

HE is Wonderful

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TEXT:

“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.” Isaiah 9:6

INTRODUCTION:

Before we begin today’s sermon, I’m going to turn you on your ear!

In today’s text Jesus is called “Everlasting Father”.

Have you ever wondered about this? Jesus is the SON, and yet here HE is referred to as The EVERLASTING FATHER. How do we reconcile this? How can Jesus be the Everlasting Father when HE is The Son?

This title, The Everlasting Father, is describing HIS role, not HIS place in the trinity. You see, Jesus is fatherly. In John 14 HE is described as being similar in nature to The Father. “Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; so how can you say, ‘Show us the Father?’” John 14: 9. In Colossians 1 it tells us that The Son is a representative of The Father. “He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.” Colossians 1: 15. Colossians 1: 16 goes on to tell us that The Son is fatherly in creation. “For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him.” Just as in creation, the first Adam, was the father of all mankind, Jesus, being the second Adam, gave us all new life through the forgiving of our sins by His redemptive death on the cross. “looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of *our* faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.” Hebrews 12: 2. And in the role of the author of life and faith, HE is the head of all mankind, the head of every household.

The HOOK:

HIS name shall be called Wonderful! Isaiah 9:6.

The prophet Isaiah lived in a very distressing time. All around him were clouds of darkness.

Even so, he heard prophetic thunderings roaring, and he saw flashes of the lightning of the divine! Through the corridors of history, he saw a bright spot. He saw one place where the clear shining came from heaven.

So, he sat down and penned these words. “The people who walked in darkness Have seen a great light; Those who dwelt in the land of the shadow of death, upon them a light has shined” Isaiah 9: 2.

Looking and searching through the whole league of space, he saw the Battle Warrior, with confused noise and garments rolled in blood, yet he fixed his eye on the one bright spot in the future. He looked at that one bright spot and declared that there he saw hope for peace, he

saw prosperity, and he saw blessedness, and he prophesied, "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." Isaiah 9:6.

Isaiah told us HIS name shall be called Wonderful!! Oh, glorious day!

Friends, hear me today. Mark well that all the brightness was the result of this Child born, this Son given! Yes, this Child was born, and was also given: this Child who was both born and given, and HIS name is called Wonderful!!

If we can discern any brightness in the corners of our own hearts, it can come from nowhere else than from the One who is called Wonderful, Counselor, Prince of Peace!

That person spoken of in our text is undoubtedly the LORD Jesus Christ! HE is a Child born with reference to HIS human nature. HE is born of the virgin Mary, But, HE is a Son given with reference to HIS divine nature! HE was given as well as born! As a child HE was born, and as a Son HE was given!

The government is upon HIS shoulders and HIS name shall be called Wonderful! Beloved, there are a thousand things in this world that are called by names that do not belong to them, but coming upon our text today, I must announce at the very opening, that Christ is called Wonderful because HE is so!

GOD, The Father, never gave HIS Son a name which HE did not deserve! There is no flattery, no false acclaim, no inaccurate rendering of this name, Wonderful, when GOD calls HIS Son Wonderful!

As long as creation lasts there shall be found men, women, angels, and the angelic hosts who shall always call HIM by his right name, Wonderful!

I find that this name, Wonderful, may have 2 or 3 interpretations.

First: A rendering of the name. The word when sometimes used in scripture is translated as "marvelous" or "incomprehensible". Jesus Christ may be called marvelous (in Hebrew, pala), and a learned German interpreter says that without a doubt, the meaning of miraculous is wrapped up in it! Christ is the marvel of marvels, and the miracle of miracles!! HIS name shall be called Miraculous for HE is more than mere man! Friends, HE is GOD's highest miracle! Great is the mystery of godliness. GOD was manifest in the flesh "God was manifested in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen by angels, preached among the Gentiles, believed on in the world, Received up in glory." 1 Timothy 3: 16.

