

# He Shall Be Called: Wonderful Counselor

It's Christmas time! Just four weeks until Christmas!

This year for our Christmas series, I'm going a different route. Instead of looking at the typical "Christmas story" surrounding the birth of Jesus that includes Mary, Joseph, shepherds, angels, wise men, etc. We are going to look at the prophetic announcement of Jesus' birth found in the book of Isaiah.

## **Isaiah 9:6 (NKJV)**

For unto us a Child is born,  
Unto us a Son is given;  
And the government will be upon His shoulder.  
And His name will be called  
Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

These words were spoken by the prophet Isaiah. Isaiah lived about 700 years before the birth of Christ. But Isaiah was used by God to continually proclaim the good news of the coming Savior. Isaiah talked so much about Jesus before He was known as Jesus, that many people call the book of Isaiah the fifth gospel.

Isaiah tells of sin, rebellion, rejection, sacrifice, repentance, and salvation. He hits the whole range of the story of the coming Savior.

When this verse was written, the people of Israel were in bad shape...they have had wicked rulers and governments, they had kings, judges, counselors, and all had failed them. They were in a season in need of hope.

Isaiah delivers this word from God. "*For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given, and the government will be upon His shoulder.*" Wow, great news!

A Child is born....this speaks of the fact that Jesus would be born of human parents. He would come into our world in the same manner that we did. He would be a Child and the Son of Man.

A Son is given....this speaks of His coming as a gift of the Father. God gave His one and only Son to be the living, breathing example of His unconditional love and infinite grace.

The government will be upon His shoulder.....speaks of His coming to rule and reign as King of His Kingdom!

Then Isaiah tells us what He will be called. And I wonder why didn't God tell Isaiah "*He will be called Jesus*", why was His name not revealed? Why are we instead given some descriptions instead?

In the OT names really meant something. People were not named by cool factor, or by what is popular, or what is unique. They were named based on meaning of what had happened or what they hoped to happen.

But this name Jesus....we know now that it's the name above all names. We know now that it means more than we can even put into words or ever explain. And when Isaiah is delivering this message to Israel, he is delivering a message of hope of the things to come.

So when Isaiah says "*His name will be called*", he is actually telling us of the name of Jesus. Isaiah is telling us a commentary of what that name of Jesus will be. He is telling us His character, the attributes of this multi faceted Messiah, Son of God, Who will one day reign on the earth!

Today we are going to look at Wonderful Counselor.

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How many of you have heard this verse before? Probably everyone that has been to a Christmas service! How many of you have been deeply moved by this verse? Not many....but we should be!

Wonderful Counselor.....this is literally translated as "Wonder of a Counselor", you could say "supernatural counselor" or "One giving supernatural counsel".

This word "Wonderful" is a unique word in the Hebrew language. It is a word that was usually applied to something that could have only been done by an act of God. It was something that was so unusual that it would have been beyond human capabilities. It is something that astonishes, something you would marvel at, even something that is hard to understand. Not hard to understand as in you don't believe God did it or could do it but hard to understand as in you don't understand HOW He did it or WHY He did it. It's a wonder.....

If we had been there when the Israelites walked through the parted waters of the Red Sea on dry land we would have said, 'That is wonderful!'

If we had been standing by Joshua, the captain of the hosts of the armies of Israel when he commanded the sun and the moon to stand still over the Valley of Ajalon, we would have said, 'It is wonderful.'

If we had stood on Mount Carmel by Elijah when fire fell from heaven and consumed the wood, the sacrifice, and the altar, and all the water surrounding it we would have said, 'It is wonderful.'"

This is what Isaiah wants us to understand about this special Child Who will come. He is no ordinary Child. There will be nothing ordinary about Him. He is out of this world. He can only do what He does because He comes from God Himself.

He's no ordinary Child because He's no ordinary God.

He shall be called Wonderful Counselor.....do you realize how wonderful Jesus is? That name.....Jesus.....It's full of wonder, It's something to marvel at, It's something that's even hard to fully understand how great It is!

***"There are two hundred and fifty-six names given in the Bible for the Lord Jesus Christ, and I suppose this was because He was infinitely beyond all that any one name could express." ~ Billy Sunday***

When was the last time you really sat back and were in awe of Jesus. The He is Wonderful and that is what drew people to Him in His time on the earth but it's STILL the thing that draws people to Him.

**Matthew 7:28-29**

When Jesus had finished these words, the crowds were amazed at His teaching; for He was teaching them as one having authority, and not as their scribes.

**Matthew 27:14**

And He did not answer him with regard to even a single charge, so the governor was quite amazed.

**Luke 4:22**

And all were speaking well of Him, and wondering at the gracious words which were falling from His lips; and they were saying, "Is this not Joseph's son?"

**Mark 1:27**

They were all amazed, so that they debated among themselves, saying, "What is this? A new teaching with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey Him."

These instances and so many more....people were amazed by the things Jesus said. They marveled at His words and often didn't understand why He said them or where He got them!

The words of Jesus are something to marvel at. When is the last time you read them? You are missing out! Get in the Word TODAY....it's wonderful.

The things He DID were wonderful too....often times they were hard to understand.

