

The Wonder of Jesus

Isaiah 9:6 - *For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder. And **His name will be called Wonderful, Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.***

(**Judges 13:18b** – “*why do you ask my name, since it is wonderful?*”)

In Isaiah, God gave the world a 700-year advanced warning that one day, in the fullness of time, He was going to send Jesus. Every book of the bible implicitly or explicitly speaks of Jesus. Every detail and every prophecy came to pass exactly as God said.

His name shall be called Wonderful

- One dictionary defined the word ‘wonderful’ as *‘being wonder-filled, something incomprehensible, unfathomable – that which defies human expectation and exceeds our ability to understand’.*
- The Hebrew word *pala* [‘Wonderful’] indicates *‘something uncommon or out of the ordinary. ’ It reflects ‘a phenomenon lying outside the realm of human explanation’.*
- Another dictionary put it this way: *Wonderful is that which fills you with wonder and inspires you with delight.*

That is precisely how I feel when I think of Jesus and this season: I am filled with wonder and inspired with delight!

There are 3 thoughts I want to share with you today about this wonderful Jesus:

1. Jesus is Wonderful, yet in His birth, He became *like us*.

Hebrews 2:17-18 NLT - *Therefore, it was necessary for him to be made **in every respect like us**, his brothers and sisters, so that he could be our merciful and faithful High Priest before God. Then he could offer a sacrifice that would take away the sins of the people. ¹⁸ Since he himself has gone through suffering and testing, he is able to help us when we are being tested.*

Christ was revealed in a human body

1 Timothy 3:16NLT - *Without question, this is the great mystery of our faith: **Christ was revealed in a human body** and vindicated by the Spirit. He was seen by angels and announced to the nations. He was believed in throughout the world and taken to heaven in glory.*

John 1:14NLT - *So **the Word became human** and made his home among us. He was full of unfailing love and faithfulness. And we have seen his glory, the glory of the Father’s one and only Son.*

Philippians 2:6-8_{NLT} - *Though he was God, he did not think of equality with God as something to cling to. ⁷Instead, he gave up his divine privileges, he took the humble position of a slave and **was born as a human being**. When he appeared **in human form** he humbled himself in obedience to God and died a criminal's death on a cross.*

The wonder of Jesus is that, although He was God, He became like us – He took on flesh, He became human. As such, Jesus was immersed in every aspect of our human experience: He knows how we feel, He understands what we go through.

As we saw in **Hebrews 2:18**, *Since he himself has gone through suffering and testing, he is able to help us when we are being tested*

Jesus is God in a human body, and He experienced everything that it means to be human. In Isaiah 53 it says that He was wounded, He was bruised, He was chastised...

Jesus was permanently God but also became permanently human. He stands today in heaven with the Father, with a body that still bears the scars of the cross.

Philip Yancey wrote,

“In Jesus something happened. God became one of His own creatures, an event unparalleled, unheard of. In fact, in the fullest sense of the word, the God who fills the universe imploded to become a peasant baby Who like any infant who has ever lived, had to learn to walk, to talk and to dress himself”

Have you ever thought how Jesus had to learn to think through a human mind – the bible says , *He grew in stature and wisdom* (Luke 2:52).

Hebrews 5:8 - *though He was God's son, He learned obedience through the things He suffered.*

That is the wonder of Jesus: he came to be like us, that we could become like Him. He shared in our sufferings so that one day we could share in His glory. That is wonderful. That makes me inspired with delight!

2. Jesus is Wonderful, yet He came to be *with us*.

Isaiah 7:14_{NLT} - *All right then, the Lord himself will give you the sign. Look! The virgin will conceive a child! She will give birth to a son and will call him Immanuel (which means ‘God is with us’).*

He is not a distant, God. He is with us. That is the wonder of Christmas. God came to be *with us*.

In this same book of Isaiah, in chapter 59, it says that our sins had distanced us from God. The wonder of Christmas is God sending His Son, crossing the full length of that distance to reconcile us back to Himself. God came to be with us!

At the end of His time on earth, He still said,

Matthew 28:20b NLT - ... "be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age".

Hebrews 13:5-6NLT - Don't love money; be satisfied with what you have. For God has said, "I will never fail you. **I will never abandon you.** ⁶ So we can say with confidence, "The Lord is my helper, so I will have no fear. What can mere people do to me?"

Hebrews 4:14-16 – So then, since we have a great High Priest who has entered heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to what we believe. ¹⁵ This High Priest of ours understands our weaknesses, for he faced all of the same testings we do, yet he did not sin. ¹⁶ So let us come boldly to the throne of our gracious God. There we will receive his mercy, and we will find grace to help us when we need it most.

The wonder of Jesus is that He who came humbly to us, asks us now to come boldly to Him!

3. Jesus is Wonderful and He is for us!

Romans 8:31NLT - What shall we say about such wonderful things as these? If God is for us, who can ever be against us?

The wonderful thing about Jesus is that He is for us!

Isaiah 9:6 - For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given;

It was for our sakes that God sent His Son – for us, unto us. Unto us a Son is given: Jesus was born to be given. He is a gift.

1 John 4:9NLT - ⁹ God showed how much he loved us by sending his one and only Son into the world so that we might have eternal life through him

Someone once said, "everybody has existence but not everybody has life"

1 John 5:12 - He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life.