



2 | ISAIAH 9:6

WONDERFUL COUNSELOR

Jesus went from the highest place to the very lowest place to be our advocate. He deserves our complete trust and devotion as Lord of our lives.

Outline

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Call to Worship

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, who alone does wondrous things.
¹⁹ Blessed be his glorious name forever; may the whole earth be filled with his glory! Amen and Amen! —*Psalm 72:18-19*

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O Come, O Come Emmanuel

Sing We the Song of Emmanuel

Silent Night

Angels We Have Heard on High

His Name is Wonderful

Announcements

WELCOME: We are glad you are here! Be sure to grab a Welcome Packet if you are visiting with us.

GIVING: You can give over Zelle through your bank with no fees (use secretary@livinghopechurch.net). We also have a collection box on the Welcome Center. Malachi 3, “Test me in this” Proverbs: “**Give of your first fruits.**” We believe blessing comes by putting God first.

Introduction

We are in a new series for Christmas called “What Child is This?” Our message today is entitled, “Wonderful Counselor”.

Many years ago, not long before I was born, **a man walked on the moon for the first time.** The president of the United States (Nixon) said, “The planting of human feet upon the moon is the greatest event in human history.” No disrespect to the president, but I want to say he was totally wrong. The greatest event in human history was not planting human feet upon the moon, but when God the Son came to earth, and his feet were planted in our world. That’s the greatest event that ever happened. When the **infinite became an infant.** We call that the incarnation. Almighty God stepped out of heaven, came out of the “ivory palaces” into this world of woe (Psa 45:8), and put his feet upon this earth. We read about this in Isaiah 9.

Isaiah 9:6-7 | For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. 7 Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Here we have four kingly titles for the Messiah: the wonderful Counselor, the mighty God, the everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace. Today we are talking about how Jesus is the wonderful Counselor. You could translate wonderful as wonderworking or supernatural. The word “wonderful” is never used in Scripture of what man is or has done, but only of who God is and what he does. It refers to God exercising his infinite power through his counsel and his word.

Seven hundred years before the wisemen gave, or the angels sang, or the shepherds visited the baby in the manger, Isaiah explains what Christmas is all about. We are going to see that this baby in the manger is the wonderful Counselor of Genesis 1 who spoke everything into existence.

God sends a child to Bethlehem in such a way that is wonderful and miraculous. He’s coming to counsel us, but he comes in a **supernatural and wonderworking** way.

I hope you can say with me, “Yes, Jesus’ name is wonderful.” Isaiah dipped his pen in the golden glory and **the Holy Spirit guided him** to write these words about our wonderful, supernatural, miracle working Counselor, the Lord Jesus Christ. He’s **wonderful**, isn’t he? **Now I don’t just mean that he’s amazing and delightful and**

satisfying. Yes, he is all that, and more. Amen! He's so good. Words fail to describe him. He's so wonderful in that way. But that's not exactly what Isaiah is communicating. He's saying that Jesus, the one born in the manger in Bethlehem is the **supernatural, wonderworking God.**¹

Key Thought: Jesus is the wonder-working Counselor whose word will transform us if we yield to him.

1. THE WONDER OF JESUS' EXISTENCE AS GOD.

Jesus was not just another child. He was supernatural. He entered into humanity in a wonderful way so that he could be our **counselor.**

GOD THE SON ENTERED HUMANITY

Isaiah 9:6a | For to us a child is born.

The "child" who is "born" is born of a virgin. That's supernatural. The one who is born is the "mighty God." He was not just the Galilean peasant or even the great rabbi of Israel. **You won't understand Christmas until you understand the supernatural nature of the Lord Jesus.** Isaiah 7 tells us that this child was born supernaturally: born of a virgin.

Isaiah 7:14 | Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

Jesus was born of a virgin. The virgin birth is implied in the Old Testament as early as Genesis 3:15, which promised that "the seed of woman" would be the victor over Satan and sin. Mary did not conceive through ordinary means, but through the Holy Spirit (Lk 1:35).

Matthew 1:20-21 | An angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins."

GOD THE SON EXISTED ETERNALLY

Not only is Jesus' birth miraculous. His eternal existence is mind-blowing.

Isaiah 9:6b | For to us a child is born, to us a son is given.

