

From the Manger to the Millennium

(Isaiah 9:6)

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Ira D. Sankey was a hymn writer and song leader at many of D. L. Moody's revivals. One Christmas Eve, he was on a steamboat and the other passengers requested that he sing a song. So he sang "The Shepherd's Song." After he did so, a man came up to him and peppered him with questions: Had he served in the Union Army during the Civil War? Was he ever on picket duty at night in 1862?

As the questions got more specific, the man revealed that he'd been a sharpshooter in the Confederate Army. One night he'd seen a Union soldier. When he was just about to shoot him, the soldier's voice had wafted over the air, singing "The Shepherd's Song." The music had touched his soul, and he'd put down his gun. That night on the steamboat, he realized that God had stopped him from shooting Sankey, and he came to faith in Christ.

There are many stories that revolve around the subject of Christmas. But the best story of all is that Jesus Christ was born! As we enter the Christmas season, we should be thankful and forever grateful for Christ's entrance into the world. In this study we want to investigate a specific Bible verse that has been used for the Christmas season. It is often used as a favorite Christmas verse. But as we investigate this Bible verse, we will recognize that it not only speaks of the birth of Christ but also the earthly reign of Jesus Christ. As we study Isaiah 9:6, we are going to take a leap from Christ's manger to the Millennium which is the time when Jesus will rule someday on the earth.

Isaiah 9:6

"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."

Down through the years Isaiah 9:6 has been used as a favorite Christmas verse. Many sermons have been preached at Christmas while quoting Isaiah 9:6. However, this verse not only contains truth regarding Christ's entrance into the world as a baby but also the time when He will reign over the earth as the King. Like

many prophecies, they jump from the birth of Christ to the kingdom of Christ when He will as King over the earth during the Millennium. Some of our Christmas hymns reflect this same jump.

For instance, Isaac Watts “Joy to the world” is perhaps an unlikely popular Christmas hymn because it celebrates Christ’s Second Coming much more than His first coming. And yet we sing it to remember Christ’s entrance into the world as a baby. So, like the Bible prophecies, we often find that the Christmas hymns also jump from Christ’s birth to His kingdom reign over the earth, from Bethlehem to the Millennium.

The Bible does not always talk about the gap of time that exists between the two events of Christ’s first and Second Coming. It paints the broad picture of His entrance into the world as a baby and reentrance into the world as the returning and ruling King. Why is this? It’s because ultimately Christ entered the world to someday rule over the earth as the King. He was born as a King and will one day rule over the earth as the “KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS” (Rev. 19:16).

In this study, we want to focus on Christ’s entrance and reentrance into the world. Both are intricately woven together in the Bible. You cannot have one without the other. Jesus could not be King without His birth. He entered the world the first time so He could enter the world a second time when He returns as the King of Kings and takes rulership over this earth.

Christ was born to someday rule the world. This is what Isaiah 9:6 is teaching. Most have heard that Jesus Christ was born to be our Savior. But how many really think about the fact He was born to be a king. Christ was not only born to die (the salvation story) but born to reign (the kingdom story).

It’s true, Christ was born to someday rule the world. This is illustrated in three ways.

1. In Christ’s arrival

- a. The birth of the child – “unto us a child is born”

This is a reference to Christ’s humanity. Jesus came into the world as a little thing that made a woman cry! We begin with the manger scene in Bethlehem.



The fact that Christ as a child was born into humanity portrays the importance of His earthly existence as a man. Jesus had to become human in order to save the human race and someday reign as the earthly King. Without the humanity of Christ, we do not have Christmas or a King to rule over the earth

someday. Therefore, Christ had to take on human form and become one of us to redeem us and someday to reign over the earth.

Hebrews 2:14

“Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil.”

