

# Thought for the Day

Monday December 23, 2024

## Today's Scripture:

**For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders, and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Great will be his authority, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.**

~ Isaiah 9: 6-7

## Thoughts on Today's Verse(s):

Today's verses from Isaiah are a Christmas standard but, have you ever really taken the time to comprehend what he was getting at in his prophecy of the birth of Christ?

What was the prophet talking about with "government" and "resting upon His shoulders"?

Yes, it is truly glorifying to God and His Son Jesus Christ our Lord that we refer to Him as "Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace". Christ's glory as even an unborn child in His Mother Mary's womb is unmistakable and perfect so, to bring Him honor with such regal names is most appropriate. But what's this stuff about "government"? Although one could argue that Jesus is still one of the most, if not *the* most, controversial political figures the world has ever seen, it is clear that He was not about governing the day-to-day affairs of Israel or any other earthly nation. Jesus was/is about being the "ruler", the royal and regal monarch of His kingdom, not the worldly nations.

Thus, when Isaiah speaks of "government" he's actually referring to Christ's *authority*. Even before He was born into the world, our Lord and Savior was given *all* authority over Heaven and Earth. He even told us so (Matthew 28:18). Jesus is/was/and always will be The King of All Creation.

And here's an interesting sign of that authority: the weight of that authority/government resting on His shoulders can be thought of in *the cross*. Jesus was forced to carry His own instrument of death to Calvary. And it was at Golgotha that Jesus earned the right to claim all authority in Heaven and Earth. Jesus took the punishment you and I deserve that we might live with Him forever as our King in His never-ending kingdom. Christ's cross is His royal scepter and He rules with mercy, grace and truth. If that doesn't qualify Him to be our royal and regal Regent King then I don't know what does.

## Prayer:

**O Lord God, Heavenly King, thank You for inspiring Isaiah to offer such profound prophecy in anticipation of our Lord and Savior, Your Son Jesus. In Your great love, You sent Him to us to be our Royal Ruler and King and we pause to acknowledge His authority today. We owe Him our worship and praise; we owe Him our very lives in His eternal kingdom. May the truths of Isaiah sink deeply into our hearts, especially as we prepare to celebrate Christmas, that we may be edified and sanctified in the true meaning of why Jesus Came and that we may be ready and prepared for His return. We pray under His authority as Royal and Regal King, Amen.**