

# **His Name Is Wonderful!**

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Isaiah 9:6

**December 2, 2018**

*Christmas 2018 #1*

**ISAIAH PREACHED THE TRUTH**

**IN A TIME OF GREAT DARKNESS**

**AND CONFUSION.** THE KING OF

JUDAH PATTERNED THE WORSHIP

OF THE PEOPLE BY THE EXAMPLES

OF THE PAGAN PEOPLES AROUND

THEM. SO THOROUGHLY DID KING

AHAZ CORRUPT THE RELIGIOUS

ATMOSPHERE OF THE KINGDOM

THAT WHEN HEZEKIAH FINALLY

SUCCEEDED HIS FATHER ON THE

THRONE, HE WOULD HAVE TO BEGIN

A COMPLETE REFORMATION OF THE  
LIFE OF THE KINGDOM. IT WAS STILL  
A LONG TIME BEFORE THE FINAL  
COLLAPSE OF THE KINGDOM OF  
JUDAH, AND A FAR LONGER TIME  
BEFORE THE APPEARANCE IN THE  
WORLD OF MESSIAH THE PRINCE,  
BUT THE PROPHET'S VISION  
ENABLED HIM TO SEE THROUGH THE  
COMING CENTURIES. GOD SENT  
ISAIAH WITH A MESSAGE FOR THE  
PEOPLE OF THAT TIME, AND  
ESPECIALLY FOR THE MEMBERS OF

THE ROYAL HOUSE. IT WAS A  
MESSAGE OF A REMARKABLE  
INTERVENTION THAT GOD WOULD  
MAKE IN THE KINGDOM IN THE  
RAISING UP OF A SON TO AHAZ WHO  
WOULD RESTORE EVERYTHING  
THAT THE FATHER DESTROYED.  
YET, THE COMING OF THE SON OF  
AHAZ, AS REMARKABLE AS IT  
WOULD BE, WAS NOT THE ULTIMATE  
FOCUS OF ISAIAH'S PROPHECY.  
THAT FOCUS WAS ON THE COMING  
OF A CHILD WHO WOULD REIGN IN

POWER AND GLORY ON THE  
THRONE OF DAVID, AND WHOSE  
REIGN WOULD NEVER CEASE. WE  
READ OF THAT CHILD IN ONE OF THE  
MOST REMARKABLE TEXTS  
CONCERNING THE COMING OF  
CHRIST. IN PARTICULAR, THE CHILD  
WAS TO HAVE A FIVE-FOLD NAME  
THAT WOULD UNDERSCORE THE  
BREATHTAKING SCOPE OF HIS  
CHARACTER AND HIS MISSION.  
ISAIAH MADE IT PLAIN THAT THIS  
CHILD WAS NOT GOING TO FOLLOW

THE FOOTSTEPS OF KING AHAZ OR  
EVEN THOSE OF KING HEZEKIAH.  
THE CHILD OF WHOM WE READ IN  
OUR TEXT WOULD BE ABOVE THE  
STATUS AND STATION OF EVEN THE  
MOST EXALTED OF EARTH'S  
RULERS. HIS NAME SETS HIM APART  
FROM ALL OTHERS. IN OUR TEXT,  
THAT NAME OF THE CHILD IS FIVE-  
FOLD. IN EACH OF THE NAMES OF  
THE CHILD, THERE IS BREADTH OF  
TRUTH CONCERNING HIM. DURING  
OUR SERVICES THAT LEAD US TO

THIS YEAR'S OBSERVANCE OF THE  
BIRTH OF CHRIST, WE WANT TO  
TAKE UP EACH OF THOSE NAMES  
AND CONSIDER EACH OF THEM IN  
DETAIL. IN DOING SO, WE DESIRE  
TO HAVE A BETTER  
UNDERSTANDING OF THE  
SIGNIFICANCE OF THAT CHILD WHO  
CAME TO BETHLEHEM'S MANGER  
MORE THAN TWO THOUSAND YEARS  
AGO. THE FIRST TIME I ATTENDED A  
YOUTH CAMP, WHEN I WAS 15  
YEARS OLD, OUR THEME SONG WAS

AN EXTENDED CHORUS THAT WE  
KNEW AS *HIS NAME IS WONDERFUL!*  
LET US CONSIDER THAT THEME IN  
OUR TEXT AS WE BEGIN THIS BRIEF  
SERIES.

## **HIS NAME IS WONDERFUL!**

Each of these names for Messiah  
conveys truth about Him that calls for  
deeper consideration. The comparison  
that the prophet made between the child  
who would be born to Ahaz and the child



who would appear in the world many centuries later left the child of Ahaz, as great as Hezekiah would be on the throne of David, a very dim figure indeed.

The coming of Messiah would be that of a Person Who would be truly wonderful.