When Isaiah refers to this child as a "Son," he's referring to the eternally existing Son of God. This is the "Son" from all eternity. Jesus referred to his eternal existence in his high priestly prayer in John 17.

John 17:4 | And now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had with you before the world existed.

¹ Outlines and some content throughout this series are adapted from Adrian Rogers series of messages on Isaiah 9:6: "His Name is Wonderful," in *Adrian Rogers Sermon Archive* (Signal Hill, CA: Rogers Family Trust, 2017), Is 9:6.

When Isaiah says, “a son is given,” this is the language from Psalm 2, referring to the eternally begotten Son of God (Psa 2:7). We also hear the beauty of this phrase in John 3:16.

John 3:16 | For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

John 3:16 is such a beautiful quote from Isaiah 9:6.

Isaiah, in calling this child “son” is referring to **deity**. To be even more clear, Isaiah immediately calls him the “everlasting Father” and the “mighty God.” The Son that is given speaks of his **pre-existence** and **eternality**, who has been the Son of God with the Father through the ages. Isn’t God generous that he would give his only begotten Son? Whoever believes on him shall not perish but have everlasting life (Jn 3:16). The first Christmas, **God sent the ultimate package to earth**, and this package was **a gift of deity wrapped up in humanity**. What a marvelous thing this is. It’s supernatural. Jesus is God in human flesh.

John 1:1-2, 14 | In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.² He was in the beginning with God. ¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

That little baby wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger was the great, eternal, uncreated, self-existing, Word made flesh. **The little baby in Luke 2 is the mighty God of Genesis 1**. He is the One who made it all. Before him there was nothing that is made. That little baby lying in the straw with dimpled feet is the One who swung planets into space. That little toddler learning to walk holding on to Mary’s hand is the eternal, uncreated God. **When Mary kissed her little baby, she kissed the face of God**. The little baby boy playing with shavings there in Joseph’s carpenter shop is God of very God, God manifested in the flesh.

1 Timothy 3:16 | Great is the mystery of godliness, God was manifest in the flesh.

You may not comprehend that, and I can understand that you can’t fully grasp it, because the apostle Paul said, “It’s a mystery.” Great is the mystery of God that God stepped out of heaven and came to this earth through the portals of a virgin’s womb.

The virgin birth is an absolute necessity of our faith. Your salvation is inextricably interwoven with the virgin birth. No virgin birth, no deity. No deity, no sinless life. No sinless life, no sacrificial death. No sacrificial death, no salvation. No salvation, you’re going to hell. Jesus came to earth that we might go to heaven. Jesus was born of a virgin that we might be born again. Thank God for the virgin birth. Amen?

2. THE WONDER OF JESUS’ EMPATHY AS COUNSELOR.

Isaiah 9:6b | His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor.

He is born to counsel. He is the wonderful, miraculous, wonder-working Counselor. His counsel works wonders in your heart and life.

THE COMPASSION OF HIS CALL

Christ is the supernatural Counselor. He is God who calls us to reconcile with himself. Listen to his counsel.

Isaiah 1:18 | Come now, let us reason together, says the LORD: though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool.

Matthew 11:28 | Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

The message of the gospel is pure compassion. The good news is as Paul said.

1 Timothy 1:15-16 | The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost. ¹⁶ But I received mercy for this reason, that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display his perfect patience as an example to those who were to believe in him for eternal life.

Paul says, if Jesus could save the chief and foremost of sinners in the history of the world, he can save anyone. That's the counsel. Anyone who responds to this counsel that Jesus died for sinners, and trusts in him, will be saved.

THE COMPASSION OF HIS WORD

God's word is completely sufficient to counsel us. His word can create universes. It can raise the dead. And it can conform us to the image of Jesus Christ.

1 Peter 1:23 | You have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God.

Jesus was born as the Wonderful Counselor to give you life by his word and counsel. Jesus came as the Word to preach the word of the kingdom. His word counsels us. Jesus comes as a baby in the manger to bring us the message that will truly change us.

Psychology can try to diagnose the problem, but it can only give you **half measures** for solutions. The word of God is able to transform us and make us new!

THE COMPASSION OF HIS SPIRIT

John 14:6 | But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and remind you of everything I have told you (CSB).

