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G^{sus} G G^{sus} G

might - y God, the Ev - er - last - ing Fa - ther. He is

2
G^{sus} G G^{7sus} C^{sus} C^{sus} C G^{7sus} G⁷ D.C.

Fa - ther, Prince of Peace.

4
G^{sus} G G^{7sus} C^{sus} C^{sus} C C C

Fa - ther, Prince of Peace. Je - sus!

TOPICS: Advent; Christmas

LEAD-IN: (Let your congregation sing antiphonally if at all possible. They'll enjoy it! Divide them into two groups, then give each half a leader: let the worship leader direct one half and the choir the other; or have two worship leaders; or the same worship leader can direct both halves.)

*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:

The Magnificence of the King

Hear Isaiah 9:6-7:

*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,
Everlasting Father,
Prince of Peace.
Of the increase of his government and peace
there will be no end.
He will reign on David's throne
and over his kingdom,
establishing and upholding it
with justice and righteousness
from that time on and forever.
The zeal of the LORD Almighty will accomplish this.*
(NIV)

The previous portion of Isaiah 9, verses 2-5, spoke of a crescendo of incredible blessings: light, joy, abundance, freedom, victory, and peace. How would all these unimaginable gifts arrive?

The answer comes in the scripture above: a child, a son would be born. All our care, all our leadership and welfare would be on His shoulders. And what kind of leader, what kind of king would He be? If names could describe the true character and significance of a person, what would His names be? As the earlier passage struggled to communicate the depth and breadth of the gifts He would bring, here human language struggles to capture the majesty of all He is. Translating a bit more literally, His names would be:

Wonder of a Counselor—His wisdom would be truly extraordinary!
Colossians 2:3 says that in Christ *are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.*

His name would be *God of Might*. He would be a mighty warrior, a great champion. He would be Sovereign God.

Jesus...said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me."
(Matthew 28:18, NIV)

His name would be *Father of Eternity*. This King would have the tenderness of a Father whose love is unending and forever.

Jesus said, *“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest...My yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”* (Matthew 11:28-30, NIV)

His name would be *Prince of Peace*. Peace is not just the absence of conflict. It is a positive word, encompassing all the best of life: completeness, harmony, and well-being; full and unimpaired relationships in every aspect of life.

Philippians 4:7 promises this: *The peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.* (Philippians 4:7, NIV)

Incredible wisdom, sovereign power, unfailing love, and complete well-being—this King will bring us all the qualities of God Himself.

What’s more, His rule and the peace He brings will continue to increase forever—not by force, but by justice and righteousness, by doing all that is good and right. The perfect will of our loving Father will blossom and grow in every life, throughout the universe.

These magnificent promises come with a guarantee, at the end of verse 7:

The deep, burning, unquenchable love of the Great I AM, Lord of all the Heavenly Armies, will do this!

Now that’s a guarantee!

These verses promise what we deeply desire: the continual increase of His rule, His will, His character, and His peace in our minds, hearts, and lives. That process, that growth has begun already in everyone who trusts Him. The darkness is gone, and the Light has come. Here and now we are tasting His wisdom, His power, His unfailing love, and His deep peace, all through the Spirit of Jesus Christ within. And we are *“confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.”* (Philippians 1:6, NIV)

Consider this:
*Jesus Christ, our Brother, is
Lord of all things in this world and the next,
all things seen and unseen,
in heaven and earth.
We are secure and
eternally, extravagantly blessed in Him.*