



# 4 | ISAIAH 9:6

## FATHER OF ETERNITY

*Jesus as Almighty God not only fathers the creation, but he fathers his people and brings them to the new creation.*

### Outline

#### 1. JESUS' JURISDICTION: HE REIGNS WITH THE FATHER

His Existence is Everlasting  
His Kingdom is Everlasting

#### 2. JESUS' MANIFESTATION: HE REFLECTS THE FATHER

In His Transcendence  
In His Imminence

#### 3. JESUS' POSITION: HE CREATES WITH THE FATHER

Jesus Fathered Creation  
Jesus Fathered the Church  
Jesus Fathers the New Creation  
*Jesus Begins Our Salvation*  
*Jesus Guides Our Salvation*  
*Jesus Completes Our Salvation*

### Call to Worship

Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests. —*Luke 2:14*

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*O Come All Ye Faithful*

*O Come, O Come Emmanuel*

*Angels We Have Heard on High*

*Who is He in Yonder Stall?*

*King of Kings*

## Announcements

**WELCOME:** We are glad you are here! Be sure to grab a Welcome Packet if you are visiting with us.

**GIVING:** You can give over Zelle through your bank with no fees (use secretary@livinghopechurch.net). We also have a collection box on the Welcome Center. Malachi 3, “Test me in this” Proverbs: “**Give of your first fruits.**” We believe blessing comes by putting God first.

## Introduction

We are in a new series for Christmas called “What Child is This?” Our message today is entitled, “Father of Eternity”.

What child is this that we speak of at Christmas? **Who is the baby in the manger?** That baby who was laid in that manger, so far away, so long ago, was none other than God. We find out in our text that Jesus is called the “Everlasting Father.” What does that mean? That means that **this child fathered eternity. Time and space proceeded from him.** God the Son spoke, and all things came to be. That is an earthshaking thought. This is **the cradle that rocked the world.** That baby was God. That little baby, that little infant, was the infinite one. Let’s read about this infinite God becoming finite in our text in Isaiah 9.

Isaiah 9:6 | 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....

**What is absolutely clear in Isaiah 9 is that Jesus Christ is God in human flesh.** He is the Mighty God; he is the Everlasting Father. **We might call him the infinite Infant.** Here in this text, we see Jesus is called a child, a counselor, and a son, but he is also called the “Everlasting Father.” We’ve learned that he is the Mighty God—he is divine. But now we learn that he as God is the source of all things. This title is not to confuse the Trinity. There is God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit, three in one. This title is merely saying that Jesus brought all things into existence. **He fathered all created things.** He is the father of eternity. As the father of eternity, Jesus is the Sovereign over all, the Source of all, and the Shepherd of us all.

**Key Thought:** Jesus as Almighty God not only fathers the creation, but he fathers his people and brings them to the new creation.

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## 1. JESUS’ JURISDICTION: HE REIGNS WITH THE FATHER

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As the everlasting father and author of everything, Jesus is God in all his attributes. He is the second person of the holy Trinity.

We believe that God is a Trinity: one God existing as three distinct persons. The Father is not the Son, and the Son is not the Spirit, the Spirit is not the Father, but they are one God, co-equal in power and glory.

And as one God, they all reflect one another. The Spirit is called the Spirit of the Father and the Spirit of Christ. And so it is proper to call Christ the “Everlasting Father” since he reflects the Father and the Spirit, and he reigns with them in power and glory. Christ reflects the fatherly nature of God the Father.

While the word “Trinity” is not found in the Bible, the description of the Trinity is found in Scripture constantly. We are to **baptize** “in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit” (Mt 28:19). We are blessed in the Triune God by Paul when he says:

*2 Corinthians 13:14* | The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

Jesus reigns with **the Father** and **has all the attributes of the Father and of the Spirit**. **Isaiah introduces a child to us who will be born some 700 years in the future, yet he is the Author of time itself**. This truly boggles the mind. Jesus is **the Creator who enters into his creation**. Because he is the Creator of all things, his existence is everlasting.

