

Wonderful Counselor

#0320

Study Given by W. D. Frazee—December 16, 1977

Once again, our text is Isaiah, the ninth chapter, and the sixth verse, a wonderful text, a wonderful subject, a wonderful Lord. I'm so glad that at least once a year, many people think about the birth of Jesus. It's worth thinking about every day of the year, isn't it, friend? So tonight, join with me as we read this wonderful text together:

"For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given: and the government shall be upon His shoulder: and His name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, the mighty God, the everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace" Isaiah 9:6.

"...His name shall be called Wonderful..." Isaiah 9:6.

Is He wonderful to you? Is He your hero? As we noted last Friday night, He's the child of humanity.

"For unto us a Child is born..." Isaiah 9:6.

But He's also:

"...The mighty God, the everlasting Father..." Isaiah 9:6.

What a mystery.

"...The mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh"
1 Timothy 3:16.

Explain it? No. Comprehend it? No. Believe it? Yes. With all our hearts, we believe it. Thank God for faith based upon evidence that enables us to go far beyond what can be explained by science. Thank God for the fellowship of this mystery so that to some extent, we enter into it, as Christ is born in our hearts, and the mystery of godliness is experienced as the divine nature is partaken of by our human nature. Aren't you glad for that blending?

But that does not mean (we must never forget this!) that the creature becomes the Creator. We become partakers of the divine nature, but there's always an infinity beyond.

"Heaven is a ceaseless approaching to God through Christ"
Desire of Ages, page 331.

And we're told that after many ages of contemplation and deep study of this wonderful theme, we will still stand as it were on the shore of a limitless sea and exclaim:

"...Great is the mystery of godliness..." 1 Timothy 3:16.

Tonight I'd like especially to note this expression:

"...His name shall be called Wonderful..." Isaiah 9:6.

Wonderful Jesus, wonderful Lord.

This week I took the index, and beginning on page 458, I noticed the names that are applied to Jesus Christ by inspiration in the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy. Do you know how many columns in this index are devoted just to the names of Jesus? Over 17 columns. There they are. That's the beginning of them.

I'd just like to read off some of them. I won't read all of them, of course, tonight. It starts out with "A." He's the second Adam. He is our Advocate. He's the Alpha and Omega. He's the Anointed One. He's the Heavenly Architect, the Great Artist.

And then under "Author," listen to all these uses of His name as Author. He's the Author of all religion, the Author of eternal life, the Author of every blessing, the Author of light, the Author of the moral law, the Author of nature, Author of our being, Author of physical laws, Author of righteousness, Author of salvation, Author of the Scriptures, Author of truth, greatest Author the world has ever known. He's the Author and Finisher of our faith. Isn't that wonderful?

Then coming to "B," He's the Babe of Bethlehem. He's the Beloved of the Father. He's the Branch of David. He's the Bread from heaven, the Bread of life. He's the Heavenly Bridegroom, the Elder Brother of our race, the Great Master Builder, the Builder of the church. He's the Burden Bearer.

He's the Captain, the Captain of the Lord's host, the Captain of our salvation. And then I was struck with this use of the word "Center." He's the Center of all goodness and blessing, the Center of all hope, the Center of all true doctrine, the Center of the sacrificial system, the Great Center from which radiates all glory, the Great Center of attraction.

Then He's the Chiefest among ten thousand, the Child of Bethlehem. He's the Coming One. He's the Commander, the beloved Commander of the angels. Companion: the Divine Companion, the Unseen Companion. He's the Conqueror: Conqueror of the grave, the Mighty Conqueror. He's the Consolation of Israel, the Cornerstone. And then He's the Counselor, the Counselor. That's the word in our text.

"...His name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor..."
Isaiah 9:6.

And it's interesting that in the inspired commentary, this text is used both tying together "Wonderful" and "Counselor" and using them separately. So His name shall be called Wonderful, and also Counselor. Also, His name shall be called the Wonderful Counselor.

So, He's called the Divine Counselor, the Mighty Counselor of the ages, the Never-Failing Counselor, the Sure Counselor, the True Counselor, the Safe Counselor, the Wise and Mighty Counselor, the Wonderful Counselor.

