

# December

## Jesus - Wonderful Counselor

*Isaiah 9:6*

*"For a child is born to us, a son is given to us. The government will rest on his shoulders. And he will be called: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."*

Every year, I intend to plan ahead. I tell myself in January that I will watch my finances closely, telling each dollar where to go. I'll deepen my relationships. I'll make time for rest. I'll value what really matters and let go of what doesn't. I'll plan time to reflect. I'll read more, grow more, live more...

Usually, I'll go as far as drafting some plan, and then life happens and my plans fade.

The week after Christmas, I look back at my quilt of a year (pieced together like calendar squares filled with both joy and heartache, success and defeat), and I wonder where all of my good intentions went. What happened to that well-drafted plan?

Does any of this sound familiar?



Perhaps you're closing out 2022 with every good plan fulfilled this year. You can see exactly where God has been, how you've grown, what you've accomplished and you're looking forward to another great year to come.

Or perhaps everything you intended went to the wayside when curveballs came. Perhaps you experienced deep sorrow, you wondered where God was, why He was silent and if you had made some misstep along the way.

No matter how you would define this year, as you look toward the days to come, hold onto these words with me.

## HE WILL BE CALLED WONDERFUL COUNSELOR

We use the word *wonderful* often. I often tell my children, "That's wonderful!" I might say *wonderful* interchangeably with *great*. But here in Isaiah 9:6, *wonderful* is *pele* in Hebrew and it means *astounding*. This word is used other places in scripture to describe events that caused people to marvel or wonder. God's miraculous works are described as wonders.

Jesus isn't just a great counselor. He is an astonishing, marvelous, wonder-FULL Counselor.

When was the last time that you thought of Jesus as more than just the giver and guider of good plans? When was the last time you really paused to remember that the Wonderful Counselor has a hope for your future and it is very good?



What plans are you making right now and what is God saying about the plans that you are making?

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Throughout the Old Testament, the word used for Counselor, *yaats*, is used when kings would seek wisdom concerning their plans. This word means advise. How much more will the wise counsel of God bring us to a place where we can find endurance for the journey ahead?

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Isaiah 40:13-15 says, "*Who can fathom the Spirit of the Lord, or instruct the Lord as his counselor? Whom did the Lord consult to enlighten him, and who taught him the right way? Who was it that taught him knowledge, or showed him the path of understanding?*"



Verses 25-26, *"To whom will you compare me? Or who is my equal?" says the Holy One. Lift up your eyes and look to the heavens: Who created all these? He who brings out the starry host one by one and calls forth each of them by name."*

Verse 28-31, *"Do you not know? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth, He will not grow tired or weary, and his understanding no one can fathom. He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint."*

## HIS UNDERSTANDING NO ONE CAN FATHOM

It is in Him that we find strength. It is through Him that we have power. It is because of Him that we don't have to rely on our own wisdom. It is for Him that we can live our lives as if the Eternal God has given us purpose. Let's seek Him. Let's hope in the Lord.

## Let's Pray

Father, I come to You now to seek Your wisdom. I want Your direction. I marvel at all You have done in my life, and yet I want to follow You even more closely into 2023. Help me see where You're going and follow. Help me hear where You're leading and listen. Help me seek Your face and find Your advice and direction. I've got my eyes fixed on You because there is no one who can give me counsel better than You can. Help me tune out all distracting voices and listen to the Spirit of Truth. I ask in Jesus's name, Amen.