### HIS EXISTENCE IS EVERLASTING

*John 8:28* | Jesus said, “Before Abraham is I am.”

On that first Christmas morning, the angels announced to the shepherds in the field that the Son of God was born. They had already known Christ because Jesus created the angels who sang at his birth. Jesus created the star that guided the wise men to his manger. Jesus, Isaiah says, is the everlasting Creator of all things in heaven and earth.

In his person he is everlastingly transcendent in a way none of us can be. We saints will live forever, but Christ has been from everlasting, from eternity, therefore, since he is God, he has all the attributes of God. God the Father himself recognizes the eternal existence of his Son and his everlasting reign.

*Hebrews 1:8* | Your throne, O God, is forever and ever, the scepter of uprightness is the scepter of your kingdom (*cf* Psa 45:6).

Jesus is the Word who at the beginning spoke all things into existence. He is from everlasting. John 1 says he was there in the beginning with God in Genesis 1 (*cf* Jn 1:1-3) creating and maintaining everything we see (Col 1:17).

*John 1:1-3, 14* | In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup> He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup> All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. <sup>14</sup> And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

When Jesus comes to Bethlehem, he comes as a baby, named *Immanuel, God with us* (Mt 1:23; *cf* Isa 7:14). Jesus is the one who has always existed. Jesus in his prayer says to his Father, through his sacrifice on the cross that he would have his glory restored to him.

*John 17:5* | Now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had with you before the world existed.

Jesus is the Sovereign over all dear saints. He’s always existed. **We were chosen in him before the world existed**. Jesus created the angels that announced his birth. He

planned the events of his birth. He created the star that shined over him at his birth. Jesus is the everlasting God who lives forever.

## HIS KINGDOM IS EVERLASTING

*Isaiah 9:7* | Of the increase of his **government** and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and **forevermore**.

**When all other governments and kings and presidents and nations have all passed** away, the government of the world will be on Jesus' shoulders.

*Psalm 145:13* | Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and your dominion endures throughout all generations.

**Jesus is the “King eternal”** (1 Tim 1:17). This world is passing away. When Jesus came to earth as King of kings, they crucified their king. They hung him on a cross. But there is coming a day when Christ will **return and reign over his everlasting kingdom**. We read about it in the end times' book of Revelation.

*Revelation 11:15* | There were loud voices in heaven, saying, “The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he shall reign forever and ever.”

It was in eternity past that Jesus planned his kingdom, when he elected us before the foundation of the world. In the eternal counsels of heaven, the kingdom was **planned**, and then in Jesus' life he **paid for** the kingdom to be made up of forgiven sinners who he transforms into saints. How glorious that Jesus' kingdom is an everlasting kingdom.

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## 2. JESUS' MANIFESTATION: HE REFLECTS THE FATHER

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**Isaiah isn't teaching us that God the Son, the second person of the Trinity, is confused with the Father.** No that would be **modalism**, a heresy. Isaiah is teaching us about Messiah's character and how he displays the perfect character of the Father. He displays what the Father is like to us. This is the clear teaching of Scripture.

*John 1:18* | No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known.

*Colossians 1:15a* | He is the image of the invisible God.

*John 14:9* | Whoever has seen me has seen the Father.

## IN HIS TRANSCENDENCE

If you want to know what God is like, look at Jesus. Jesus is the perfect image of God, and the exact representation of his being. Jesus alone makes the Father known. Indeed, no one can come to the Father except through him (Jn 14:6).

## *He is Changeless*

*Hebrews 13:8* | Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

Jesus is immutable. We change constantly. We are often all over the place as human beings. But Christ, in his transcendence, is the same! He is perfect and never changes in his character. We are called to be like him. His perfect character is the standard.

## *He is Timeless*

*Revelation 1:7-8* | Behold, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him ... <sup>8</sup>“I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, “who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.”