HE is the firstborn of all creation. "He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation." Colossians 1: 15

Second: The word can also mean "Separated", or "Distinguished". as Saul was distinguished from other men, being head and shoulders taller, etc, so Christ is so distinguished above all men! HE is anointed with the oil of gladness. "The Spirit of the Lord God is upon Me, Because the Lord has anointed Me To preach good tidings to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives, And the opening of the prison to *those who are bound*; 2 To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord, And the day of vengeance of our God; To comfort all who mourn, To console those who mourn in Zion, To give them beauty for ashes, The oil of joy for mourning, The garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; That they may be called trees of righteousness, The planting of the Lord, that He may be glorified." Isaiah 61: 1-3. HE is distinguished above all HIS fellows, and in character, and in HIS acts! HE is infinitely separated from all comparison! HE is so incredibly Wonderful!

“You are fairer than the sons of men; Grace is poured upon Your lips; therefore, God has blessed You forever.” Psalms 45: 2

“How beautiful are your feet in sandals, O prince’s daughter! The curves of your thighs *are* like jewels, The work of the hands of a skillful workman.” Song of Solomon 7: 1

“and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace;” Ephesians 6: 15

“My beloved *is* white and ruddy, Chief among ten thousand.” Song of Solomon 5: 10

I shall however keep to this awesome rendering, and simply read it as “HIS name shall be called Wonderful!!” He deserves to be called Wonderful because HE is wonderful!!

HE was wonderful in the past. HE is wonderful now in the present. In conclusion, HE shall be wonderful in the future!!

The BOOK 1: HE was Wonderful in the Past.

Gather up your thoughts, friends. Centre all your thoughts in this day of days on Christ, The Everlasting Saviour, and you will soon see how wonderful HE is!! Consider HIS eternal existence. HE was begotten of HIS FATHER from before all worlds. “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.” John 3: 16

The Nicene Creed written 325 years after HIS birth, announces that HE is “begotten of the Father before all the worlds” and that HE “being of the same substance with HIS Father”. Jesus is begotten, not made. HE is co-equal, co-eternal, and the same in essence as HIS Father.

“And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.” John 1: 14

“who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, 7 but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, *and* coming in the likeness of men. 8 And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to *the point of* death, even the death of the cross. 9 Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, 10 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, 11 and *that* every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ *is* Lord, to the glory of God the Father.” Philippians 2: 6 - 11

“” I and My Father are one.”” John 10: 30

“Jesus said to them, “Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM.”” John 8: 58
Again, the Nicene Creed reminds us that Jesus is “very GOD of very GOD and might of might”.

For a moment remember that HE, who became an infant for a span long was no less the King of Ages, “Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, to God who alone is wise, *be* honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.” 1 Timothy 1: 17 and whose goings are from everlasting to everlasting. ““But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, *though* you are little among the thousands of Judah, *yet* out of you shall come forth to Me the One to be Ruler in Israel, Whose goings forth *are* from of old, from everlasting.”” Micah 5: 2.

HE, who was from eternity and is to be to all eternity “I am the Alpha and the Omega, *the* [a]Beginning and *the* End, the First and the Last.” Revelation 22: 13. Eternity will never outlast HIM!

The Divine Nature of Christ is indeed wonderful! “For of Him and through Him and to Him *are* all things, to whom *be* glory forever. Amen.” Romans 11: 36

“For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead [a]bodily;” Colossians 2: 9. How wonderful!
How Amazing!

HE could write the history of the ages. HE can write the history of the cosmos, and what a history is that of the hosts of heaven, and yet, HE preceded them!!

What is the history of the angels compared with the history of The LORD Jesus Christ? Christ, The Eternal One, HE who looks to them as ministering spirits, that come and go at HIS good pleasure! The angels come and go at HIS good pleasure!!

Oh friends, gather with reverence and holy awe around the throne of HIM who is your great Redeemer, for HIS name shall be called Wonderful, The Mighty GOD!

Since HE existed before all things, and since “All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.” John 1:3

Consider the incarnation of Christ. Then you will rightly say, HIS name deserves to be called Wonderful! The Eternal One whose hair is white as wool, white like snow, becomes an infant. “His head and hair *were* white like wool, as white as snow, and His eyes like a flame of fire; **15** His feet *were* like fine brass, as if refined in a furnace, and His voice as the sound of many waters;” Revelation 1: 14.

