

UNTO US – CHRISTMAS EVE

INTRODUCTION

Isaiah 9:6 ESV

For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given;
and the government shall be upon his shoulder,
and his name shall be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

THE BURDEN OF RULE

“the government shall be upon his shoulder”

“princely rule has been set on his shoulders”

The coming of the Saviour would result in his shouldering the rule of all the world. - *the increase of his government then will be no end*

Imagine the anticipation of that baby being born!

Earlier in this passage we see that the Saviour's shouldering the burden of government ends his people shouldering the burden of oppression.

THE BURDEN OF OPPRESSION

The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness,
on them has light shone.
You have multiplied the nation;
you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you
as with joy at the harvest,
as they are glad when they divide the spoil.
For the yoke of his burden,
and the staff for his shoulder,
the rod of his oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.

The people were shouldering the burden of oppression – yoke.

The people were shouldering the burden of punishment – staff.

The people were shouldering the burden of enslavement – rod.

But the Saviour's shouldering of the burden of rule is the Saviour's smashing of the burden of oppression.

How would this play out? This was a prophecy; what would fulfillment look like.

The Saviour saving his people from the burden of oppression required a spiritual deliverance before it would entail a physical-political

this is
 deliverance, because our greatest oppressor is sin. The burden of oppression is the burden of sin.

How would the Saviour save his people from the burden of oppression under sin?

THE BURDEN OF FLESH

For his people to ^{be released from} ~~unlead~~ the burden of sin ^{the Saviour} ~~He~~ would shoulder the burden of flesh.

"For to us a child is born" *at His*

Luke 2:1-7 ESV

¹ In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. ² This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³ And all went to be registered, each to his own town. ⁴ And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, ⁵ to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. ⁶ And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. ⁷ And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

This was no ordinary birth. This was the birth of God who became a man

John 1:1-5, 14 ESV

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made. ⁴ In him was life, and the life was the light of

men. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

¹⁴And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

It was necessary that God become man that man might no longer shoulder the burden of sin and might return to God.

be free to

The incarnation—God the Son taking on the burden of flesh—was the beginning of the end of sin's oppression of God's people and a precursor to him ruling and reigning over the entire cosmos. But it was only the beginning because Jesus shouldering the burden of flesh prepared him to shoulder the burden of the cross.

THE BURDEN OF THE CROSS

Philippians 2:5-8 ESV

⁵Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, ⁶who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. ⁸And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

The child who was born would become a son who was given.

John 3:16 ESV "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

Romans 8:32 ESV He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?

This is the anticipation of Christmas morning. This is the joy to the world and the holiness of that night. A Saviour would be born as a child. And this child would save his people from their life long oppression to sin in which they were shouldering a burden too great for them; a burden resulting in eternal punishment and enslavement.

What child is this? This is the child on whose shoulders would rest the government of the world. He will shoulder that burden because he has already shouldered the burden of flesh that he might shoulder the burden of the cross. He was born as a child that he might be given as a Son. Given as a sacrifice for the oppression of sin that all those who turn from their sin and trust in Him might have their sins forgiven, might have reconciliation with God, and might have life everlasting.