

## Jesus Is Wonderful

Text: Isaiah 9:2-7

“Five” has been called the number of grace and in Isaiah 9:6 we see the most beautiful prophetic listing of the names of our Lord. “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, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.” John 1:17 makes known, “For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ.” So in this listing of five names, we see that grace is promised and grace shall be given.

Our focus today shall be on the concept of the first name in this glorious list, “Wonderful.” In every way, Jesus is Wonderful. Please allow me this morning to bring to your attention just a few ways our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ is Wonderful.

### I. JESUS IS WONDERFUL IN HIS INCARNATION

A great error in the mindset of those who don't know Christ is the belief that He began His existence in the manger in Bethlehem. Nothing could be further from the truth. We can see this in the wording of our text: “For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given...” (Isaiah 9:6a). A child is born, but this Child that is born is also the Son who is given. In other words, the Son was already in existence when He, as a Child, is born. Our Lord said in John 8:58, “Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I AM.” There is no doubt that Jesus just identified Himself as Jehovah God! Exodus 3:14a, “And God said unto Moses, I AM THAT I AM...” This is why John 8:59 says, “Then took they (the Pharisees) up stones to cast at him...” The unbelieving Pharisees were ready to carry out capital punishment because there was no doubt in their mind that Jesus had identified Himself as Deity.

In the great high priestly prayer of Jesus in John 17:5, He prays, “And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was.” Christ speaks of glory with the Father not only before His birth on earth but before the foundation of the world itself! And what kind of glory was on display? Here's a sampling from Colossians 1:16, 17: “For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him:

And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.” And also in John 1:1-3: “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.” God, the Father, speaking of

Jesus, declares in Hebrews 1:8, "But unto the Son he saith, Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever: a sceptre of righteousness is the sceptre of thy kingdom." The high and holy doctrine "kenosis" which means "to make empty" is taken from the phrase found in Philippians 2:7a, "But made himself of no reputation...." Then the Scripture went on to say in Philippians 2:7b, "and took upon Him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men." This is the incarnation, the very hypostatic union of God in human flesh. Hebrews 1:3a: "Who being the brightness of His glory, and the express image of His person...." John 1:14: 'And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth."

The appearance of Jesus in the earth as the Incarnate, only begotten Son of God is what Isaiah 9:2 is talking about: "The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light: they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined." It is recorded in John 12:46 that our Lord said while on earth, "I am come a light into the world, that whosoever believeth on me should not abide in darkness." John 1:9: That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world."

## II. JESUS IS WONDERFUL IN HIS HUMILIATION

In the afore mentioned text of Philippians 2:7, the Scripture went on to say in Philippians 2:8, "And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross." Christ declares His reason for coming into the world in Matthew 18:11: "For the Son of Man is come to save that which was lost." And there was only one way to save the lost and that was to die upon the cross for our sins, be buried and rise from the dead (I Corinthians 15:3, 4). Phillip spoke of our Lord's humiliation when winning the Ethiopian eunuch to Christ. Acts 8:32, 33: "The place of the scripture which he read was this, He was led as a sheep to the slaughter; [Isaiah 53:7] and like a lamb dumb before his shearer, so opened he not his mouth: In his humiliation his judgment was taken away: and who shall declare his generation? for his life is taken from the earth." Phillip seized the opportunity as the prospective convert was reading from Isaiah 53; the Bible then informs us in Acts 8:35, "Then Philip opened his mouth, and began at the same scripture, and preached unto him Jesus." We see the pattern of all the Gospel preachers of the New Testament: they take as the one and only evangelistic theme, the humiliation of Jesus in the death on the cross. This was the theme of Peter--Acts 2:23: "Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain." And to whom was the Apostle Peter referring? Acts 2:32: "This Jesus...!" This was the theme of the Apostle Paul in I Corinthians 2:2: "For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified." It was John, the beloved apostle who recorded the words of Jesus in John 3:16, 17: "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God

sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. Jesus told us that He was "...the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." John 18:37 says, "Pilate therefore said unto him, Art thou a king then? Jesus answered, Thou sayest that I am a king. To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth. Every one that is of the truth heareth my voice." And the truth is that Jesus' kingdom was not of this world, but that He came to save all who would believe by His humiliating death, burial and resurrection.

### III. JESUS IS WONDERFUL IN HIS EXALTATION

Christ died and was buried, but thanks be to God, He rose from the dead. The result? We find in Hebrews 1:3, "Who (Jesus) being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high." One of the most beautiful truths of the ascended Lord is that He brings us into a more abundant life on earth and into His shared glory in the hereafter. Ephesians 1:19-23 explains, " And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power, Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places, Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come: And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church. Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all." Our Lord died in victory over the power of the Devil and darkness. The Bible tells us that when He rose from the dead He "...ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men" (Ephesians 4:8b). Jesus raised paradise to the sides of the north (Psalm 48:2), now that His shed blood was upon the mercy seat in Heaven. And from the vantage point of the right hand of the Father, He gifts the Church, His body--allowing us, by His grace, to live an ascended life. No wonder He taught us to pray "Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven" (Matthew 6:10). This prayer can become a reality because of our exalted Lord!  
Jesus is Wonderful!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Johnny Pope". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long horizontal line extending to the right.