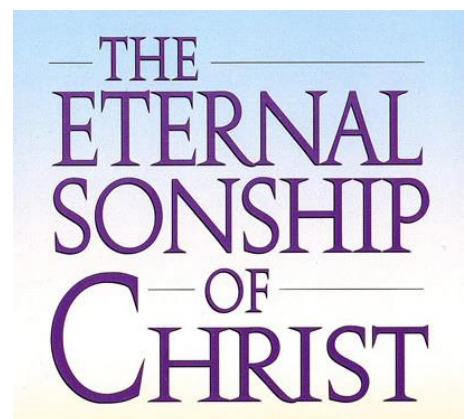
John 1:14

“And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.”

Jesus was the Word (logos) who became flesh (human) to reveal or exegete God to mankind. A child was born! A child had to be born to bring about the story of redemption and Christ’s future reign over the earth.

b. The gift of the Son – “unto us a son is given”

This is a reference to Christ’s deity. Being God’s Son was a designation of deity. Being the Son of God would mean that He was also God. Think about this. God could only have a Son that was of the same substance and being as Himself.



John 3:16

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son (an eternally generated son without a beginning), that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”

In the design of God, each creature begets offspring "after his kind" (Gen. 1:11-12; 21-25). The offspring bear the exact likeness of the parent. The fact that a son is generated by the father guarantees that the son shares the same essence and eternal existence as the father. Therefore, the word “only begotten” (monogenēs) in John 3:16 and the "begetting" mentioned in Psalm 2 actually has nothing to do with Christ’s birth, creation, or beginning but His eternal nature and state within the Godhead. What it is talking about is that Christ is the superior One, the preeminent One, the one and only Son who shares God’s eternal existence. Literally, Christ was a "one of a kind" Son (John 3:16). This word of preeminence and priority clearly signifies that He is of the very same essence as the Father. Christ’s deity is at the very heart of what is meant by the expression "only begotten Son.”

We must allow the Bible to speak for itself. As the Son Jesus was eternally generated, meaning He never had a beginning as the Son, but always existed in the Trinitarian oneness of the Godhead (Col. 2:9) as the Son sharing God’s eternal existence, being, and essence (Heb. 1:3). Even the enemies of Jesus recognized that being God’s Son was an indication of His deity.

John 5:18

“Therefore the Jews sought the more to kill him, because he not only had broken the sabbath, but said also that God was his Father, making himself equal with God.”

You will also notice that the Bible does not teach that a son was born. No! This is because Christ as the Son of God is eternal in His being and existence. In other words, the Bible teaches the eternal existence of the Son as part of the Trinitarian Oneness of God. Therefore, God could only give His Son as a saving gift to the lost human race (“a son was given”).

Galatians 4:4

“But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law.”

1 John 4:14

“And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son to be the Saviour of the world.”

As we have seen, the Son is an indication of Christ deity within the Godhead, possessing the same essence as the Father. This means we should not remove the eternal sonship from Christ for it is an essential part of His deity. But some theologians question whether Jesus was always the eternal Son of God and conclude that He became the Son of God only when He came to earth. But you muddy the waters of the deity of Christ when you reject His eternal sonship with the Father. The Bible clearly teaches that Christ was always the Son from eternity past sharing God’s deity and glory. This is why the Father “sent” the Son into the world. It’s because He existed with the Father, as God the Son, in eternity past.

Clearly implied in all the passages that deal with the Father sending/giving the Son is the fact that He was the Son before He was sent into the world.

In John 17:1 Jesus is talking about the Son being glorified:

“These words spake Jesus, and lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, Father, the hour is come; glorify thy Son, that thy Son also may glorify thee.”

Then, in John 17:5 and John 17:24 the Son is speaking to the Father and is reminding the Father of His love for Him “before the foundation of the world.” This means that Jesus was the Son from eternity past and as the Son He shared God’s existence within the Trinity.

John 17:5 records a dialogue between deity (the eternal Son and eternal Father):

“And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was.”

In John 17:24 Jesus adds:

“Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory, which thou hast given me: for thou lovedst me before the foundation of the world.”