- Healed blind eyes
- Cured lepers
- Chose nobodys and outcasts
- Gave children His time and attention
- Drove out a legion of demons
- Fed 5000 with 5 loaves and 2 fish
- Raised the dead (some in His presence, some were not)
- Never gave in to temptation
- Willingly gave His life on the cross
- Rose from the dead
- Freely offers us new life filled with love and grace

Jesus is Wonderful. How can you not marvel at what He says, what He does, Who He is????

He shall be called Wonderful Counselor....

Jesus is a supernatural counselor. He gives supernatural advise.

So many people see the word counselor and automatically they have negative thoughts. If you tell someone you see a counselor, they think you are mentally unstable. If you suggest someone see a counselor they think they don't need to because they are not mentally messed up.

When we meet with a couple that I agree to marry, we don't call it premarital counseling. The primary reason is the negative feelings that people have about it. We call it marriage prep because it sounds more acceptable, even though we do the exact same thing we'd do in premarital counseling!

But do you know that counseling is not bad unless you get bad counsel?

Do you know that the main reason people view counseling negatively is because they are full of pride and think they can do it themselves?

There are times where you need counsel. Sometimes professional counseling to help you get your mind right about some things but more often you need wise counsel on how to handle a particular situation in your life.

People reject both simply out of pride. SOMETIMES it's because of bad previous counsel but usually it's out of pride. "I can do this on my own. I can figure it out"

And that's the same reason we don't look to God for counsel.....pride.

Counsel, advice, plans, purpose....our first source for all of these things should not be our own experience or wisdom....it should be Jesus!

He's a Wonderful Counselor.....a supernatural counselor! One who never steers us the wrong way. One who never advises wrongly or in error. One who knows all things!

Part of the Wonder is that it's hard to understand how or why Jesus does what He does. But when you are uncertain and in need of help, isn't that the exact kind of counsel you would want? One that gives you an answer you couldn't come up with on your own? One that you wonder how, why? But it's perfect and exactly what you need?

Listen to what Charles Spurgeon says about Jesus as Counselor...

How we need Jesus as our Counselor! "It was by a Counselor that this world was ruined. Did not Satan mask himself in the serpent, and counsel the woman with exceeding craftiness, that she should take unto herself of the fruit of the tree of knowledge of good and evil, in the hope that thereby she should be as God? Was it not that evil counsel which provoked our mother to rebel against her Maker, and did it not as the effect of sin, bring death into this world with all its train of woe? Ah! beloved, the world should have a Counselor to restore it, if it had a Counselor to destroy it.

There is only One who can perfectly answer all of your problems, all of your questions, all of your lacking, all of your need. He shall be called Wonderful Counselor. His name is Jesus!

We are all in need of a counselor.....

**Isaiah 28:29 (NKJV)**

This also comes from the Lord of hosts,  
Who is wonderful in counsel and excellent in guidance.

Christ's position as our Wonderful Counselor means we can trust Him to listen to our problems and guide us in the right direction

**Proverbs 3:6 (NKJV)**

In all your ways acknowledge Him,  
And He shall direct your paths.

We can be sure He is listening because He told us to pray to Him about our worries

**Philippians 4:6 (NKJV)**

Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God;

We can be certain He has our best interests at heart because He loves us

**1 John 4:19 (NKJV)**

We love Him because He first loved us.

And His love is so wide and deep (and wonderful) that we cannot fully understand it

**Romans 5:8 (NKJV)**

But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Jesus is the sum total of all knowledge. All wisdom, all guidance, all direction, all truth, all counsel and insight...He knows everything about everything and is never wrong.

All knowledge of the past present and future, of all things, of all purposes and plans belongs to Him. He even knows what is in your heart!!

Jesus' council is perfect, Jesus does not merely give you suggestions and He is more than a negotiator. His counsel is authoritative. Jesus commands. Because the dominion and rule are carried by Him, He advises but He also has been given the power to judge. Most human judges are first of all attorneys because they must KNOW the law before they can apply and rule by law, but Jesus is by far the most unique.

HE KNOWS THE DEPTHS OF TRUTH and the law because he is the truth! Truth is unchanging and unwavering and never plays favorites. The truth doesn't care how you feel about it, it just stands and works and cannot be taken down. If the government outlawed the truth, Jesus still stand as THE counselor.

Do you know what a blessing it is to have access to such power and wisdom? Is He the One you rely on? He must be FIRST. He must be above ALL options.

***“Christ is not valued at all unless He is valued above all.” ~ Augustine***

\*\*\*WORSHIP

When Jesus departed the earth to sit at the right hand of the Father on the throne and intercede for us day and night, He sent His Spirit.

John 14:26 (AMP) - But the Helper (Comforter, Advocate, Intercessor—Counselor, Strengthener, Standby), the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name [in My place, to represent Me and act on My behalf], He will teach you all things. And He will help you remember everything that I have told you.

I believe we all are in need of counsel....why not supernatural counsel? The answers are in the Word of God, in prayer, in a godly man or woman you trust (personally I believe in that order). But the main thing is are you setting up appointments with the Wonderful Counselor?

Today I believe there are some things God wants to speak to you.