The Spirit of God will guide us into all truth. He applies the word of God and exalts the lordship of Jesus. He works the fruit of the Spirit, the very character of Christ, into us.

THE COMPASSION OF HIS POSITION

When the prophet declares that to us a "child is born" and a "son" is given, he highlights the fact that Jesus was and is a human being to be our high priest. **He is fully God, but he is also fully man, so he can be our Wonderful Counselor.** He is both the son of a virgin peasant girl and the Son of Almighty God. What significance does this have for you? Simply this, his counsel is wonderful. It's life changing. It's miracle working. Because he is our compassionate high priest.

Hebrews 2:17-18 | Therefore he had to be made like his brothers in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. ¹⁸ For because he himself has suffered when tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.

There is no temptation or trial that he cannot understand. There is no struggle or sadness with which he cannot sympathize. There is no hardship or difficulty for which he cannot provide strength to endure.

Hebrews 4:15 | For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin.

Jesus gets it. He understands it. He can relate to you. Sometimes when we are going through a difficult situation and someone says, “I understand what you are going through...” it seems empty because unless they have been through the same situation how can they possibly understand our problems. But Jesus does understand. He knows exactly what you are going through. When you come to him in need of counsel he knows your situation. He knows your heart, and he knows your mind. Because of this fact we can come boldly to God with anything.

Hebrews 4:16 | Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Have you ever been wrongly accused? Jesus has. Have people ever gossiped about you? Have you ever suffered physical pain? Have you ever been in physical need? Have you ever felt lonely? Have you ever suffered loss? Have you ever been afraid? Have you ever felt that you have reached the bottom and there is no way up? He understands.

The Bible tells us that: “the Word became flesh and dwelt among us” (Jn 1:14). Jesus was fully human like you and me. He knows how mean people can be. He knows how rough life can get. He understands your struggles. Come to him. He understands your struggles.

3. THE WONDER OF JESUS' EXCELLENCE AS KING.

Consider this: Jesus is our Counselor-King! He was born a king.

JESUS' GOVERNMENT

Isaiah 9:6c | For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder.

The Scripture says of our Wonderful Counselor in our text that: “the government shall be upon his shoulder.” That means the government not just of this world, but of your life specifically, should rest on the shoulders of Jesus.

Are you one of those control freaks? You've got to have your hands in everything? That's a very dangerous thing. Let the government of your life be on Jesus' shoulder. He's the King and Lord of your life.

This little baby would be born a king, and he is King. We didn't elect him, and we cannot remove him from office. Jesus is the unimpeachable King. He is God. He is Lord. Whether you like it or not, all people will appear before the judgment seat of Christ. Great and small, rich and poor will gather for the great day of the Lord.

Jesus is **King of kings and Lord of lords for you personally**. If you miss that, you **miss the meaning of Christmas**. The government of your life, and of the entire universe is on his shoulder.

Worship him, adore him. You can't just have the cradle of Christmas and the cross of Calvary. You have to have the crown of Eternity and crown him King. He must be Lord of your life.

Bow your knee to him and say, "O Lord, you're the King, and the government of my life is upon your shoulders. Therefore, I yield my heart to you."

JESUS' PEACE

Now look at this: **Jesus' government and peace are connected**. That's true for the world at large, and that's true for you.

Isaiah 9:7a | Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore.

As you yield your life to the Lord, he establishes peace. Now this peace will one day be an earthly peace. He will "rule the nations with a rod of iron." There will be no negotiating. For those who do not yield, the Bible says Jesus will "break them with a rod of iron and dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel" (Psa 2:9).

But for you who have bowed your knee, the peace of God is your inheritance. It is the fruit of the Spirit. Though all manner of hellish things break forth on earth, you can have peace in your spirit and in your heart. Jesus is the Prince of peace. He's come to give you and me a "peace that passes understanding" (Phil 4:7).

4. THE WONDER OF JESUS' EFFICACY AS SAVIOR.

Listen, the child was born in Bethlehem to save us. That's what these titles are all about. Jesus is the Wonderful Counselor. His counsel is life changing and wonderworking. He's come to **counsel** us about **reconciliation** and peace with God. He's the one who has the **ability** to save us as the Mighty God. And because he is the Word of the Father from the beginning in Genesis, he has the **authority** to grant us eternal life.

