

## INTRODUCTION 引言

It's Christmas Day! Many people prepare gifts for their family members. Little kids got up early this morning to open their gifts. Giving gifts that the recipients find useful shows how much you care about them. God loves us and He knows our deepest need. He sent us His only Son on the first Christmas. I describe Jesus Christ as "one prize fits all." He is the best gift we can ever receive in this life. God foretold the coming of Jesus in Isaiah chapter 9 over seven hundred years before He was born. At that time, Judah enjoyed a period of peace and prosperity. However, there were injustice and idolatry when people abandoned God. A false sense of security did not last long. Foreign enemies were coming. The situation today is very much alike. Many people replace the true God with idols of money and materials. The more they have, the more they want. People have anxiety instead of happiness. They worry about infection, inflation, intrusion of thieves and foreign invasion. Do you have the same concerns? 2023 is around the corner. Are you ready to face new challenges next year? We need direction, comfort and security. Jesus Christ is the solution. He came into the world to be the King. He invites us to be citizens of His Kingdom.

## EXPLANATION 解釋

### A. Four Blessings 四重祝福

Isaiah begins the chapter with a message of hope. God promised His people four blessings. There would be **no more distress** because God would give them comfort. There would be **no more darkness** when God's glory fills the land. There would be **no more decrease** when God blessed people with a productive life. There would also be **no more defeat** because God would give them victory. Those four blessings came true in Isaiah's lifetime. However, a greater fulfillment happened when Jesus came. The same places Isaiah mentioned appear in Matthew 4:12-14 – **12 Now when he heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew into Galilee. 13 And leaving Nazareth he went and lived in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, 14 so that what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled.** The region that was ravaged by war in Isaiah's time became a base for Jesus' gospel mission. People living in spiritual darkness saw true light from Jesus. From Israel, this message of light is taken to the rest of the world. We will enjoy the same blessings when we receive Jesus into our hearts. There will be no more distress because Jesus will give us full joy. There will be no more darkness when Jesus transfers us into the Kingdom of Light. There will be no more decrease because Jesus will give us an abundant life. Jesus also assures us that there will be no more defeat because He had conquered the power of Satan on the cross. Jesus shares His victory with us and helps us overcome sin.

### B. Four Titles 四個稱號

After telling us the four blessings that God promised, Isaiah then introduces four titles of Jesus. Verse 6 is a Bible verse we often read in Christmas: **For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful**

**Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.** We can understand what kind of King Jesus came to be when we study those four titles.

### 1. Wonderful Counselor 奇妙策士

First, Jesus is the Wonderful Counselor. He is the source of all wisdom. Proverbs 2:6-7 say: **6 For the Lord gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding; 7 he stores up sound wisdom for the upright; he is a shield to those who walk in integrity.** Jesus displayed God's wisdom early on. Joseph and Mary brought Jesus to Jerusalem to observe a festival when He was twelve years old. On their way back, Jesus stayed behind and learned from some rabbis. Those teachers were amazed at the knowledge Jesus had. Jesus went out to preach the gospel when He reached thirty. People were surprised by Jesus' words. They said: "Isn't that man the son of a carpenter?" Jesus' wisdom was not restricted to His Bible knowledge. He also knew the thoughts in people's mind. He discerned that Nicodemus came to ask Him about the way to receive eternal life. Jesus also understood that the religious leaders tried to trap Him. Jesus gave counsel to the disciples when they needed advice. He is willing to share His wisdom when we ask Him. We need His counsel when we want to make a right decision. I often read reviews before buying things online. I pay more attention to experts who are knowledgeable in their fields. Likewise, if I need advice about life, I will ask the Master of life. Jesus has all the wisdom we need. He will give us insight on which major to study, which job offer to accept or whose advice to take. Jesus will give us counsel when we commit our burdens to Him in prayer.

### 2. Mighty God 全能的神

Jesus is not only the Wonderful Counselor. He is also the Mighty God. Jesus revealed God's power on the earth. He quoted from Isaiah in Luke 4:18-19 – **18 "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, 19 to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."** Then Jesus told the audience that this prophecy was fulfilled in their midst. Jesus exercised mighty power to prove that He is God. He calmed the wind and waves. The disciples responded: "Who is this man that even the storm obeys Him?" When people saw Jesus cast out a demon, they marveled: "This is a new thing to us. This man can even subdue an evil spirit!" Jesus' words pierced through people's hearts and convicted them of their sins. Jesus also defeated the authority of Satan on the cross. Jesus will minister the same power in us when we submit to Him. For example, we need Jesus to give us a push so that we will build a habit of Bible reading, or resist temptation or care for someone in need. Or perhaps you need God's power to encourage you to invite gospel friends to come to the dumpling dinner this Saturday. Our words can never persuade people to believe in Jesus. It is God's power that softens their hearts and bring them to repentance. When we pray, we are not making some wishful thinking. We tap into God's power, and ask Jesus to minister His grace to accomplish His will in us and in others.

