

WONDERFUL

Isaiah 9:6-7

INTRODUCTION

- The world often labels as “wonderful” people and things that are anything but wonderful
- The great “wonders” of this world are temporal – they all eventually decay and vanish away.
- Satan and the world have taken many Biblical words and corrupted them
- As God’s people we must reclaim such words to their true meaning, understanding them in the way God defines them
- In this section of Isaiah (chapters 7-9) God both pronounces judgments upon Israel for their disobedience, as well as promising blessings upon them
- Chapter 9 begins with a description of the Galilee tribes and the darkness they walked in
 - ✓ The darkness of their kingdom being divided from Judah;
 - ✓ The darkness of the great distance they were from Jerusalem’s temple;
 - ✓ The darkness of their sin and idolatry;
 - ✓ The darkness of the corrupting influences of the pagan nations surrounding them;
 - ✓ The darkness of the oppression of hostile gentile armies
- But there is light promised to those Galileans in darkness, even a *great* light, and that light is shown to be in a child, and son, who is clearly the Messiah
- His government, rule and throne are described; he will judge righteously, and his reign will be eternal

- ✓ Isaiah foresees Messiah's *crib* – “unto us a child is born”
 - ✓ Isaiah foresees Messiah's *cross* – “unto us a son is given”
 - ✓ Isaiah foresees Messiah's *crown* – “and the government shall be upon his shoulder”
- You can imagine how encouraging this promise would have been to any God-fearing Jews in Israel in those days
 - How encouraging it remains to believers today who groan under the wickedness and darkness of our present generation, and who pray, “Thy kingdom come!”
 - But along with this prophecy of the coming of the Messiah and his eternal kingdom, he is given five names or titles which presents us with a vivid portrayal of the character of the Christ
 - This Hebrew word for “Wonderful” has the sense of marvellous, miraculous, distinguished, separated.
 - It denotes One who excites wonder, amazement, astonishment and admiration
 - The word also contains the sense of “secret” (Judges 13:18-19), showing that Christ is not merely Wonderful, but *incomprehensibly* Wonderful
 - Of the five names, Wonderful is listed first, as it is the sentiment of wonder that is first provoked in those who are blessed to behold him

I. HE IS WONDERFUL IN THE CONSTITUTION OF HIS PERSON

A. He is the Son of God

1. He is called “the mighty God”
2. He is the Second Person of the Holy Trinity (Matthew 28:19; 2 Corinthians 13:14; 1 John 5:7)

3. He is of the same substance of the Father (Hebrews 1:3)
4. He is eternally begotten of the Father
5. He is the eternal Word, who was in the beginning with God, and was God (John 1:1)

B. He is the Son of Man

1. The prophet foretold of the Messiah being born as a child (Isaiah 9:6)
2. He was born of a virgin (Isaiah 7:14)
3. He became a partaker of flesh and blood (Hebrews 2:14)
4. The Word was made flesh (John 1:14)
5. He “made himself of no reputation”; “took upon him the form of a servant”; and “he humbled himself” (Philippians 2:7-8)

C. He is the God-Man

1. This is the mystery of godliness: “God was manifest in the flesh” (1 Timothy 3:16)
2. “Being in the form of God...equal with God...and made in the likeness of men” (Philippians 2:6-7)
3. Christ took to himself a human nature (Hebrews 2:14,16)
 - a. Prior to the incarnation, God the Son possessed but one nature – the divine
 - b. In his incarnation, he added to his person a new attribute – manhood – so that he now possesses, and forever will possess, two natures: divine and human

II. HE IS WONDERFUL IN THE ADMINISTRATION OF HIS OFFICES

A. As Prophet

1. The Son reveals and declares the Father to us (John 1:18)
2. He has “brought life and immortality to light through the gospel” (2 Timothy 1:10)
3. He gives light to those who are in darkness (Isaiah 9:2)
4. The entirety of Scripture is the word of Christ as it was inspired by the Spirit of Christ (1 Peter 1:10-11; Colossians 3:16; Revelation 19:10)
5. In him are “hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge” (Colossians 2:3)

B. As Priest

1. He willingly offered himself a sacrifice for our sins (Hebrews 9:28; 2:17)
2. He now makes intercession for us before the Father (Hebrews 7:25)

