

inherit these things, and I will be their God and they will be my children.

Just as any father will do all he can for the benefit of his children, so he who is the **Everlasting Father** has done and continues to do all that is needful for us.

## CONCLUSION

*The claim that Christianity makes for Christmas is that at a particular time and place God came to be with us Himself. When Quirinius was governor of Syria, in a town called Bethlehem, a child was born who, beyond the power of anyone to account for, was the high and lofty One made low and helpless. The One who inhabits eternity comes to dwell in time. The One whom none can look upon and live is delivered in a stable under the soft, indifferent gaze of cattle. The Father of all mercies puts Himself at our mercy. (Frederick Buechner)*

He is the **Everlasting Father**.

## NAMES OF THE MESSIAH

### 3. EVERLASTING FATHER

Isaiah 9:2-7

## INTRODUCTION

*A father thought his son was spending too much time playing computer games. In an effort to motivate the boy into focusing more attention on his schoolwork, the father said to his son, "When Abe Lincoln was your age, he was studying books by the light of the fireplace." The son pointed out, "When Lincoln was your age, he was President of the United States."*

The prophet has said, **a child has been born for us, a son given to us.** Now he says, **He is named ... Everlasting Father.** Speaking of this child, Isaiah is giving hope that one day there will be a very different king from the worthless Ahaz who is now king in Jerusalem. A king who will truly be a father to his people. He will be the protector of his people and care for them in the way God cares for his people. When the prophecy is extended to speak of the Messiah, the same is true. Although he will be born a child, he will be the **Everlasting Father**.

## WHAT HE IS

*Isa 57:15*<sup>15</sup> For thus says the high and lofty one who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy: I dwell in the high and holy place, and also with those who are contrite and humble in spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite.

I was once asked, *Who made God? or Where did God come from?* It is difficult to answer a child when he asks these questions but the only answer is that God is eternal. God has always been there and always will be there. He really is the **Everlasting Father**. But what about Jesus? The emphasis at Christmas is on the human Jesus – the baby in the manger. Do not forget that the story is full of the glory of heaven and angel messengers who will not appear again until Easter morning and Christ's resurrection.

*A little boy was told about his new baby sister. He was not impressed. At school the following day, his teacher remarked, "I hear you have a new member of your family." "Oh, yeah," he replied. "What's the matter?" his teacher asked. "Aren't you happy to have a new sister?" He answered, "I suppose so. But there were a lot of things we needed more."*

The world needed more than just a baby. Christians struggled to say who Jesus is. Even within the church there were those who could not or would not accept that Christ is eternal and co-equal with God the Father. There were those who wanted to say that Christ was in some

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way less than fully God. But that will not do. Those who deny full deity to Christ deny that he is the **Everlasting Father**.

The Nicene Creed says Jesus is: God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God. In the Christmas carol we sing:

God of God,  
Light of Light,  
Lo! he abhors not the Virgin's womb:  
Very God,  
Begotten, not created;

O come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord

When Isaiah prophesied that the Messiah would be **Everlasting Father** he was saying that the One to come is eternal.

**HE IS PRE-EXISTENT** If Christ is eternal, this goes without saying. There are a number of passages and stories in OT where a heavenly being appears who clearly bears some relation to God. Sometimes he is described as an angel or the Angel of the Lord, but he speaks as God. In the story of Daniel's three friends being thrown into the fiery furnace by Nebuchadnezzar. The king was astonished.

*Dan 3:24 - 25* <sup>24</sup> ...He said to his counselors, "Was it not three men that we threw bound into the fire? <sup>25</sup> ... "But I see four men unbound, walking in the middle of the fire, and they are not hurt; and the fourth has the appearance of a god."

When the Pharisees were criticizing Jesus for what he was doing and saying, Jesus told them that Abraham rejoiced at what he was doing. Abraham had lived thousands of years before. How could Jesus have seen Abraham? Jesus said, **Before Abraham was, I am**. The clearest statement of Christ's pre-existence is at the beginning of John's Gospel. John calls Christ the **Word** and says he was with God in the beginning, he was God and was the agent of creation. Then comes the climax: **The Word became flesh and lived among us**.

No wonder he is called **Everlasting Father**. He is eternal.

### WHAT HE IS CALLED

*A newspaper ad read: "Lost—one dog. Brown hair with several bald spots. Right leg broken due to auto accident. Left hip hurt. Right eye missing. Left ear bitten off in a dog fight. Answers to the name 'Lucky.'"*

Name is very important. It is you. It identifies you. When God called Moses to be the one to lead the Israelites out of slavery in Egypt, Moses asked God to tell him his name. God revealed his name to be I AM. This name shows who God is. He is self-existent and not dependent on anyone or anything else. It is the name of the Creator. God made everything and sustains everything. He never changes and he is eternal.

The name assured Moses that God would be with him and always with him. In another time of difficulty, Isaiah had given the sign **Emmanuel** – God with us. That sign also pointed down through the ages to the coming of the Messiah. When the Messiah comes it will mean that God is with us. The Divine Name was so special that it was never pronounced. Instead the word **LORD** was used. This same word is used in NT of Christ – the Lord Jesus, the Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus also speaks of himself as I AM. When the disciples were afraid in a storm on the lake and Jesus came to them walking on the water, he said, **I am, do not be afraid**. By calling him **Everlasting Father**, he is giving further assurance of the protecting presence of God with and for his people.

*A group of children were talking about their fathers. One child said, "My daddy is a doctor and he makes a lot of money and we have a swimming pool." The next one said, "My daddy is a lawyer and he flies to Washington and talks to the president. The third child boasted, "My daddy owns a company and we have our own airplane." Then said quietly, "My daddy is here!" with a proud look in his direction. Children regard the public presence of their parents as a visible symbol of caring and connectedness.*

**Everlasting Father** speaks of reliability, safety, security.

### WHAT HE DOES

As they were travelling through Samaria, they came to the town of Sychar. Jesus waited by Jacob's well while his disciples went into town to buy food. A Samaritan woman came to the well to draw water. Jesus asked her for a drink. The woman was amazed that a Jew would ask her – a Samaritan and a woman – for a drink. Jesus turned the conversation to tell her that if she knew who he was she would be asking him for a drink and he would give her **living water**. Living water can mean running water or spring water as opposed to water from a cistern. In OT living water is a symbol of the cleansing spiritual life that flows from knowing God. Jesus said, **The water that I will give will become a spring of water gushing up to eternal life**. Eternal life is not only about immortality or a future life in heaven but is about living now in the unending presence of God. Through what Jesus has done on the cross, eternal life is available for all who believe. It is that living water, the Holy Spirit dwelling in the believer. This is among the final promises and assurance that come from the throne.

*Rev 21:5 – 7* <sup>5</sup>And the one who was seated on the throne said, "See, I am making all things new. ... "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life. <sup>7</sup>Those who conquer will