



Advent Day 15 (written by Deb Bakken)

Scepter

Isaiah 9:6-7

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. 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. (NIV 1984)

In the United States, there is a Presidential election every four years. It is actually possible for the people of our nation to elect a new ruler that often. In Bible times, a king was king for his whole life. Often, that was much longer than four years.

God promised to send a Ruler who would rule longer than a lifetime. God's chosen Ruler would rule forever.

Ahab ruled in the days of Elijah the prophet. Imagine what it would have been like if a wicked king like Ahab ruled forever! People in our country often become tired of our president after just a year or two.

God's promised Ruler would be different. God's Ruler would bring justice — that's perfect fairness. He would also bring righteousness — always doing the right thing. And he would bring peace. Where is this awesome Ruler? Will he ever come?

He has already come. His name is Jesus Christ, and he is the Son of God. He is just and fair in judging sinful people like us. He lived a holy, righteous life in our place. And by his innocent death and his resurrection, his believers have perfect peace with God. How happy we are that he rules forever!

Prayer: Dear Lord Jesus, we thank you for your everlasting rule of righteousness and love in our lives and in our world. Amen.