphanes, a picture of the coming anti-Christ.

1) His hatred for the Jews was so great that one day he went into the temple, sacrificed a pig on the altar,

C) He made the priests drink the blood, and

smearing the remainder of the blood on the temple walls.

D) Once again the people of Israel found themselves longing for the coming of Messiah –
1) and the day the govt would be borne upon his shoulders

Well The Greeks were followed by the Romans.

A) When the Romans descended upon that region of the world and beat it into bloody submission,

B) The Romans were cruel oppressors – and the people of Israel must have surely wondered if Messiah would ever come.

C) But then it happened the news went forth that a special baby had been born
1) in the little town of Bethlehem.

D) Shepherds were telling the news of Angelic messengers who announced HIS birth.

1) Telling them - I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. ¹¹ For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

The Shepherds spread the news - ¹⁸ And all those who heard it marveled at those things which were told them by the shepherds. Luke 2:18

A) But everything about the Christmas story was the opposite of what we would naturally expect

B) The place /the people – the announcement – the messengers – everything was backwards

Ever heard of white Elephant gift?

A) Normal Christmas year - lots of Christmas parties
Ugly Sweater party

B) White Elephant gift exchange - our staff

White elephant gift is a gag gift / 2nd or 3rd rate gift/ outcast gift - THIRFT STORE REJECT

A) The Donny & Marie Osmond CD
I love Gavin Newsome face mask

B) The Snoop dog cook book

C) What is interesting about White elephant gifts
1) Usually wrapped up extra nice – Only to reveal – a not so nice Gift

Well God did the Opposite – He sends the greatest gift to man the world has ever received

A) A gift that man needed, wanted and a gift that man could definitely use –

B) His Son to be born as a baby – to be the Savior !

C) The Packaging was Poor- His son was Born in Stable / to two poor peasants

The Symbolism is perfect

A) Stable is a perfect picture of our lives before Christ – Messy & Smelly because of Sin –

B) But when Jesus comes into that messy smelly place it becomes HOLY!

1) Shepherds come and they don't see the mess – they ONLY see the SAVIOR

C) They don't smell the stench- instead they smell the sweetness of God's Grace!

1) Leads them to worship

D) That is what happens when Jesus is allowed into the Stable of our hearts –

1) Become Holy – Fragrance of God's grace

God picks two parents of Humble means

A) Mary and Joseph are two peasants from one of the worst villages in Israel – Nazareth

B) Can anything good come out of Nazareth?

C) God was sending a message – He loves to work through ordinary people to do extraordinary things

D) Even God's Method of PR is out of the ordinary
1) Shepherds – the least trusted guys in Israel

So this baby comes into the world – people in Bethlehem are tripping out

A) Could this be the Messiah we have been waiting for? – **Isaiah wrote – The Govt.... shoulders**

B) But then the story pretty much goes dark for the next 30 yrs

1) Mary and Joseph settle back in Nazareth – Jesus starts to grow up – help in Joseph’s carpenters Shop

C) Becomes known as the Carpenter’s son –

D) Roman oppression grows even more cruel- people are getting more and more weary – Messiah come?

Then it happened one day Jesus put down his hammer and walks out of the carpenters shop

A) Never to return - He begins preaching - teaching

B) The news began to circulate throughout the country about an itinerant Rabbi from Nazareth

1) **whose words were so gracious that the common people hear Him gladly** (Mark 12:37).

The People of Israel began to wonder is He the Wonderful Counselor Isaiah Spoke of

A) The Stories began to circulate throughout the land **“Did you hear what He did? He walked on water**

B) He calls the dead from their graves. He heals those afflicted with leprosy.

1) **Truly, He’s the Mighty God.”**

C) Others might have said, **“Did you see the way He took the little children on His lap, laid His hands on them, and pronounced blessing upon them?**

D) **Truly, He must be the Everlasting Father.”**

Others might have said, “Did you hear that when His disciples were out at sea, struggling against the storm, He was asleep in the hold of the boat?

A) **They woke him up..... Peace be still !!!**

B) The stormy sea in an instant became a sea of glass – wind and waves gone just like that!!!!!!

C) Such peace we’ve never seen, never heard of, never known.

1) **Truly, He must be the Prince of Peace.”**

Time went on and people still wondered.

A) Then, after three years of working miracles, giving wonderful teachings {**Hope was ... all time High**

B) The day came when Jesus made his triumphal entry into Jerusalem

1) He was greeted by the cries of hundreds of thousands of people gathered in the city to celebrate Passover.

C) They waved palm branches and cried, **“Hosanna. Save Now.**

1) **Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.**

D) **This is it – this is the time – he is going to take the Govt upon his shoulders**

1) **And deliver us from our oppressors**

But that is not what happened – as the week went on – the tide turned

A) He was arrested one night – **Mock trial** – he was stripped naked and made to look weak

B) The crowds cried out – We will not have this man rule over us –

1) We will not allow the government to rest upon His shoulders.