C. As King

1. He providentially governs the world by his almighty power
2. He “is able even to subdue all things unto himself.” (Philippians 3:21)
3. All power belongs to him (Matthew 28:18)

III. HE IS WONDERFUL IN THE COMMUNICATION OF HIS WORDS

- A. The Lord was endued with words of truth like no other man

1. He has the tongue of the learned (Isaiah 50:4)
 2. Grace is poured into his lips (Psalm 45:2)
 3. Never man spake like this man. (John 7:46)
- B. The people were continually astonished at his words
1. As a child he amazed the religious teachers with his knowledge (Luke 2:46-47)
 2. The multitudes were amazed at the authority of his speech (Matthew 7:28-29; 13:54; Mark 6:2; Luke 4:32; John 7:15)
 3. The people were very attentive to hear him (Luke 19:48)
 3. Even his enemies marvelled at his words (Luke 4:22; John 7:46)
 4. In his refraining from words caused men to marvel (Mark 15:5; Isaiah 53:7)
- C. He speaks the words of everlasting life
1. His words are spirit and life (John 6:63)
 2. Christ has the words of eternal life (John 6:68)
 3. Christ's words are the means by which we are regenerated (James 1:18)
 4. Christ's words are "wholesome words", promoting spiritual life and health (1 Timothy 6:3)

IV. HE IS WONDERFUL IN THE OPERATION OF HIS WORKS

A. His work of creation

1. All things were made by him (John 1:3; Colossians 1:16)

2. The wonders of creation declare their Wonderful Creator (Psalm 19:1)

B. His earthly ministry

1. His compassion demonstrated to the people
2. His many miracles (Matthew 15:31)
3. His holy, harmless, undefiled manner of life (Hebrews 7:26)

C. His work of redemption

1. God purposed the salvation of sinners through his Son before the foundation of the world (Revelation 13:8)
2. He promised it in the Garden of Eden (Genesis 3:15)
3. Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners (1 Timothy 1:15)
4. No other offering could atone for our sins
 - a. Only he lived a perfect life in obedience to the law
 - b. As the perfect Man, he was able to atone for man
 - c. As the infinite God, his sacrifice becomes an infinite atonement for sinners
5. Now, through his mediation, "Mercy and truth are met together; righteousness and peace have kissed each other" (Psalm 85:10)

D. His humiliation

1. There has never been, nor will be greater condescension than when the Lord of glory humbled himself to come into this world in the form of a servant (Philippians 2:6-7)

2. For our sakes he became poor (2 Corinthians 8:9)
3. He suffered at the hands of sinners (Isaiah 52:14)
4. He suffered the wrath of God for sinners (Isaiah 53:10)

E. His exaltation

1. “The stone which the builders rejected, the same is become the head of the corner: this is the Lord's doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes?” (Matthew 21:42)
2. To the wonder of all, he rose from the dead
3. He ascended to glory and is now seated at the right hand of the Majesty on high (Hebrews 1:3)
4. His glorious majesty (Revelation 1:17)
5. He is coming again soon to reign eternally as King of kings and Lord of lords (Revelation 17:14)

CONCLUSION

1. Sinful man is far from wonderful, but our Lord Jesus Christ is altogether Wonderful – from whatever perspective we view him, he is infinitely and eternally Wonderful
2. Jesus Christ is Wonderful, whether man acknowledges it or not
3. The world despises and rejects him (Isaiah 53:2-3), but he is “admired in all them that believe” (2 Thessalonians 1:10)
4. Note that he is not simply admired *by* believers, but *in* them
5. Every person will one day wonder before Christ
 - ✓ Unbelievers will wonder in horror as they kneel before him and confess him as Lord (Revelation 1:7)

- ✓ Believers will joyfully worship in his presence, lost in wonder, love and praise
6. Is the Lord Jesus Wonderful to you? If so, it will be evidenced in your life
 7. Those who are Christ's become like Christ
 8. As the Lord Jesus provokes wonder in those who behold him, so too his people are changed into the same image (Romans 8:29; 2 Corinthians 3:18), and become "men wondered at" (Zechariah 3:8)
 9. If you are a believer, the world should wonder at your Christlike life – how you refuse the world's vanities; how you faithfully serve the Lord; how you patiently bear reproach; how you joyfully suffer for Christ's sake