Sonship is not merely a title or role that Christ assumed at some specific point in history, but it is the essential identity of the second Person of the Godhead.

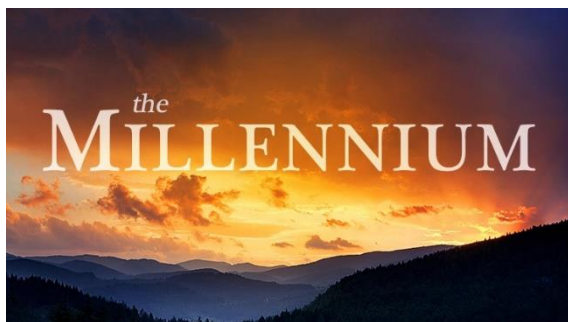
According to this doctrine, Christ is and always has been the Son of God. So, the fact that Christ was God's Son from eternity past indicates that this was the eternal arrangement within the Godhead. His eternal sonship also becomes a very clear indication of Christ's deity within the Godhead.

Pastor Clifford S. Stewart of Louisville, Kentucky, sent his parents a microwave oven one Christmas. Here's how he recalls the experience: "They were excited that now they, too, could be a part of the instant generation. When Dad unpacked the microwave and plugged it in, literally within seconds, the microwave transformed two smiles into frown! Even after reading the directions, they couldn't make it work.

"Two days later, my mother was with a friend and confessed her inability to get the microwave oven even to boil water. 'To get this contraption to work,' she exclaimed, 'I really don't need better directions; I just needed my son to come along with the gift!'" When God gave the gift of salvation, he didn't send a booklet of complicated instructions for us to figure out; he sent his Son - "unto us a Son was given."

2. In Christ's acknowledgment

Isaiah 9:6 goes on to say: "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."



We now jump from the manger to the Millennium. During the coming Millennium or earthly reign of Christ the world will acknowledge who Christ is and what He has accomplished during His kingdom reign. The descriptive names given to Christ are an acknowledgement of Christ's movements during the Millennium and the tremendous blessings He has given to mankind throughout the 1,000 years.

Not having the progressive revelation of the New Testament concerning the Church Age or Rapture, Isaiah leaps from Christmas to the millennial reign of Christ which

paves the way to the eternal state or eternal kingdom. Remember that Christ had to be born so He could someday reign over the earth as the God-King. The prophet Isaiah is certainly conveying this important reason for Christ's birth.

The titles given to Christ in this favorite Christmas verse actually convey how the world will view Christ during the Millennium, during His earthly reign, when "the government shall be upon his shoulder." This is the context and setting for these titles attributed to Christ. The names presented here speak of how the world will view Christ throughout the Millennium and on into eternity. Let's reflect on these nouns and names which describe His personal glories.

➤ Christ is Wonderful.

The Hebrew word for "Wonderful" points to something that is miraculous, marvelous, and outstanding. This title speaks of Christ's character as the coming world ruler. When Jesus rules the world during the Millennium He will be the most spectacular, extraordinary, marvelous, distinguished, and wonderful ruler that earth has ever seen or experienced. Since His name is "Wonderful" there will be nothing dull about His reign!

By way of application, as Christians today, we should also be experiencing His life in ours.

- ✓ Is Christ's personal presence in your heart and life something that is wonderful to you?
- ✓ Have you been experiencing the wonder of His companionship and fellowship?
- ✓ Is His life something that extraordinary and spectacular as you walk close to Him?
- ✓ If not, why not? What is keeping Christ from being wonderful in your life?

"Jesus! What a wonder you are
You are so gentle
So pure and so kind.
You shine, like a morning Star.
Jesus! What a wonder you are."

Is the life of Jesus Christ real to you? We need to be experiencing the wonder of His person and presence in our lives today. We need to practice the presence of God and begin to be lost in the wonder of who Christ is and what He means to us.

