

He Shall Be Called: Everlasting Father

Isaiah 9:6 (NKJV)

For unto us a Child is born,
Unto us a Son is given;
And the government will be upon His shoulder.
And His name will be called
Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

That is the the description of the One and only Savior, Jesus Christ!

He is Wonderful Counselor - we marvel at who He is and what He does, it doesn't even make sense to us how amazing He is and how perfect His guidance is.

He is Mighty God - He's more than a Savior, He is the One True God. The only way to salvation. And He is the mightiest, strongest of all gods. He is the Champion God. The Hero God.

He is Everlasting Father. Remember these words, these descriptions are almost like a commentary of the name Jesus. As Isaiah prophesies of the coming Messiah, he is trying to tell us just how much more Jesus is than what we are expecting.

When you see Everlasting Father don't mistake it as Isaiah saying the Jesus, the Son, is God the Father. It doesn't dissolve the trinity of Father, Son, Spirit. They still fully exist as 3 persons working in full unity. They are all eternal, no beginning, no end.

Jesus is NOT the Father. But He IS Everlasting Father. Meaning this is a part of the character of Jesus.

Everlasting Father in the Hebrew is *ad ab (add ahv)*. Ad, Everlasting - meaning ancient of past time and for ever of future time. It speaks of Jesus' continuous existence. There was never a time where He did not exist nor will there ever be a time where He does not exist.

Revelation 1:8 (NKJV)

"I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End," says the Lord, "who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty."

With His own lips, Jesus confirmed that He is everlasting. Alpha and Omega, the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet, it's like saying He's everything from A to Z.

He is the Beginning and the End. Not that He HAS a beginning and an end, but He IS the Beginning and the End. Jesus is the Beginning of all that we know as history. All the records and knowledge of all that has ever existed, they begin with Jesus as Creator. All that is and all that ever will be, is moving toward glorifying Him. That will be the “end” when Jesus reigns as King over His Kingdom.

Colossians 1:16 (NKJV)

For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him.

Jesus was before it all....and He will remain after it all....

Revelation 11:15 (AMP)

Then the seventh angel sounded [his trumpet]; and there were loud voices in heaven, saying,
“The kingdom (dominion, rule) of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ; and He will reign forever and ever.”

Luke tells us even more simply that “His kingdom will have no end”.

Church, this is something we really need to get, it really needs to sink in. Choosing Jesus is not just a one time decision that you make and carry on with your day, it should change the course of your life! It’s not just a decision for this life....it’s forever, it has not end. Eternally in heaven with Jesus or eternally in hell apart from Jesus.

His kingdom has no end. There isn’t “another chance” there isn’t going to be a time to “change your mind”. It’s a permanent decision.

He is Everlasting.....but not only as judge, He is Everlasting Father!

Father - ab (*ahv*) in the Hebrew. The meaning of this word is deep with many layers. It speaks of Jesus’ care for His people like that of a father to his family. I’m going to show you five things about Jesus as Everlasting Father that all come from this very word “ab”

1. Term of respect and honor

In the days of Isaiah, fathers were greatly respected. Just being a father gained you a certain level of honor, even if you didn’t deserve it.

Catholics call priests “Father”. I personally don’t like it but I get the sentiment behind it. It’s a title of respect and honor because of their position. They are in a sense “spiritual fathers” ...a term

some take too lightly. It's important to have someone teaching you and instructing you, helping to "raise you" from an infant Christian to a mature Christian.

In the NT we see "rabbi, teacher, master" all terms of respect and honor.

Today we use reverend or pastor it's a term of respect and honor. You will rarely hear me talk about another pastor and just call them by their first name. I almost always call them Pastor Tom, Pastor Dan, etc. To me they are more than friends, these men are my pastors. They help me in my walk, they teach me and guide me toward greater maturity in Christ.

Jesus is Everlasting Father. He has a name that is to be respected and honored FOREVER!

Philippians 2:9-11 (NKJV)

Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, 10 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, 11 and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Everlasting Father speaks of how great that name would be. Long before the name was revealed to man, Isaiah taught that it was to be respected and honored!

2. Head/Founder

Americans should get this one. We call people father that we have never even met and we are not related to. We honor and respect them because they were the head or the founders of this great nation.

George Washington is called the Father of our Country. The men who signed the Declaration of Independence and wrote the Constitution are called the Founding Fathers. They are respected and honored because they started it all.

It's kind of like a corporation that has a founder that is getting old or ill and they know he can't run the business anymore so they may remove him from the board but they still call him the "father of the company" they list him as founder often with an honorary title.

Churches do this as well when a long tenured pastor retires and they still honor him by calling him pastor because founded the church all those years ago.

Jesus is our founder. Hebrews 12:2 tells us He is the author and finisher of our faith!

Colossians 1:18 (AMP)

He is also the head [the life-source and leader] of the body, the church; and He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that He Himself will occupy the first place [He will stand supreme and be preeminent] in everything.

As Everlasting Father.....Jesus is the head. He is the firstborn from the dead. He led the way and as the Head, continues to lead the way. And He always will.....from everlasting to everlasting.

3. Producer

This one is great....Producer. A producer is one that brings something into existence. This speaks of a couple very important aspects of life.