Now, I'm going to stop with ABC. Some of you will just be curious enough and have your appetite whetted. You'll want to tonight or sometime tomorrow take your index and go through the 14 other columns on down. And I checked it out, and do you know the only letters that are left out of this? There's no "Q," and there's no "XYZ." Other than that, every letter of the alphabet is represented by many entries.

So, both the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy exalt our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

"...His name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor..."
Isaiah 9:6.

Remember, these columns are just dealing with His names. That's all. My, my, I heard you singing in the song service:

"Crown Him With Many Crowns,
The Lamb upon His throne;
Hark! how the heavenly anthem drowns
All music but its own!"
Seventh-day Adventist Hymnal, #223, first stanza.

This is what heaven is singing about tonight, friends:

"...The Lamb slain from the foundation of the world"
Revelation 13:8.

It's the love of God expressed through Jesus Christ that thrills the hearts of men and angels, the people on other worlds. Every intelligent being in this universe tonight is singing the praises of Jesus Christ, except those that don't know Him here on this little planet.

Do you know Him? Oh, let's unite in the song of the universe. What do you say?

"...His name shall be called Wonderful..." Isaiah 9:6.

Now, I want to focus especially on that expression, "Wonderful, Counselor." I suppose there never was a time in the history of the world when so much money was being paid out for counselors as right now. All kinds of counselors: legal counselors, marriage counselors, counselors in political matters, in business matters. You name it, counselors, counselors, counselors.

Some of it quite expensive, too, isn't it friends? We'll not comment on how much of it is worthwhile or not. Probably none of us or all of us put together could properly evaluate it all. My point is this, dear friends. Compared with what we're talking about tonight, all that is like a tiny rill compared with the great ocean.

All the ministers in this world don't know as much about the Bible as Jesus Christ. All the physicians in this world don't know as much about the human body in health and disease as Jesus Christ. All the professors in this world don't know as much about the development of the human mind as Jesus Christ.

And the true ministers and the true physicians and the true teachers would be the first to say "Amen" to all I'm saying. Wouldn't they? Oh, yes. No problem. They don't feel displaced. No, no. Every true minister, every true physician, every true teacher is exalting Jesus Christ as the Great Evangelist, the Great Physician, the Master Teacher. Thank God, oh thank God!

"...His name shall be called Wonderful..." Isaiah 9:6.

The Wonderful Counselor. Now, why do people seek counsel, friends? They seek counsel because they want to know what to do about this or that. Usually, there's some problem, there's some decision that has to be made. Is it really true that Jesus is the Wonderful Counselor? Is He? And to get access to Him, do we have to go to some man, who will go to some other man, who'll go to some other man, who'll go to some other man, who will finally speak ex-cathedra and tell us the counsel? Is that the program? Some think so, and I appreciate the sincerity of some who think that. But oh friends, there's good news.

"For unto *us* a Child is born, unto *us* a Son is given...and His name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor..." Isaiah 9:6.

He's ready and willing to counsel *you*, my friend, in every experience in life, in every problem. This isn't just something to write poems about and sing songs about and preach sermons about. This gets right down into the nitty-gritty of daily life. Doesn't it? Thank God.

In the book *Desire of Ages*, page 363, I read:

"We need more simplicity, more trust and confidence in our Saviour. He whose name is called 'the mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace;' He of whom it is written, 'the government shall be upon His shoulder,' is the Wonderful Counselor. We are invited to ask wisdom of Him"
Desire of Ages, page 363.

Where is the text in the Bible that tells us we can ask wisdom of Jesus? James 1:5, that's right. However, there's a condition. Like a number of promises, there's an "if" on it. What does the "if" say?

"If any of you lack wisdom..." James 1:5.

Jesus doesn't undertake to teach the people that *don't* lack wisdom, you understand. But:

"If any of you lack wisdom, let him..." James 1:5.

What?

"...ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally..." James 1:5.

Plenty, abundant.

"...and upbraideth not..." James 1:5.

"[He] is the Wonderful Counselor. We are invited to ask wisdom of Him" *Desire of Ages*, page 363.

" "[He] giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not" James 1:5.

Now, this is the setting for that off-quoted beautiful statement:

"In all who are under the training of God is to be revealed a life that is not in harmony with the world, its customs, or its practices; and everyone needs to have a personal experience in obtaining a knowledge of the will of God" *Desire of Ages*, page 363.

