

HIS NAME SHALL BE CALLED WONDERFUL

Isaiah 9:6 *For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.*

The Hebrew word for “wonderful” is *pele'* and means “a miracle, marvelous thing, a wonder. Indeed, the Lord Jesus Christ is a miracle. A miracle can be defined as a welcome, unexpected event that cannot be explained by natural laws but a divine act. In his birth, the Lord Jesus was wonderful; angels, shepherds and wise men from the east came to marvel at his miraculous birth of a virgin. “Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel” (Isaiah 7:14). As a 12-year-old, the doctors of the law marveled at the wisdom Jesus demonstrated in the seat of theological learning, the Temple in Jerusalem. The three-year ministry of the Lord was filled with non-stop gasps, shouts and screams of relief and joy on account of healings and deliverances wherever Jesus went. An eyewitness of the ministry of the Lord, John, wrote, “And there are also many other things which Jesus did, the which, if they should be written everyone, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that should be written. Amen” (John 21:25). His death and resurrection were also equally wonderful.

Matthew 17:5 *While he yet spake, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them: and behold a voice out of the cloud, which said, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him.*

Now, what do we do with this miracle of God, Jesus, called Wonderful? The voice came from heaven and said, “hear ye him”. We must never take our eyes off him! Keep in mind that God cut off Peter while he was speaking about Moses and tabernacles. Moses and Elijah were looking at Jesus and talking about his death, but Peter got sidetracked. Thank God he cuts us off when we do not talk about Jesus. Years later, Peter remembered this lesson and told a crippled man, “And Peter, fastening his eyes upon him with John, said, Look on us...Then Peter said, Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk.” (Acts 3:4, 6). To receive the miracle of the Jesus the Wonderful, one must look on the Jesus who was inside Peter and the Apostles. The wise men from the East did not forget their mission when they saw the palace and glory of King Herod – they were not impressed. “Saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him” (Matthew 2:2). No wonder Herod was angry – they behaved as if they had met some common travelers on the road whom

they asked for directions. Herod wanted them to recognize him, his glory and kingship of the Jews, but these wise men were looking for a wonderful birth of a king whose goings forth were from everlasting, as foretold 500 years ago by the prophet Micah:

***Micah 5:2** But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting.*

Look with intense concentration on Jesus! Blind Bartimaeus could not see yet he looked with intense concentration on Jesus, and Jesus saw him and granted him eyes with which to see Jesus. There were many with eyesight who saw Jesus with their physical eyes but yet did not see him, but blind Bartimaeus saw Jesus before he had eyes. “And when he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to cry out, and say, Jesus, thou Son of David, have mercy on me” (Mark 10:47). No wonder the Lord Jesus said of many in his generation, “And in them is fulfilled the prophecy of Esaias, which saith, By hearing ye shall hear, and shall not understand; and seeing ye shall see, and shall not perceive” (Matthew 13:14). Mary the sister of Martha sat at the feet of Jesus and stubbornly refused to countenance anything else. For this, her name and act has entered into the pages of the Holy Bible forever. “But one thing is needful: and Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her” (Luke 10:42).

Young sunflowers demonstrate an amazing (wonderful) behaviour. They follow the movement of the sun across the sky from east to west and reorient their position to face the east at night to prepare for the rising sun.¹ This phenomenon is called heliotropism and it is believed sunflowers have what is called a circadian rhythm similar to an internal 24-hour clock in humans that regulates sleep and other behaviour. May Jesus grant us to behave like sunflowers – always following Jesus across the sky of our lives. “But unto you that fear my name shall the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in his wings; and ye shall go forth, and grow up as calves of the stall” (Malachi 4:2). Why do sunflowers follow the sun in its path? The answer is in order to produce oil – sunflower oil. In the same vein, we who keep our eyes focused on Jesus, the Wonderful, will never fail to produce the oil of fruit and blessings for his great name’s sake. “Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me” (John 15:4).

¹ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P67GGGLJ-aM>