CHRISTMAS SERIES
"THE ULTIMATE CHARACTER OF JESUS CHRIST'
ISAIAH 9:6,7
PART ONE

INTRO: We are very fast approaching the time of year when we remember in a very unique way the INCARNATION OF GOD INTO THE WORLD IN THE PERSON OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST. Even though we can be reasonably sure that December 25th is probably NOT the actual date of the BIRTH OF JESUS, we do know that CHRIST WAS BORN and that ***THIS TIME OF THE YEAR*** does afford us the opportunity to share ***WHO CHRIST IS*** with others in a unique way and to WORSHIP HIM FOR WHO HE TRULY IS. However, in order to proclaim Him effectively and to worship Him properly, we may need to be reminded personally of THE ULTIMATE CHARACTER HE POSSESSES. In doing so from the biblical perspective, we will no doubt grow in our APPRECIATION FOR CHRIST, HAVE A GREATER DESIRE TO SERVE CHRIST, MORE EFFECTIVELY WORSHIP CHRIST, AND HAVE A STRONGER MOTIVATION TO WITNESS FOR CHRIST all to His HONOR AND GLORY! One verse of scripture that clearly presents to us FIVE OF THE ULTIMATE QUALITIES OF JESUS CHRIST IS ISAIAH 9:6, which we will begin to study today. I trust that our study will give us a GREATER APPRECIATION AND UNDERSTANDING OF WHO CHRIST IS as we approach the time when we celebrate His birth.

BACKGROUND OF THE TEXT:
1) The Prophet Isaiah speaks more of Christ prophetically than any other O.T. Prophet. No other prophet gives such a clear picture of Christ as Isaiah.
2) Chapters 7-14 of Isaiah speak much of the birth, the life, the ministry, the person, the power, the judgement, the kingdom, the personal history, the mission, the titles of and the characteristics of Christ that every believer would do well to study.
3) Any serious follower of Christ will want to study the Book of Isaiah, that was written between 760 and 698 BC, so as to learn more about our Savior.
4) A complete study of Isaiah makes one wonder how and why the Jewish people rejected Christ when He appeared in the scene. It was obviously a SATANIC INFLUENCE AND A DEMONIC SPIRITUAL BLINDNESS that caused Israel to reject Christ as the Messiah.

A NOTE ON VERSE 9:
1) Christ is spoken of as a "CHILD" being born – A reference to His birth to the Virgin Mary – Luke 2:5
2) Christ is spoken of as a "SON" being given – A reference to Him being the Son of God – John 3:16

I. THE ULTIMATE QUALITY OF CHRIST – VS. 6a
HIS NAME SHALL BE CALLED ***"WONDERFUL"*** - To be EXCEPTIONAL AND DISTINGUISHED." This is clearly seen in the revelation of His Life.

A. As Seen in His Lowly Birth – Philippians 2:5-7
1. He was in the "FORM OF GOD" – Vs. 6
-The word "FORM" means "THE SUM TOTAL OF" – *ALL THAT GOD IS WAS REVEALED IN JESUS CHRIST.* Cp. John 1:1-3;14; 16-18.
2. He took upon Him "FORM OF A SERVANT AND MADE IN THE LIKENESS OF MEN." – Vs. 7
-The Lord Jesus at His birth became THE SUM TOTAL AND THE COMPLETE EXACTNESS OF A HUMAN SERVANT. Cp. Matthew 20:28; Hebrews 4:15

B. As Seen in His Obedient Death – Philippians 2:8
NOTE: Jesus Obeyed the Father all the way from Heaven to Earth, to the Manger to the Cross and to the Ultimate Degree – 1 Peter 2:24
1. "HIS *OWN SELF,* BARE OUR SINS IN HIS *OWN BODY"* - The word "BARE" was used for a priest carrying a sacrifice to the altar. ***JESUS CHRIST CARRIED ALL OF OUR SIN TO HIS CROSS***
-2 Corinthians 5:21
2. "WE BEING DEAD TO SINS" – Through faith in Christ, ***WE HAVE VICTORY OVER OUR SINS – Romans 6:2,13 (POSITION/PRACTICE)***

3. "SHOULD LIVE UNTO RIGHTEOUSNESS" -Through faith in Christ, ***WE ARE MADE RIGHTEOUS AND CAN LIVE RIGHTEOUSLY***

-ROMANS 10:10; 1 CORINTHIANS 1:30

4. "BY WHOSE STRIPES YE ARE HEALED" -Through the work of Christ on the Cross, ***WE HAVE COMPLETE SPIRITUAL HEALING***

-ISAIAH 53:4,5

C. As Seen in His Divine Glorification – Philippians 2:9-11

1. Glorified with an Exalted Name – Vss. 9,10
   a. The Result of His Personal Prayer – John 17:5
   b. The Result of His Resurrection, Ascension, and Glorification
      -Acts 2:32,33; Hebrews 1:3
2. Glorified with a Universal Confession- Vs. 11
   -Daniel 7:17

II. THE ULTIMATE WISDOM OF CHRIST – VS. 6b

HIS NAME SHALL BE CALLED ***"COUNSELLOR"*** - To "ADVISE AND GUIDE."

A. The Lord Jesus Never Needed or Needs Counsel
B. The Lord Jesus Always Gives Counsel (As the ultimate teacher)
   1. He Taught as a Child in the Temple – Luke 2:47
   2. He Taught during His Life – Matthew 13:54
   3. He Teaches by the Holy Spirit – John 16:7-13
   4. He will Teach in the Kingdom – Isaiah 2:1-3

LESSON AND APPLICATION:

Since God the Father has highly exalted Christ because of Who Christ is, (Phil.2:9), WE SHOULD DO THE SAME AS WELL IN OUR LIVES DAILY!