Someone once said:

“I want to be so full of Christ that if a mosquito bites me, it flies away singing, there is power in the blood!”

➤ Christ is Counsellor.

As Counselor, Christ has the wisdom to rule justly or in a righteous manner during the Millennium. He will make all the right decisions and set things in perfect order within this sinful world. No stone will be left unturned. People will be treated fairly, and righteousness will be the law of the earth.

Isaiah 32:1 prophetically declares this of Christ’s reign:

“Behold, a king shall reign in righteousness, and princes shall rule in judgment.”

Jeremiah 23:5

“Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will raise unto David a righteous Branch, and a King shall reign and prosper, and shall execute judgment and justice in the earth.”

Christ as the Counsellor knows how to execute His plan of perfect justice throughout the earth. When the Millennium begins everything will change in this world – corrupt government, injustice, lying politicians, drug cartels, prostitution, communism, and all evil agendas which were once part of a sin-cursed world. Evil is going to end when Jesus is the Counsellor in this world. Things which are wrong today will be made right. The wheels of justice seem to turn slowly but eventually justice will come to this earth when Jesus takes the throne and rules as the King.

Zechariah 14:9

“And the LORD shall be king over all the earth: in that day shall there be one LORD, and his name one.”

Today, we as Christians need to have Christ as our Counsellor and guide. In Christ are “hid all the treasure of wisdom and knowledge” (Col. 2:3). Without Him we are

going to make wrong decisions and be overcome by the world, the flesh, and the Devil. Christ is our great Counsellor to guide our lives in the will of God and keep us from moving outside the boundaries of His plan and purpose for our lives. We need His guidance!

Psalm 32:8

“I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go: I will guide thee with mine eye.”

Isaiah 58:11

“And the LORD shall guide thee continually, and satisfy thy soul in drought, and make fat thy bones: and thou shalt be like a watered garden, and like a spring of water, whose waters fail not.”

“Guide me, O Thou great Jehovah,
Pilgrim through this barren land.
I am weak, but Thou art mighty;
Hold me with Thy powerful hand.
Bread of heaven,
Feed me till I want no more;
Bread of heaven,
Feed me till I want no more.”

➤ Christ is the mighty God.

As the Mighty God, who shares God’s eternal existence, He has the power to execute His wise plans and purposes throughout the millennial earth. As the mighty God, Jesus will be the omnipotent and supreme Ruler over the earth. Jesus Christ as the mighty God will set things straight. Nothing will stop His perfect reign over the earth.

But what about us today? As New Testament Christians we have the complete resource of His power indwelling us.

Ephesians 6:10

“Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.”

Timothy 2:1

“Thou therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.”

If you have flopped in your Christian life it's because you have not been applying the strengthening, enabling, and victorious power of His grace in your life. Listen, Christ is the mighty God! Cannot He meet your needs? Cannot He change your life? Cannot He make something good out of your life? Indeed, He can! And He will if you avail yourself to His indwelling life and power.

“What a mighty God we serve.
What a mighty God we serve.
Angels bow before Him.
Heaven and earth adore Him.
What a mighty God we serve.”

➤ Christ is the everlasting Father.

This description of Christ has puzzled many over the years. We know that Christ is the Son in the Trinitarian Godhead – not the Father. He is a different person in spite of what the Oneness Pentecostals teach who reject the doctrine of Trinity. “Everlasting Father” does not suggest that the Son is also the Father since each Person in the Godhead is distinct.

Among the Jews, the word “father” was used as a Jewish idiom or unique expression that means “originator” or “source.” Therefore, the rendering “Everlasting Father” more appropriately emphasizes God's eternal being and also how He is the source or father of everything that exists which includes creation, both spiritual and physical blessings, and life itself. Christ is given this title for He too is the eternal God who is father or source of everything.

As the “father” He is the sovereign originator of all things (Isa. 45:7) and as “everlasting” He is eternal which means He is the eternal Creator of the universe and time itself.

