

Descendant of David on throne forever – Isaiah 9:6-7 – 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, Prince of Peace. 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 – Fulfilled Matthew 1:1, 6

Prophecy – he will die for man's sins – Isaiah 53:4-6 - he was despised, and we esteemed him not. Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

Born in Bethlehem – Micah 5:2; Matthew 2:5-6

Way prepared by messenger – Malachi 3:1; 4:5-6; Mark 1:2

Came as king on donkey – Zechariah 9:9; Matthew 21:4-6

Son of David and Lord – Psalm 110:1; Matthew 22:44

Priest like Melchizedek – Psalm 110:4; Hebrews 5:6

People and rulers conspire to kill him – Psalm 2:1-2; Acts 4:25-26

Betrayed by close friend – Psalm 41:9; John 13:18

Betrayed for 30 pieces of silver – Zechariah 11:13; Matthew 27:9

Friends ran away – Zechariah 13:7; Mark 14:27

Pierced in death – Zechariah 12:10; John 19:37

Divided garments – Psalm 22:18; all four gospels, John 19:24

Sour wine to drink on cross – Psalm 69:21; all gospels Luke 23:36

Words of Jesus on cross – Psalm 22:1; Matthew 27:46

Buried in grave of rich – Isaiah 53:12; Luke 22:37

Allusion to resurrection – Psalm 16:10; Acts 13:35

What difference did Jesus make to world?

1) Spiritually separated from God – All have sinned – Jesus took away sins so we can be connected to God – 2) Socially separated from each other by racial, ethnic, national, marriages – Jesus takes away sins that separate us – 3) Emotionally long for forgiveness, dirty from our sins before God – Jesus cleanses our filth – 4) Psychological longing for healing and new life – Jesus cleans us from defilement from others' sins against us

What difference has Jesus made to me? Do I know he has forgiven me? Do I know I have forgiven others?

## Introduction

In Chicago last weekend in for Joshua's wedding – Restaurant was our lucky day, Santa Claus visited – Can you believe Santa Claus said, "Happy Holidays"? We told him it was quite all right to wish Merry Christmas since Santa is secular distraction for Christmas – McDonald's restaurant in Raleigh, N.C. is under pressure to change front sign – reads "Merry Christmas, Jesus is the Reason for the Season," Some in town say the sign comes on a bit too strong – One complaint called McDonald's corporate offices to ask that it be changed – "It offends me because it specifically talks about Jesus, Merry Christmas" – Imagine associating Christmas with Jesus!

Have you ever been caught at Christmas a no gift for spouse? Like man who rushed out to buy chain saw for wife had much to learn – I don't feel good at buying, thinking of person, listening all year - Our sons usually are – Joshua for engagement planned dinner, on roof of condo to watch sunset, nine gifts – Eighth was diamond engagement ring – What was ninth? Box of stubs from all dates – Usually women go, "ahhh!" – Longer we plan and prepare shows greater care for who we give to

In our house we laid Christmas presents under tree as they were wrapped, days, maybe weeks ahead – Kids look for hints about what it might be – Size, shape, necktie or CD – Did it make noise when shook it – Never seemed to mind unless poked at paper – Sometimes disguised package by wrap in another size box

God gave many hints about present he would give to world on first Christmas – Begin as early as 3<sup>rd</sup> chapter of Bible – Last in OT is last chapter of OT – This year in read through OT have seen many – One is about what his Gift will do – Picture of situation of entire world, our situation and God's solution – [Zechariah 3:1-10](#)

Looks like story of one man, Joshua the high priest – Other figures hint at more, the angel of the LORD and Satan – See also [V8 for they are men who are a sign](#) – Another is [V8 Behold I will bring my servant the Branch...single stone with seven eyes](#) – What is the story? Develop story

### 1. We all stand before God filthy and accused. V1-3

Picture courtroom, [Angel of the LORD](#) is judge, turns out to be Lord, I believe is Jesus – Satan is prosecuting attorney, accuses just as does with us – [The Lord rebuke you](#) – No chance on own but let God’s word answer Satan – Issue is [V3 clothed with filthy garments](#) – All priests were sinners, offered sacrifice for own sins before for sins of people – Was fault with OT system – We are sinners, condemned to death, dirty before God, no chance – Salvation begins I am a sinner

### 2. The Lord remedies by cleansing and clothing. V4-5

Watch remove filthy clothes, represents sin [I have taken your iniquity away from you...pure vestments...clean turban](#) – We cannot cleanse ourselves – Confess sin to God and let him take away in free gracious forgiveness and removal of all our sin – What a great picture, he takes away my dirty, filthy, smelly clothes and gives me clean, pure clothes of righteousness of Christ – V8 Joshua and others with him are a sign so all who believe in him will be cleansed – **Hymns “And Can It Be?”**

