

(Topics and Lead-in Below)

Now Unto Us a Child Is Born

TUNE: O Christmas Tree (O TANNENBAUM)

Isaiah 9:6-7

F F C F $\frac{Gm7}{Bb}$ $\frac{D}{A}$ Gm C7 $\frac{C7sus}{F}$ F

1. Now un - to us a Child is born, To us a Son is giv - en.
2. O Prince of Peace, O Prince of Peace, The Lord of all cre - a - tion!
3. O Son of God, O Son of God, We wor - ship You, Lord Je - sus.

F F C F $\frac{Gm7}{Bb}$ $\frac{D}{A}$ Gm C7 $\frac{C7sus}{F}$ F

Now un - to us a Child is born, To us a Son is giv - en.
O Prince of Peace, O Prince of Peace, The Lord of all cre - a - tion!
O Son of God, O Son of God, We wor - ship You, Lord Je - sus.

F F $\frac{Bb}{F}$ F $\frac{E}{C}$ C7 C7 $\frac{C}{Bb}$ $\frac{E}{A}$ $\frac{C7}{G}$ $\frac{Bb}{F}$ F

How won - der - ful His ho - ly name! Let heav - en sing and earth pro - claim:
All na - tions join to greet Your birth. Your King - dom come and fill the earth!
How won - der - ful Your ho - ly name! Let heav - en sing and earth pro - claim:

F F C F $\frac{A7}{E}$ Dm $\frac{D}{C}$ $\frac{Gm}{Bb}$ $\frac{D7}{A}$ Gm C $\frac{C7sus}{F}$ F

Now un - to us a Child is born, To us a Son is giv - en.
O Prince of Peace, O Prince of Peace, The Lord of all cre - a - tion!
O Son of God, O Son of God, We wor - ship You, Lord Je - sus.

WORDS: Ken Bible
MUSIC: German Folk Song

O TANNENBAUM
8.7.8.7.8.8.8.7.

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TOPICS: Advent; Christmas

LEAD-IN: *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, NIV)*

LEAD-IN DEVOTIONAL READING:

God's Promise to Abraham

Hear these words from Genesis 12:

The LORD said to Abram, "Leave your country, your people and your father's household and go to the land I will show you.

*"I will make you into a great nation
and I will bless you.
I will make your name great,
and you will be a blessing.
I will bless those who bless you,
and whoever curses you I will curse;
And all peoples on earth
will be blessed through you."
(vv.1-3, NIV)*

Later, God spoke to Abram in a vision:

*"Do not be afraid, Abram.
I am your shield,
your very great reward."*

But Abram said, "O Sovereign LORD, what can you give me since I remain childless and the one who will inherit my estate is Eliezer of Damascus?" And Abram said, "You have given me no children; so a servant in my household will be my heir."

Then the word of the LORD came to him: "This man will not be your heir, but a son coming from your own body will be your heir." He took him outside and said, "Look up at the heavens and count the stars—if indeed you can count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your offspring be."

*Abram believed the LORD, and he credited it to him as righteousness.
(Genesis 15:1-6, NIV)*

When we first meet Abram, later Abraham, he is living in the city of Ur, in modern-day Iraq. He then moved with his father's household northwest to Haran, now in Turkey. There the Living

God came to him as He had come to Noah, making lavish demands and lavish promises. God said:

“Follow me!
Leave your homeland and all that is safe and familiar,
and go to a far-away country that I will show you.
There I will make you a great nation.
I will bless you beyond your wildest dreams,
and you will be a blessing.
All who bless you, I will bless.
All who curse you, I will curse.
All peoples on earth
will be blessed through you.”

As with Noah, only one who truly trusted God would follow such a call. Abraham did. God considered him righteous because Abraham simply trusted God. From that point on, Abraham’s entire life, told in Genesis chapters 12 through 25, became an amazing story of blessing and faith.

When Abraham received God’s promise of becoming a great nation, he was childless. It’s hard to have a multitude of descendants with no children! But God repeated His promise over the coming years as Abraham aged. Still no child. When the long-awaited heir was finally born, Abraham was 100, and his wife, Sarah, was 91. The situation God had created was such a mixture of wild joy and unbelievable absurdity that the boy was named Isaac, a form of the Hebrew word for “laughter”.

Before God fulfilled all His promises to Abraham, many other improbable and impossible births would punctuate the story:

Jacob (Genesis 25:19-26)
Joseph (Genesis 29:31 – 30:24)
Moses (Exodus 2)
Samson (Judges 13)
Samuel (1 Samuel 1)
John the Baptist (Luke 1)

These culminated in the birth of Jesus Christ Himself, born of a virgin, conceived by the Holy Spirit of God.

Each of these individuals played an important role in God’s plan. With each unlikely birth, the Sovereign Lord seemed to be shouting, “Look! *I* am doing this! I am keeping My promises!”

Ultimately, all God’s promises to Abraham are fulfilled in his descendent, Jesus Christ:

1. In Christ, Abraham is the father of a great nation—a “holy nation” even greater than the people of Israel (1 Peter 2:9). Galatians 3:7 says, “All those who believe are children of Abraham”.
2. God had promised Abraham, “I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse those who curse you”. Jesus is that kind of definitive turning point in the destiny of every

individual. Each person's entire future is determined by his or her response to Christ—blessing or cursing, life or death, heaven or hell.

3. Every nation, every people, every family, tribe, and tongue are blessed in Jesus Christ.

Each of us can share in the lavish promises made to Abraham and fully please our Holy God the same way Abraham did: by simply trusting Him.

*Father,
Your Son brings all Your greatest riches to us—
forgiveness,
holiness,
peace,
constant sufficiency,
unbroken oneness with You—
and all by simple faith.
Thank You, Lord, for Your unspeakable gift!*

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