

Surrey Chapel Fellowship Group Notes 26/27th October 2011 Wonderful Counsellor

“And he will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.” - Isaiah 9:6

As we start a new mini-series looking at these four titles given to Christ in Isaiah 9:6, read through Isaiah 9:1-7. These verses tell of the light of the coming Messiah dispelling the spiritual gloom that ch.8 finishes with. These verses speak not only of Jesus’s earthly ministry some 700 years after this was written but also of the Kingdom of God that will be ushered in after his second coming.

Counsellor ‘one who gives advice or counsel’. The word is used as a designation of the Messiah in Isaiah 9:6 where in respect to the giving of counsel He is said to be a wonder. This attribute is applied to Him in order to emphasise His ability wisely to administer the government which is placed upon His shoulders so as by means of justice and righteousness to achieve and to maintain everlasting peace. -The New Bible Dictionary

“God’s wisdom means that God always chooses the best goals and the best means to those goals.” -Wayne Grudem

This study looks at four examples of how God is a wonderful counsellor, how he imparts wisdom to us and what this means practically for today. Thinking more generally, how did God act as a counsellor in the Old Testament? Did this change in the New Testament period. Is it any different now?

<p>Solomon Prays for Wisdom 1 Kings 3:4-28</p> <p>v.7-9 Solomon approaches God in an attitude of humility and readily admits his limitations. What does this say about how we should approach God? v.12 God gives Solomon wisdom enabling him to rule and govern wisely. Have a look again at Isaiah 9:6-7 and see how Solomon’s rule foreshadows Christ’s reign as the King of Kings.</p>	<p>A Father’s Wise Instruction Proverbs 4: 18-23</p> <p>This passage starts with one of the key themes of Proverbs: the choice between the way of wisdom and the way of folly. What is the source of wisdom in this passage? This is a very practical passage; reflect on how you can apply this teaching to your life.</p>
<p>The Woman at the Well John 4: 3-30, 39-42</p> <p>The heading in the NIV is helpful - Jesus Talks <i>with</i> a Samaritan Woman. This is a two way conversation not a lecture.</p> <p>What advice or counsel does Jesus give? What does Jesus reveal about himself? What is revealed about the woman? How is Jesus approach helpful to the woman? In what way is Jesus counsel unique?</p>	<p>The Farewell Discourse John 13 - 17</p> <p>Skim through these chapters and identify some of the ways in which Jesus provides counsel.</p> <p>Look especially at 14:16, 14:26, 15:26 and 16:7. Reflect on how all three persons of the Trinity are involved.</p>
<p>Application</p> <p>1 Corinthians 12:8 - Wisdom is a spiritual gift.</p> <p>How should we apply the Bible’s teaching about providing wise counsel? In the home? In the church? In apologetics?</p> <p>Does having God as our counsellor distinguish Christianity from other religions?</p>	

Prayer Points

- 1 Pray for wisdom for us as individuals, as a church and as a nation.
- 2 Wisdom and guidance in relation to your fellowship group and the church activities you are involved in.

ADB