

## Pastor Andrew's Weekly Thought

### The Messianic Kingdom

**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, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

As we enter into the Christmas season, we are discouraged by the many happenings in our political situation. We saw the betrayal of the trust of the rakyat in our parliament representatives when some of them crossed over to form the backdoor government. Next, we saw the selfish interests of our present government parliamentarians as they reward themselves with lucrative positions. Then we saw the bloated ministerial positions to appease the political parties due to the unstable government. Finally, we saw the unjust budget that was slanted to shore up the support of a racial majority. And with the inability of the opposition to vote down the budget, the hope to change the government has vanished. We wait for the next election to see what will happen. Meanwhile, we hope.

As citizens, it is our right to expect a government to perform well for the majority and across board all her citizens, but no governments have been perfect. No government has been able to fulfil all that the citizens expect, not even the government of King David although he was deemed to be the best of them. The regimes of both Israel and Judah fell short, and the prophets of Israel began to dream of a future ideal kingdom that would have all the characteristics that were missing in their kings. They too hope for a Messiah whose "government will be on his shoulders." He will shoulder the responsibility by ruling it with righteousness, with peace, with stability, and with universality.

First, God's kingdom will be righteous. Most of the kings of Israel and Judah had ruled their land were not righteous. One of the reasons God exiled His people was their poor treatment of the disadvantaged population. In contrast, the Messiah would be righteous and would rule His people with justice "The days are coming," declares the LORD, "when I will raise up to David a righteous Branch, a King who will reign wisely and do what is just and right in the land" (Jer. 23:5). "He will reign on David's throne...with justice and righteousness" (Isa, 9:7b).

Second, God's kingdom will be peaceful. Throughout the period of the kings in Israel and Judah, they don't have long period of peace, and often are at war. But now the Prince of Peace will rule. Here is the vision of peace found in Isaiah 9:5, "Every warrior's boot used in battle and every garment rolled in blood will be destined for burning, will be fuel for the fire." But the shalom of the Messiah will be more than just an absence of war. It means harmony, wholeness, completeness, prosperity, and welfare.

Third, God's kingdom will be stable. The thrones of Israel and Judah were relatively unstable and brief, but the messianic kingdom will last forever. "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" (Isa. 9:7a).

Fourth, God's kingdom will be universal. Israel's kingdom only stretches from "Dan to Bathsheba" at its most extensive. But the messianic kingdom "will extend from sea to sea and from the River to the ends of the earth" (Zech. 9:10).

Righteousness and peace, eternity and universality are the main characteristics of the messianic kingdom. We may desire for a better nation on earth, but whether our nation is good or bad our focus is on the kingdom of our Lord Jesus Christ to which we belong, to which we live for, to which we hope for its coming in fullness one day.

**Prayer:** Lord, when all that is happening in our world that is not very encouraging, please keep my eyes on You and Your glorious kingdom.