

Sermon - To Us a Child is Born

Pastor Ed Blonski | December 24, 2022



Merry Christmas!

Of all the times of the year, this is probably my favorite. It has great music, great food, and the Christmas story is unique in all the world's history!

It is a story of incredible love, intrigue, and adventure.

This time of year is when I love the snow! It can go away after New Years' and then be 70 and sunny until next December, thank you very much.

But this year, here in the NW Suburbs of Chicago, we have a "White Christmas."

I pray for a white Christmas every year. As the song goes, "just like the ones I used to know." So, I guess you can blame me for this year!

But for a moment, I'd like us to consider and explore just what Christmas is all about.

Surely there has to be something more than music, food, and snow about Christmas.

Yes, there certainly is.

Christmas Is About

So, let's start with that question.
What is Christmas all about?

Charlie Brown is desperate for the answer to that question.



And Linus gives him the answer, as he recites Luke 2:11.

For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord.

What We Need the Most – Salvation

Christmas is about what we need the most.

I'm not talking about a Play Station 5, a MacBook Pro, or a Tesla Model 3.

I'm also not talking about a new job, a bigger paycheck, or getting into a good college next Fall.

Christmas is about what we need the most – salvation.

What we don't have the power to make on our own

And Christmas happens because we do not have the power to be saved on our own.

Think about it. It's true, isn't it?

You never seem to have any trouble at all getting into trouble.

You have the uncanny ability to say the wrong thing at the wrong time to the wrong people.

It could almost be considered your superpower to be able to disappoint or anger other people.

But saying the right thing at the right time to the right people? That's so much harder!

Doing good, serving selflessly, being a kind person 24/7 – these seem impossible.

That's because they are!

We have no problem at all sinning.

But saving ourselves from our sins – not within our power.

Came to us as a child!

But God loves us and wants us to be saved from our sins, so He sent a Savior.

To us a child is born, to us a Son is given. To save us from our sins.

But here's a question that came to mind this past week.

If Christmas is all about God saving us from our sins, why did He send Jesus as a baby?

Why not just have Jesus appear as a fully grown-up man, go straight to the cross and secure our salvation?

That's what I want to unpack for us today.

Why was Jesus born?

Jesus started as a child because ...

Jesus started out His path of our salvation as a child because ...

Jesus was born – first and foremost – because God loves us.

First and foremost – because God loves us.

I know that sounds like it should go without saying, but I'm going to say it anyway.

God loves you. God loves me.

Christmas is about God's love.

Even though we're sinners who reject God nearly daily, God never rejects us and never stops loving us.

And the love of a child is like no other kind of love.

Jesus was born like every one of us because it fulfills the first prophecy of a savior being an offspring of a woman.

But Jesus was also born like every one of us because His birth fulfills the first prophecy of the Savior in Genesis 3:15.



The promise is that the Savior will be an offspring of the woman. That means that the Savior will be a baby.

Jesus was born because God is in the miracle business and there is, perhaps, no greater miracle than the conception, gestation, and birth of a child.

Here's another one. Jesus was born because God is in the miracle business.

There is, perhaps, no greater miracle than the conception, gestation, and birth of a child!

So, the answer to the question why the Son of God is born is

- God loves us
- It fulfills prophecy
- And there's no greater miracle than childbirth!

Now, let's take a look at Isaiah 9.

It was read just a little while ago, but I want to take us back to it and unpack it. For this is truly the Good News of Christmas.

It is the reason for the season – and it is the reason many of you came to church today!

“For unto us a son is given...”



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 Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

The Son of God. He will be the one in charge (“government on his shoulder”).

The one whose birthday we are celebrating is the Son of God.

The prophecy states that he will be the one in charge of all things, including us and our salvation.

“The government shall be upon his shoulder.”

I realize that our attitude toward the government is probably not all that popular or positive these days.

Has it ever really been?

In 1981, the President said this, "Government is not the solution to our problem, government is the problem."

I suspect that many of you think this is still the case today, and I'm with you on that!

But with Jesus its different.

Because the prophecy isn't talking about temporal and human government.

It is talking about the ultimate authority over the actions, affairs, as well as the performance of certain functions or people.

In other words, God is the ultimate authority of all things since He created and sustains all things.

"The government shall be upon his shoulder."

Then we get into the four "titles" given in this prophecy.

