



MAYFAIRKIDS

JESUS IS THE PRINCE OF PEACE



"WHO IS JESUS?" FAMILY DEVOTIONAL GUIDE - Week 22, January 7

JESUS IS THE PRINCE OF PEACE

"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."

ISAIAH 9:6



ong before Jesus's birth, God sent out an announcement through the prophet Isaiah. This birth announcement didn't tell how many pounds or how many inches he was, but it did describe him in other ways. This is what Isaiah said: "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" (9:6).

Not many babies get four names! Especially not four important names, and names used for God himself!

Isaiah is telling us without a doubt that this baby is God, come to live among his people. God the King was sending down his Son, the Prince of Peace. This was a royal announcement!

Many years later an angel visited a young woman named Mary, giving her surprising news. "You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end" (Luke 1:31-33).

Until this moment, Mary had no clue she was going to be a mother, much less a mother of a prince. Mary wasn't a queen, and she didn't live in a castle. She wasn't even wealthy! She must have wondered how she would raise the son of the King of kings. But Mary trusted God with the details. "I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May your word to me be fulfilled" (Luke 1:38).

Nothing went as Mary, or you, or I would have expected. The baby came while Mary and Joseph were traveling, and the only place they had to lay him down was in a manger, a feedbox for animals. Their surroundings were probably dirty and smelly. Instead of royal robes, this little prince was simply wrapped in strips of cloth.

But this was just how God had planned it, and he was taking care of the royal details. On a hillside nearby, some ordinary shepherds were about to get the most spectacular birth announcement ever delivered. An angel appeared to them, saying, "Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord" (Luke 2:11)!

Then suddenly with the angel appeared an entire army of angels, praising God together saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth *peace* to those on whom his favor rests" (Luke 2:14, emphasis mine).

The shepherds ran off and found Mary, Joseph, and

little baby Jesus, who was right in the manger where the angel told them he would be. The shepherds couldn't contain their excitement.

Sometime later, wise men came from the east, following an unusual star. They knew that this star meant the king of the Jews had been born, and they set out to find him.

When the star led them to the right house, they were so happy! They saw Mary and Jesus, and they bowed down and worshiped the little king. Then they gave him gold, frankincense, and myrrh—valuable treasures fit for royalty.

Whether or not they realized it, Jesus was their king too! Jesus is king of the whole universe, and yet he came as a baby, entering our filthy, sinful world to bring us peace with God. He would be buried in a tomb, wrapped with strips of cloth and sweet-smelling myrrh. Then he would rise again with victory to sit on his forever throne as forever king, bringing everlasting peace to the earth. The Prince of Peace had arrived!



REFLECT

1. The shepherds and wise men weren't quiet about their joy in seeing Jesus. Matthew 2:10 (ESV) says the wise men "rejoiced exceedingly with great joy," and the shepherds wanted to spread the word about him. Are you rejoicing exceedingly with great joy over the Prince of Peace? Are you spreading the word?
2. Reflect on Isaiah 9:6-7. How do you think his government and peace will continue to increase?
3. How are we filled with the peace of God? See Romans 15:13.

BIBLE REFERENCE MATTHEW 2:1-12; LUKE 2:1-20

KEY VERSE ISAIAH 9:6