THE WONDERWORKING POWER OF JESUS' NAME

Isaiah 9:6 | And his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor.

The fact that Jesus is "wonderful" speaks of his miracle working power. Is there any one like Jesus who can has the wonderworking power to change lives? He's the "wonderworking" counselor. There is no wall in your life Christ can't break through.

Imagine what it was like to **witness the miracles of Jesus**. He healed the **deaf**. He caused **the lame to leap** and the **blind** to see. But if you have come to know him, you know he **opens the eyes** of the blind. His ministry of miracles is still ongoing through the power of the Holy Spirit. **You were once spiritually lame**, blind, and deaf. In fact, you were dead in your trespasses and sins (Eph 2:1-3). But God resurrected you. That's the "wonder" in wonderful. It's his power.

Now notice he's the "Wonderful Counselor." This has to do with *how* Jesus does his wonders. **He does it with his word!** He is the Word from the beginning who spoke all things into existence.

Man on the Train. I heard of a man riding on a train one time looking out the window, and he was saying, "**Wonderful, wonderful, wonderful, wonderful, wonderful.**" And the man sitting next to him said, "Why do you think everything is wonderful?" He said, "Over time and old age, **I've lost my sight, but I've just had surgery**, and I'm seeing things that I had long since forgotten how beautiful they are. And they are wonderful to me."

Saints, do you have spiritual sight? Are you walking in the Spirit? Are you having victory over sin and walking in holiness? You cannot be happy unless you are experiencing the power and wonder of the name of Jesus. Whatever you are struggling with, determine to stop it. Give it to Jesus who has the wonderworking power to help you, change you, transform you through the counsel of his word.

THE WISDOM OF JESUS' NAME

Let's talk about the wisdom of Jesus' name through his word.

Isaiah 9:6 | And his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor.

There is also wisdom in Jesus' name, because his name is Counselor. The ultimate counsel he gives is "repent and believe the gospel." Jesus substituted himself for you, dear sinner to make you a saint. That's the good news. Look to Christ, for he is "the wisdom and power of God."

Colossians 2:3 | In whom [Christ] are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

Jesus is the "way, the truth, and the life" (Jn 14:6). All truth and wisdom is found in Jesus' counsel.

Jesus is the all satisfying Christ. 2 Peter 1:3 says **in Christ we have all we need for life and godliness. He is the all sufficient Christ!**

People come to me for counsel sometimes. I can't solve their problems. So when I counsel with people **I try to lead them to the One who can solve their problems:** the Lord Jesus Christ. I don't want them dependent upon me. I want them to know Jesus. He is the Counselor. Christ is the wisdom and the power of God.

Whatever you are going through, bring it to Jesus. I want to recommend to you a Counselor with infinite wisdom. His name is Jesus.

THE WARFARE OF JESUS' NAME

Isaiah 9:6 | And his name shall be called ... Mighty God.

“Mighty God” conjures up warfare and battleground imagery. You could translate this, Warrior God, or **Victorious God**. We serve a God who fights battles that are cosmic, infinitely greater than Waterloo or Valley Forge, more decisive than Gettysburg or D-Day. Dear saints, Jesus is our **Captain of Salvation** (Heb 2:10). He takes the battlefield for us and fights our war.

Indeed, Christ would take the field at the cross of Calvary, engage the titan forces of sin and Satan; death, hell and the grave, and when the dust of the battle had settled, an empty tomb stands as an eternal monument to the victory of *El gibbor*, the Mighty God.

Jesus is undefeatable. He has unlimited resources as the Mighty God. That means everything belongs to him. Jesus made it all. The one who would one day be laid in a manger made everything you see. He is the mighty God of Genesis. “All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made” (Jn 1:3). Billions of suns came from his hand when he spoke the world into existence. Oceans dripped from his fingers. He made it all, billions of stars and suns mightier than ours. Our little planet earth is a speck in the galaxy, just a speck. And yet Jesus made it. The earth is the Lord’s. We fall down before him, like Thomas. Remember what he declared?

John 20:28 | Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!”

This child that was born has all the attributes of God because he is God. He was in that **manger confined to time and space**, yet he was at the same time the **omnipresent**, almighty God. He was **weak** as an infant, needing the milk of his mother to survive, yet he was **omnipotent**, all powerful, almighty God.

