

121518 Isaiah 9:6b "I've Got This"

Perfect Resolution Sermon Series

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"I've got this." Imagine LeBron James standing in the huddle, as the Lakers talk over their final play, down by 1 point with 5 seconds left in the game.

"I've got this." Imagine a young father, in the middle of the night, saying those words to his exhausted wife, as their little baby wakes up crying for the seventeenth time.

"I've got this." Words that convey confidence, reassurance, and support.

"I've got this." That's the essence of what the Lord God Almighty was saying to his people of old in the words of our sermon text. We've been looking this month in our sermons at the wonderful promise God shared with his people in Isaiah, chapter 9. God sends a message through his prophet Isaiah at a horrendous, terrifying time in their history. "I've got this," he bolsters them. "I'll take care of this situation. All you have to do is trust me. Believe me. Keep the faith, because I've got this."

The people back then needed this precise message. And so do we. Because, just like them, we think we know best. We trust our own instincts. We rely on ourselves, and we don't trust God as fully, as confidently, as completely, as we should. And then life surprises us, or crushes us, or scares us. And we're left lost, adrift, perplexed.

All the while God is saying to us, promising us, "I've got this."

Let's dig a little deeper in our beautiful prophecy from Isaiah 9. Remember, Isaiah was speaking to the people of Judah. Their weak little kingdom was about to be swallowed up by the fierce, mighty Babylonians. And it was their own fault. Their kings had rejected God, for the most part, and the

people had followed their rulers' lead. The people of Judah were unfaithful to God over and over again.

Isaiah the prophet confronts their sin. He prophesies of their punishment to come, well-deserved punishment. But then, in chapter 9, Isaiah offers the perfect, exact, ideal resolution to their problems. "Stop relying on yourselves," God tells them. "I've got this."

Let's review quickly God's promise, from Isaiah 9, the parts we've covered so far in our series.

Verse 2: God talks about the **light** of his goodness and love, shining again on the darkness of the nation's evil and wickedness. God isn't giving up on them quite yet; but promises that a new day is going to dawn.

Verse 3: Despite the destruction and doom that was quickly coming upon them, God speaks of the **restoration** of the nation. He promises they're going to bounce back, and know his joy again.

Verses 4-5: Here God tells Judah that one day **peace** shall reign, warfare will end, all conflict will cease.

And, then, incredibly, the first part of verse 6. All of this will take place when a **child** will be born, when a son is given. God promises that a baby boy will be the one to make all of this come true! And we know, of course, that it was Jesus that Isaiah was pointing to and foretelling here.

Now, tonight, we look the rest of verse 6. Read it with me, please. "And his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."

These lofty titles make it crystal clear that the one who's coming to bring God's light, God's restoration, and God's peace is not just some average, typical human kid. This baby is special! He's divine! He can do all this -- he can fulfill

these awesome, wonderful promises – because he is divine! The coming Messiah is God himself, saying, “I’ve got this! I’m coming to save you!”

Isaiah shares four names, divine titles, that describe the being and character of Jesus Christ.

First, “Wonderful Counselor.” In the original Hebrew, the better translation of that first word is “Wonder.” The coming Messiah isn’t just a wonderful dude. He is himself a Wonder, through and through. The root word used here is the same word used over and over in the Old Testament to describe the Exodus miracles God performed: the parting of the Red Sea, the leading through the wilderness by a pillar of cloud and fire, the splitting of the rock and the gushing out of water. These mighty, divine miracles are called wonders. And the child to be born, the Savior Isaiah is promising God’s people – his name shall be called Wonder.

“Wonderful Counselor,” he’s called. This Messiah will have wisdom such as no mere man possesses. He’ll render decisions, and make judgments, as only God can. This first name of the Christ Child, Wonderful Counselor, clearly points to Jesus as divine.

And they all do. “Mighty God.” Mighty enough to save everyone who puts their trust in him.

“Everlasting Father.” Only God is everlasting, and the Child to be born will eternally share with his people tenderness, love, and comfort – like a father does.

“Prince of Peace.” Not just a temporary cease-fire between warring nations. The Savior God is providing will bring about an eternal peace. Because he will remove the cause of war, namely, human sin. The Messiah will bring about peace between sinful humans and their holy God. And only God himself can do that.

These four beautiful, precious names all point us to Jesus, who came not just a human baby, but as a divine Savior – God himself coming to provide what we really need.

You know, there are plenty of churches out there that will tell you over and over what you have to do to be saved, what you have to decide or choose. And all the while, our God is saying to you, “I’ve got this. I’ve got your salvation, in Christ. I’ve got your forgiveness, through Christ.” I hope you’ve heard that message here in this church over and over. Believe in Christ, because he is God, and he’s got this.

Here it again right now. God says to you tonight, “No matter what you’re going through, no matter how dark your days may be, no matter how uncertain your health or your finances or your family may be. I’ve got this. Trust me,” God says. “I sent my Son to save you from sin, to shine my light on your life, to restore you to my family, to bring you eternal peace.”

So, in these days of Advent, keep the faith. Trust your God, and remain faithful in every circumstance. As you get ready to celebrate Christmas this year, remember, it was God’s own Son born – God coming for you. The miracle of Christmas is God saying to you, “I’ve got this. I’ve got you.” Amen.