

Isaiah 9:1-7, Psalm 89:26-29 | "For to Us a Child is Born: Eternal Father"

**BIG IDEA:** As eternal Father, Jesus provides for, cares for us, and protects us.

## 1) INTRO

- Having children and coming up with names
  - Joe King, Harry Chin, Christian Guy, Eileen Wright, Lois Price, Helen Back
- Been focusing on some of the names of Jesus this month
  - Today looking at the name of Everlasting/Eternal Father
- For some of us, the name/term/person who's "father" in our lives is a great blessing
  - I'm blessed with a great father and a great father-in-law
  - But, that's not true for all – wasn't true for my dad
  - Some have had absent fathers
- Further, fatherless children in North America make up for:
  - 63% of youth suicides
  - 90% of all runaway youth
  - 85% of all children w/ behavioral disorders
  - 71% of all high school dropouts
  - 75% of teens in substance abuse centers
  - young men are twice as likely to be incarcerated
- Fathers are important – vital – as we walk through life
  - And, praise God that we have an eternal Father in JC
  - BIG IDEA

## 2) ETERNAL/EVERLASTING FATHER

- We've been looking at this text in Isaiah 9:1-7 the past few weeks
  - These verses come in the context of the reality that Israel has rejected God's Word
  - But, God promises in v2 to give his people light again and not leave them in the darkness
  - In v3 we see the picture of harvest which anticipates peace and prosperity under God's blessing
  - v4 speaks of Midian – the enemy – who will be defeated
  - v5 brings out the expression of deliverance

- And, vv6-7 speak of the cause of all of God's blessings..."For to us a child is born"
  - It's Jesus!
  - He's the child to come as the Messiah
  - He'll be born as a child and will now reign and rule supremely
  - The infinite became an infant
  - His reign and rule is eternal/everlasting/forever
  - The virgin's son is put forth as the rightful heir to David's throne – v7
    - And, his kingdom will endure forever
- Psalm 89:26-29 shows us this same truth
  - The context of this Psalm is its expression of the Davidic covenant – v28
    - Which is where God promised David a perpetual/never-ending dynasty – 2 Sam 7
    - That David would always have an heir on the throne
      - Ruling, leading, protecting, caring for God's people
  - Ultimately, JC – from the line of David – fulfilled this promise – Matt 1
    - And, he is the highest of kings
  - The forever ruler – the Everlasting Father – who protects, provides for, and cares for his people will come from the offspring/line of David
    - And, we know this to be true!
    - This is what we remember in this season each year...though we should remember this all year long
  - The "Everlasting Father" name of Jesus shows his fatherly attributes
    - This doesn't confuse the Trinity
    - Isaiah is not trying to confuse Jesus the Messiah with God the Father, the 1<sup>st</sup> person of the Trinity
    - The name given to JC here in Isaiah highlights his character
    - Sam Storms – "a descriptive analogy pointing to Christ's character...he is fatherly, father-like, in his treatment of us."
    - And, he's perfect in how he treats us as our Father
  - We need a good, good Father

- And, we have a good, good Father in JC's Fatherly treatment of us
- As I studied this past week, three main ways JC acts as our good Father kept coming up in my research
  - Those are that, as Father, he provides for us, cares for us, and protects us
    - So, we'll focus on those three
    - There's certainly many, many more...but we'll stick with those three
    - Isn't every sermon to have three points?

### **3) JESUS, THE FATHER, GIVES US WHAT WE NEED**

- JC provides for us
- As the head of the family, the father is responsible for providing for his family – home, food, clothing
  - Fathers provide for their families' needs
- We know this to be true of JC
  - He provides for our physical needs
    - Everything we have comes from him
  - John 10:30 – "I am the Father are one"
  - Matt 6:31 – JC tells us not to be anxious about what we'll eat, drink, or wear b/c God provides for us
    - As King ushering in the kingdom – in Matthew – JC is also referring to himself there
  - Thank the Lord for his provision each time we get groceries
- JC provides us w/ what we need most – life and salvation
  - We're doomed to sin and death without JC
  - But, the infinite came as an infant to come to save us
    - His work on cross forgives us of our sin
    - Gives us eternal life
- JC provides for us – gives us what we need – all things in this life including most important thing in this life – salvation & redemption

### **4) JESUS EXERCISES CARE OVER HIS PEOPLE**

- Children need a dad who's present...not one who's aloof or distant
  - Not common sometimes – work weighs heavy on some minds, too tired after work, the hockey game is on

- Children need a dad who's present and loves us
  - Love snuggling w/ kiddos – in bed, watching tv
- JC cares for us...he constantly loves us
  - He always has time for us
  - He's never overwhelmed when we all talk to him
    - Always makes time for us, always available
  - "As a father shows compassion to his children, so the LORD shows compassion to those who fear him" – Psalm 103:13
  - JC loves us so much that he sacrificed his life for us
  - JC loves undeserving sinners like us
  - JC's love rescues us from eternal torment and gives us a place in the presence of God forever and ever
  - JC willingly gave his life for us...not under compulsion

### **6) JC GIVES US SECURITY...SECURE IN JC...PROTECTIVE**

- Dad's we're protective aren't we? Ballet
- It's good when our children know we'll protect them
  - Avery-dog barking backyard
- JC protects us
- JC most significant act of ongoing protection is acting as our Advocate before Holy God, appealing to God on our behalf

### **7) CONCL**

- Do you ever wish you had a perfect father?
- Do you ever wish you were a perfect father?
  - JC is that amazing Father
  - JC is the Heavenly Father you've always craved
  - Even the best dad will disappoint and fail at some point
    - And, they'll all die one day
    - But, JC won't!
- In JC, we have a perfect father forever/for all eternity
- Spurgeon – "there is no unfathering Christ, and there is no unchilding us...he is everlasting father to those who trust him."
- Maybe some of us have strained relationships with our fathers
  - Maybe some have lost their fathers
  - Maybe you can't find any help or care or protection from your father

- Run to Jesus
- He can't be unfathered...and he won't unchild you  
when you trust in him
- He came to be our forever father