John 1:3 states this about Christ:

“All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.”

Colossians 1:16 declares:

“For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him.”

In other words, Christ as the everlasting God is the “father” (source) of everything that exists. Just as an earthly father is the source or provider for the family, so Jesus Christ, as the eternal (everlasting) God and Father, is the source and Creator of everything that exists in the universe, including time and the dispensational ages, which will be evidenced during His millennial reign. During the Millennium (the 1,000 years), mankind will universally recognize that Christ is the source of all the blessings that will be experienced over the earth – righteousness, equity, peace, prosperity, and long life.

Today, we must remember in our Christians lives that Jesus Christ is the father or source of all our blessings that we already have and those which will come into our lives in the future.

Ephesians 1:3 speaks of the spiritual blessings we have in Christ:

“Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly *places* in Christ.”

Acts 17:25-28 reminds of the physical blessings we have through Christ:

“Neither is worshipped with men's hands, as though he needed any thing, seeing he giveth to all life, and breath, and all things; And hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation; That they should seek the Lord, if haply they might feel after him, and find him, though he be not far from every one of us: For in him we live, and move, and have our being; as certain also of your own poets have said, For we are also his offspring.”

Yes, Jesus is the father or source of all our blessings!

"Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost!"

➤ Christ is the Prince of Peace.

The Millennium cannot come to earth until Christ as the Prince of Peace returns to earth in His Second Coming and establishes universal peace on the earth. The postmillennial theory says that the Church will bring in the Kingdom by creating peace on earth and then King Jesus will return. I always ask those who embrace Dominion Theology how they are doing taking back the world for Christ. Anyone who embraces this theory is not honestly listening to what God's Word teaches.

Isaiah 2:4 declares:

"And he (*Christ – the King*) shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people: and they shall beat their swords into plowshares (*farming implements*): and their spears into pruninghooks (*kitchen utensils*), nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more."

The Personnel Journal reported this incredible statistic: since the beginning of recorded history, the entire world has been at peace less than eight percent of the time! In its study, the periodical discovered that of 3530 years of recorded history, only 286 years saw peace. Moreover, in excess of 8000 peace treaties were made-and broken.

There is coming a time when peace will be established over the earth. It's a peace that will last 1,000 years. It's clear that Jesus will bring in the earthly kingdom and bring peace to this earth. In the coming kingdom age, Jesus as God will be the "father" (source) of the peace and tranquility that will be experienced on earth throughout the age of the Kingdom (Psalm 46:6-10). The Millennium will be a wonderful time on earth for there will be peace worldwide. There will be no more wars, uprisings, or fear of being held captive by evil dictators and communists. All will be peace. King Jesus will make sure that peace is implemented. Jesus will be the "Prince of Peace" or the peace-giving Ruler who brings peace to a troubled world. When He rules planet earth with a rod of iron during this special age of peace.

Revelation 19:15

“And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.”

In Isaiah 9:6 Jesus Christ is seen as:

- ❖ The Eternal God (“everlasting”);
- ❖ The Creator God (“father”) – the source of everything;
- ❖ The Ruler God (“Prince of Peace”).

Mankind is searching for peace, but this old world will never find it until Christ’s returns as the Prince of Peace in His Second Coming to establish the Millennium.

Of course, for us as Christians, Christ wants to be our Prince of Peace today. He wants to give us peace through our trials, tests, and tough times that we face in life.

In John 14:27 Jesus taught:

“Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.”

“I rest beneath the Almighty's shade,
My griefs expire, my troubles cease;
Thou, Lord, on whom my soul is stayed,
Wilt keep me still in perfect peace.”

3. In Christ’s advancement

Christ’s advancement occurs when He is ruling as King during the Millennium (the 1,000-year reign over the earth). Once again, Isaiah the prophet leaps from Christ’s birth to the Kingdom Age when Messiah will reign in righteousness and with a rod of iron from David’s throne in Jerusalem. Luke’s record of the birth of Christ also takes a gigantic leap from His birth to His rulership on the earth someday.

