

**Isaiah 9: 6 and 7; “The Increase of Christ’s Government”, A Sermon  
for the Christmas Season, Delivered by Pastor Paul Rendall on  
December 26<sup>th</sup>, 2010, in the Afternoon Worship Service.**

When verse 7 speaks about “the increase of Christ’s government and peace, and its having no end”, it cannot mean that the Lord Jesus Christ will come to have a greater power of sovereignty over people’s lives than He presently does; or that He has come to have, since His resurrection. He now has “all power and authority in heaven and earth.” So I conclude that the increase of His government and peace must be in relation to His rule in the lives of each one of His Elect, and also in the progress which His kingdom makes among the nations of the world at certain points in the History of Redemption as the Elect are gathered in through the preaching of the gospel. This is how I want to approach this subject this afternoon. I want us to look first of all at the Father’s work in relation to the increase of Christ’s government. Then, 2ndly, I would like to look at the Son’s work as the Prince of Peace in establishing His own rule over His Church. And then finally, I would like to look at the Spirit’s work in relation to bringing these good things about. There is much that could be said on these subjects, but I will try to be very concise and just give you an overview, or a taste of what is being spoken of here.

**1<sup>st</sup> – I want us to look at the Father’s work in relation to the increase of Christ’s Government.**

Let us understand from these verses that the Father would have all things subject to His Son. He would have all things under His feet by the end of this Church age that we now live in. Until that time the Father has a work which He is doing on behalf of the advance of His Son’s kingdom. You can see it if you will turn with me over to Psalm 110, verse 1. “The Lord said to my Lord, ‘Sit at My right hand, till I make Your enemies Your footstool.’” “The Lord shall send the rod of Your strength out of Zion, ‘Rule in the midst of Your enemies!’” Now this is God the Father addressing God the Son in language which reveals to us what the Father will most certainly and definitely labor to accomplish on behalf of the advance of His Son’s kingdom. It is God the Father who will make God the Son’s enemies His footstool. The Son will not return the second time until this is so. The Father did, by the sending of the Holy Spirit, send out the rod of Christ’s strength out of Zion.” His sending Him was the Promise of the Father.(Acts 1: 4) The rod of Christ’s strength is the gospel of salvation; that good news of the great work that Christ accomplished by His being born into this world; taking upon Himself human nature, and then living and dying to the glory of the Father. In this way the Father intends to bring about the salvation of all of the Elect. In this holy way of sending forth the preached word; the Father intends that Christ’s kingdom and peace increase.

The Father’s expressly stated purpose here is to make Christ’s enemies His footstool.” I believe that He does this in two ways. All men are by nature God’s enemies because of their sin. Romans Chapter 5 and verse 8 – “But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died

for the us.” “Much more then, having been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him.” “For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.” We see here that Christ died for sinners, for all that the Father would draw to Him. The Father’s purpose in regard to the Elect is that at the time of His appointment, He and the Holy Spirit would most certainly convict the chosen ones of their sin and draw them to see their need of Christ. They very deliberately and definitely convince the sinner of the loveliness of Christ in His righteousness, and the suitability of Christ to save them from their sins. They convince the sinner that this is the only way that they will find eternal life. Regenerating grace is given and the sinner’s hard and resistant heart is changed, and opened to receive the truth of the gospel. Light is shined into the sinner’s heart to give an understanding of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. The sinner embraces Jesus Christ by faith, receiving the Word of truth as it is preached to them or shared with them, and they are saved. They are no longer enemies of Christ; they want Christ to rule over them. They are willing to submit to Him in accordance with the truth of the Word of God, which leads them and guides them in accordance with the working of the Father and the Spirit. Flesh and blood had not revealed to Peter that Jesus was the Christ, but it was the Father in heaven who revealed it to him. This is the Father’s increasing and establishing the government of Christ. Peace is made, on the basis of Christ’s finished work, between God and sinful, but believing, people. Judgment and justice have been satisfied in Christ, and so God’s wrath is removed and the sinner is made a saint and brought into Christ’s kingdom.

