



**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

The name

Do you know what your name means? In some cultures, the meaning of a person's name is the most important factor. It seems like more parents are giving their kids names that are unique, edgy, or trendy. Do you think names matter?

Before God sent his Son into the world, he gave hints as to what this child would be like. We call these promises, or even prophecies. The people who lived before Christ had limited knowledge. They didn't know all the details of Christmas and Jesus' life and death as we do. But God didn't hold back when he shared the names of Jesus, because these names would say a lot about who he is and what he would do.

He is *Wonderful*, filling our minds and hearts with awe over his love. Not only will people think he is a wonderful person, but his work is wonderful as well.

He is the ultimate *Counselor* who hears our cries and knows our pain. Though a child, he has no need for counselors. He already has a plan for our salvation.

He is *Mighty God* with unparalleled power and unmatched strength. The point is clear: When you struggle, God will comfort you with all his might.

He is *Everlasting Father* who provides and protects us beyond this life and into eternity. Not only does he possess the eternal gene, but as a faithful and wise father, he will share eternity with his children. God sent his Son to work out the plan for our eternal good.

He is the *Prince of Peace*. That's not just a name. "He himself is our peace" (Ephesians 2:14). He removes anything that has robbed us of peace. He calms our fears about sin, death, and where we stand with God because he is our Savior.

What's in a name? With Jesus . . . everything!

Prayer: Dear Savior, draw me in to every detail of your names so that I find your grace for me. Amen.