Isaiah is known as the millennial prophet. He speaks of the age of the Millennium more than any other prophet. Various phrases reveal the Millennial reign of Christ over the earth. The Bible teaches that “the government shall be upon his shoulder”

(Isa. 9:6). This means the government won't be centered in Washington any longer but in Jerusalem where King Jesus rules over the earth as the undisputed ruler of righteousness.

It means woke democrats and bureaucrats will no longer rule on the earth during the Millennium. They will be dethroned and "wokism" will be a thing of the past. There will be no gay or same-sex marriage during the Millennium. The nuclear family will not be attacked by Leftist ideologues. Prayers will be put back in the schools and the earth will be God-centered (a theocracy) – not Satan-centered (a Satanocracy).

Christmas decorations are back in the Illinois Capitol Rotunda for the holiday season. But the Satanic Temple's also showcased a satanic display at the Capitol Rotunda on Monday. This organization spoke about being proud of its religion. "More importantly being comfortable with being who we are as ourselves no matter who we are we all come from diverse backgrounds and many of us are ostracized just for being ourselves being a satanist is declaring yeah we are and we are happy about who we are," said Minister Adam, co-congregation head of the Satanic Temple of Illinois.

This is the third year they have put up a display. The display can be found in the capitol rotunda building next to other Christmas displays. Friend, you can be sure that there will be no Satanic showcases displayed during the Millennium. Do you know why? It's because Satan will be locked in the pit (Rev. 20:1) and all worship will be directed to Jesus Christ.

Isaiah 11:9

"They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea."

During the kingdom days on earth, the entire earth is going to know who Jesus Christ is and worship will be directed to Him alone. Satan and Satanism will be kicked out and Christ alone will be worshipped.

Isaiah 9:7 is an extension of the favorite Christmas verse and further explains Christ's earthly rule: "Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, Upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, To order it, and to

establish it with judgment and with justice From henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.”

Christ’s government will be a theocracy – a time when God rules! As we have already mentioned, Christ’s rule will also be a time of universal peace. It will also be a time of perfect justice, righteousness, and judgment upon those who rebel for Jesus will reign “with judgment and with justice.”

Isaiah 11:4–5 prophetically anticipates Christ running the earth with justice and judgment: “But with righteousness shall he judge the poor, And reprove with equity for the meek of the earth: And he shall smite the earth with the rod of his mouth, And with the breath of his lips shall he slay the wicked. And righteousness shall be the girdle of his loins, And faithfulness the girdle of his reins.”

This means there will be no drag queens, child abusers, transvestites, homosexuals, bisexuals, pansexuals or any sexuals pushing their agenda during the Millennium for Jesus will rule the earth “with judgment and with justice” (Isa. 9:7). He will set things straight and maintain order throughout the 1,000 years and then into the eternal state and kingdom. You can be sure that the zeal of Jehovah will establish the Millennium and eternal reign of Christ over the earth. He will get it done! “The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this” (Isa. 9:7).

Millennium in Old Testament

The 1,000 years (Rev. 20:1-6) is part of the Old Testament promise of an eternal reign.

Isaiah and Daniel did not have the knowledge and timing of the 1,000 years so both the Millennium and eternal Kingdom were merged together in the prophecies.

The Millennium is the intermediate period of time when Christ takes back the theocracy and rules with a rod of iron (1 Cor. 15:24–28).

Without knowing the time element of 1,000 years (Rev. 20:1-7), Isaiah envisioned the Millennium where judgment and justice will be meted out on all attempts of evil (Isa. 65:20). But he also prophesied of the Millennium merging into the eternal state and kingdom of Christ which would last forever. “Upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, To order

it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice From henceforth even for ever” (Isaiah 9:7).

