

# God Chose...A Prophet

Isaiah 9:6-7

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“6 For to us a child is born, to us a Son is given, and the government will be on His shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. 7 Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the LORD Almighty will accomplish this.. ....”

Isaiah 9:6-7 (NIV)



Have you ever considered these great questions?

1. Why do the Alphabet song and Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star have the same tune?
2. Why do toasters always have a setting that burns the toast to a horrible crisp, which no decent human being would eat?
3. Why is there a light in the fridge and not in the freezer?
4. If Jimmy cracks corn and no one cares, why is there a song about him?
5. Can a hearse carrying a corpse drive in the carpool lane?
6. If the professor on Gilligan's Island can make a radio out of coconut, why can't he fix a hole in a boat?
7. Why does Goofy stand erect while Pluto remains on all fours?  
They're both dogs!
8. If Wile E. Coyote had enough money to buy all that Acme crap, why didn't he just buy dinner?
9. Did you ever notice that when you blow in a dog's face, he gets mad at you, but when you take him on a car ride, he sticks his head out the window?

Sometimes it's good to ponder the great questions of life. Advent is a time at which we ponder some of the greatest questions and mysteries about God. Perhaps the greatest question is simply this, “Why does God love us?” and “How can God love us so much?”

I think that this Scripture, from Isaiah 9, helps give us insight into God's love.

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What great joy this gives! And what anticipation we begin to feel again as we approach the celebration of Christmas. “Unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given.”

As we consider this passage, there's one thing that really strikes me. That thing that strikes me is not the fact that God gave us this Child, Jesus, and that He gave us His son. Certainly, that is striking!

But, upon closer examination, when we see that God did give us His Son in Jesus Christ at Christmas, the question we must ask is simply this. "Why?" "What was God's motivation?" "What caused God to do this?"

The simple and obvious answer, of course, is that God loves us. Christmas, of course, is a celebration of God's love, God's grace and God's concern for us. It is, we might say, a festival of love—God's love for us.

But, perhaps this Advent we ought to consider this celebration of love from another perspective. When we ask, "Why did God give us this Child, Jesus?" the answer comes to this: God chose to give us His son. It was an intentional act, not an accident. It wasn't something that He was forced to do. It wasn't something that He did because He didn't have any other option. It's not some sort of anxious, split-second reaction, either.

It was God's choice to give us His Son. It was a deliberate, intentional, premeditated planned action guided by His love.

That's what love does, doesn't it. Love demands choices. We choose whom we love. We choose if we will love them or not. We choose to love—or not love—our spouse, our family, our parents, our friends and those around us.

Perhaps that's the hardest part of love is in the choosing, deciding and making the determination that of whether we will love...or whether we will not. Everyday of our lives we have to make that choice relative to people, places, things, activities and vocations.

As many of you know, just moments ago Tom Brokaw gave his last broadcast as anchor of NBC news. This top-rated anchor is at the top of his game. Tonight, Brokaw acted on a decision he made several months ago. He chose to love another occupation, another endeavor, another opportunity. No matter how much he may have told others he'd love to do something else, the way he proved his love is not by his words. It was by making—and acting—on his love. He did that by choosing to follow his heart.

We often say, as Scripture does, that "God is love." And He is. Perhaps, though, we have ignored the obvious implications of this. That implication is that God follows His heart.

This Advent we see what His heart really is like. We don't just hear God talking sweet sentimentalities. We don't just hear Him whining about sinners who have fallen from His love. We see a God who commiserates endlessly in helplessness wondering, "Why? Why? Why?" do you and I sin?

No matter how impressive these words might be, talk—even talk of love—is cheap. Love is only seen by the choices it makes. These choices determine what actions, what sacrifices, what prices one is willing to pay—or not pay—for love. The more determinedly one chooses to act, to take risk of sacrifice, and to pay the price that is necessary, the greater their love is.

St. John wrote these familiar words,

“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.” John 3:16 (NIV)

God didn't just love us when He gave His Son to us. He made a choice, a choice driven by the deepest love we will ever experience!

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This Child that God decided to give is, a Prophet. Why? A prophet? Because a prophet's first and primary duty is to tell others about God.

This child born to us, not only tells us about God. He tells us about God's love, God's choice, God's determination to save you and me.

Former president Ronald Reagan once had an aunt who took him to a cobbler for a pair of new shoes. The cobbler asked young Reagan, "Do you want square toes or round toes?" Unable to decide, Reagan didn't answer, so the cobbler gave him a few days. Several days later the cobbler saw Reagan on the street and asked him again what kind of toes he wanted on his shoes. Reagan still couldn't decide, so the shoemaker replied, "Well, come by in a couple of days. Your shoes will be ready." When the future president did so, he found one square-toed and one round-toed shoe! "This will teach you to never let people make decisions for you," the cobbler said to his indecisive customer. "I learned right then and there," Reagan said later, "if you don't make your own decisions, someone else will."

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No one but God made the decision to send this child to you and me. And no one but you can make the decision as to your response.

God chose a Prophet—His Son—to share His word of salvation with you. Will you love Him? This Advent, may your love for God move you to chose Jesus as your Lord of Lords and King of Kings. Amen.

Thomas F. Fischer