### 3. Our cleansing is the beginning of our journey. V6-7

Change of clothing is not end of story but beginning – [If you will walk in my ways...then you shall rule my house](#) – Relate to John 8, woman taken in adultery – Will Jesus join Pharisees and condemn or break law and forgive her? How can God show love without being unjust? Jesus told one without sin to throw first stone – We are all convicted – Only woman left – Jesus forgave her based on his soon death – [Go and from now on sin no more](#) – Command always follows forgiveness – We cannot be justified by God and do as we please – But be glad of order – Did not say, Go and sin no more and I will forgive you but I do not condemn you, now go and sin no more – If we have experienced God’s forgiveness we must walk in his ways

### 4. Our Gift is Jesus, servant, Branch and sacrifice. V8-10

Before look at symbols in these verses look at [V9 And I will remove the iniquity of this land in a single day](#) – What day do you think that was? Day Jesus died on cross – Unlike priests of Law who offered year after year because was symbol not cleansing sacrifice, Jesus only offered one time for all time

Bible has many ways to picture one born in Bethlehem manger – The “Branch” appears in OT as four promises about Gift/Messiah – Correspond to four presentations of Messiah in Gospels

1. The Branch is King – [Jeremiah 23:5](#) – Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land – Corresponds to presentation of Messiah in [Matthew as King](#)

2. The Branch is Servant - [Zechariah 3:8](#) - behold, I will bring my servant the Branch – Corresponds to [Messiah in Mark](#)

3. The Branch is Fully Human - [Zechariah 6:12](#) - And say to him, 'Thus says the LORD of hosts, "Behold, the man whose name is the Branch: for he shall branch out from his place, and he shall build the temple of the LORD – [Luke’s theme](#), Son of Man

4. The Branch is Fully God - [Isaiah 4:2](#) - In that day the branch of the LORD shall be beautiful and glorious, and the fruit of the land shall be the pride and honor of the survivors of Israel – [John’s gospel](#) – And the Word was God

OT filled with “hints” about God’s Gift, the Messiah, Jesus

Prophecy – Born To Eve – [Genesis 3:15](#) – I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel – Fulfilled [Galatians 4:4](#)

Prophecy – Born to Abraham – [Genesis 12:2-3](#) - I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed – Fulfilled [Matthew 1:1](#)

God kept promise to Abraham in birth of son, Isaac – [Genesis 22:14](#) So Abraham called the name of that place, "The LORD will provide"; as it is said to this day, "On the mount of the LORD it shall be provided – Fulfilled [John 19:17](#) – Same mountain Jesus was crucified – Chose Jacob over Esau – 12 sons – Prophecy born to Judah [Genesis 49:10](#) - The scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor the ruler's staff from between his feet – Fulfilled [Matthew 1:3](#)

Prophecy he will be a Prophet – [Deuteronomy 18:18](#) - I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brothers. And I will put my words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them all that I command him – [Acts 3:23](#) Peter quotes as fulfilled in Jesus

## My Hope Is Built (The Solid Rock)

Words: Edward Mote

My hope is built on nothing less  
Than Jesus' blood and righteousness.

I dare not trust the sweetest frame,  
But wholly trust in Jesus' Name.

Refrain

On Christ the solid Rock I stand,  
All other ground is sinking sand;  
All other ground is sinking sand.

When darkness seems to hide His face,  
I rest on His unchanging grace.

In every high and stormy gale,  
My anchor holds within the veil.

His oath, His covenant, His blood,  
Support me in the whelming flood.  
When all around my soul gives way,  
He then is all my Hope and Stay.

When He shall come with trumpet sound,  
Oh may I then in Him be found.

Dressed in His righteousness alone,  
Faultless to stand before the throne.

And Can it Be?

No condemnation now I dread;  
Jesus, and all in Him, is mine;  
Alive in Him, my living Head,  
And clothed in righteousness divine,  
Bold I approach th'eternal throne,  
And claim the crown, through Christ my own.

HE IS THE ONE – E. K. Bailey

He's in charge I tell you, he's the One. Do you know that he's the one that put the shine in the sun? He's the one. He's the one that put the beam in the moon. He is the one. He's the one who put the twinkle in the star. He's the one that put the length and the breadth in the galaxy. I'm telling you God is in charge. He's the one because he put the babble in the brook. He put the roar in the ocean. He is the one, you know. He's the one because he put the sweetness in the orange, and the tart in the lemon. He put the crunch in the apple and the crisp in the lettuce. He put the softness in the banana. I tell you, he is the one. You see, nobody else can do that.

He put the running in your feet. He put the bend in your knee. He put the hug in your arms. He put the seeing in the eye, the hearing in the ear. He put the smell in the nose. He put the taste in your mouth. He put the joy in your heart. He is the one. Nobody else can do that.