Luke 1:32–33 also declares:

“And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS (the birth of Jesus). He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David (the kingship of Jesus). And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end” (the kingdom of Jesus).

The Bible teaches that the Millennium (1,000 years) merges into God’s eternal kingdom and the eternal state. Those who reject the literal reign of Jesus Christ on the throne of David in Jerusalem are abandoning the literal, historical, and prophetic teaching of the Bible. God had promised David that his dynasty and throne would be established forever.



2 Samuel 7:16 reveals the Davidic Covenant:

“And thine house and thy kingdom shall be established for ever before thee: thy throne shall be established for ever.”

This is what Luke 1:32-33 is teaching and Isaiah 9:6. David’s covenant promise will be ultimately fulfilled when Jesus (the greater David) reigns from Jerusalem (Isa. 11:1–5; Jer. 23:5–8; 30:8–10). Christ’s kingdom is called the Millennium which means “one thousand years.”

Revelation 20:4

“And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received *his* mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.”

The Greek word "chilioi" speaks of a Millennium (1,000 years). In fact, the phrase 1,000 years is used six times in Revelation 20. You must be wearing reformed bifocals to miss what John is saying in the book of Revelation. There will be one thousand years which gives way to the eternal reign of Christ. We must take these Scriptures literally. Isaiah, the prophets, and the book of Revelation all looked ahead to the Millennium when Christ will rule and put down all rebel authority against God. They also looked beyond the Millennium into the eternal state or Christ's eternal kingdom.

As previously mentioned, few people realize that the hymn "Joy to the World" was not necessarily written to be a Christmas hymn even though it's in the top three of the favorite Christmas hymns of all time. In fact, some suggest it is a miscast hymn. This is because it actually looks ahead to Christ's Second Coming and the establishment of His Kingdom (the Millennium). Yes, Jesus was born as the King but in his first coming He did not bring in the Kingdom. This is still future. Joy to the world is primarily looking ahead to the Second Coming of Christ.

Listen to the words of this hymn and see if you understand what I mean.

"Joy to the world, the Lord is come. Let earth receive her King."

Did the whole earth receive Jesus as King in his first coming? No way! This will only happen during the Millennium.

"Joy to the world, the Savior reigns. Let men their songs employ, while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains, repeat the sounding joy. No more let sin and sorrow grow, nor thorns infest the ground. He comes to make his blessing flow, far as the curse is found."

Has this happened? No! Not yet! This will only happen during the Millennium.

"He rules the world with truth and grace."

Is this occurring today? No! This can only occur during the Millennium when the wicked are no longer in charge of this world.

"And makes the nations prove the glories of His righteousness and the wonders of His love."

Today the nations are not promoting the glories of Christ's righteousness, but they will someday when He rules the earth. None of these things are occurring today. Only during the Millennium which comes after the Second Coming of Christ will the words "Joy to the World" really be fulfilled. Only during the earthly Kingdom (the 1,000 years) will we be able to sing these words with real meaning in our heart.

Of course, we can sing this hymn today believing that Christ was born as the King and look ahead to the time when the King will rule over the earth. Yes, joy to the world the Lord is come to save sinners, but He will one day return in the future to establish His earthly theocracy as the King. This is what Isaiah 9:6 is teaching. Jesus was born to rule the earth.

A better day is coming. A wonderful Golden Age is coming to earth. Jesus was born not only to save sinners (Luke 2:11) but to someday reign over the earth. Christ was born a king (Matt. 2:2) and will one day rule the earth as the King.

Isaiah 9:6 takes us from the manger to the Millennium:

"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."

"A King is born this day in Bethlehem
No crown is worn but angels worship Him.
Almighty God, so meek, so mild
Salvation comes through this holy Child.
A King is born (He is in the manger now)
A King is born (humbly come and humbly bow)
The tiny boy (reaching out a tiny hand)
A King is born this day in Bethlehem."