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He Will Be Called Wonderful Counselor

9: 6

He will be called wonderful counselor DIG: What expectations would you have if you first heard Isaiah pronounce it? What type of ruler would you expect to arise? How would his future rule and counsel compare with past alliances and plans (see 8:7-10)? Look up the New Covenant Scriptures that confirm the messianic prophecy written of here by Isaiah (Matthew 1:1, 3:13-17; 4:12-17; Luke 1:34-35, 76-79; John 3:16; 14:9-10; Hebrews 1:1-3). What does this do to your faith?

REFLECT: Of the titles given here, which fit Jesus, as you know Him? What is the purpose of His reign in your life or in the world? When has He been a wonderful Counselor to you? Sometimes our imperfect earthly fathers have not been all that we had hoped or protected us in a way that we needed to be protected. Has there been a time when He has been an Everlasting Father to you in your time of need?

This is the third in the series of verses opening with *ki*, or **for** clauses. There is joy *because* **God** has delivered us from oppression, and **He** does that *because* **He** has brought an end to war. But how will **He** do that? This verse gives us the answer - **the birth of a child**.

As for the human origin: **For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders (9:6a)**. A child is *born* refers to something of natural birth. The implication is that this **child, a son**, was to be born into the nation of Israel (**to us**) as one of the Covenant people. In **Isaiah's** day the leaders of Judah were incapable of governing the nation, but **Messiah** will govern with wisdom and righteousness. **His** people will be delivered when **His shoulders** accept the burden of rule.

As seen below, medieval Jewish commentators, resisting the common messianic claims of Christians, argued that all this was simply in recognition of the birth of the crown prince Hezekiah (**to see link click [ly](#) - The Death of the Suffering Servant**), and therefore, was only a simple royal birth hymn. However, this view flies in the face of the chronology of Hezekiah's birth. Even more seriously, it is evident from the language here that no merely human king could possibly accomplish everything that is being spoken of. This is clearly **Yeshua Messiah**.³³

The sages teach that the kingdom of Ephraim, destroyed by the Assyrians in the reign of Ahaz, passed over to Hezekiah when Assyria was showing signs of weakness. He was thus the first ruler, since the days of the division of the kingdom in the reign of Rehoboam, to combine the entire nation both in the north and the south as in the days of David and Solomon.

God's truth, however, is not merely in the sphere of ideas; ultimately, it is meant to take on human form (**Malachi 2:17 to 3:1; Colossians 1:15, 19-20, 27**). This **person** will also be a **child**, and we cannot help but notice that the childish aspect of the deliverer is important to **Isaiah**, for it appears again in **11:6, 8** and implied in **7:3, 14; 8:1-4, 8, 18**). There are two important emphases upon this **child**. First, it emphasizes that the divine ruler will not merely be **God**, but although having divine attributes, will have the most human of all arrivals upon the earth, namely, birth from a woman. **He** will be both human and divine (see the commentary on **The Life of Christ Af - The Memra of God**). But secondly, there is a paradox. How will **God** deliver the world from egotism, war, cruelty and intimidation? By being more egotistical, more warlike, crueller and more intimidating? Without doubt, **ADONAI** is powerful enough to demolish **His** enemies in an instant, yet again and again, when **Isaiah** comes to the heart of deliverance, a childlike face peers out at us. **The LORD** is strong enough to defeat **His** enemies by becoming vulnerable, transparent and humble. It is the only hope the human race has for turning hostility into friendship. Isn't that true in your own life?

Even though **the son** is of natural birth, **He** is at the same time of divine origin. Uniquely the gift of **God**, **He** is **the Son** of **Psalm 2:1-12**. In fact, the expectation of the entire nation was that **the One** who would be born to rule over them in justice and righteousness would possess divine attributes. It seemed to have a remarkable similarity with the Immanuel prophecy (**7:14-8:22**). Somehow a virgin-born son would demonstrate that **God** is **with us**. **And He will be called**, literally, *one will call his name*. The *name* of a person sums up character, it defines the person. The perfection of this **King** is seen in **His** qualification for ruling.

Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace (9:6b).