The Eternal One by whom myriads upon myriads, thousands upon thousands, fall in worship as HE hangs at Mary’s chest. All the wonders of the universe shrink into nothing when we come to the holy mystery of the incarnation of The LORD Jesus Christ! Think with me, let us really search our thinking of this here. Christ is Almighty yet wrapped as a baby in swaddling clothes. Christ is eternal yet was born to a virgin. Christ is The Alpha and Omega, supporting the universe, yet needing to be carried in HIS mother’s arms. Christ is The King of Kings, yet HE is the carpenter’s despised son. Christ was the King of the Ages yet born when the fullness of time had come perfectly timed. “but is under guardians and stewards until the time appointed by the father.” Galatians 4: 2. Christ was the Consolation of Israel yet was their suffering servant. “And now, O inhabitants of Jerusalem and men of Judah, Judge, please, between Me and My vineyard.” Isaiah 5: 3. Wonderful! HE is Wonderful!! Praise HIS Name!!

Trace the Saviour’s course, and all the way HE is Wonderful! Is it not marvelous that HE submitted to the taunts and jeers of HIS enemies? Isn’t it amazing that HE was mocked and made to suffer on a cross? Is it not surprising that HE should have bridled his anger when blasphemy was uttered against HIS sacred Person, and HE was subjected to shame and spitting? Jesus was subjected to ridicule far beyond what you or I could ever understand.

We forget that with one fierce look HE could have dashed their spirits into eternal torment, but HE hears it all and keeps noble and wonderful through it all!

“HE is The Lion of Judah “But one of the elders said to me, “Do not weep. Behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has prevailed to open the scroll and to loose its seven seals.” Revelation 5: 5 becoming a lamb-like character. “And they sang a new song, saying: “You are worthy to take the scroll, And to open its seals; for You were slain, And have redeemed us to God by Your blood Out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation,” Revelation 5: 9, “saying with a loud voice: “Worthy is the Lamb who was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom, and strength and honor and glory and blessing!”” Revelation 5:12. Is that not a wonderful paradox? I do believe that Jesus of Nazareth was the King of Heaven and yet, HE was a poor, despised, persecuted and slandered man.

We may not understand it all, so bless HIM for it! Love HIM for it! Praise HIS name, whose breath is on your lips! There is no-one more worthy! There is no-one more holy! There is

no-one more deserving! There is no-one more trustworthy! HIS name is Jesus and HE shall be called Wonderful!!

Made manifest in the flesh, and crucified by men, for HE is Wonderful! From HIS lips eternity shone resplendent yet on HIS brow hangs a crown of thorns! The ONE who cast away the mantle of HIS glory, the azure of HIS everlasting empire, and became a servant of all! Is that not truly wonderful?

Jesus, the King of Righteousness, whose presence causes angels to delight, was mocked as a pretended king, and yet HE says, "Forgive them for they know not what they do." Oh, the Wonderful ONE, robed in glory, wearing garments of praise, was made to hang naked on a tree. "Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do." And they divided His garments and cast lots." Luke 23: 34. Truly friends, HIS name is worthy of all praise! His name is Wonderful!

Here it is we see truly matchless love! To be rejected by those HE created, even those HE came to save, that is matchless love! Matchless love to make HIM suffer! Matchless power to enable HIM to endure all the weight of HIS Father's wrath! Wonderful beyond all degree or depth!

Here is matchless justice, that HE should acquiesce in HIS Father's will, and not allow men to be saved without HIS own suffering! This is key!!

The Book 2: HE is Wonderful in the Present!

Christ is, and ever shall be Wonderful! Let me ask you, Is HE Wonderful to you?

Let me tell you about my childhood. There was a time when I wondered not at Christ.

I was a lost and barren soul, yet HE drew me to Himself!

