

His Name

*"His Name is Wonderful"*Introduction:

(ILL): The naming of my children (vowels, syllables, number of letters, no previous connections)

- A. In English, names are often chosen for various reasons unrelated to meaning.
 - 1. Family name
 - 2. How it sounds/initials
 - 3. Parental whim
 - 4. Meaning is often unknown and irrelevant
- B. Hebrew names often carried some meaning instead of functioning as an arbitrary symbol
 - 1. Judah—"praised" or "celebrated"

And she conceived again and bore a son, and said, "Now I will praise the Lord." Therefore she called his name Judah. Then she stopped bearing. Genesis 29:35 NKJV

- 2. Jacob "deceiver"

Afterward his brother came out, and his hand took hold of Esau's heel; so his name was called Jacob. Isaac was sixty years old when she bore them. Genesis 25:26 NKJV

- C. The names of God reveal His nature, character, and personality and cannot be superimposed on any other creature.
 - 1. "The name of the Lord is a strong tower" (Proverbs 18:10).
 - 2. "The Rock His work is perfect..." (Deuteronomy 32:4).
 - 3. "I will praise the Lord...the name of the Lord most high (El Elyon)" (Psalm 7:17)
 - 4. "I am the Lord, who heals you (Jehovah Rapha)" (Exodus 15:26)

NOTE: During the four weeks of Advent (from Latin "Adventus" meaning "coming" serving as a season to celebrate Christ's first coming and prepare for His second coming) we will address four specific names of God and their significance to us: His name is Jesus, Emmanuel, King of the Jews.

Today: "His name is wonderful"

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, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Isaiah 9:6 NKJV

D. What does “wonderful” mean?

1. Hebrew “peh-leh”=full of wonder/amazement, feeling of surprise w/admiration caused by something unexpected/unexplainable, extraordinary, hard to understand thing.
 - a. God’s creation (horizon, Grand Canyon, mountains)
 - b. Universe holds together

And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist. Colossians 1:17 NKJV

- c. The complexity of the human body
- d. Engage the arts

“Wonder would be the first sentiment which is his manifestation would provoke, and hence this descriptive epithet is placed first [in Isaiah 9:6]” –Pulpit Commentary

QUESTION: What constitutes His name being called “wonderful”?

I. The Wonder of His Incarnation

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. John 1:14NKJV

But made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. Philippians 2:7 NKJV

- A. God became man
- B. Perfect Divinity lived among imperfect humanity
- C. Son left His Heavenly habitation to reside in an earthly home

“The Son of Man’s voluntary departure from the ivory palace that is His eternal dwelling.”—Ivory Places

- D. God can empathize (understand, show compassion for) with our weaknesses because he too was tempted.

For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. 16 Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need. Hebrews 4:15-16 NKJV

E. God is near to us

The Lord is near to those who have a broken heart, And saves such as have a contrite spirit. Psalms 34:18 NKJV

We give thanks to You, O God, we give thanks! For Your wondrous works declare that Your name is near. Psalms 75:1 NKJV

“We are saved and redeemed not because we have successfully made the effort to come to him, but because he has made the surprising effort to come to us.”—Robert Webber

II. The Wonder of His Inauguration

So He came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up. And as His custom was, He went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and stood up to read. 17 And He was handed the book of the prophet Isaiah. And when He had opened the book, He found the place where it was written: 18 "The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, Because He has anointed Me To preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives And recovery of sight to the blind, To set at liberty those who are oppressed; 19 To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord." 20 Then He closed the book, and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all who were in the synagogue were fixed on Him. 21 And He began to say to them, "Today this Scripture is fulfilled in your hearing." Luke 4:16-21 NKJV

- A. Jesus was the fulfillment of a 700-year-old prophecy (4:17-21)
- B. Jesus' mission brought spiritual freedom, new life, and restored hope for humanity (4:18)
- C. Jesus' teaching produced “amazement” because He taught with a unique authority

And they were astonished at His teaching, for His word was with authority. Luke 4:32 NKJV

- D. God has given us His Holy Spirit to empower us to carry on the mission initiated by Jesus (Acts 1:8).

"Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father. John 14:12 NKJV

- E. We are now ambassadors of Christ in a world drifting away from its one aim.

