

The government shall be upon his shoulders

ISAIAH 9

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The Hebrew word for government in the verse is *misrah*, meaning 'rule, dominion'.

God is orderly. His orderliness extends to every atom in the universe, including the government of His temple and the hierarchy of His angelic host. Let's look at the order of the angelic host for a minute.

In [Nehemiah 9:6](#) we read of the host:

"Thou, even thou, art LORD alone; thou hast made heaven, the heaven of heavens, with all their host, the earth, and all things that are therein, the seas, and all that is therein, and thou preservest them all; and the host of heaven worshippeth thee."

The word host here means *tsaba*: defined as army, war, warfare. It evokes the orderly organization of armies into cohorts, legions, companies, divisions, etc. as we know them on earth. [Colossians 1:16](#) continues the idea that the angels are divided into divisions of hierarchical structures:

"For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him"

Additionally, the bible mentions classes of angels such as seraphim and cherubim and archangels.

[Isaiah 6:2](#) first mentions Seraphim. The word "seraphim" (singular is saraph) is probably a translation of 'fiery ones' and seems to stem from the fiery imagery in the Presence of God (cf. [Ezekiel 1:27](#); [Ezekiel 28:14](#)).

The Cherubim seem to guard important things, like the Ark of the Covenant, and the Tree of Life. ([Genesis 3:24](#); [Exodus 25:20](#); [Ezekiel 10:16](#)). They may have four faces or two faces and wings and hands. Amazing creatures!

Michael is mentioned as an archangel ([Jude 1:9](#)) and the word archangel is translated chief angel.

Gabriel is an archangel too, identified so in translation of his name into the Hebrew, "man of El, archangel," Strong's 1403. [Daniel 8:16](#); [Daniel 9:21](#)).

The verse [2 Peter 2:20](#) uses the word *authority* [some translations it is *government*] and the Greek translation refers to a hierarchy:

"But chiefly them that walk after the flesh in the lust of uncleanness, and despise government. Presumptuous are they, self-willed, they are not afraid to speak evil of dignities." KJV (lordship: divine or angelic lordship, domination, dignity, usually with reference to a celestial hierarchy.)

The word authority also indicates in the Greek, "dominion; a power exerting itself in a particular jurisdiction ("ruling").

See how orderly everything is??

Though this survey of the angelic hierarchies and the dominions God has set up has been brief, I wanted to offer the concepts of order in established government as a comfort. God is orderly. Even though there is rebellion in heaven and rebellion on earth, what He has set up will be restored. Even though angels resist and try to thwart, and man is sinful and rejects, everything is still subject to His rule and He controls it.

because He was born and lived and died and was resurrected, on His Day, He will restore all order and all the government will be on His shoulder. The government will function perfectly and in total harmony.

Read this conclusion to [Ephesians 1:15-23](#). I added the emphasis--

Thanksgiving and Prayer

For this reason, because I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, *far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come*. And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

"For unto us a child is born (true humanity), to us a son is given (true deity)." These two phrases deal with His first advent. Beginning with the next phrase and going through verse seven deals with His second advent and the Millennial Kingdom.

"And the government shall be upon his shoulders" - This refers to inherent royalty. **"The Government shall be upon his shoulders"** is a quaint way of saying "HE IS GOING TO RULE." Jesus Christ will rule when the world government rests upon His shoulders during His 1000 year reign. Again I want to remind you that within the framework of this one verse of Scripture the first and second comings of the Lord Jesus Christ are clearly outlined. **"A child is born, and a son is given"** occurred at His first coming more than nineteen hundred years ago. **"And the government shall be upon his shoulders"** awaits His second coming to the rebuilt Temple when He takes over the throne of David at Jerusalem.

"And his name shall be called" - This tells us of a unique identity. Biblical names were given to underscore a major characteristic or achievement of the individual who bore the name. The Son of God came to be a Savior, that was to be the major achievement at His first coming. So the angelic messenger commanded Joseph **"to call his name Jesus, because he shall save his people from their sins"** (Matthew 1:21). At the Lord's second coming His major achievement will be to reign and bring human history to its divinely intended ending. A series of names are given to the Son of God to reveal attributes which He possesses and the character of His reign after His second coming. These names set Him apart from and infinitely higher than all other beings. Since He alone possesses these qualities to a perfect degree, none other can properly appropriate these names.