First is that Jesus is the Everlasting Producer reaffirming that He is our Creator. Remember all things were created through Him and for Him. He is the One responsible for your existence. He always has been Creator and always will be Creator. If something has breath, Jesus not only allowed it but it was made through Him and for Him. (whether they live for Him or not is another story)

Think of the significance if you were hearing these words from Isaiah 700 years before Jesus was born. If you got it, if you were able to connect the dots. The One who is coming to save you, He is the one that Produced you. He brought you into existence.

And then later, the second part is that He also produced new life within you!

2 Corinthians 5:17 (AMP)

Therefore if anyone is in Christ [that is, grafted in, joined to Him by faith in Him as Savior], he is a new creature [reborn and renewed by the Holy Spirit]; the old things [the previous moral and spiritual condition] have passed away. Behold, new things have come [because spiritual awakening brings a new life].

Jesus is Everlasting Producer, He brings into existence, then He produces a clean heart as you trust in Him! It's only Jesus, He is the only One that can change your heart and redirect your life for the good!

4. Protector

What an important role of a father.....protector. When you defend, you guard from attack or you shield from injury or danger.

To be protector, you first have to know of the attack or the danger. It's part of why I'm so "nosey" as a father. I want to know what's going on so that I can guard or shield my child if needed.

There are times where you can't protect because you don't know, or you aren't there, or they won't allow you to. Which is why it's important to TEACH others how to protect themselves! There will be that point in time where you won't be there to save the day. What will they do?

As Everlasting Protector, Jesus always knows the attacks and the dangers that you face.

2 Thessalonians 3:3 (AMP)

But the Lord is faithful, and He will strengthen you [setting you on a firm foundation] and will protect and guard you from the evil one.

When you need Him to, Jesus will protect you, defend you, shield you. But He also teaches you how you protect yourself!

Start by protecting your mind! It all starts there!

Philippians 4:8-9 (NKJV)

Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things. 9 The things which you learned and received and heard and saw in me, these do, and the God of peace will be with you.

Then read Ephesians 6 where He gives you the whole battle plan for your spiritual protection!

And if all else fails, as Everlasting Father, if you call out to Him, He will come to your rescue.

5. Ruler

This ties back to the statement that the government will be upon His shoulder. We often view rulers as a bad thing. Either they were used to smack your hand in school, or they became political tyrants.

We love democracy. Government for the people, by the people! We all want our say. We all want it our way.

No one will ever be completely happy with a president unless maybe you, yourself get the honor. We will always find fault. We will always differ on something! We can't even have one "denomination" of church even though we all have the exact same "rule book".

People are flawed. People are sinners. That makes it hard to trust in people and democracy is a good thing when nobody is perfect.

But what about when someone IS perfect? Wouldn't they rule justly? Wouldn't they make all of the right decisions? That is the kind of ruler that Jesus is....

Colossians 2:10 (AMP)

And in Him you have been made complete [achieving spiritual stature through Christ], and He is the head over all rule and authority [of every angelic and earthly power].

Jesus is Everlasting Ruler. He is over all rule and authority. And we know that He is coming back. We know that when He comes and physically rules on the earth (this will happen), we know that His rule will be perfect!

And as we read earlier, it will have no end....

2 Samuel 7:16 (NKJV)

“And your house and your kingdom shall be established forever before you. Your throne shall be established forever.”

Jesus is Everlasting Father because He has time in His hands and cares for His people like a father should for his children.

Jesus should be honored and respected as the name above all names.

He is Everlasting Head/Founder

He is Everlasting Producer

He is Everlasting Protector

He is Everlasting Ruler

As a follow-up activity to the Christmas story, each child was given three small pieces of cardboard to make a crude manger. Each child was also given a small paper square, cut from yellow napkins which the children tore into strips the paper and carefully laid them in the manger for straw. Small squares of flannel from a thrown away nightgown were used for the baby's blanket. From pieces of tan felt a doll-like baby was made.

As they made their way around the room to observe the children this is what one of the Americans noted, “All went well until I got to one table where little Misha sat. He looked to be about 6 years old and had finished his project.

As I looked at the little boy's manger, I was startled to see, not one but two babies in the manger. Quickly, I called for the translator to ask the lad why there were two babies in the manger.”

The observer goes on to note that Misha very accurately recalled the story that had been told until he came to the part where Mary put Jesus in the manger. “Then Misha,” it is noted, “started to ad-lib. He made up his own ending to the story as he said, “And when

Maria laid the baby in the manger, Jesus looked at me and asked me if I had a place to stay. I told him I have no mamma and I have no papa, so I don't have any place to stay.

Then Jesus told me I could stay with him. But I told him I couldn't because I didn't have a gift to give him like everybody else did. But I wanted to stay with Jesus so much, so I thought about what I had that maybe I could use for a gift. I thought maybe if I kept him warm, that would be a good gift.

So I asked Jesus, "If I keep you warm, will that be a good enough gift?" And Jesus told me, "If you keep me warm, that will be the best gift anybody ever gave me. So I got into the manger, and then Jesus looked at me and he told me I could stay with him – for always."

As little Misha finished his story, his eyes brimmed full of tears that splashed down his little cheeks. Putting his hand over his face, his head dropped to the table and his shoulders shook as he sobbed and sobbed. The little orphan had found someone who would never abandon or abuse him, someone who would stay with him – FOR ALWAYS!"

Jesus is Everlasting Father and loves you with the Father's love. Love that is Everlasting. Love that always accepts you as you are. Love that corrects you. Love that will lead you and establish you.

Will you receive that love today?