Prevenient Grace, which we teach says this, GOD is always previous. HE was previous when I looked not at HIM! HE pre-existed the day of my salvation! GOD drew me! The day of my salvation was a glorious day!! GOD drew me! I was once alienated and distant! GOD drew me with the spark of the divine, with the torch of HIS inspiration. HE moved my soul, HE caused the hunger which gnawed within me to spring up. Praise GOD!!

Yes, and HE ministered to me with the verses I learned at Lamplighters in Keswick. They ministered to me! The witness of the saints of the church ministered to me! HE ministered to me with the witness of my Sunday School Teachers, year in and year out! All these were fingers pointing to Christ who is Wonderful!

Then it happened! "Therefore, He says: "Awake, you who sleep, Arise from the dead, And Christ will give you light." Ephesians 5: 14 And a light it indeed was!!! I told my mother one day, I need to find Jesus. I gave my life, yes, it flowed from my lips, that day that I asked Christ into my life! The Light came, and it has been there ever since!!

Yes, there have been times when it has wafted and waned, times when the light dwindled, but here is the wonder of it all! It never went out! It never left me!

Why did it not go out? Because Christ is so Wonderful!! Christ is so amazing with channels of love so compelling, depths of love deeper than the sea!!

HE drew me! HE sustains me! HE upholds me! HE holds me and HE never forsakes me! Is that not wonderful? OH, happy day!!! How wonderful to be saved, washed, cleansed, and forgiven through HIM who died for me!!

It is so wonderful that, with mercy's voice, HE speaks and agonies are hushed, despair flees! Friends, Gethsemane is to me a paradise! Is it your paradise?

For HIS name is Wonderful to me! It is wonderful in my trials! It is wonderful in my brokenness! It is wonderful in my troubles! It is wonderful in great waters! It is wonderful in my wilderness moments! Oh, the rhapsody of delight that longs to burst from this human heart. My soul receives beauty from ashes! Sing and shout and Praise GOD for HE truly is wonderful!!

Praise GOD for HIS matchless mercy to all who call upon HIM! HIS matchless, peerless, unrivalled, unparalleled mercy is for you!

Jesus, Emmanuel, GOD with us, Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty GOD, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace, how awesome is YOUR name!!!

Death could not keep HIM! GOD did not leave HIS soul in Hades! HE is Wonderful! Death could not keep HIM! Though those chains have held billions of the sons and daughters of Adam, HE broke them!! Chains were nothing to our Saviour when HE led captivity captive. OH, wonder of wonders!!!! His name shall be called Wonderful! Christ is surpassingly wonderful!!

I ask you now this morning, Is this wonderful to you? If not, Why not?

When we speak of Christ, there is no greater wonder than HE! It is so absolutely wonderful, beyond words!! Praise HIS name!!

The TOOK: Jesus is Wonderful in the Future!!

Jesus is so absolutely wonderful in the future! “**16** For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. **17** Then we who are alive *and* remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And, thus we shall always be with the Lord.” 1 Thessalonians 4: 16 - 17.

In that day, the world will wonder! Oh, yes, it certainly will! Tears will stream down their faces. They will be terrified beyond all description, with terror gripping their hearts!

Where will the traitor's kiss be then? What would Voltaire or the other great philosophers say then? What would the kings and princes and those who took counsel against The LORD's anointed do then? Oh, the wonder of dismay! What will the careless do then?

Astonishment will prevail because the Christ who is so wonderful, The Saviour and LORD of all desired to be yours!! HE desired to be your Saviour!

Friends, time is ticking! Today is the day! If Christ is knocking at the door of your heart, open it to HIM!! Give HIM your life today and HIS name will be wonderful to you!! It will become a wonder of mercy to you!! It will be a wonder of affection to you!! It will be a wonder of love to you!! Christ, the Wonderful, you will say with the Shulamite (Isaiah), “Let him kiss me with the kisses of his mouth— For your love *is* better than wine. Because of the fragrance of your good ointments Your name *is* ointment poured forth; therefore, the virgins love you.” Song of Solomon 1: 2 - 3.

Do you know HIM as your wonder? You can!!!!!!!