The ongoing debasement of language means that so many things now are in the class of being wonderful that nothing is wonderful. This name for Messiah, however, is in a unique class. It is a word that occurs in one other place in the Bible. **JUDGES 13:18.** There is, then,

about Messiah that which is secret or hidden or mysterious. He is to be a unique Person in the full sense of that word. There are so many facets of Messiah that are wonderful that we don't have time to consider even a portion of them. But let us dwell on five of them, however briefly, as a beginning to our contemplation of this text and this Person Whose birth we commemorate at this season of the year.

# **I. WONDERFUL IN HIS PERSON**

The coming of Messiah was without parallel in history. His coming was of a Person Who already existed in eternity. His coming was of a Person Who was at the same time fully God and fully human. His coming was of a Person Who was entirely without the capacity for sin and without any guilt from Adam's original sin. Those factors by themselves make

Messiah wonderful. The English commentator John Gill remarked on the reality that Messiah “**should be God and man in one person, and have two natures, so different from each other, united in him.**” Those two natures found a perfect union in Messiah, yet without any blending or confusion between them. The Westminster Shorter Catechism emphasized that orthodox position by stating that Christ is “**God and man in two distinct natures and one Person forever.**” Only Messiah

could say, “**Before Abraham was, I am.**” The prophet taught that we must consider Messiah, Christ, in this atmosphere of awe. He is full of wonder. And it must be the case that such a Person should enter the world in a unique manner.

## **II. WONDERFUL IN HIS ADVENT**

The birth of the son of Ahaz was that of a royal prince, and every such birth is a cause for celebration among the subjects of the kingdom. Births into the royal family of the United Kingdom are usually items of worldwide interest. But the birth of Messiah would transcend all other births in significance. Yet, the advent of Messiah would not be an item of worldwide interest. Herod the Great, who presided over the kingdom of Judea, barely ten miles from the birthplace of Messiah, was completely unaware of the

event until the wise men from the East came to inquire of him concerning it. The details of the birth of Christ are wonderful in themselves. That story is very old, and yet every year at this season, it is very new. In a way we cannot understand but in a manner that is miraculous, Messiah came forth to be born of the virgin Mary. The eternal Son of God took to Himself true humanity. He entered the world through the process of human birth, but without a human father. We read of Messiah in **ISA. 7:14**. The details with

which we are familiar and that we read often in the Gospel accounts in Matthew and Luke should fill us with wonder afresh. He is wonderful in His advent.

### **III. WONDERFUL IN HIS LIFE**

That solitary life of Christ was without sin. There was over Him never the slightest hint of scandal. When the devil tempted Him to defy the commandments of God, Messiah never wavered. He met each temptation with the power of the words of



Scripture. Messiah's life in this world was one of action. He healed the sick. He raised the dead. He cast out demons. But think of the wonder of His life during the first thirty years of it, before His public ministry. In that humble obscurity, Messiah is also wonderful. The Lord of glory, the eternal Son of God labored faithfully and fruitfully in that carpenter's shop in the obscure village of Nazareth. On the Mount of Transfiguration, the disciples witnessed the wonderfulness of Messiah. On that

occasion, they saw that glory without the cloak of the humanity. Could they not say that Messiah was wonderful? Yet, the life of Messiah would become the prologue to the rest.

## **IV. WONDERFUL IN HIS DEATH**

It is true that the birth of every person in the world initiates the process that will lead to death. On Friday evening,

Former President George H. W. Bush died at the age of 94. His death, while this world stands, was inevitable. But the birth of a child seldom, if ever, elicits the comment that the newborn is in the world for the purpose of dying. However, the birth of Messiah was for the purpose of dying. He came to die. It is wonderful that the Eternal of Days should die at all, and that He should die in such a gruesome manner should draw from us the response of awe. Yet, Messiah was to die for the sins of His people and was

to make a full atonement for everyone.

We can never surrender to the idea that Messiah's death was not any different than the death of any other person.

Messiah's death destroyed the power of death for all His people. **HEB. 2:14-15.**

Messiah was born to die, and to die on Calvary. Here is the aspect of the story of Christ's birth that tends to disappear.

Many people are happy with the warm idea of Christ being in the manger, but not as many are comfortable with the idea of Christ on the cross. Messiah was

wonderful in His death. But we rejoice that His death was not the end.

## **V. WONDERFUL IN HIS TRIUMPH**

We proclaim again today the glorious tidings of the Gospel that Jesus Christ rose from the dead, just as He said He would do. There was no corruption in His body. There was no way that death could hold Messiah in its grip. Up from

the grave He arose with a mighty triumph over His foes. He arose a Victor from the dark domain, and He lives forever with His saints to reign. He arose! He arose! Hallelujah! Christ arose! Here is the wonderfulness of Messiah. When we think of this name for Him, we must remember His unique Person, His miraculous advent, His sinless life, His sacrificial death, and His powerful resurrection from the dead.

## **CONCLUSION**

# **FINAL APPLICATION**