“You have one business on earth—to save souls”—John Wesley

III. The Wonder of His Humiliation

And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross. Philippians 2:8 NKJV

And when they had come to the place called Calvary, there they crucified Him, and the criminals, one on the right hand and the other on the left. Luke 23:33 NKJV

Now it was about the sixth hour, and there was darkness over all the earth until the ninth hour. 45 Then the sun was darkened, and the veil of the temple was torn in two. 46 And when Jesus had cried out with a loud voice, He said, "Father, 'into Your hands I commit My spirit.'" Having said this, He breathed His last. Luke 23:44-46 NKJV

"Before we can begin to see the cross as something done for us, we have to see it as something done by us".—John Stott

A. The sinless Son voluntarily became the suffering servant.

But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed. 6 All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way; And the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all. Isaiah 53:5-6 NKJV

Therefore I will divide Him a portion with the great, And He shall divide the spoil with the strong, because He poured out His soul unto death, And He was numbered with the transgressors, and He bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors. Isaiah 53:12 NKJV

1. Sin cannot go unpunished.
2. A holy God cannot dwell among an unholy people.

B. The Innocent One experienced a cruel punishment and death by crucifixion.

1. Lashed mercilessly with flagellum (short whip with wooden handle with long leather thongs attached—each leather strip had sharp pieces of bone, iron, and zinc).
2. Muscles lacerated, veins cut, and internal organs exposed.
3. Crucifixion most brutal form of public execution devised.

C. The Well-Pleasing One was completely forsaken by His Father

My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me? Psalms 22:1 NKJV

And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?" that is, "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?" Matthew 27:46 NKJV

D. The Righteous One became sin for us

For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him. 2 Corinthians 5:21 NKJV

"Jesus became what we are that he might make us what he is."—Athanasius

IV. The Wonder of His Resurrection

A. The Crucified One became the Resurrected One

For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, 4 and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures. 1 Corinthians 15:3-4 NKJV

B. The resurrection of Jesus brought forth attitudes of amazement

1. Mary in the Garden
2. Disciples in the upper room
3. Two men on the road to Emmaus

C. Christ's resurrection makes possible our victory

Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed — 52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. 53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. 54 So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory." 55 "O Death, where is your sting? O Hades, where is your victory?" 56 The sting of death is sin, and the strength of sin is the law. 57 But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. 1 Corinthians 15:51-57 NKJV

1. Guarantees our resurrection
2. Allows us to navigate present sufferings
3. Provides a future hope
4. Gives us reason to preach and celebrate Christ

V. The Wonder of His Invitation

A. The Invitation is for ALL people

1. God loved the world (John 3:16)
2. Whosoever calls on the name (Romans 10:13)
3. While sinners, Christ died for sinners (Romans 5:6)
4. Not just for the elite, but for the wicked, lost, prodigal, and sinner

B. The Invitation is a free gift (Romans 6:23)

1. Can't earn it

For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, 9 not of works, lest anyone should boast. 10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them. Ephesians 2:8-9 NKJV

2. Don't deserve it
3. It cost us nothing, but cost God His Son

C. The Invitation provides exclusive directions (John 14:6)

D. The Invitation is entrance into eternal communion with God

Conclusion:

The Star of God

“Sir Harry Lauder, a world-renowned comedian, once told the story of an incident which took place during the First World War. Early one evening a man was walking along an avenue in New York City. He was accompanied by his little boy. The lad became intensely interested in the lighted windows of the houses and in the stars in those windows which indicated that the homes had given sons to the war. As they passed house after house, he would clap his hands and cry, “Look Daddy, there is another house that has given a son to the war, and there is another!” There is a house with two stars in the window, and there is a house with no stars at all!” Presently they came to a break in the houses, and through the gap they got a glimpse of the evening star shining brightly up in the sky. The little fellow caught his breath and after a bit exclaimed, “O look, Daddy, God must have given His Son for He has a star in His window also.”

Yes, God did give a Son; He so loved this world that He gave His only to be born in a manger and to die on a cross that whosoever believeth on Him might not perish but have everlasting life. That Son grew to maturity; He lived a sinless life of unselfish service. He died a vicarious death on Calvary's cross. He emerged triumphant from the tomb and ascended to the right hand of the Father where He ever lives to make intercession on our behalf.

— The Gospel is full of wonder, His name is wonderful

Respond

- Need to respond to the “wonderful” invitation
- Lost wonder of His name, need Him to remind you of His nearness, His mission, His love (encouraged)