

The Attackers: Longfellow's Despair, "There is no peace on earth"; True Peace Is a Soul Asset; Political Peace Only Possible in the Millennium, Isa 9:6-7; Isaiah's Honorific Titles for Jesus Christ: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, v. 6

1. For Wordsworth, the "Wrong" was the South and the "Right" was the North. The war's end did not result in peace on earth and good-will to men.
2. However, the sentiment that "God is not dead; nor doth He sleep" is obviously true. He is eternal life and is not inattentive to the affairs of men.
3. He has seen the wrong of human sin and made provision for its defeat on the invisible battlefield of the human soul.
4. He has provided the Person and work of His Son as man's substitutionary sacrifice so that whosoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.
5. The "wrong" of human sin pails under the Light of salvation through Christ who is the ultimate Right.
6. Longfellow speaks the truth when he, in despair, concluded that "There is no peace on earth." Nor shall there be until the Lord makes it so at the Second Advent.
7. Until then hate will remain strong and will continue to mock the song of "peace on earth, good-will to men."
8. For those who have believed in Christ for salvation, their peace is with God. Each believer has been reconciled to Him and knows the peace that passes all understanding.
9. This peace is permanent and unaffected by the hatred and mockery of the devil's world because no matter the extent of political, economic, or social upheaval that constantly defines our fallen planet, the believer remains above the fray by utilizing the ten biblical problem-solving devices inside the divine power system.
10. In due time, the prophecy of Isaiah will become reality and usher in the perfect environment of the Lord's millennial kingdom.

Isaiah 9:6 - A Child will be born [true humanity] to us [Israel], a Son will be given [grace provision] to us; and the government [millennial] will rest on His shoulders [monarchy]; and His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace.

v. 7 - There will be no end to the increase of His government or of peace, on the throne of David and over His kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness from then on and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of the armies will accomplish this.

- (1) Isaiah provides through prophecy a dossier of the Messiah. He will be born as a gift to Israel.
- (2) The government of the millennial kingdom will be administered by Him alone symbolized by His uniform of glory.

- (3) He is given titles that express some of the functions of His divine and human essences as Ruler of Israel.
 - (4) His kingdom will be defined by its perpetual prosperity and world peace.
 - (5) He will fulfill the Davidic Covenant by ruling Israel from David's throne.
 - (6) He will bring about perfect order and maintain it by means of His personal integrity.
 - (7) His kingdom will endure throughout the Millennium and then throughout all eternity.
 - (8) The integrity, immutability, and veracity of God will bring these things about.
11. The phrase "the government will rest on His shoulders" is an idiom for absolute rulership. It speaks of the robe of authority of a king. As King of kings, Jesus will be dressed in His Uniform of Glory.
12. He will be recognized by four honorific titles:
- (1) **Wonderful Counselor:** The word "wonderful" is פְּלֵאָה (*pele'*) which deals with extraordinary phenomena, transcending the power of human knowledge and imagination and applies to superhuman forces and powers."¹
 Counselor is the noun יָעֵץ (*ya'as*). In light of Isaiah's usage elsewhere it may well mean "he who is planning something wonderful."² "The child who is to come ... is one whose plans, purposes, designs, and decrees for his people are marvelous. We further learn from 11:2 that 'counsel' is a gift of God's own Holy Spirit. Consequently, Jesus Christ is revealed as the counselor *par excellence*."³
 - (2) **Mighty God:** The word "mighty" is the Hebrew גִּבּוֹר (*gibbor*) and it refers to divine omnipotence. Messiah will be able to accomplish what no other person had been able to do.
 - (3) **Everlasting Father:** "Everlasting" in the Hebrew is the word עֶד (*'ath*) and it refers to eternity therefore the divine attribute of eternal life possessed by the Trinity. The word "Father" is the very first word in the Hebrew dictionary, the noun אָב (*'av*) referring to God.
 The question arises as to why Messiah is assigned the title of "Father"? There is a good bit of commentary on this but the best explanation is provided by this excerpt:

¹ J. Conrad, "פְּלֵאָה," in *Theological Dictionary of the Old Testament*, eds. G. Johannes Botterweck, Helmer Ringgren, and Heinz-Josef Fabry, trans. David E. Green (Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 2001), 11:534; 535.

² Al Wolters, "יָעֵץ," in *New International Dictionary of Old Testament Theology & Exegesis*, gen. ed. Willem A. VanGemeren (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1997), 2:491.

³ Paul R. Gilchrist, "יָעֵץ (*ya'as*)," in *Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament*, R. Laird Harris, Gleason L. Archer, and Bruce K. Waltke (Chicago: Moody Publishers, 1980), 391.

Many people are puzzled by this title because the Messiah, God's Son, is distinguished in the Trinity from God the Father. How can the Son be the Father? Several things must be noted in this regard. First, the Messiah, being the second person of the Trinity, is in His essence, God. Therefore He has all the attributes of God including eternity. Since God is One (even though He exists in three Persons), the Messiah is God. Second, the title "Everlasting Father" is an idiom used to describe the Messiah's relationship to time, not His relationship to the other Members of the Trinity. He is said to be everlasting, just as God (the Father) is called "the Ancient of Days" (Dan. 7:9). The Messiah will be a "fatherly" Ruler. Third, perhaps Isaiah had in mind the promise to David (2 Sam. 7:16) about the "foreverness" of the kingdom which God promised would come through David's line. The Messiah, a Descendant of David, will fulfill this promise for which the nation had been waiting.⁴

⁴ John A. Martin, "Isaiah," in *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: Old Testament*, eds. John F. Walvoord and Roy B. Zuck (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1985), 1053.