### 3. Everlasting Father 永在的父

Thirdly, He is also the Everlasting Father. Jesus and the Heavenly Father are equal in their glory and authority. The emphasis here is that Jesus is everlasting. The adult Sunday school studied

John chapter one a few weeks ago. Verse 1 says: **In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.** John uses the term “Word” to describe Jesus. Jesus had been present before the beginning of time. Jesus is the everlasting God. But He came into the world as a real person. Jesus demonstrated the compassion of the Father by reaching out to the sick, the poor, women and children. When Jesus bid farewell to the disciples at the Last Supper, He promised that He would always be with them in two ways. First, the Holy Spirit would come. Second, Jesus’ words would remain in the disciples’ hearts. Today, Jesus is present in our lives the same ways. God speaks to us through the written words in the Bible. The Holy Spirit reminds us of God’s truth. Men’s opinions may be helpful. Human philosophies and ideas may become outdated later. But God’s Word is always timely because it is everlasting. Jesus promises to never leave us nor forsake us. Perhaps you face a tough exam, an important presentation to your boss or a major surgery. Jesus is telling you: “I’m with you. Don’t be afraid.” You have concerns about your kids in another city or parents living overseas. You cannot be by their side. But the everlasting God is not restricted by distance. Pray to God and ask Him to show grace to them.

#### 4. Prince of Peace 和平的君

Fourthly, Jesus is also the Prince of Peace. The word “Prince” here means a leader. We need peace when we face uncertainties. Jesus is the ultimate source of peace. He said to His disciples in John 14:27 – **“Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.”** Jesus would be leaving for the cross. The disciples were confused and scared. They did not know what would happen next. But Jesus guaranteed them peace. What will disrupt your peace today? Perhaps it is a doctor’s report, a phone call from a loved one or some tragedies in the news. Jesus assured us that there will be troubles in the world. But He also promised us peace. The money in your bank account can give you some security. An expert can assure you that your problems will be taken care of. A product you buy may come with a lifetime warranty. The peace of Jesus is much better than those guaranties. The root cause that takes away peace is not a financial crisis, an incurable disease or malfunctioning of a machine. It is sin. Jesus achieved peace on the cross. Colossians 1:20 says: **And through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.** Jesus took away our sins and reconciled us with the Father. Those who receive Jesus can enjoy true and enduring peace. We know that we are accepted and forgiven by God. We can go through life with a firm assurance. Peace does not mean a trouble-free life. But God’s peace will guard our hearts even when a misfortune hits us.

#### CONCLUSION 結論

God sent Jesus Christ into the world to become our King. He came here to establish a spiritual and eternal Kingdom. Jesus invites us to become His citizens. We can enjoy His protection and provision when we accept Him. But we must also obey His ruling, just like we submit to our government leaders. If we treat Jesus as King, then we are His followers. Jesus does not make us members of a religion. He wants to build an eternal relationship with us. To do so, we must give up our self-reliance and put our trust in Him. From now on, Jesus becomes the Lord of our lives. Jesus Christ is the best gift God prepared for you. Will you accept Him today? There are a few things you need to do. You must confess your sins, then receive Jesus into your heart by simple faith, and commit your life to Him. Are you ready to make this decision today?

## INTRODUCTION 引言

今天是聖誕節！許多人為家人準備禮物。小孩子們今天一大早就起床打開他們的禮物。贈送一些對方合用的禮物表達你對別人的關心。神愛我們，祂知道我們最深層的需要。祂在第一個聖誕節將祂的獨生子賜給我們。我將耶穌基督形容為「給全人類的禮物」。祂是我們今生所能得到最好的禮物。神在耶穌出生七百年前就在以賽亞書第9章中預言了祂的到來。那時，猶大國享有一段和平與繁榮的時期。然而，當人們離棄神時，就出現不公義和拜偶像的情形。一種虛假的安全感並沒有持續多久，很快外敵就要來攻擊了。今天的情況非常相似。許多人用金錢和物質來代替真神。他們擁有的越多，他們想要的就越多。人們有憂慮而不是快樂。他們擔心被病毒感染、通貨膨脹、小偷闖進來和外國的敵人。你有同樣的顧慮嗎？2023年即將到來。你準備好迎接新年的挑戰嗎？我們需要方向、安全和穩妥。耶穌基督就是解決之道。祂來到世上成為王。祂邀請我們成為祂國度的子民。