Who needs it? Everyone. Needs to have what? A personal experience in what? Obtaining a knowledge of the will of God. You see, to many people, religion is a sort of a fire escape. Well, it is that, but it's infinitely more than that. Religion is an experience of fellowship with Jesus in which we learn by experience that we can depend upon Him to guide us. He's the Wonderful Counselor.

"We must individually hear Him speaking to the heart. When every other voice is hushed, and in quietness we wait before Him, the silence of the soul makes more distinct the voice of God. He bids us, 'Be still and know that I am God'" *Ibid*.

Somebody says, "Well, this may be all right about some things. But my problems—I don't see how that's going to work with me."

Well, dear friends, Jesus may use some human being to help you. I find if I have a mechanical problem with my car, I'm glad to have some people around that know more about automobiles than I do. And it's not setting God aside to ask a mechanic to see what's wrong with my car, is it? But it's all right for me to pray about it. It's all right for me to pray that God will help me to get the right mechanic. And it's all right for me to pray that God will help the mechanic to find the problem, and so with the physician dealing with my physical problems, and so with other things.

But listen, do you know the things we need help on the most no mechanic can fix, and no physician can cure. The things we need help on the most are spiritual problems, dear friends. And thank God, He's in the business of helping.

Take this beautiful statement in *Education* 282:

“As you consider your need of strength and guidance—need that no human source can supply—I bid you consider the promises of Him who is the wonderful Counselor” *Education*, page 282.

The Wonderful Counselor, He wants to help you.

One of the statements that has meant a lot to me is this one in *Ministry of Healing* 512:

“When in trouble...” *Ministry of Healing*, page 512.

Were you ever in trouble?

“When in trouble, many think they must appeal to some earthly friend, telling him their perplexities, and begging for help... And all the time there stands beside them the mighty Counselor of the ages...” *Ibid.*

Who's standing beside us?

“...the mighty Counselor of the ages...” *Ibid.*

“...His name shall be called Wonderful...” Isaiah 9:6.

The Wonderful Counselor.

“And all the time there stands beside them the mighty Counselor of the ages, inviting them to place their confidence in Him. Jesus, the great Burden Bearer, is saying, ‘Come unto Me, and I will give you rest’” *Ministry of Healing*, page 512.

Oh friends, I thank God that He keeps His Word. But you know, we were reading a little while ago that interesting letter from the physician halfway around the world about getting patients to walk to tolerance. You know, that's the way the Lord lets us do with our problems. He gives us problems to tolerance. Now, there's a text on that. Where is it? That's right, 1 Corinthians 10:13:

“There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation

also make a way of escape so that you won't have to bear it"
1 Corinthians 10:13.

What? Did I quote it right? All except the last? What did I quote wrong?
How does it say?

"...that ye may be *able* to bear it" 1 Corinthians 10:13.

Ah, that's right. The tolerance increases both with reconditioning walking and with meeting problems. Jesus invites us to take Him with us on these walks, literally and spiritually, and expect Him to help us to know how far to go and which way to go.

He says:

"For I the LORD thy God will hold thy right hand, saying unto thee, Fear not; I will help thee" Isaiah 41:13.

"The meek will He guide in judgment: and the meek will He teach His way" Psalm 25:9.

He's in the business of counseling, guiding, directing those that look to Him. Of course, God has told us that those who come to Him with their minds all made up and all they want is His okay, He may answer them according to the idols in their hearts. We're not talking about that.

How foolish it is to pay out good money to go to a counselor, whether legal, medica, or whatever, with your mind all made up. And if he agrees with you, okay, and if he doesn't, you go ahead and do what you want anyway. How foolish it is to spend money on that. Isn't it, friends?

And how infinitely more foolish it is to go to God with our plans all laid, whatever it is, whether in business or regarding getting married or education or life work, have our plans all laid, and then we run to God wanting Him to sprinkle some holy water on our plans so that we can say, "Well, I prayed about it."

I'm sometimes disappointed as I hear people say, "I prayed about this," as if that sanctified whatever they did. Balaam did a lot of praying, friends. Read about it. And he finally got the Lord to let him do what he wanted to do. Didn't he? Did it turn out well? It turned out sadly both for Balaam and other people. Prayer is not the endeavor to get God on our side. It's to find out God's side and get on it.