The other way that Christ’s enemies are made a footstool by the Father’s working, is for the Father to “send out His word of His judgment” to bring the pride and strength of unrepentant sinners down. In this, His justice is demonstrated and persons and kingdoms which set themselves up against Christ will be utterly and eternally destroyed. You can see a good example of this in Isaiah 9: 8, the verses which follow the ones that we are studying this afternoon. The word of God came against His own professed people who would not repent. “The Lord sent a word against Jacob, and it has fallen on Israel.” “All the people will know—Ephraim and the inhabitant of Samaria—who say in pride and arrogance of heart: The bricks have fallen down, but we will rebuild with hewn stones; the sycamores are cut down, but we will replace them with cedars.” “Therefore the Lord shall set up the adversaries of Rezin against him, and spur his enemies on, the Syrians before and the Philistines behind; and they shall devour Israel with an open mouth.” “For all this His anger is not turned away, but His hand is stretched out still.” Those who oppose God’s word through His prophets will be brought down to eternal destruction.

You find this kind of language laid out very clearly in Psalm 2, language which reveals the Father’s purpose to make all of Christ’s enemies His footstool. “Why do the nations rage, and the people plot a vain thing?” “The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the Lord and against His Anointed, saying, Let us break Their bonds in pieces and cast away Their cords from

us.” “He who sits in the heavens shall laugh; the Lord shall hold them in derision.” “Then He shall speak to them in His wrath, and distress them in His deep displeasure: “Yet I have set My King on My holy hill of Zion.” “I will declare the decree: The Lord said to Me, You are My Son, today I have begotten You.” “Ask of Me, and I will give You the nations for Your inheritance, and the ends of the earth for Your possession. So you see, the Father’s work with men and nations is to sift them and to save some, and to sift them and destroy others; those who will not repent about His Son being Lord of all, Savior of all, and Judge of all. The application ought to be obvious. Is Christ your Savior, and is He your Lord? Have you received the testimony of the Father concerning the Son which is found in the Gospel; the rod of His strength? Are you now working together with the Father to promote the glory and the kingdom of Christ? How blessed is the person who puts their trust in Christ! “Kiss the Son, lest the Father be angry and you perish in the way.” “Be wise O kings; be instructed you judges of the earth.” “Serve the Lord with fear, and rejoice with trembling.” Know that the Father will make all of Christ’s enemies the footstool for His feet. This paves the way for the Prince of Peace to return.

**Now 2ndly - I would like us to look at the Son’s work as the Prince of Peace in establishing His own rule over His Church.**

Ask yourself, this afternoon, if you are one who is praying and working for the increase of Christ’s government in your own life, and in the life of others? For Christ is risen from the dead. He is living and He is actively governing the whole world, and He is particularly concerned for His Church. Are you praying for the advance of Christ’s gospel so that there will be increase brought to His Church? The “throne of David and His kingdom” which is spoken of here in verse 7, I believe, is His Church. Christ is presently reigning over His people in all of His churches all over the world. He has been given power over all flesh, that to as many as the Father has given to Him, He will give them eternal life. And this He most certainly does now, from heaven. But let us realize that He is not reigning over all flesh in the same way that He does over His Church. Those who are not a part of His Church do not want this Man to reign over them. They have rejected His right to rule over them. Nevertheless, Christ is presently reigning in heaven and is sovereign over them, even so. Turn with me to 1 Corinthians 15: 25 – “For He must reign till He has put all enemies under His feet.” “But when He says ‘All things are put under Him,’ it is evident that He who put all things under Him is excepted. “Now when all things are made subject to Him, then the Son Himself will also be subject to Him who put all things under Him, that God may be all in all.” Now these are very interesting verses, and should be, to all who love Christ, and who want to see His kingdom advance in their hearts and lives. Christ is presently reigning, and yet all things are not subject to Him, as of yet. The verses that I just read to you say so. “He must reign until He puts all His enemies under His feet.” Christ is presently sitting at the right hand of the Father. He has a government which lies upon His shoulder. He is the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. He is the Prince of life. He is the Prince of Peace. There will most definitely and most surely be an increase in His government over all the

elect, and also among all the nations as His Kingdom comes and His will is done on earth as it is in heaven. For it is in the increase of Christ's government and peace that God is glorified.

It is when the throne of Christ's kingdom is "ordered and established with judgment and justice"; that God's plans which were formed long ago with perfect faithfulness, come to fruition, and then at the Father's time, the end shall come. Christ will then return and raise the dead and judge the world. And Christ will hand the Mediatorial Kingdom back to His Father, as it says in 1 Corinthians 15: 24. "Then comes the end, when He delivers the kingdom to God the Father, when He puts an end to all rule and all authority and power. Verse 6 of our text says that His name shall be "the Prince of Peace", and "of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end." We just looked at verses a couple of minutes ago about how Christ reconciled us to God through His blood. Now let us see that this shedding of His blood brings us peace with God now. Turn with me to Ephesians Chapter 2. We will look at verses 13-17. "But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ." "For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one (Jew and Gentile) and has broken down the middle wall of separation, having abolished in His flesh the enmity, that is the law of commandments contained in ordinances, so as to create in Himself one new man from the two, thus making peace, and that He might reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity, and He came and preached peace to you who were afar off and to those who were near." "For through Him we both have access by one Spirit to the Father." This was how Christ is the Prince of Peace. He has become our peace. He has made peace by the blood of His cross, not only between God and ourselves, but also between Jew and Gentile. He fulfilled the law, both moral and ceremonial, and has taken away the wall of separation between the two. We are both reconciled to God in one body, the Church. Then Jesus, having preached peace while He was here upon the earth, committed the gospel to His Apostles who took it far and near and have given it also to us here, so many generations later.

