

## “And His Name Will Be Called Wonderful”

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by Wayne Goff

The prophet Isaiah spoke of the future Messiah in Isaiah 9:6 and gave Him five names by which we could determine His character. One of these names is “*Wonderful*” — that is, **full of wonder!** When we consider the various attributes of the Christ, we can see why Isaiah called Him “*Wonderful!*”

The Angel of the Lord (preincarnate Christ?) in Judges 13:18 asked, “*Why do you ask My name, seeing it is Wonderful?*” And again in Isaiah 28:29 we read “...*the Lord of hosts, Who is wonderful in counsel and excellent in guidance.*” So it is not unusual for God to be referred to as wonderful — indeed He is!

What causes mankind to view Jesus Christ as wonderful? ***The Theological Lexicon of the Old Testament*** states that the root Hebrew word “...indicates an event that a person, judging by the customary and the expected, finds extraordinary, impossible, even wonderful. ... The wonder, the astonishment, includes the recognition of the limits of one’s own power to conceptualize and comprehend. Since the ... event signifies a transcendence of customary, normal expectations, it is predominantly understood as God’s activity” [Jenni-Westermann]. Everything about God’s activity among men causes great wonder when we contemplate it. And Jesus Christ’s advent into the world causes the greatest wonder of all! “*And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifested in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen by angels, preached among the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up in glory*” (1 Tim. 3:16). Dear reader, that one verse is a “mouthful” and succinctly sums up what we are talking about! Do you understand all there is to understand about Christ’s condescension? I do not, but it causes great wonder in me just the same!

Herbert Lockyer, in his work *All The Divine Names and Titles in the Bible*, asks the question: “Was Jesus worthy of this captivating name which Isaiah gave Him? Was everything about Him wonderful, or did He, like the best of us, have defects?” [p. 268]. To ask the question, especially after studying His life in the Gospels, is to answer it! Jesus absolutely was perfect, sinless and the most wondrous Being ever to set foot on this earth! Jesus asked His enemies in John 8:46: “**Which of you convicts Me of sin? And if I tell the truth, why do you not believe Me?**” It is not surprising that the first-century Jews had a difficult time understanding that Jesus was “God in the flesh,” for that is a wonderful thing! But when Jesus’ perfect life and many miracles confirmed the truth, then they should have believed Him!

Even more amazing was the fact that Jesus was the earthly embodiment of God Himself! He is the **full revelation** of God to man: “*And the Word became 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*” (Jn. 1:14). So perfect was His manifestation that He said to Philip: “*Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; so how can you say, ‘Show us the Father?’*” Philip was slow to believe that Jesus Christ was the Son of God, but I would suggest to you it was because such an idea was full of wonderment!

Jesus performed many “works” (miracles) to confirm that He was God in the flesh. He manifested His power over the forces of nature, over the devil and demons, and over disease and death! What more could a sincere seeker ask for? Even His enemies could not deny this miracle-working power (John 11:47)! Jesus said to His audience: “*Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father in Me, or else **believe Me for the sake of the works themselves***” (Jn. 14:11). You cannot argue with the facts, can you? Read carefully John 10:32-38, then John 3:1-2 and Acts 2:22. The “signs” recorded in the Gospels are sufficient to cause the honest mind to accept Jesus Christ as the Son of God, and to believe unto everlasting life, John 20:30-31. I hope you will **believe** on the Christ, if you don’t already.