

Wonderful Counselor

Advent Series Part 1

What have you been waiting for from God?

- Something deep down inside you - something you have always believed you were supposed to do or achieve
- Something you've wanted so bad that tried and make it happen
- You may have even given up – lost hope of it ever happening

So let's start with this ... just because it hasn't happened yet - doesn't mean it's not going to happen if it's from the Lord.

For centuries the people of Israel waited for the *promised* Messiah (*anointed one*)

400 years of silence elapsed from the last words of the prophet Malachi to the first words of John the Baptist

400 years of waiting for the (*the anointed one*) God had promised ... but God wasn't late in honoring his promise - Jesus was born– "*in the fullness of time*" *KJ*

Isaiah's name means "**God Saves**" ... wrote about this coming Messiah **700 years** before Jesus' birth in Bethlehem. (God's prophetic Word)

Isaiah 46:10 ¹⁰ Only I can tell you the future before it even happens. Everything I plan will come to pass, for I do whatever I wish.

Text: Isaiah 9: 1 - 7

¹Nevertheless that time of darkness and despair will not go on forever. (400 years) The land of Zebulun and Naphtali will be humbled, but there will be a time in the future when Galilee of the Gentiles, which lies along the road that runs between the Jordan and the sea, will be filled with glory.

² The people who walk in darkness
will see a great light.

For those who live in a land of deep darkness, a light will shine. (This is the place that Jesus grew up)

What light would they see? Jesus is the **light** of the world

Notice the pronoun in these next verse "**you**" - Isaiah speaking to the Messiah!

³ **You** will enlarge the nation of Israel,
and its people will rejoice.

They will rejoice before **you**
as people rejoice at the harvest
and like warriors dividing the plunder.

⁴ For **you** will break the yoke of their slavery
and lift the heavy burden from their shoulders.

You will break the oppressor's rod,
just as **you** did when you destroyed the army of Midian. (Jesus was the real power not
Gideon)

⁵ the boots of the warrior
and the uniforms bloodstained by war
will all be burned.

They will be fuel for the fire. (Here Isaiah speaks of a time of great peace)

Now the pronoun use changes from **you**, to us - **he – his** (Isaiah is now speaking to us about
Jesus)

⁶ For a child is born to us,
a son is given to us.
The government will rest on **his** shoulders.
And **he** will be called:

**Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**

⁷ **His** government and its peace
will never end.

He will rule with fairness and justice from the throne of **his** ancestor David
for all eternity.

The passionate commitment of the LORD of Heaven's Armies
will make this happen!

These next three weeks will focus on these four titles: beginning with **Wonderful counselor**
there are wonderful discoveries waiting for you if you take time alone with the LORD.



On Thanksgiving Day, I went early in morning to sit by the grave of my mother.

It's been 18 years since I was able to speak with her.

I miss her in so many ways – but one of the things I miss most is her counsel - she was a
wonderful counselor.

When life's situations seemed to give no clear course of action –I could depend on her God
given wisdom for direction.

When she passed there was a hole in my life - but then the Holy Spirit spoke to my heart.

“It's your turn now –it's time for you to step up for your family ... I will be *your* counselor

Wonderful Counselor is not only a title for Jesus, its part of a frame work that pictures the trinity!

There a moments in our life when we need that word of life – God’s divine counsel!

My family needed this past week in the struggle with our daughter Heather ...

In the last few days of Jesus life, knowing that he was running out of time, he shared these words with his disciples

John 16: 12 -15

“There is so much more I want to tell you, but you can’t bear it now. ¹³ **When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all truth.** He will not speak on his own but will tell you what he has heard. **He will tell you about the future.** ¹⁴ He will bring me glory by telling you whatever he receives from me. ¹⁵ All that belongs to the Father is mine; this is why I said, ‘The Spirit will tell you whatever he receives from me.’

⇒ The **religious leaders** rejected Jesus as Messiah for many reasons but one of the biggest was that they were expecting a military leader who would overthrow Rome. Look at these verses again.

⁴ For **you** will break the yoke of their slavery
and lift the heavy burden from their shoulders.

You will break the oppressor’s rod,
just as **you** did when you destroyed the army of Midian.

⁵ The boots of the warrior
and the uniforms bloodstained by war
will all be burned.

They will be fuel for the fire. (Military authority)

They didn’t get that this passage about the Messiah has **two parts** – referring to two separate and definite periods of time –

First coming started as the babe in the manger – Christmas *For unto us a son is born* - he came the first time as the lamb of God

Second Coming as the conquering king - the Lion of Judah

This is Advent the celebration of Jesus first and second coming – Jesus said “If I go away I will surely come again”

Eugene Peterson wrote:

“The more we hours we spend pondering the words of Isaiah, the more the word ‘holy’ changes in our understanding of it. Holiness is the most attractive quality, the most intense experience we ever get of sheer life – authentic, firsthand living, not life looked at and enjoyed from a distance. We find

ourselves in on the very operations of God himself not talking about them or reading about them. Holiness is a furnace that transforms the men and women who enter it.”

If we could only grasp that what we're really searching for ... comes from the transforming power of God's Spirit - we would witness a revival like this world has not seen since the days Jesus himself walked this earth!

Jeremiah 33:3

‘Call to me, and I will answer you, and show you great and mighty things, which you do not know.’ (NKJV)

³ Ask me and I will tell you remarkable secrets you do not know about things to come. (NLT)

He is a wonderful counselor!