C) **Pilate examined him and declared – I find no fault in this man,**

1) but he had Jesus Brutally beaten to pacify the people. But It didn’t work. **Cried - Crucify Him.”**

D) **Beaten – Mocked – Crown of thorns on his head**

1) They took a wooden cross and made him carry it up the Via dolorosa – mt. called Golgotha - Calvary

Now picture Jesus walking down the via Dolorosa

A) He was preceded by a man carrying a sign reading **“King of the Jews”** and by two soldiers in full armor.

B) Two additional soldiers followed Him.

C) **What is on his shoulders? THE CROSS**

D) Although no one realized it at the time- when that wooden Cross beam was placed on Jesus shoulders

1) It was a fulfillment of Isaiah 9:6 –

E) **The Govt was put upon His shoulders – His Govt – His message and way of life of His Kingdom.**

1) Was on display in living color – symbolized by a

cross

The Cross on his shoulders was declaring that Jesus was a King strong enough to bear the weight of all of our burdens

A)The Cross on his Shoulders declared that Jesus was a King mighty enough to take down man's most powerful oppressors

B)Sin/ Satan/ and Death

C)The Cross on his shoulders was a sign that He is the King who was willing to bear all of our sin and shame.

Isaiah would write of this king later in Isaiah 53 – prophesying this moment - The Cross

³ He was despised and rejected— a man of sorrows, acquainted with deepest grief. We turned our backs on him and looked the other way. He was despised, and we did not care. ⁴ Yet it was our weaknesses he carried; it was our sorrows that weighed him down.

And we thought his troubles were a punishment from God, a punishment for his own sins! ⁵ But he was pierced for our rebellion, crushed for our sins.

He was beaten so we could be whole. He was whipped so we could be healed. ⁶ All of us, like sheep, have strayed away. We have left God's paths to follow our own.

Yet the LORD laid on him the sins of us all.

The Cross was the sign that He is the King who was willing to RESCUE people who didn't deserve to be RESCUED

A)He is the King who was willing to take our place so that we could share in his glory.

God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself.... ²¹ For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him. 2 Corinthians 5:19,21

B)Jesus became sin-filled, so that sin-filled people could become sin-free.

C)That day Jesus bore the symbol of his GOVT upon his shoulder

1)His Kingdom – King who served – instead of being served

D)A King who led by love and not force and intimidation

E) A King who would give instead of take

Putting the Gospel accounts together, we get the scene in totality Along the way, Jesus collapsed.

A)Not wanting Jesus to die on the street, but wanting to see Him make it to Calvary where He could be tortured further and crucified,

B)One of the soldiers stopped and rested the point of his spear upon the shoulder of a man named Simon.

1)Simon the Cyrene was now compelled by Roman law to carry the Cross the rest of the way to Calvary.

C)Simon was from Cyrene—**From Northern Africa.**

1)We know he was a proselyte, one who had converted to Judaism.

Simon of Cyrene, desiring as all Jews did, to celebrate at least one of the feasts in the Holy City,

A)So he Saved all of his money and made all of the necessary plans and preparations.

B)At last the day arrived when he crossed the Mediterranean to celebrate Passover in Jerusalem!

1)But when he arrived, he realized it was an unusual festival. Controversy abounded.

C)He watched At the beginning of the week when Jesus rode into Jerusalem and the people cried, "Hosanna."

1)But At the end, the people cried, "Crucify." And Simon didn't know what to make of it.

Lined up along the street with hundreds of thousands of others, Simon watched this Man carrying a Cross to Calvary.

A)On the way, Jesus stumbled right in front of him.

B)Simon then felt the unmistakable sensation of iron pressed upon his shoulder—

1)the spear of a Roman soldier— **Compelling him** to carry the cross.

C)Simon probably wondered, *Why me? Of all the hundreds of thousands of people here, why do I*

have to carry this criminal's cross up the hill?

D)But he had no choice. So he put the Cross on his shoulder.

1)The procession continued on to Calvary and Jesus was crucified—with Simon probably watching and wondering. **What was this all about?**

What happened to Simon?

**A)He became a believer a follower of Christ!
How do I know?**

B)The gospel writer Mark writing his gospel account about 37 yrs after the crucifixion

1)Writing from Rome – Wrote these words

Mark writes, “**And they compelled one Simon a Cyrenian, who passed by, coming out of the country, the father of Alexander and Rufus, to bear his cross**”
Mark 15:21)

**C)Do you see the significance of that statement:
Mark writing 37 yrs later from Rome**

1)identified Simon as the father of Rufus and Alexander—

D)The implication being that Rufus and Alexander were known by name in the Christian community in Rome.

E)Forty or fifty years after that, in Romans 16:13, Paul once again mentions Rufus by name - **Greet Rufus, chosen in the Lord, and his mother**

The implication and significance of this is very meaningful to me.

A)Simon of Cyrene, who carried the Cross that represented the government of Christ—became governed by Christ.

B)He and his whole family – His wife and his two sons – became followers of Christ!

1)They were known intimately by the believers in Rome

C)Jesus is the King who was born to rescue us

1)The King who died – Saved sins – Rose to life

He is the king who lives and wants to bear our burdens

A)The King who invites us who are weary and burdened to come to Him

B)Offers rest to our souls

C)You today - Like Simon – loved and led by Jesus