

Everlasting Father

Message 3 of 4 in the series: "What a Wonderful Name!"

A. 700 years before Jesus was born, the OT prophets Isaiah and Micah foretold the coming of the Messiah.

Messiah = Christ = "anointed one" = a mighty king like King David, empowered by the Holy Spirit, but far superior to David because His kingdom will be everlasting.

"For a child is born to us, a son is given to us. The government will rest on his shoulders. And he will be called: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, **Everlasting Father**, Prince of Peace. **His government and its peace will never end.** He will rule with fairness and justice from the throne of his ancestor David **for all eternity**. The passionate commitment of the Lord of Heaven's Armies will make this happen!"

Isaiah 9:6-7 (NLT)

"But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, *though* you are little among the thousands of Judah, *yet* out of you shall come forth to Me **the One to be Ruler in Israel, whose goings forth are from of old, from everlasting.**"

Micah 5:2 (NKJV)

Note: We can be confident that Jesus is the Messiah and that His kingdom will be everlasting because even death can't stop Him. "Always remember that Jesus Christ, a descendant of King David, was raised from the dead. This is the Good News I preach." 2 Timothy 2:8 (NLT)

Good News! Through faith in Christ Jesus, we can have victory over death, too!

"And now he has made all of this plain to us by the appearing of Christ Jesus, our Savior. He broke the power of death and illuminated the way to life and immortality through the Good News."

2 Timothy 1:10 (NLT)

B. Micah's prophecy told us the Messiah would be born in Bethlehem.

"After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, 'Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.' When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. 'In Bethlehem in Judea,' they replied, 'for this is what the prophet has written: "But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel."' Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. He sent them to Bethlehem and said, 'Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him.' After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were overjoyed." Matthew 2:1-10 (NIV)

Note: Even at His birth, people were divided over Jesus. "On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route. When they had gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. 'Get up,' he said, 'take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod is going to search for the child to kill him.' So he got up, took the child and his mother during the night and left for Egypt, where he stayed until the death of Herod... When Herod realized that he had been outwitted by the Magi, he was furious, and he gave orders to kill all the boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity who were two years old and under, in accordance with the time he had learned from the Magi." Matthew 2:11-16 (NIV)

Life Application: We shouldn't be surprised that the name of Jesus is still controversial.

"Then Simeon blessed them, and he said to Mary, the baby's mother, 'This child is destined to cause many in Israel to fall, and many others to rise. He has been sent as a sign from God, but many will oppose him. As a result, **the deepest thoughts of many hearts will be revealed.** And a sword will pierce your very soul.'" Luke 2:34-35 (NLT)

C. Isaiah's prophecy told us the Messiah would be our "Everlasting Father".

Note: The names given to the Messiah were titles that described His character and what He came to do.

1. Throughout the Bible, God is described as our Heavenly Father.

“He revealed his character to Moses and his deeds to the people of Israel. The Lord is compassionate and merciful, slow to get angry and filled with unending love. He will not constantly accuse us, nor remain angry forever. He does not punish us for all our sins; he does not deal harshly with us, as we deserve. For his unending love toward those who fear him is as great as the height of the heavens above the earth. He has removed our sins as far from us as the east is from the west. **The Lord is like a father to his children**, tender and compassionate to those who fear him. For he knows how weak we are; he remembers we are only dust.” Psalm 103:7-14 (NLT)

2. Jesus the Messiah was able to reveal God’s fatherly character to us because He is God in the flesh.

“The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.” John 1:14 (NIV)

“The Son is the radiance of God’s glory and the exact representation of his being...” Hebrews 1:3a (NIV)

Note: The Bible teaches that there is one God who has always existed as three co-equal persons - The Father, The Son, and The Holy Spirit. The theological term for one God in three persons is “the Trinity”.

“...I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me. If you had really known me, you would know who my Father is. From now on, you do know him and have seen him!” Philip said, ‘Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.’ Jesus replied, ‘Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and yet you still don’t know who I am? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father! So why are you asking me to show him to you? Don’t you believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words I speak are not my own, but my Father who lives in me does his work through me. **Just believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me.** Or at least believe because of the work you have seen me do.” John 14:6-11 (NLT)

Note: God’s triune nature is impossible for us to fully grasp intellectually. We must accept it by faith. “My thoughts are nothing like your thoughts,’ says the Lord. ‘And my ways are far beyond anything you could imagine. For just as the heavens are higher than the earth, so my ways are higher than your ways and my thoughts higher than your thoughts.” Isaiah 55:8-9 (NLT)

3. It matters that Jesus is the “Everlasting Father” because this means His forgiveness, love, care, protection, provision, etc. for us will never end.

“And be sure of this: **I am with you always**, even to the end of the age.” Matthew 28:20b (NLT)

“There is more than enough room in my Father’s home. If this were not so, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you? When everything is ready, **I will come and get you, so that you will always be with me where I am.**” John 14:2-3 (NLT)

JOHN SCHMIDT • 12-17-23 • john@centeringlives.com

Quotations to Consider:

“Though he was God, he did not think of equality with God as something to cling to. Instead, he gave up his divine privileges; he took the humble position of a slave and was born as a human being. When he appeared in human form, he humbled himself in obedience to God and died a criminal’s death on a cross. Therefore, God elevated him to the place of highest honor and gave him the name above all other names, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue declare that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.” Philippians 2:6-11 (NLT)

“The Christmas message is that there is hope for a ruined humanity--hope of pardon, hope of peace with God, hope of glory--because at the Father’s will, Jesus became poor and was born in a stable so that thirty years later He might hang on a cross.” J.I. Packer

“He was created of a mother whom He created. He was carried by hands that He formed. He cried in the manger in wordless infancy, He the Word, without whom all human eloquence is mute.” Augustine

“The Magi traveled thousands of miles to see the king of the Jews. When they finally found him, they responded with joy, worship, and gifts. This is so different from the approach people often take today. We expect God to come looking for us, to explain himself, prove who he is, and give *us* gifts. But those who are wise still seek and worship Jesus today, not for what they can get, but for who he is.”

Life Application Study Bible note on Matthew 2:1-2

“Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God, Almighty! Early in the morning, our songs shall rise to thee. Holy, Holy, Holy! Merciful and mighty, God, in three persons, blessed Trinity!” Reginald Heber (1826)

“Bring me a worm that can comprehend a man, and then I will show you a man that can comprehend the Triune God.” John Wesley