He is our "Wonderful Counselor." (The Holy Spirit)

The first is "Wonderful Counselor." This is the work of Jesus' Holy Spirit in us.

As a counselor, Jesus is there for us to give us comfort and peace no matter what situation we find ourselves in.

As Jesus promised His disciples, so He promises us,

"The Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you."

Things like, "I will always be with you."

"I have come that you may have life abundantly."

"I will give you rest."

"I will come back to take you to heaven."

Wonderful, indeed!

He is our "Mighty God." (The Holy Trinity)

The second is “Mighty God.” Right along with the “government on his shoulders” – God created all things through the Word of His Son and life is given to the living by the Holy Spirit.

This universe exists solely because of God’s power, might, and love.

And Jesus is the Word through which God created all things.

Mighty God, indeed!

He is our “Everlasting Father.” (The Father)

Then there is the third title. This is where it gets a little ironic.

This baby’s birth that we celebrate today, one of his prophetic titles is “Everlasting Father.”

That’s a name that we would normally associate with an adult, and a mature adult at that.

But here’s what the prophecy is getting at: Jesus and the Father are equal. Even though Jesus is starting out as a little baby – just like all of us – he’s going to grow up.

He never becomes a father, himself. Never marries. Never has biological children of his own.

But as he himself says, in talking about His sheep (you and me), “My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father’s hand. I and the Father are one.”

And the everlasting part, that’s a little easier. Jesus is eternal, everlasting.

So, Jesus and the Father are one, therefore it can be said of Jesus that He is the Everlasting Father, indeed!

He is our “Prince of Peace.” (The Son)

That brings us to the last title in the prophecy of Isaiah 9.

Prince of Peace.

This fits Jesus to a tee, don’t you think? After all, this is what the angels announced to the shepherds at His birth!

“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men!”

The peace that Jesus brings is not the peace of the world, as He clearly stated:

“My peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you.”

Obviously, there is little if any peace in the world today.

A cursory glance at history shows this to be true throughout the last 2000 years.

But that isn't the peace Jesus brings!

It is peace between God and man. And only Jesus can bring that kind of peace.

Because it is a peace that can only be had when sins are forgiven!

Sin causes division and conflict between the sinner and God.

Jesus was born to forgive our sin.

Prince of Peace, indeed!

The Good News of Christmas

For to us a child is born!

Jesus came as a baby. And that is good news. It is the good news of Christmas.

But it is also good news that lasts throughout the year!

And not only throughout the year, but it can also last throughout our lifetime!

The birth of Jesus was exactly what we needed.

The birth of Jesus is good news because it is exactly what we needed.

We want a lot of things at Christmas.

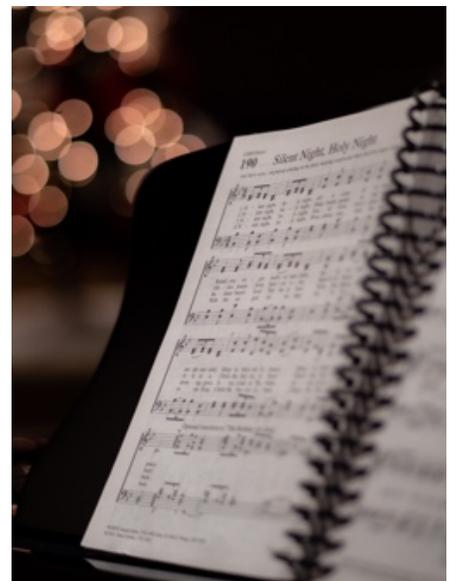
Jesus was born to give us what we all truly needed.

He came for our salvation.

Jesus was born so that we could be saved. He came for our salvation.

It's in some of our beloved songs.

“Mild He lays His glory by, Born that man no more may die”



“When from our sin He set us free, All for to gain our liberty”

“From the bondage that oppressed us, From sin’s fetters that possessed us, From the grief that sore distressed us, We, the captives, now are free.”

“Nails, spear shall pierce Him through, The cross be borne for me, for you.”

He came as a baby, as one of us, save all of us, with a power that none of us had.

Yes, Jesus came to bring us salvation.

He came as a baby. Just like us. He entered this world just as we all enter this world.

And so, He came to us to be one of us.

And Jesus came, even as a baby, with the power that none of us had – to save us all.

To us a child is born.

To save us.

Merry Christmas!