He Is the Wonderful Counsellor

Isaiah 9:6–7 **6** 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.

7 Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.

Introduction: A world in need of direction

Isaiah 1 — A people who had forgotten God

Isaiah 1:2–3 Hear, O heavens, and give ear, O earth: for the LORD hath spoken, I have nourished and brought up children, and they have rebelled against me. The ox knoweth his owner, and the ass his master's crib: but Israel doth not know, my people doth not consider.

Isaiah 1:18 Come now, and let us reason together, saith the Lord: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.

They had lost their relationship with God.

Isaiah 2 — A people trusting in themselves

Isaiah 2:7–8 (KJV) Their land also is full of silver and gold, neither is there any end of their treasures; their land is also full of horses, neither is there any end of their chariots: Their land also is full of idols; they worship the work of their own hands, that which their own fingers have made.

They trusted human strength rather than God.

Isaiah 3–4 — A leadership crisis, but a hope

Isaiah 3:12 (KJV) …O my people, they which lead thee cause thee to err, and destroy the way of thy paths.

Isaiah 4:1-2 And in that day seven women shall take hold of one man, saying, We will eat our own bread, and wear our own apparel: only let us be called by thy name, to take away our reproach.

2 In that day shall the **branch of the Lord** be beautiful and glorious, and the fruit of the earth shall be excellent and comely for them that are escaped of Israel.

Isaiah 11:1-5 And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots:

2 And the spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord;

3 And shall make him of quick understanding in the fear of the Lord: and he shall not judge after the sight of his eyes, neither reprove after the hearing of his ears:

4 But with righteousness shall he judge the poor, and reprove with equity for the meek of the earth: and he shall smite the earth: with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips shall he slay the wicked.

5 And righteousness shall be the girdle of his loins, and faithfulness the girdle of his reins.

They needed righteous leadership – and the Branch of the Lord is coming!

Isaiah 5 — A lost moral compass

Isaiah 5:20–21 (KJV) Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter! Woe unto them that are wise in their own eyes, and prudent in their own sight!

They needed a Wonderful Counsellor.

Isaiah 6 — A fresh revelation of God, realization of our unrighteousness

Isaiah 6:1 (KJV) In the year that king Uzziah died I saw also the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, and his train filled the temple.

The answer began with a fresh revelation of who God was.

Isaiah 7 - Rejecting divine counsel

Isaiah 7:12 KJV But Ahaz said, I will not ask, neither will I tempt the Lord.

Isaiah 7:14 (KJV) Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

The promise of a virgin birth the Christmas story was given in the midst of a crisis of faith.

Isaiah 8 — Seeking answers in the wrong places

Isaiah 8:22 (KJV) And they shall look unto the earth; and behold trouble and darkness, dimness of anguish; and they shall be driven to darkness.

They were searching for answers, but their search was leading them further into darkness.

Isaiah 9: God's answer

Isaiah 8 ends in darkness; Isaiah 9 begins with light.

Isaiah 9:1-6 (KJV) Nevertheless the dimness shall not be such as was in her vexation, when at the first he lightly afflicted the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, and afterward did more grievously afflict her by the way of the sea, beyond Jordan, in Galilee of the nations.

2 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.

3 Thou hast multiplied the nation, and not increased the joy: they joy before thee according to the joy in harvest, and as men rejoice when they divide the spoil.

4 For thou hast broken the yoke of his burden, and the staff of his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, as in the day of Midian.

5 For every battle of the warrior is with confused noise, and garments rolled in blood; but this shall be with burning and fuel of fire.

6 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.

3 reasons we need a Wonderful Counsellor:

1. His wisdom is beyond human wisdom

Isaiah 55:8–9 (KJV)

For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD.

For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.

Colossians 2:3 (KJV)

In whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

We don't have to understand everything God is doing in order to trust what God is saying.

2. <u>He understands what we really need</u>

Hebrews 4:15–16 [15] For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.

[16] Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

There is nothing you can tell Jesus about yourself that He does not already know, and yet He still invites you to come to Him.

3. <u>His counsel leads to transformation</u>

Proverbs 3:5–6 (KJV)

Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.

He knows where you have been.

He understands where you are.

He knows where you need to go.

And He is willing to lead you there.

He is the Wonderful Counsellor.