

Names of God from the Bible

11 – Wonderful Counsellor

Every name of God is an eternal Name; God's wisdom is inexhaustible.

Reading: Isaiah 9:1-7

Isaiah 8: 19 reads, *“When men tell you to consult mediums and spiritists, who whisper and mutter, should not a people enquire of their God? Why consult the dead on behalf of the living?”* In our reading we have Isaiah's prophecy, *“For to us a child is born, to us a son is given... He will be called Wonderful Counsellor.”*

There is a stark contrast between these two verses. The people wanted to consult the dead; God says that He is the living Counsellor.

It is a sad reflection on society that we tend towards any advice other than God's or from the Bible. Most people throughout the world believe that the Bible is an old-fashioned rule-book, out of date with the realities of life in the 21st century.

The representatives of the media are far more likely to listen to present day scientists, theorists, film stars, new age philosophers, eastern religious gurus and mediums than to seek wisdom from the pages of the Bible. Regrettably, even in our churches, we often find sermons devoted to the thoughts and quotes of people rather than exposing God's wisdom, as revealed in Scripture.

If we turn to the national daily press, television news and current affairs programmes, reality TV or soap operas for spiritual enlightenment or moral direction, we are likely to be bitterly disappointed, at best, and deceived, at worst. So much of their content is based upon anything other than Scripture or the Judeo-Christian worldview.

The multiplication of counsellors, therapists and theories of human history and human behaviour has done nothing to answer the first order questions of life – Who am I? Where did I come from? Why am I here? What am I doing on earth?

For answers to these questions, we need to get back to our Creator's handbook, the Bible. God has revealed Himself in creation, in Scripture and in Jesus Christ, His Messiah. As we are part of God's creation, it is logical and sensible for us to refer to Him for wisdom. The writer of the Book of Proverbs wrote this, *“By wisdom the Lord laid the earth's foundations.”*

God our Creator is the fount of all wisdom. Jesus prophesied the outpouring of the Counsellor, the Holy Spirit, upon His disciples. As Peter said, that was initiated on earth on the Day of Pentecost and was confirmation of Joel's prophecy. The Holy Spirit indwells every child of God, every disciple of Jesus Christ and is the source of wisdom for us as He reveals the relevance of the Scriptures to us.

God's Counsellor is wonderful, because God is wonderful. Most worldly wisdom is passive at best, and, in most cases, depressing and without any real hope. This is because it is based on the wrong foundation. God's counsel comes from a good God, an almighty benign Being and is, consequently, sure, certain and full of hope. God's plans for us are always to bless us and to give us a hope and a future.

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God's wisdom flows from a foundation of loving relationship and blessing. His counsel is relevant, healing and freeing. God deals with the real issues, rather than just the presenting problem. God deals in love, shining with truth, not sham, hypocrisy or deception.

Yes, God is a Wonderful Counsellor. If we seek His wisdom, we will find it; we only have to ask God for it.

What does that name mean for us today?

It means that whenever we need wisdom in any area of life, we have Someone to turn to – Someone who is not only able to provide the best answers but who will deal with us in love. The answers we receive will often be beyond our wildest dreams and yet always for our best, particularly in terms of the best possible long-term outcome.

Prayer

Thank You, Father, that I can come to You with all my problems and questions, knowing that You are a Wonderful Counsellor. Thank You for the Holy Spirit living in me, who can provide those answers whenever I seek help. Please help me to accept Your advice, even though the prospects may seem daunting in the short term. Amen.

Additional Readings

- John 14:15-26
- John 16:7-15
- 1 Corinthians 12:1-11

Questions

1. What is the main difference between Godly wisdom and worldly wisdom?
2. Describe a time when you sought Godly counsel, and how it changed your perspective on your challenging issue?
3. How does Jesus fulfil the description of 'Wonderful Counsellor'?