You know, I was thinking as some were telling these precious experiences in the preliminaries tonight, someone has said that the essence of the wisdom of all the ages is this: to find out which way God is moving and go with Him. And I thank God I hear "the sound of the going in the tops of the mulberry trees" (2 Samuel 5:24). God is moving in a certain direction, friends. Don't you hear that sound? Aren't you glad for the privilege of moving with Him in that direction?

And if people, in general, have these wonderful promises that I've read tonight, oh how sweetly should these words of assurance come to those who are seeking to carry out the Master's specific plans for the finishing of the work in this old world and the coming of our King.

Don't you know all Heaven is longing to enlist every recruit that will respond? Jesus accepts, oh so gladly, every human agency that is surrendered to Him. He is the Captain of our salvation, the Mighty Leader, the Wonderful Counselor.

"...His name shall be called Wonderful..." Isaiah 9:6.

And wonderful He is, especially when we come to those problems that we need counsel on that involve victory over sin, wisdom to discern what is right, and power to choose it and to implement it. And here, of all the different problems for which we might seek counsel, we have the divine assurance:

"Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of My righteousness"
Isaiah 41:10.

You see, human counselors, as a rule, all they can give us is advice. Christ gives us more than advice. As the wonderful Counselor, He not only tells us what to do but gives us the power to do it. His Word not only gives direction, but it also gives inspiration and help and strength and power, almighty power, so that in our human weakness, we may do the deeds of Omnipotence. Wonderful Lord, wonderful Lord. What do you say?

Now, tonight we're going to spend a little time in witness, and to begin with, we're going to have a little witness in song. I'd like to sing you a little song about the wonderful Jesus, and Donna's going to help me, or I'm going to help her.

And then I want you to be thinking, some of you might like to sing a stanza of some song that expresses your witness. You say, "Oh well, I wouldn't do that." Well, if you wouldn't do it, you listen while others do it. But if any of you would like to give your witness in song tonight, you just come up and sing not a long song, you understand, but a stanza. And if some of you would rather speak than sing, you can come up. This is going to be a time of exalting Jesus.

Now, listen, dear ones, our witness tonight is not about us. It's about Jesus. Is that all right? And so, if you have something to tell about yourself, save it for another time, but if you have something to tell about Jesus and how you love Him and how wonderful He is, oh, let's exalt Him. Don't you know, when so many are talking about Him and yet forgetting all about Him, He must be glad if we remember Him? What do you say?

[Donna and Elder Frazee sang "Wonderful Birth, to a Manger He Came" by Alfred Henry Ackley (first and last stanzas).]

"...His name shall be called Wonderful..." Isaiah 9:6.

And 10,000 hearts can rejoice that each one has a different aspect, each one sees a different facet in His character.

All right. Now, you come, either in word or song, give your witness.

[Man from congregation] Elder Frazee, I'm not going to sing a song.

[Elder Frazee] That's all right.

[Same man continuing] But I went last night with a number of folk over to the church in town to hear them sing Handel's Messiah. And they came to the place, of course, where they sing the Hallelujah chorus, and the audience stood to its feet. It's always an impressive time when you come to that part, and the audience stands to their feet.

Now, they might have stood because it's traditional to do so, but tonight I stand at the name of Jesus, not because of tradition but because He's my wonderful Lord.

[Elder Frazee] God bless you.

[Man from congregation] I want to thank the Lord this evening for giving me my heart's desire. Everything I can possibly think of as far as the earth is concerned, the Lord has provided me in abundance. And I want to sing this song to Jesus tonight.

"Joy to the world, the Lord will come!
Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare Him room,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven, and heaven and nature sing."
Seventh-day Adventist Hymnal, #125, first stanza.

[Woman from congregation] I'm going to sing a song, but I don't know all the words and so I'm just going to say a few of the words, and I know some of you that know it will remember the words. And if anyone feels that this is their song, they can come and sing it for me because I don't even have the voice. But the song is:

"O Lord, my God, I am in awesome wonder
Considering all the worlds Thy hands have made,
I see the stars, I see the rolling thunder."
Seventh-day Adventist, #86, paraphrase of first stanza.

