A CHRISTMAS SERIES "A CLOSER LOOK AT THE MESSIAH" PART TWO "THE PROPHECIES OF THE MESSIAH" ISAIAH 9:1-7

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<u>INTRO:</u> In our last study on "A CLOSER LOOK AT THE MESSIAH" we noted the NEED FOR THE MESSIAH and were reminded that the FALL OF THE HUMAN RACE INTO SIN and the INABILITY FOR A PERSON TO SAVE HIMSELF presents the real need for the Messiah. In our present study we are going to consider THE PROPHECIES OF THE MESSIAH as each MESSIANIC PROPHECY presents a significant aspect of the life and ministry of our Messiah, Jesus Christ.

SOME FACTS ABOUT MESSIANIC PROPHECY:

- 1) There are at least 450 prophecies of the Messiah in the OT of which 355 have been fulfilled literally. Those not yet fulfilled relate to Christ's second coming and will yet be fulfilled. Mathematically speaking the odds of anyone fulfilling this amount of prophecies are staggering:
- -The possibility for one person to fulfill 8 prophecies would be ONE in 16 QUADRILLION. (The number 1 followed by 16 0's!).
 - -The possibility for one person to fulfill 48 prophecies would be ONE in 10 to the 157th power.
- -The possibility for one person to fulfill all 355 prophecies completely WOULD TAKE JESUS CHRIST...AND IT DID!
- 2) The Life and Ministry of the Messiah, Jesus Christ, has a strong prophetic theme.
 - -Revelation 19:10 says, "THE TESTIMONY OF JESUS IS THE SPIRIT OF PROPHECY."
 - -Luke 24:27 indicates that all the teaching of Moses and the OT Prophets concern Christ.
 - -John 5:39 indicates that the scriptures, including the prophetic ones, all speak of Christ.
 - -Acts 10:43 teaches that the message of the prophets gave witness of Christ.

NOTE: For our study today it would be impossible to consider all 355 prophecies of the first coming of the Messiah into the world. So, I have searched for ONE PROPHECY that I believe summarizes ALL OF THE PROPHECIES about the Messiah's ministry, including His second coming into the world. It is Isaiah 9:6,7. Examining that particular prophecy we can easily say that putting all prophecies of the Messiah into one statement would render: "THE FATHER SENT THE SON TO BE THE SAVIOR OF THE WORLD." THAT SAYS IT ALL!

THE TELL-ALL PROPHECY OF THE MESSIAH ISAIAH 9:6,7

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THE CONTEXTUAL BACKGROUND OF ISAIAH 9:

When Assyria conquered the Northern Kingdom of Israel (Ephraim), the nation was NEVER restored, but became what we know as Samaria. After the Babylonian Captivity of the Southern Kingdom of Israel (Judah) the nation was given another chance to establish themselves in the land through which the Messiah came into the world. HAD THE REMNANT NOT RETURNED FROM BABYLONIA TO JUDAH THERE WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN A MESSIAH! PRAISE THE LORD FOR THE RETURN OF THE REMNANT!

THE MEANING OF ISAIAH 9:1,2:

At the beginning of Isaiah 9, Isaiah continued the theme of LIGHT AND DARKNESS of the previous chapter (8:20-22) by announcing "THE DIMNESS SHALL NOT BE SUCH AS WAS IN HER VEXATION." He was saying that even though there was spiritual darkness in Judah, the Messiah will come and give light and there will be no more darkness (vs. 2). Matthew 4:13-15 confirms this prophecy. When the Assyrians moved in, the geographical areas mentioned in these verses were particularly devastated. But these same areas would be especially honored by Christ during His earthly ministry. Most of His ministry was around those regions. Jesus was identified with "GALILEE OF THE GENTILES."

I. THE PROPHECY OF THE MESSIAH'S BIRTH

"FOR UNTO US A CHILD IS BORN, UNTO US A SON IS GIVEN."

QUESTION: WHY IS "CHILD" AND "SON" BOTH MENTIONED?

A. A Child is Born: This speaks of the INCARNATION of the MESSIAH through the VIRGIN MARY. Cp. Mt. 1:23 and Acts 4:27.30. The Messiah is Mary's HOLY CHILD.

