

12.12.10 / Isaiah 9:6 (supporting text: Hebrews 2:10-18)**Passage Insight**

This is the third week of Advent, and we are focusing on Jesus as Everlasting Father. We want to be careful as we do this, because we don't want to suggest that Jesus the Son of God and the Father, two distinct persons of the Trinity, are in fact the same, indistinguishable person. While the mystery of the Trinity has always been a beautiful mystery to those of us in this current earthly stage of our life, we can be sure that three distinct persons of the Trinity exist, the Father, the Son, and the Spirit, and that at the same time they are unified in perfect community and oneness. We will explore Jesus as Everlasting Father in this light.

In Hebrews 2:13, Jesus references the children that have been given to Him by the Father when He says, "Behold, I and the children God has given me." John 6:44 says, "No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him . . ." which lets us know that the Father draws us toward Jesus, the Son. And in John 10:29 Jesus says, "My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand." These passages let us know that when we follow the Lord through Jesus Christ, we belong to Jesus as His children. In this way we see that Jesus is our Everlasting Father.

As we did last week, this week we will reference Scripture passages that deepen our understanding of what it means for Jesus to have the name that corresponds to this week of Advent. In John 10:30, Jesus says, "I and the Father are one." This reminds us of the unity among the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and for this reason we will focus on passages that speak of our Trinitarian God as both everlasting and as Father. It should be noted that this list is by no means all-inclusive. We will reference passages that refer directly to Jesus (Son of God) as well passages that refer to God in general or to the Father within the Trinity. This is intentional, and it is not at all to suggest that God is sometimes the Father, sometimes the Son, and sometimes the Holy Spirit. It is simply to bring about further understanding of what it means for Jesus to be our Everlasting Father. In the cases where Jesus is referenced specifically or is quoted, we will make mention of this for the sake of clarity.

Everlasting

Everlasting In His Existence

Isaiah 40:28

Have you not known? Have you not heard?

The LORD is the everlasting God,
the Creator of the ends of the earth.

Revelation 22:13 (Jesus is speaking here)

I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end.

Psalm 90:2

Before the mountains were brought forth,
or ever you had formed the earth and the world,
from everlasting to everlasting you are God.

Everlasting In His Salvation

John 10:27-28 (Jesus is speaking here)

My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand.

Hebrews 7:23-25

The former priests were many in number, because they were prevented by death from continuing in office, but he holds his priesthood permanently, because he continues forever.

Consequently, he is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them.

Everlasting In His Provision

Hebrews 13:5 (Jesus is quoted here)

Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for he has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you."

Matthew 28:18-20 (Jesus is quoted here)

And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

Isaiah 40:28-31

Have you not known? Have you not heard?

The LORD is the everlasting God,
the Creator of the ends of the earth.

He does not faint or grow weary;
his understanding is unsearchable.

He gives power to the faint,
and to him who has no might he increases strength.

Even youths shall faint and be weary,
and young men shall fall exhausted;
but they who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength;
they shall mount up with wings like eagles;
they shall run and not be weary;
they shall walk and not faint.

Everlasting In His Rule

Isaiah 9:7 (Jesus is referenced here)

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.
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

Father

Father Is Compassionate

Psalm 103:13

As a father shows compassion to his children,
so the LORD shows compassion to those who fear him.

Father Disciplines Us Because He Loves Us

Proverbs 3:11-12

My son, do not despise the LORD's discipline
or be weary of his reproof,
for the LORD reproves him whom he loves,
as a father the son in whom he delights.

Father Adopts Us Completely

2 Corinthians 6:18

... I will be a father to you,
and you shall be sons and daughters to me.

Father's Love is Everlasting

Psalm 103:13-18

As a father shows compassion to his children,
so the LORD shows compassion to those who fear him.
For he knows our frame;
he remembers that we are dust.
As for man, his days are like grass;
he flourishes like a flower of the field;
for the wind passes over it, and it is gone,
and its place knows it no more.
But the steadfast love of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting on those who fear him,
and his righteousness to children's children,
to those who keep his covenant
and remember to do his commandments.

The characteristics wrapped up in being Everlasting Father are completely attributable to our King Jesus. They are likely all at once challenging and comforting, unsettling and reassuring. Ultimately they are satisfying and true, as our Lord fulfills every need of His children forever.

Application Questions

Everlasting

- 1) Of those listed above, which of God's everlasting traits are the most unsettling or hardest to accept for you personally (existence, salvation, provision, rule)?
- 2) If not "everlasting," what trait do you ascribe to God in this area (for example, if you struggle with thinking that God is everlasting in how He provides, what word do you think describes His provision)?
- 3) What might be the reason for the disconnect?
- 4) What sin in your life might be keeping you from seeing Him as everlasting in this area?

Father Is Compassionate

- 1) Where have you personally experienced Jesus' compassion as Everlasting Father?
- 2) How did this draw you closer to Him?
- 3) What changed in you as a result?

Sources

- Prayer
- Tyndale
- Tyler Jones
- New International Commentary on the New Testament