Here Jesus is called the Lord God and the Almighty. He’s referred to as the “Alpha and Omega” because he stands outside of time, being the father and originator of time. He is as Isaiah says, “the first and last,” or as John says, “the Alpha and Omega.” That is, **as the Alpha, Jesus creates time and space. As the Omega, he guides it along and brings it to its conclusion.** With the Father and the Spirit, Jesus created time and space. Therefore, **Jesus existed before time began in eternity past.** Try to think about that, and you might break your brain!

## *He is Holy*

The apostle John in his Gospel of John 12:41 speaks of Isaiah 6, where the angels were worshipping the Lord and crying out “holy, holy, holy.” And John says this passage in Isaiah 6 is about Jesus.

*John 12:41* | Isaiah said these things because he saw his [Jesus’] glory and spoke of him.

**Jesus is the holy, transcendent God of the Old Testament.** Every knee will bow and confess his holiness, that he is Yahweh (Phil 2:9-11). Jesus is the holy God who created us. He is worshipped and separate from sinners. He cannot sin, neither did he sin when he came to earth. He was tempted like us in every way, yet without sin (Heb 4:15).

## *He is in Every Way Transcendent*

We could go on and speak of Jesus’ **omnipotence**, and how he controls the winds and waves and walks on water. In his omnipotence he has the power to heal the blind and deaf and to raise the dead. He controls the elements. He has the power even to raise himself from the dead. He is the omnipotent creator and maintainer of all creation.

We could also speak of Jesus’ **omnipresence**, and that “where two or three are gathered” in his name he says, “there am I in the midst” (Mt 18:20).

We could speak of Jesus’ **omniscience** and wisdom. He knows what is best because he is perfectly good and he is all wise. He knows all things actual and potential, in the past, present and future. Not only does he know what happens in time, but he decrees it, since “all things happen after the counsel of his will” (Eph 1:11). Jesus is the only wise God who will judge heaven and earth, both great and small.

Jesus is high and holy—transcendent in every way. He is glorious in his majesty and fearful in his judgment. His ways are not our ways. Indeed, his ways and wisdom are past

finding out. No one has given him counsel. He is the Lord God Almighty. And yet, being so high and holy, in the incarnation, this glorious God came near.

## IN HIS IMMINENCE

*John 1:14a* | The Word became flesh and dwelt among us.

Though **Jesus is transcendent in his attributes and position**, transcending time and space and any power we can fathom, yet he is imminent to us. He draws near to us. He enters into his creation. This is what the incarnation is all about. Jesus came into the world to be bring the Father near to us. *He gives us access to the Father.*

*Ephesians 2:18* | For through him [Jesus] we have ... access in one Spirit to the Father.

*Hebrews 4:15* | For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin.

He came so near that he was tempted in every way like us, yet without sin. He entered into the human race, “the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God” (1 Pet 3:18).

In the Old Testament, we hear about the unrelenting love of God. We hear that God is a God of grace and kindness, slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy. But it is not until Jesus comes in the incarnation that we see that he is “**touched with the feelings of our infirmities...**”

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## 3. JESUS' POSITION: HE CREATES WITH THE FATHER

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Jesus as the one who is the exact image of the Father, fathers all of creation and he also fathers and guides the church. He is our everlasting father. **He creates time**, and in time he visits earth through his incarnation and redeems the church. In other words, **Jesus fathers all things with the Father and the Spirit**. The one triune God authors everything there is.

### JESUS FATHERED CREATION

This is why we can say Jesus is the father, or originator of eternity. He is the father of time. Since **each Person in the Godhead is distinct**, “Father of Eternity” is a better English translation. Among the Jews, the word “father” means “originator” or “source.”<sup>1</sup> He created time and space. Jesus is the creator of heaven and earth and everything in them. He was “in the beginning” with the Father.

*John 1:1-3* | In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup> He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup> All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made.

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<sup>1</sup> Warren W. Wiersbe, *Be Comforted*, “Be” Commentary Series (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1996), 38.