In English the term **wonderful counselor** by itself does not point to divinity. But the Hebrew language has certain words that are used exclusively for **God**. For example, the word *create* is a word used exclusively for **God**. No man is ever called **wonderful** (**Judges 13:18; Isaiah 25:1, 28-29**). At any rate, these are the names **Isaiah** uses:

Wonderful Counselor (28:29): literally, *wonder of a counselor*, and the people will gladly

listen to Him as the authoritative One. In the messianic Kingdom many people will be anxious to hear **Messiah** teach **God's** ways (2:3) as **He** rules and reigns from the Temple in Jerusalem (**Ezekiel Chapters 40-48**). The vast majority of the eighty times that **wonderful** is translated from the Hebrew word *pala*, its noun *pele* or its adjective *pilei*, it refers to **God** and **His** mighty works. It is the nearest word a Hebrew has to the idea of *supernatural*. This **Counselor** will bring *supernatural* wisdom that fulfill **Isaiah's** earlier promise that **He** would **restore** Israel's **judges as in days of old**, their **counselors as at the beginning (1:26a)**. His *supernatural* wisdom would stand in stark contrast to Ahaz, whose decisions ruined his people; but would also transcend Solomon's earthly wisdom (**First Kings 4:29-34**). So this *Counselor is a wonder*, because **His** counsel goes beyond mere human wisdom.

Mighty God (10:21): His relationship to **His** subjects, **Isaiah** understood that **the Messiah** was to be **God**. Some have suggested that *el gibbor*, or **mighty God** simply means "a godlike person" or a hero. But when you look at the entire book that **Isaiah** wrote, **he** obviously meant more than that. **He** had already spoken of **the Messiah** doing what no other person in the history of the world had been able to do (for example **9:5-7**). **Isaiah** understood that **the Messiah** was to be **God** in every sense of the word. In fact, every time *el gibbor* appears elsewhere in the Bible there is no doubt that it refers to **God** (**Deuteronomy 10:17; Jeremiah 32:18; Isaiah 10:21**). This **King** will have **ADONAI's** true might about **Him**, a power so great that **He** will take whatever the Adversary can dish out (**53:2-10, 59:15-20, 63:1-9**).

Everlasting Father (63:16): Many people are puzzled by this title, because the **Messiah, God's Son**, is distinguished in **the Trinity** from **God the Father**. How can **the Son** be **the Father**? Several things must be noted in this regard. First, **the Messiah**, being **the second Person of the Trinity**, is in **His** essence, **God**. Therefore, **He** has all the attributes of **God** including being eternal. Since **God is One** (even though **He** exists in **three Persons**), the **Messiah** is **God**. Second, the title *Avi'ad*, or **Everlasting Father** is an idiom used to describe **the Messiah's** relationship to time, not **His** relationship to the other members of **the Trinity**. **He** is said to be **everlasting**, just as **God (the Father)** is called **Ancient of Days (Daniel 7:9)**. **The Messiah** will be a *fatherly* ruler. Third, perhaps **Isaiah** had in mind the promise to **David** about the *foreverness* of the Kingdom (see the commentary on [the Life of David Ct - The LORD's Covenant with David](#)), which **God** promised would come through **David's** line. **The Messiah**, a descendant of **David**, will fulfill this promise for which the nation had been waiting.³⁴



Prince of Peace (26:3 and 12): It is appropriate that this title, *Sar Shaolm*, should come as the climax of **His** attributes. The verb **peace**, *salem*, means *to be whole, or complete*. **Prince** corresponds to our idea of being an administrator. This **Prince**, then, complete in **Himself**, at one with **God** and **His** people, administers the benefits of peace, or wholeness, through **His** compassionate **rule**. This will be the fulfillment of the Messianic Kingdom: **He will rule from sea to sea and from the River, to the ends of the earth. The desert tribes will bow before Him and His enemies will lick the dust. The kings of Tarshish and of distant shores will bring tribute to Him; the kings of Sheba and Seba will present Him gifts. All kings will bow down to Him and all nations will serve Him (Psalm 72:8-11).** Somehow through **Him** will come the reconciliation between **God** and man that will make possible the reconciliation between mankind (**Isaiah 53:5, 57:19, 66:12; Luke 2:14; John 16:33; Romans 5:1; Hebrews 12:14**). It is **ADONAI** who plans the future (**9:1**), shatters the foe (**9:5**) and keeps **His** promises (**9:7**).

*If our greatest need had been information, **God** would have sent an educator. If our greatest need had been technology, **the LORD** would have sent us a computer analyst. If our greatest need had been money, **ADONAI** would have sent us an economist. But since our greatest need was forgiveness, **God** sent us a Savior.*