Because Christ has done this glorious work of redemption, God the Father will bless Christ's Church in her efforts to preach peace through Christ's work. Romans 10: 15 – "How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed?" "And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard?" "And how shall they hear without a preacher?" "And how shall they preach unless they are sent?" "As it is written: 'How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, who bring glad tidings of good things!'" The application is once again very clear. Will you not see that true and lasting peace is only found in Jesus Christ our Lord? He is the Prince of peace. "There is no peace, says my God, for the wicked." But it is important for us to understand that the object of Christ in regard to His Church is that He would be able "to order it and establish it with judgment and justice." The object is to have a holy Church without spot or wrinkle. The object is to have a Church composed of many churches which are ordering their activities of worship

and evangelism and fellowship around the truth of His Word. He looks at each of His churches individually to see if these things are proceeding in a way which glorifies Him, and glorifies the Father. Think with me about the words of 1 Peter 2, verse 5 – “But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love.” “For if these things are yours and abound (if they are increasing), you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.” This is where Christ’s government is exercised within His Church. For it in our exercising these graces in relation to keeping the commandments of God in relation to one another in the body of Christ, that our Lord is glorified in us and His kingdom increases and advances.

**And this leads to our final point - I would like to very briefly mention the Spirit’s work in relation to bringing these good things about.**

Our text says, “The zeal of the Lord of Hosts shall accomplish this.” The Holy Spirit works in connection with the people whom He indwells to increase Christ’s government and peace. Having been sent by the Father and the Son, He works to glorify Christ by giving His people grace and peace, and by teaching and revealing to them Christ’s way of doing things. John 14: 21 – “He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me.” “And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love Him and manifest Myself to Him.” Verse 23 – “If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him.” Verse 27 – “Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you, not as the world gives do I give to you.” “Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.” Now see how this works out practically in the local church. Turn to Colossians 3, verse 12 and you will see this. “Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do.” “But above all things put on love, which is the bond of perfection.” “And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful.” Truly this is how Christ’s kingdom advances in the local church. It is not as though sound doctrine does not need to be taught; it does need to be taught. It is not as though the elders of the church should not try to well-order the church so that she can be more effective. But it is the Prince of Peace establishing peace in the hearts of Christ’s people; in their consciences and in their lives, when things do not go the way that they would want them humanly to go, in the work and labors for Christ’s kingdom. This peace ruling in the heart holds the church together so that they can bear fruit unto God.

And so, in conclusion, we can say that as these things come to be seen in more and more in any given local church, there is an increase in the government, the righteous rule of Christ in that Church. And then, when the Spirit is poured out upon many congregations in revival, an increase of peace will also be seen in the world in

general. The Prince of Peace, Jesus Christ, is so wonderfully great, that He can bring peace to all the ends of the earth, if it is according to His will. Psalm 46: 8 – Come behold the works of the Lord, who has made desolations in the earth.” “He makes wars cease to the end of the earth. And Isaiah Chapter 2 declares to us that someday the Lord will do this very thing through the grace and power of the Prince of Peace. Isaiah 2: 2 – “Now it shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the Lord’s house shall be established on the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills.” “And all nations shall flow to it.” “Come and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; He will teach us His ways, and we shall walk in His paths.” “For out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.” “He shall judge between the nations, and rebuke many people; they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore.” Let us pray for the Prince of peace to come to us by the pouring out of His Spirit in greater measure so that “the increase of His government and peace” will come in a greater way than it ever has before. Let us pray for the spiritual reign of Christ. Let us pray for Christ’s kingdom to come; that Christ’s glory and power would be known in a greater way in the salvation of sinners and the strengthening of His people. We know from these promises that it will surely come at the Lord’s appointed time. And when this age ends, peace will continue throughout all eternity for all those who love our God and our Christ.