

Christmas Series - Portraits of Christ in the Old Testament

#1 Wonderful Counselor (Omniscience)

Isaiah 9:1-7 and John 4:7-26

Introduction to Series – over 300 prophecies of the Old Testament are fulfilled in Christ. Some like Isaiah wrote some 700 years before Christ was born. In these passages we receive unique portraits of Christ that help us prepare for Christmas and the second coming of Christ – Mountain tops.

Biblical Background

Isaiah wrote warning the people of the coming invasion of Assyria which would carry Israel (10 tribes) captive 700 years before Christ and then comforted Judah after their defeat by Babylon. He gave many portraits of Christ including the important picture of Him as the suffering servant in chapters 52-55 showing his death and resurrection. But in Isaiah 9 we see the portrait of the victorious Christ. There He is given 4 mighty titles describing His attributes as Savior and Lord. Today we look at the first - Wonderful Counselor.

Introduction

1. The coming of Christ is like the dawning light of a new morning. **2**
2. He will bring joy like a great harvest or overwhelming victory **3**
3. He will break the oppression of slavery and bring deliverance **4**
4. His reign will be marked by:

Humanity - Miraculous birth – virgin birth

Divinity - Marvelous gift – son is given

Authority – Mighty government – eternal peace

I. He shall be called Wonderful Counselor

A. Counselor

Used over 80 times in Old Testament

One with purpose and design

Translated as counsel, counselor, consultant, advice but also

Purposed, determined and devised – counsel marked by wisdom

**Isaiah 28:29 NASB This also comes from the Lord of hosts,
Who has made His counsel wonderful and His wisdom great.**

B. Wonderful

Used 84 times in Old Testament (37 in Psalms)

Almost exclusively the acts of God

Meant more than just good or delightful – it mean divine

Or beyond human capabilities

Examples: **Judges 13:18** to wonderful for human understanding
Psalms 139:6 such knowledge is too wonderful for me, too great for me to understand.

C. Full of Wisdom

The key is wisdom from above. Isaiah 11:1-2

**Out of the stump of David's family will grow a shoot—
yes, a new Branch bearing fruit from the old root.**

And the Spirit of the LORD will rest on him—

the Spirit of wisdom and understanding,

the Spirit of counsel and might,

the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.

II. Christ the Wonderful Counselor John 4:7-36

A. Broke down every barrier

7-9 Human – Sexual – Racial – you are a Jewish man

10-15 Temporal

Natural to spiritual – water of life

Time – now to eternal

16-24 Spiritual

Sin – He cared enough to confront

Religion – He spoke of truth and spirit

25-26 Despair

Someday – now – God is seeking

No Hope – hope – He desires you

Someone – Me – I AM

B. Guided her to revelation

9 - You are a Jew

12 - Are you like Jacob our ancestor?

19 - You are a prophet – spiritual counselor

29 – He is the Messiah (made it a question)

Jesus is our Wonderful Counselor

He does the work of a counselor

*Understands us and our needs
Cares enough to answer real questions
Desires that we know the truth
Sees the potential in us and reveals it*

But He is the Wonderful Counselor

*He divinely sees our hearts
He speaks to us in ways we understand
He has the power to change our hearts
Forgive our sins
Give us new life and direction
Give us purpose and meaning*

Today the Holy Spirit fulfills that role

John 14:16 HCSB And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Counselor to be with you forever.

But with all counsel – we must accept or reject.

Warning *Psalm 107:10-12 (NLT)*

Some sat in darkness and deepest gloom, imprisoned in iron chains of misery. They rebelled against the words of God, scorning the counsel of the Most High. That is why he broke them with hard labor; they fell, and no one was there to help them.

Promise Psalm 32:8 NASB I will instruct you and teach you in the way which you should go; I will counsel you with My eye upon you.

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