I can’t comprehend it or explain it, but I accept it because the word of God says it. It’s not illogical, but it is translogical. There are some things that I cannot comprehend with my puny human brain.

Psalm 131:1 | O LORD, my heart is not lifted up; my eyes are not raised too high; I do not occupy myself with things too great and too marvelous for me.

Oh, the wealth of Jesus’ name! All things came from him. All treasure and time and space came from him. He’s almighty God.

THE WORSHIP OF JESUS’ NAME

Isaiah 9:6 | And his name shall be called ... Everlasting Father.

Jesus’ name is the everlasting Father. There is worship in his name. This is not a confusion of the Trinity. This verse is not confusing Jesus with God the Father. You could translate this title: “**Father of Eternity**.” The birth in Bethlehem was not his beginning. Jesus is the Word from the beginning. He spoke all things into existence. He is the author of all things, the Father of eternity. Worship him.

Do you know that Jesus is to be worshiped? Now, who do we worship? Only God. **The first commandment** is we are to worship no other gods—only Yahweh.

Now, when the Jehovah (false) Witnesses come to my door, I want to be nice to them, I want to be kind to them. The kindest thing I can do is tell them **the truth**. I have one question that always stops them in their tracks. Here it is. “Do you worship Jesus?” See they don’t believe Jesus is God. They believe he’s an angel. It’s a sin to worship angels. You can only worship God. And Jesus not only receives worship, he commands it.

Jesus is worshipped in the Bible. The angels worship him in heaven (Jn 12:42). The angels worshipped him when they announced his birth. The wise men worshipped him. The shepherds worshipped him.

Jesus deserves our worship, because he is the Father and Author of eternity. Like a father, he guides us. Jesus is kind like a father. **The shoulders that bear the government of the universe are the shoulders that bore the cross to Calvary.** What tenderness in Jesus, the Father of eternity!

THE WELFARE OF JESUS' NAME

Isaiah 9:6 | And his name shall be called ... Prince of Peace.

This Prince of Peace is the greatest kingly monarch that is willing to go to any and every length, to the point that he would be enthroned on a cross.² He'll go to all lengths to look out for your eternal welfare. He's your Shepherd. He **never sleeps or slumbers**, and he's looking out for you (Psa 121:4). **If you could count the thoughts** of God toward you they would be more than the sands of the sea (Psa 139:18).

The thing I need in my heart is peace. Jesus is the Prince of Peace. Do you want peace? How do I get it? It's through faith!

Romans 5:1 | Therefore being justified by faith we have peace with God.

God, through Jesus, came to give you peace. But you have a responsibility to practice the peace of God by practicing the presence of Jesus.

Colossians 3:15 | Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body.

Has anybody ever left you anything in a will? Jesus did. As he prepared to go to the cross, he gave us our birthright: his peace.

John 14:27 | Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.

Now, Jesus went going back to the heavens, and this is the legacy that Jesus left for you. Jesus willed his **body** to Joseph of Arimathea for burial. Jesus gave his **mother** to the apostle John. Jesus yielded up his **spirit** to God the Father. But Jesus gave **you as a child of God**, his **peace**, and there's no lawyer on earth that can nullify that inheritance. That peace is yours by the seal of the Holy Spirit. Christ died that you might have the peace of God. Never should you allow fear or anger to rule you. Never allow the unbelief of doubt and depression and despair to rule you. Let God's peace rule through Jesus the prince of peace.

Conclusion

Many things have been said to me that changed my life. Most of those things tour my life down. Others were life changing in a good way.

When I was 4, I was told I needed open-heart surgery. When I was 8, I was told my parents were divorced and we would move from Chicago to Louisiana.

² John N. Oswalt, *Isaiah*, The NIV Application Commentary (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House, 2003), 162.

When Jill told me yes, she would marry me, that was amazing and I'm still benefiting from it every day.

But **nothing compares to when Jesus told me, "Come to me and I will give you rest."** That has been a miracle working. That was Counsel that transformed my life. Think about all the amazing and powerful technology and wisdom it took to get a man on the moon. Yet, Jesus is so wonderworking in his counsel that his word can get you far beyond the moon, it can give you all of heaven if you will come to him and by faith yield to him as Lord and King and Counselor of your life.