## EXPLANATION 解釋

### A. Four Blessings 四重祝福

以賽亞書以希望的信息開始這一章。神應許祂的子民四重祝福。不再有愁苦，因為神會給他們安慰。當神的榮耀充滿大地時，也不再有任何黑暗。當神使人恢復生產力時，也不再有任何減少。也不會再有失敗，因為神會給他們勝利。這重祝福在以賽亞的生平中實現了。然而，當耶穌降臨時，會有更完全的應驗。以賽亞提到的地方出現在馬太福音4:12-14 – **12 耶穌聽見約翰下了監，就退到加利利去；13 後又離開拿撒勒，往迦百農去，就住在那裏。那地方靠海，在西布倫和拿弗他利的邊界上。14 這是要應驗先知以賽亞的話。**在以賽亞時代受戰爭蹂躪的地區成為耶穌傳福音的基地。生活在屬靈黑暗中的人從耶穌那裡看到了真光。從以色列，這個光的信息被帶到世界其他地方。當我們接受耶穌進入我們的心中時，我們將享受同樣的祝福。不會再有痛苦，因為耶穌會給我們完全的喜樂。當耶穌將我們遷移到光明的國度時，不會再有黑暗。也不會再有減少，因為耶穌會賜給我們豐盛的生命。耶穌也向我們保證，不會再有失敗，因為祂在十字架上戰勝了撒但的權勢。耶穌與我們分享祂的勝利，並幫助我們勝過罪。

### B. Four Titles 四個稱號

在告訴我們神所應許的四重祝福之後，以賽亞接著介紹了耶穌擁有的四個稱號。第6節是我們在聖誕節經常讀到的經文：**因有一嬰孩為我們而生；有一子賜給我們。政權必擔在他的肩頭上；他名稱為「奇妙策士、全能的神、永在的父、和平的君」。**當我們思考這四個稱號時，我們便能明白耶穌是怎樣的一位君王。

## 1. Wonderful Counselor 奇妙策士

首先，耶穌是奇妙的策士。祂是一切智慧的源頭。箴言 2:6-7 說：**6 因為，耶和華賜人智慧；知識和聰明都由他口而出。7 他給正直人存留真智慧，給行為純正的人作盾牌。**耶穌很早就顯示出神的智慧。耶穌十二歲時，約瑟和馬利亞將祂帶到耶路撒冷過節。在他們回程的路上，耶穌留下來向一些拉比學習。那些老師對耶穌所擁有的知識感到稀奇。耶穌到了三十歲的時候出去傳福音。人們對耶穌的話感到驚訝。他們說：「那個人不是木匠的兒子嗎？」耶穌的智慧並不局限於祂的聖經知識。祂也知道人們心裡的意念。祂看出尼哥底母是來問祂得永生的途徑。耶穌也明白宗教領袖試圖控告祂。當門徒需要指引時，耶穌給他們方向。當我們向耶穌求問時，祂願意分享祂的智慧。當我們想做出正確的決定時，我們需要祂的忠告。我經常在網上買東西之前閱讀評論。我會比較注意一些專家的意見。同樣，如果我需要關於生命的建議，我會請教生命的主。耶穌擁有我們所需要的一切智慧。祂會讓我們知道該學習哪個專業，接受哪個工作機會或聽取誰的建議。當我們在禱告中將重擔交給祂時，耶穌會給我們提醒。

## 2. Mighty God 全能的神

耶穌不僅是奇妙的策士，祂也是全能的神。耶穌在地上彰顯神的大能。祂在路加福音 4:18-19 中引用了以賽亞的話：**18 主的靈在我身上，因為他用膏膏我，叫我傳福音給貧窮的人；差遣我報告：被擄的得釋放，瞎眼的得看見，叫那受壓制的得自由，19 報告神悅納人的禧年。**然後耶穌告訴聽眾，這個預言在他們中間應驗了。耶穌用大能證明祂是神。祂平息了風浪。門徒們回應說：「這個人是誰，連風浪都聽從祂了？」當人們看到耶穌趕鬼時，他們都希奇：「這是件新鮮事。這個人連邪靈都能降服！」耶穌的話刺透了人們的心，使他們知罪。耶穌也在十字架上戰勝了撒旦的權勢。當我們順服耶穌時，祂會在我們裡面施展同樣的能力。例如，我們需要耶穌推我們一把，使我們養成讀聖經的習慣，或抗拒試探或關心有需要的人。又或許你需要神的能力給你更大的勇氣，邀請福音朋友來參加這週六的餃子晚宴。我們的話無法說服人們相信耶穌。是神的大能軟化他們的心，使他們悔改。當我們禱告時，我們並不是在空想。我們是運用神的能力，求耶穌賜予祂的恩典，在我們和其他人身上成就祂的旨意。