It is generally thought that five names are given in Isaiah 9:6 to describe the Lord's character and reign. These five names are: **"Wonderful, Counselor, The Mighty God, The Everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace."** But actually there are only four names, not five. The word **"Wonderful"** is not a name. It is simply modifying the word **"Counselor."** So it should read **"Wonderful Counselor."**

"And his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor" - This refers to His faultless discernability. This should not suggest the imagery of a clergyman, or a lawyer, or a psychologist, or another professional in an office conferring counsel on someone. Rather, it is speaking of one of the Lord's characteristics while governing during the Kingdom Age. Isaiah amplifies this concept in Isaiah 11:2-3; **"And the Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, and the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of COUNSEL and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord.....and he shall not judge after the sight of his eyes, neither reprove after the hearing of his ears."** Men judge empirically, they see, they hear, and they evaluate and make decisions, and many times they are wrong. But because of the omniscient spirit resting upon Jesus, He will intuitively know right from wrong in everyone. He will not judge by what He sees or hears, but He will judge by what He knows about each individual. He will be **"The Wonderful Counselor."** And as a result of this,

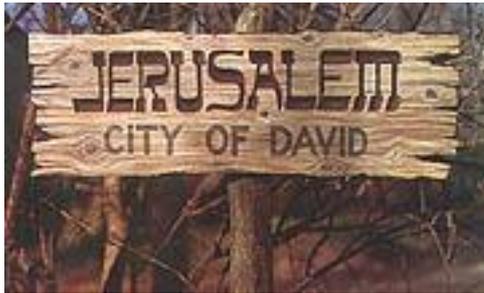
"....righteousness shall be the girdle of his loins, and faithfulness the girdle of his waist" (Isaiah 11:5).

"And his name shall be called The Mighty God" - This refers to absolute authority. One of the problems with the Old Testament Theocracy (God ruling through chosen men) was that they had limited strength. A man might ascend to the throne of Israel. He might be well-intentioned, but he did not possess absolute power. He was not omnipotent. His good intentions were not enough. They did not give him sufficient power to carry out all he had planned. Rebellion within the nation and opposition from without often frustrated the best intentions of a good king.

But when the government rests upon the shoulder's of Jesus, **".....with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and shall reprove the lowly of the earth; and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth; with the breath of his lips he will slay the wicked"** (Isaiah 11:4). He alone possesses absolute authority and power because He is what the Hebrew says, EL GIBBOR, **"The Mighty God."**

"And his name shall be called The Everlasting Father" - This refers to endless longevity.

On occasion a good king would come to the throne of Israel. Men like David, Solomon, or Josiah. For a time they brought a degree of freedom, prosperity, stability, blessings and peace. But invariably, the inevitable occurred. They died. They were succeeded by another king. Many times he was not a good king, and his policies did not follow that of his predecessor. So the government was subject to ebb and flow, as leaders came and went.



But when the government rests upon the shoulders of Jesus Christ, **"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...."** (Isaiah 9:7). Jesus Christ is **"The Everlasting Father."** Or better, "The Father of Eternity." He will not die, and there will be no ebb and flow in His government, only continuity of perfect rule.

"And his name shall be called The Prince of Peace" - This refers to enduring tranquility. Peace comes in two dimensions. There is a vertical peace between God and man, and there is a horizontal peace between man and man. Peace between men is impossible until there is peace with God. In other words, horizontal peace between members of the human race is impossible without peace with God. And the peace with God is impossible without the acceptance of Jesus Christ as personal Savior. And because the majority of the people of the earth reject the salvation provided by Jesus Christ, mankind is doomed to the conflict of racial hatred, intolerance, inflexibility, crime, violence, and war. Mankind can never have true peace apart from God and His plan. And because mankind will not make peace with God, that means that there can be no peace between men on the earth. War and violence will continue all the way to the second advent of Jesus Christ.