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GOD'S WORD FOR ISAN NEWSLETTER

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## For Unto Us A Child Is Born;

*Unto Us a Son Is Given (Isaiah 9:6)*

By Ron Myers

*"When the fullness of the time was come, woman, made under the Law, To redeem that we might receive the Word became flesh and dwelt As of the only begotten of the Father, full "And she shall bring forth a son, Jesus: for he shall save his people*



*God sent forth His Son, made of a them that were under the Law, adoption of sonship" (Gal 4:4-5) among us and we beheld His glory; of grace and truth." (John 1:14) and thou shalt call his name from their sins." (Matt 1:21)*

Christmas Greetings In Jesus Name,

This upcoming New Year, our Christian-based Western calendar year will be 2018, while the Thai Buddhist calendar year will be 2561. One reason why Thailand's Buddhists are slow to receive the Gospel is because they consider the Christian faith of lesser stature than their beloved Buddhism, since they believe Christ and Christianity to be younger than Buddha and Buddhism by half a millennium. However, as Christians we know these *factoids* only reflect when the Son of God – Eternal King of Kings and Lord of Lords – came to earth to become the Son of man, entering as a baby, born in a stable to the Virgin Mary, a young Jewess of low estate. This occurred *"When the fullness of time had come,"* i.e., when our Creator God came down in human form to become the sinless sacrifice and Savior of all mankind. " Called, *"The Lamb of God that taketh away the sin of the world"* (John 1:29)

In contrast, the Buddha (*Siddhartha Gautama*) was born into a royal family in Lumpini, Nepal, bordering India. He saw the sorrow and poverty around him and set out to discover the underlying reason—wanton desires. He then taught people to do good and to think rightly as a means of escape. Unlike the idolatry practiced in Asia today, the Buddha did not encourage people to worship or make images of him. Nor did he claim to be *Deity*, but taught that people should create their own salvation to escape from reincarnation by doing good. The Buddha, as commendable as he was, knew nothing of Jesus Christ, the Creator-God who originally made all things good and sinless, and who later came into this lost and dying world as our Redeemer.

Some 700 years before the earthly advent of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, and 200 years before the time of Buddha, the Old Testament Prophet Isaiah penned these inspired words in grammatically present-perfect tense form: *"For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given: and the government shall be upon His shoulders: and His Name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The Mighty God, The Everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of His government and peace there shall be no end..."* (Isaiah 9:6-7a)

Isaiah lived between 800 and 700 BC, and in all likelihood began his prophetic ministry in *circa* 740 BC. Almost one-third of the sixty-six chapters of the book of Isaiah contain prophecies about our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, addressing both His first advent and upcoming second advent. In fact, Isaiah provides more prophecy of the second coming of Christ than any other Old Testament prophet. The following is a partial list of some of Isaiah's prophecies concerning Christ in both His first and second comings:

- ✓ *"He shall judge between the nations"* (Isaiah 2:4).
- ✓ He was to be the *"Branch of the Lord"* (Isaiah 4:2 and Isaiah 11:1).
- ✓ He would be born of a virgin and be called *"Immanuel" or God With Us* (Isaiah 7:14).
- ✓ He would be a *"stone of stumbling and a rock of offense"* (Isaiah 8:14).
- ✓ An eternal *"government will be upon His shoulder"* and He would be called the *"Prince of Peace"* (Isaiah 9:6-7).
- ✓ The Holy Spirit would *"rest upon Him"* (Isaiah 11:2).
- ✓ He would be *"a tried stone, a precious cornerstone, a sure foundation"* (Isaiah 28:16).

Christ is also spoken of in over half of the chapters between Isaiah 40 and 61. The most important prophetic message pertaining to our Savior is located in Isaiah 53. This prophetic chapter explains in detail both why and how much Christ would suffer as a sacrificial Lamb for the sins of all mankind. (*data borrowed and edited.*)

By God's Grace and For His Glory,

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**In Closing, Thank You for your prayerful interest and financial partnership in our Thai-Isan ministry Wishing you a very blessed, Christ-honoring Christmas and prosperous New Year as you serve Him.**