

## “Jesus – Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Prince of Peace”

### Isaiah 8:22–9:6

1. If you think our year has been bleak: The historical background of this passage is that Assyria (≈ Boko Haram, Hitler) has conquered much of the Northern kingdom of Israel. Terror all round! Yet Isaiah sees that God’s salvation will also include the North. That’s the wonder of God’s interference.
2. Isaiah’s words have a wider meaning; they are a mixture of the near (vs 4-5) and the far (vs 2, 6). Yet he uses the perfect tense (2, 3, 6).  
No earthly king can live up to these promises (not even Hezekiah or Josiah).  
So we recognise here the Messiah, the expected Saviour, Jesus.
3. The use of the words ‘born’ and ‘son’ (vs 6) make this prophecy a real Advent promise.  
Four great titles: Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.  
No wonder the Jews struggled to recognise Jesus when he came – in a stable!
4. Isaiah uses the perfect tense. We look back to what God did. It happened already, so no-one can cancel Christmas. Already in Advent we have certainty; like every year, we Christians have a relevant message.
5. Peace = Hebrew **Shalom** = harmony, calm, restoration, joy, well-being, completeness.
  - Jesus is the best **Counsellor** a government can have – Jesus for president!  
And let’s always remember that God came himself, in person. Jesus is not a substitute.
6. The full outworking of these promises is still outstanding even for us – but we are involved in the realisation: in bringing peace and giving wise counsel.  
We could not bring the breakthrough, but we take part in the outworking.  
Jesus did come to give abundant life – and we can share it.  
Christmas is not cancelled!