

# UNTO US – WONDERFUL COUNSELLOR

## INTRODUCTION

### WHO WROTE IT?

The book and its prophecies come from a man named Isaiah (meaning salvation of Yahweh) during the 8<sup>th</sup> century, over 700 years before the coming of Christ.

### WHO RECEIVED IT?

Isaiah prophesied to the southern kingdom of Judah mainly in Jerusalem, and then to the exiles from Judah in Babylon. They initially were still prospering even though the Assyrians had defeated the northern kingdom. Yet quickly things <sup>would as</sup> turned when the southern kingdom was lead into exile.

### WHO FULFILLS IT?

The book of Isaiah's central theme is the greatness of God in salvation and the hope of salvation of the world is in one man. He is the promised Davidic king (7:14; 9:2-7; 11:1-10), the servant of the Lord (42:1-9; 52:13-53:12), the anointed preacher of the gospel (61:1-3), and the victor over all evil (63:1-6).

### Isaiah 9:6 ESV

For to us a child is born,  
 to us a son is given;  
 and the government shall be upon his shoulder,  
 and his name shall be called  
 Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
 Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

## FORECAST

In this section Isaiah is prophesying about a deliverer who will come and deliver his people from oppression and bring about God's salvation. This saviour who will come, among other things will be called, Wonderful Counselor. When Isaiah prophesies that his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, it doesn't mean that he will actually bear that title in real life, only that he will deserve that title and it will be descriptive of his character and actions.

## "WONDERFUL"

Meaning a wonder, a marvel, something that causes amazement

- A wonder of a counselor
- Not like Wonder Bread, not like a wonderful surprise – but causing awe, being awestruck and amazed, wonders on a cosmic and supernatural scale

In Scripture this word is almost exclusively used to describe God's works and God's Words

- Works: **Exodus 15:11 ESV** "Who is like you, O Lord, among the gods? Who is like you, majestic in holiness, awesome in glorious deeds, doing wonders?"
- Words: **Psalms 119:129 ESV** Your testimonies are wonderful; therefore my soul keeps them.

WONDER WOMAN ⇒ Supernatural Quality

Thus, this Saviour who would come—born as a child and given as a son—would be a man who works at a divine, cosmic, supernatural level. Though human, he would exceed and transcend human limits in terms of the <sup>counsel</sup>work that he would <sup>give</sup>do.

The work in question is his work as a counselor.

## "COUNSELOR"

Meaning one who advises, *who advocates, who instructs*

- A <sup>godly</sup> counselor is one who can instruct with advice that gives rise to safety, joy, wisdom, and success
- **Proverbs 11:14 ESV** Where there is no guidance, a people falls, but in an abundance of counselors there is safety.
- **Proverbs 12:20 ESV** Deceit is in the heart of those who devise evil, but those who plan peace have joy. **Proverbs 12:20 KJV** Deceit is in the heart of them that imagine evil: but to the counsellors of peace is joy.
- **Proverbs 13:10 ESV** By insolence comes nothing but strife, but with those who take advice is wisdom.
- **Proverbs 15:22 ESV** Without counsel plans fail, but with many advisers they succeed.

Thus, the coming worker of salvation would be a man whose advice would be transcendently divine and powerful leading to supernatural safety, joy, wisdom, and success.

"Unto Us" was born a child, "Unto Us" was given a son who would be called "Wonderful Counselor" because of his powerful, divine advice and teaching. This child, this son, was Jesus. We celebrate at Christmastime the coming of a Saviour who would bring about a salvation that at least in part was due to his supernatural counsel and instruction.

## FORETASTE

We get a foretaste of this wonder of a counselor in the life of Jesus.

- **Luke 2:46-47 ESV** <sup>46</sup> After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. <sup>47</sup> And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers.
- **Luke 4:20-22 ESV** <sup>20</sup> And he rolled up the scroll and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. <sup>21</sup> And he began to say to them, "Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing." <sup>22</sup> And all spoke well of him and marveled at the gracious words that were coming from his mouth. And they said, "Is not this Joseph's son?"

→ ISAIAH

Jesus' instruction and teaching and counsel left people amazed and in wonderment.

### Does familiarity breed contempt?

Are we in wonder at Jesus' counsel??

## FULFILLMENT

The fulfillment of Jesus being the Saviour who is called Wonderful Counselor begins with his life and comes to its pinnacle in his the death and resurrection.

## EPHESIANS 1

Verses 3-10 we <sup>see</sup> that in Christ God has blessed us, chosen us, adopted us, redeemed us, and forgiven us. Our forgiveness and redemption is explicitly stated to be through his blood. Thus, Christ has brought salvation to us through his death.

