



Jesus our Hope:

Reflections of Hope
By Rev. R.D. Quema

It has been a very eventful and historic year for the Philippines, the United States and the world. More than ever there is an air of uncertainty and discontent that has mobilized movements for change. Yet in spite of all these changes, we are no where near any assurance that things have changed for the better. Where is our hope?

This Christmas is a time to remember that our hope is in the person of Jesus Christ. He is the Reason for the Season!

Is 9:6 NIV

“For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.”

In Christ we see portrayed, through the inspired writing of Isaiah, four portraits of Christ that remind us of the Purpose of God’s Love. Four words that describe why we ought to receive and accept God’s love in Christ.

PLAN: Wonderful Counselor

The first word is PLAN. Isaiah describes Jesus as “Wonderful Counselor”. Which gives us the picture that this child born in a manger is no mere child but that He is the man with a plan! Your plans are only as good as the counsel you get. And in so far as your eternal destiny is concerned, who has the better plan than the one who has existed from eternity!

Even as so-called Christians, how quickly we forget that God, who created us, and Jesus, who lived on earth as we do, tempted in every way, has the better plan for our lives!

Isaiah continues to describe Jesus’s counsel:

Is 11:1–3 NIV

“A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit.

[2] The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him— the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of power, the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD— [3] and he will delight in the fear of the LORD.”

God is through Christ offering you a PLAN that is based on His love for you! Christ has the answer to all our questions! He understands you and He knows you. But not only does He have the plan, He also has the POWER to accomplish it.

POWER: Mighty God

The second word is POWER. He is the Wonderful Counselor, he is the Mighty God! There are a lot of people who can suggest to you a good plan, but they can’t deliver on the power to achieve those plans. This Messiah, says the prophet is the Mighty God!

This is a clear reference to the Deity of Christ and a clear indication that through Christ, God is able to empower those who put their faith and trust in Him!

It’s so important for us to remind ourselves that this baby whom we celebrate is no mere human nor just any deeply spiritually gifted or anointed human but God Himself who came in the flesh so that in Christ, the fullness of God’s power rests without limit!

That’s what John proclaims in his Gospel:

John 1:1–4 NIV

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. [2] He was with God in the beginning.

[3] Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. [4] In him was life, and that life was the light of men.”

It is such a frustration to see many who wear the label “Christian” but do not believe in the Christ who has the best plan for their lives and the power to achieve it! But we don’t need to live that way! When you put your faith in Christ and trust Him to plan your life - you can also find courage in the fact that He will provide you with the power to be faithful in obeying that plan!

- You don’t need to be a slave to sin
- You don’t need to live “under the circumstances”
- You don’t need to submit to the influences of the society in which you live

CHRISTMAS 2016



Jesus is the MIGHTY GOD!

PATERNITY: Everlasting Father

The third word is Paternity (I use the word only to stay with the “P”). Jesus is described as the Everlasting Father. I must say immediately that this is not to be misunderstood as a reference to God the Father, but rather that in Jesus we have the personification of the Messiah who treats his people as a father would his children in that the Messiah will always love those whom He saves. The reference to everlasting is best rendered a “Father Forever”. You could probably translate this in today’s idiom as “BFF” which in our case would mean, Best Father Forever.

This picture of the Messiah is seen also in the Psalms:

Psalm 103:13 NIV

“As a father has compassion on his children, so the LORD has compassion on those who fear him;”

We know that in the gospel of John, Jesus refers to his followers as his children. What a Messiah we have in Jesus! HE has a plan for you, he has the power to accomplish it, and he loves you as a Father would forever!

PEACE: Prince of Peace

And the final word is PEACE. Jesus is the Prince of Peace. The cry of the world, the cry of each heart has always been peace. But where do we find peace? The Messiah, through his death and resurrection is the only one who could bring peace to each heart and each soul whose peace is absent because of the sin that has enslaved us.

When Zechariah’s tongue was finally loosed, he prophesied regarding his son John the Baptist and the Messiah whom his son was sent to prepare the way for:

Luke 1:67–79 NIV

“His father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied:
[68] “Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel, because he

has come and has redeemed his people.

[69] He has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David

[70] (as he said through his holy prophets of long ago), [71] salvation from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us— [72] to show mercy to our fathers and to remember his holy covenant, [73] the oath he swore to our father Abraham: [74] to rescue us from the hand of our enemies, and to enable us to serve him without fear [75] in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.

[76] And you, my child, will be called a prophet of the Most High; for you will go on before the Lord to prepare the way for him, [77] to give his people the knowledge of salvation through the forgiveness of their sins, [78] because of the tender mercy of our God, by which the rising sun will come to us from heaven [79] to shine on those living in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the path of peace.”

- God had promised to bless us
- To rescue us
- To enable us to serve Him without fear
- To bring us to the source of all Peace

Jesus Christ! Jesus said,

John 14:27 NIV

“Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.”

This is God’s offer to you in Christ. He has a plan for you, He has the power to make it happen, He will be with you forever as a Father, and you can have, in Christ, the Peace that only He can give.

May the light of Christ’s love be yours this holiday season! Let us Celebrate Jesus!

John 8:12 NIV

“When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said,
“I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.””