## 3. Everlasting Father 永在的父

第三，祂也是永在的父。耶穌和天父有相同的榮耀和權柄。這裡強調的是耶穌是永恆的。成人主日學幾週前學習了約翰福音第一章。第 1 節說：**太初有道，道與神同在，道就是神。**約翰用「道」這個字來形容耶穌。耶穌在時間開始之前就已經存在了。耶穌是永在的神。但祂以人的身份來到世界。耶穌向病人、窮人、婦女和兒童伸出援助之手，展示天父的憐憫。當耶穌在最後的晚餐中與門徒告別時，祂應許祂會以兩種方式永遠與他們同在。首先，聖靈會來。第二，耶穌的話會留在門徒的心裡。今天，耶

耶穌以同樣的方式顯現在我們的生活中。神通過聖經中的文字向我們說話。聖靈也提醒我們神的真理。人的意見可能會有所幫助。人類的哲學和思想可能會在以後變得過時。但神的話語總是合時的，因為它是永恆的。耶穌應許永遠不會撇下我們，也不會丟棄我們。也許你面臨著一次艱難的考試，你需要向老闆做重要的報告或是要動大手術。耶穌告訴你：「我與你同在。不要害怕。」或是你擔心住在另一個城市的兒女或是在海外的父母。你無法在他們的身邊。但永在的神不受距離的限制。你可以向神禱告，求祂向他們顯恩。

#### 4. Prince of Peace 和平的君

第四，耶穌也是和平的君。這裡的「君」是領袖的意思。當我們面臨不確定性時，我們需要平安。耶穌是平安的終極源泉。祂在約翰福音 14:27 節對門徒說：「我留下平安給你們；我將我的平安賜給你們。我所賜的，不像世人所賜的。你們心裏不要憂愁，也不要膽怯。」耶穌將要去十字架。門徒們既疑惑又是害怕。他們不知道接下來會發生什麼。但耶穌保證他們平安。今天什麼因素會破壞你的平安？也許是一份醫生的報告，也許是親人的一個電話，也許是新聞中的一些悲劇。耶穌向我們保證，世界上會有苦難。但祂也應許我們平安。你銀行帳戶裡的錢可以給你一些安全感。專家可以向你保證，你的問題將得到解決。你購買的產品可能有永久保用。但耶穌所賜的平安比那些保證要好得多。奪走平安的根本原因不是經濟危機、不治之症或機器故障。乃是罪。耶穌在十字架上成就了平安。歌羅西書 1:20 說：「既然藉着他在十字架上所流的血成就了和平，便藉着他叫萬有—無論是地上的、天上的—都與自己和好了。」耶穌帶走了我們的罪，使我們與天父和好。那些接受耶穌的人可以享受真正和持久的平安。我們知道我們被神接納和饒恕了。我們可以帶著堅定的信心度過一生。平安並不意味著沒有困難的生活。但是就算不幸的事情臨到我們，神的平安也會保守我們的心。

#### CONCLUSION 結論

神差遣耶穌基督到世上成為我們的王。祂來是要建立一個屬靈和永恆的國度。耶穌邀請我們成為祂的子民。當我們接受祂時，我們就能享受祂的保護和供應。但我們也必須順服祂的管治，正如我們服從我們的政府領袖們一樣。如果我們把耶穌看為王，那麼我們就是祂的跟隨者。耶穌並沒有使我們成為某個宗教的成員，祂希望與我們建立永恆的關係。為此，我們必須放棄倚靠自己，並信靠祂。從今以後，耶穌成為我們生命的主宰。耶穌基督是神為你預備最好的禮物。你今天願意接受祂嗎？你需要做幾件事情。首先，你必須承認你的罪，然後憑著單純的信心接受耶穌進入你的心，並將你的生命交託給祂。你準備好今天做這個決定嗎？