Just imagine that the one who created all things is this child who is born in the manger. **The “father of eternity” enters time and space as a baby.** This father of time and space grows up under his earthly step-father and his mother.

### **JESUS FATHERED THE CHURCH**

Christ is the father and author of creation, yes, but also of the church itself. He is the head of the church and her Savior.

*Colossians 1:15-20* | He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. <sup>16</sup> For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. <sup>17</sup> And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. <sup>18</sup> And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. <sup>19</sup> For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, <sup>20</sup> and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

Jesus, through his life and death and resurrection, fathers the church. He ever lives to intercede for her and guide her as her good Shepherd. He is the head of the church and will build it, and the gates of hell cannot prevail against it.

### **JESUS FATHERS THE NEW CREATION**

Jesus came to Bethlehem to shepherd us and lead us, like a father would, into the new creation. Jesus has “**a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth**” (Eph 1:10).

*Revelation 21:5* | Behold, I am making all things new.

#### *Jesus Begins Our Salvation*

*2 Corinthians 5:17* | Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

Hebrews says Jesus is the “Author of our salvation” (Heb 2:10). Jesus fathers us as the new creation. He makes us new. He elected us and planned to make us new before the foundation of the world (Eph 1:4). Jesus sends the Holy Spirit to create a new heart in us. He takes out the old heart of stone and puts in a heart of flesh (Eze 36:26).

#### *Jesus Guides Our Salvation*

Jesus is guiding our salvation and sanctification, so that we are conformed into his likeness and image (Rom 8:28-29). Jesus is guiding you and shepherding you to a glorious transformation. Matthew quoted Isaiah to announce exactly who Jesus is. He said:

*Matthew 1:23* | “Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel” (which means, God with us).

Jesus is Immanuel, God with us. He’s with you. **He’ll never leave or forsake you** (Heb 13:5). **Many earthly fathers are distant, aloof, passive, absent, unreliable, selfish, uncaring, and cruel.** But Jesus is always someone who shepherds, affirms,

and stays close. He will never leave you nor forsake you! He will leave the 99 sheep to go after the one lost sheep.

Oh, how good a shepherd is Jesus! He will be with you to make you holy. Wherever you are struggling, run to him. We often want to run away from Jesus when we have fallen into sin. I want to encourage you that he is a good shepherd. He is the Author of the new creation, and he himself has created a new heart in you through regeneration.

Jesus has created you anew, and he's the Mediator who make sure your holiness is successful.

*Ephesians 2:10* | For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

You personally are his new creation. He's conforming you to his own image.

### *Jesus Completes Our Salvation*

*Philippians 1:6, NLT* | And I am certain that God, who began the good work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns.

When our Savior came to Bethlehem, his mission was to crush anyone that would hurt the sheep. He protects us, and he crushes the serpent's head, as the prophecy said he would (Gen 3:15). As the father of eternity, Jesus grants access to the Father in heaven to all who come to him by faith.

We sing a wonderful song at Christmas; we sang it at our Christmas Eve service: *Joy to the World*. Listen to the lyrics.

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!  
Let earth receive her King.  
Let ev'ry heart prepare him room  
and heav'n and nature sing.  
  
No more let sins and sorrows grow  
nor thorns infest the ground.  
He comes to make his blessings flow  
far as the curse is found

I hope this Christmas that this will not only be your song, but your life. No more let sins and sorrow grow. Live for the king. He's authored creation, the church, and the new creation, of which you are the first part.

### *Conclusion*

Who is this person named Jesus? Who is he? **He is the Father of Eternity. But is he the author of your eternity? Is he the author of your salvation?** I trust yesterday was a very Merry Christmas, and that you will carry on that sweet spirit of Christ



Message: Father of Eternity

Series: What Child is This? (Christmas)

who has come to earth to save us! Of all people, Christians should be the merriest at Christmas and every day of the year. Jesus is not only our father of eternity, but our author of eternal life.