I can't remember any more. And I want to read this here in Psalm 103. It says:

"Bless the Lord O my soul, and all that is within me bless His
holy name. Bless the Lord O my soul, and forget not all His

benefits, Who forgives all your iniquity, Who heals all your diseases, Who redeems your life from the pit, Who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy, Who satisfies you with good as long as you live so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's" Psalm 103:1–5 (Unknown version).

And this is a wonderful promise, and I hope that it means something to you because it really does to me now, this special Christmas time.

[Elder Frazee] Thank you.

[Man from congregation] "A Wonderful Savior is Jesus, my Lord."

"A wonderful Savior is Jesus my Lord,
A wonderful Savior to me,
He hideth my soul in the cleft of the rock,
Where rivers of pleasure I see.

He hideth my soul in the cleft of the Rock,
That shadows a dry, thirsty land;
He hideth my life in the depths of His love,
And covers me there with His hand,
And covers me there with His hand."

Seventh-day Adventist Hymnal, #520, first stanza.

[Elder Frazee] What did David say? Sing unto the Lord, sing unto the Lord. We don't just sing to people. We sing to God. Don't we?

[Man from congregation] I'm thankful for a God of wisdom. Solomon asked for wisdom, and he got it more than any other human being has ever had, and then he lost it. And I've asked the Lord for wisdom, haven't you? And I'm thankful that there's a secret to getting it and keeping it. And I found the secret, and I want to keep it. The secret is just following God. If you're following Him, if you follow the counsels in the Spirit of Prophecy, the counsels in the Bible, and just follow Him, you can't miss. Infinite wisdom is there for us, and I praise the Lord for it.

[Elder Frazee] Amen.

[Woman from congregation] I've had the most wonderful experience this week. We have a patient in the sanitarium, and Dawn and I have been walking with her. And she doesn't know how to speak yet, so we've been singing to her. We've been singing scripture songs.

And some time ago, Faith set to music one of our favorite songs, and I'm going to ask her to lead, and you can look at it if you'd like in Micah 7. Follow along with us. It's the most beautiful promise, and we really appreciate it.

"Rejoice not against me, O mine enemy: when I fall, I shall arise; when I sit in darkness, the LORD shall be a light unto me" Micah 7:8.

“Therefore I will look unto the LORD; I will wait for the God of my salvation...” Micah 7:7.

“...He will bring me forth to the light, and I shall behold His righteousness” Micah 7:9.

“ Rejoice not against me, O mine enemy: when I fall, I shall arise; when I sit in darkness, the LORD shall be a light unto me” Micah 7:8.

“...He will have compassion upon us; He will subdue our iniquities; and Thou wilt cast all their sins into the depths of the sea” Micah 7:19.

“ Rejoice not against me, O mine enemy: when I fall, I shall arise; when I sit in darkness, the LORD shall be a light unto me” Micah 7:8.

[Elder Frazee] Praise the Lord.

[Man from congregation] I can't sing, and after hearing that I wouldn't even try. But there are some words to a song that have really meant a lot to me as I've been coming to the Lord, and it's one that I'm sure everybody knows. It's:

“Rock of Ages, cleft for me,
Let me hide myself in Thee;
Let the water and the blood,
From Thy riven side which flowed,
Be of sin the double cure,
Cleanse me from its guilt and power.”

[Elder Frazee] Let's sing it together:

“Rock of Ages, cleft for me,
Let me hide myself in Thee;
Let the water and the blood,
From Thy riven side which flowed,
Be of sin the double cure,
Cleanse me from its guilt and power.”
Seventh-day Adventist Hymnal, #300, first stanza.

“...His name shall be called Wonderful...” Isaiah 9:6.

All right. My brother, come. Then we're going to close the witness session.

[Man from congregation] I have another little scripture song here that I'd like to sing to you. It's Colossians 3:16, and this reminds me of what we're doing tonight. I never saw this before. It goes:

“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by Him” Colossians 3:16–17.

[Elder Frazee] Now, is there somebody here tonight that didn’t get a chance to speak or sing, but you’ve got love for Jesus and gratitude, and you’d like to let Him know that you appreciate His wonderful love for you? Just raise your hand. Thank God.

Let’s stand.

“O, how I love Jesus, O, how I love Jesus,
O, how I love Jesus, Because He first loved me.”
Seventh-day Adventist Hymnal, #248, chorus.

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