**Ephesians 1:11-14 ESV** <sup>11</sup> In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, <sup>12</sup> so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory. <sup>13</sup> In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, <sup>14</sup> who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

- The counsel of God's will is that in Christ and through the gospel we should inherit salvation and the sealing of the Spirit.
- God's counsel is salvation through the gospel. There is nothing more divinely amazing, more supernaturally awesome, more transcendently wonderful than the counsel of the gospel of grace. Jesus is the Wonderful Counselor because his ultimate counsel is the gospel which God uses for the salvation of his people. *If you have never believed the gospel, you have not received the wonderful counsel of God*

His life and death were the fulfillment of him being called Wonderful Counselor, but what about his resurrection. His resurrection ensures his counsel remains! [*sealed by the Spirit" above*]

#### JOHN 16

- **John 16:7-15 ESV** <sup>7</sup> Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you. <sup>8</sup> And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment: <sup>9</sup> concerning sin, because they do not believe in me; <sup>10</sup> concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you will see me no longer; <sup>11</sup> concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged. <sup>12</sup> "I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. <sup>13</sup> When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but

whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. <sup>14</sup>He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you. <sup>15</sup>All that the Father has is mine; therefore I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.

- We have an ever present "Helper" who will be with us because Christ rose from the dead and ascended to the Father
- Par-ak'-lay-tos - summoned, called to one's side, esp. called to one's aid, one who pleads another's cause before a judge, a pleader, counsel for defense, legal assistant, an advocate

We still receive the wonderful counsel of the Wonderful Counselor through the Holy Spirit who counsels through conviction, and God's truth, God's Word all for the glory of Christ.

Isaiah forecasted a great deliver who would bring salvation to the people of God who were oppressed. That Saviour would be called "a wonder of a counselor" and his counsel would be nothing short of divine. Jesus, in his life, gave a foretaste of being that Wonderful Counselor in his teaching and instruction. The apex of the fulfillment of Isaiah's prophecy came when Jesus dies and rose again to win salvation for his people. This salvation is the through the Gospel, and the Gospel is the supernatural counsel of the Wonderful Counselor. This is one reason why we should rejoice greatly at his coming: it was the coming of the Wonderful Counselor who saved us.

*This is one reason to rejoice at Christmas*

## FOR YOU

Jesus birth as a child and his being given as a son who would be a Wonderful Counselor is one reason we celebrate Christmas. But how does that help you today? How can we apply that truth to our lives?

## HOPE IN ADVERSITY

Isaiah's prophecy of the coming of a saviour was a ray of hope to people in the midst of adversity. Christmas means that we too can have hope in the midst of adversity because Christmas is the celebration of the coming of the Saviour.

**Unbeliever** – The coming of Jesus as Wonderful Counselor that we celebrate at Christmastime is the coming of hope for you; hope in this life and in the one to come. We have hope for life after death because the most wonderful counsel of the Wonderful Counselor is that reconciliation with God through the forgiveness of sins is ours in Christ if we repent and believe. We have hope in this life because the Wonderful Counselor has given his wonderful counsel for life and godliness in the Scriptures.

**Believer** – If you have trusted in Isaiah's prophesied Saviour you have hope for the life to come. You know that, But do you have hope for today? Do you have hope for this Christmas season?

Let me suggest that we lose hope because we forget or ignore or fail to apply his wonderful counsel.

Like the people of Judah, are you under oppression this Christmas season? Oppression causing despair or depression?

- Oppression of relational upheaval?
- Oppression of financial burdens?
- Oppression of physical health troubles?

↘ Scheme of the enemy of our souls that the season of celebration of the Saviour who came with hope and salvation...

Whatever the issue that oppresses you this day, go to the Wonderful Counselor and seek his wonderful counsel in the Scriptures. There is eternal help and everyday help to be found, *that will give you hope in the midst of adversity*

#### WISDOM IN UNCERTAINTY

We, who have believed in the Saviour, have been promised wisdom—wise <sup>wonderful</sup> counsel—by God.

**James 1:2-5 ESV** Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing. If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him.

The Wonderful Counselor has promised his wonderful counsel to those who acknowledge their need and ask God for it.

Are you lacking wisdom for a financial decision? Are you needing insight for personal issues you're struggling with? Are you desperately in need of guidance for relational problems you are facing? There is wisdom for you if you ask!

APTAT - **A**cknowledge/**A**dmit your need. **P**ray for help. **T**rust a promise. **A**ct. **T**hank God.