



Names are important. They have meaning and significance. How many of you have nicknames? On many occasions, they are given to you by friends or family members for something funny you did or said, right?

[Share a personal story about how you received a nickname.]

I was called a [insert your nickname] because... [your story].

Tonight, we're going to read and learn about four names given to Jesus. Unlike nicknames which are sometimes silly and fun, Jesus was given profound titles that are very powerful and purposeful.

Isaiah 9:6 is where we will be starting. It is a popular verse around Christmas time because here, the prophet Isaiah predicts the birth of Jesus. Let's pray and dive into God's Word tonight.

*Isaiah 9:6 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, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace** (CSB).*

Tonight, we're going to look at two of these names and see how Jesus fulfilled them in the Scriptures through His life here on Earth. Next week, we'll look at the other two names. We'll spend most of our time in the Gospels, so that's Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, but we'll also look at some other areas of the Bible.

You might be wondering, why do I need to know that Jesus fulfilled the Scriptures? Hundreds of years ago, some random guy named Isaiah predicted that Jesus would be born...so what? Well, the prediction that came true has huge implications on our faith! It means that God never intended to leave humanity broken and hopeless. He had big plans to reconcile us back to Himself, and He keeps His promises. This fulfilled prophecy proves that God is who He says He is, He can be trusted, and He never goes back on His Word. In a survival of the fittest culture where gossip, duplicity, and betrayal are common, believing in a God who is loyal, faithful and dependable is a much-needed breath of fresh air.

With that being said, let's look at the first name found in Isaiah 9:6, "Eternal Father." Now, some of you might be thinking, uh, the last time I checked, Jesus never married, and he never had any children, so how can he be a father?" Well,

you would be correct, but I'd like to show you two ways in which He was and is still a Father today.

The first way involves a brief theology lesson. Stick with me for a few minutes so we can connect some Scriptures together in order to reveal the truth. Have you ever heard that God the Father, the Son (Jesus), and the Holy Spirit are all one? Have you ever looked up the Scripture to support that? Well, let's look at it now.

*John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God (CSB).*

Who is the Word? God.

Now let's look in the same chapter, just a few verses down.

*John 1:14 The Word became flesh and dwelt among us. We observed his glory as the one and only son from the father, full of grace and truth (CSB).*

If the Word became human, dwelt among us, and is God's one and only Son, then who is the Word? Jesus.

If we put two and two together; if the Word was God and the Word became flesh and dwelt among us as God's Son, then aren't Jesus and the Father one? So, if we arrive at a logical conclusion, then Jesus is a Father.

Let's look at one more set of Scriptures to support this truth.

*Colossians 1:15 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation (CSB).*

Staying in the same chapter looking at a few verses down, *Colossians 1:19–20 for God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, and through him to reconcile everything to himself, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.*

Based on context clues, we can tell that the writer referred to Jesus. He is the image of the invisible God, had all of God's fullness dwelling in Him, and died on the cross for our sins. So, Jesus is God and God is the heavenly Father, so that makes Jesus a Father.

A=B, B=C, then A=C.

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