B. A Son is Given: This speaks of the ETERNAL DEITY AND SONSHIP of the Messiah. Cp. John 3:16; Hebrews 1:8; 13:8

NOTE: In Jewish Culture the SON was a position of certain significance. To show the significance of Jesus Christ, a Jew, note the following:

- 1. Jesus is called the "Son of David" and the "Son of Abraham.
 - -Matthew 1:1
- 2. Jesus is called the "Beloved Son of God"
 - -Matthew 3:17

THE POINT: By using both "CHILD" and "SON" the scripture prophecies the perfect union of the GOD/MAN in Jesus Christ. Cp. John 1:1-3, 14.

ILLUSTRATION:

II. THE PROPHECY OF THE MESSIAH'S DOMINION

"THE GOVERNMENT SHALL BE UPON HIS SHOULDER."

NOTE: This prophecies the Messiah's Responsibility of Leading the Millennial Government.

- A. The Messiah will rule with a "Rod of Iron" -Revelation 19:15
- B. The Messiah will rule with Righteousness -Isaiah 11:4,5

ILLUSTRATION:

III. THE PROPHECY OF THE MESSIAH'S NAMES

REPRESENT BOTH THE NAMES AND TITLES OF THE MESSIAH

- A. The Messiah will be Wonderful
 - 1. As being "WONDERFUL the Messiah will do nothing dull."
 - -Dr. J. Vernon McGee
 - 2. "WONDERFUL" describes all of the Messiah's work and ministry.
 - a. His Teachings
 - b. His Healings
 - c. His Sacrifice on the Cross
 - d. His Resurrection
 - e. His Intercession
 - f. His Second Coming
- B. The Messiah will be Counselor
 - 1. As being "COUNSELOR" the Messiah will have the wisdom to rule justly.
 - 2. The Messiah will never ask for Counsel Romans 11:34
 - 3. The Messiah will always give Counsel 1 Corinthians 1:30
- C. The Messiah will be The Mighty God
- 1. As being "THE MIGHTY GOD" the Messiah has the power to exercise His wise plans and no one will prevent Him from doing so.
 - 2. The Messiah is the OMNIPOTENT GOD Matthew 28:18

(That little boy lying helpless on Mary's bosom held the universe together)

- D. The Messiah will be the Everlasting Father
- 1. As being "THE EVERLASTING FATHER" the Messiah is the "Father of Eternity" meaning the "originator" and "source" of all things.
 - 2. The Messiah created all things John 1:3
 - 3. The Messiah cares for His people Isaiah 40:11
 - E. The Messiah will be the Prince of Peace.
 - 1. As being the "PRINCE OF PEACE" the Messiah will bring peace to the entire world.
 - 2. The Messiah will establish peace to all Luke 2:14; Isaiah 2:4

ILLUSTRATION:

IV. THE PROPHECY OF THE MESSIAH'S THRONE

"THRONE OF DAVID

NOTE: The Messiah will be the Rightful Heir of King David's Throne

- A. Thus Fulfilling the Davidic Covenant that He would always have a King on the Throne from his lineage 2 Samuel 7:12-16
 - B. The reign of the Messiah on David's Throne will be exceptional
 - -Luke 1:32,33

ILLUSTRATION:

V. THE PROPHECY OF THE MESSIAH'S CERTAINTY

"THE ZEAL OF THE LORD OF HOSTS WILL PERFORM IT."

- A. The Plan of God established the role of the Messiah.
- B. The Power of God will guarantee the role of the Messiah.

ILLUSTRATION:

LESSON/APPLICATION:

- 1. All of the prophecies of the Messiah given and fulfilled prove that Jesus the Messiah is all that He said He is.
- 2. All of the prophecies of the Messiah given show HOW GREAT Jesus the Messiah is that compels us to worship Him in Spirit and Truth.
- 3. All of the prophecies of the Messiah given remind us of the significance of the INCARNATION, without which there would be no Messiah.

"O COME LET US ADORE HIM, CHRIST THE LORD."