

His Name Shall Be Called Wonderful (1)

The Advocate

The prophecy of Isaiah contains more references to the Lord Jesus than any other Old Testament book. One of the most familiar of those references is found in chapter 9, verse 6. Isaiah prophesied, *“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”*.

In this verse, Isaiah mentions five of the names, or divine titles associated with the Lord Jesus. Some suggest that there may be as many as five hundred names and titles of the Lord Jesus in the Word of God. Individually and collectively, they bring before us the majesty and worth of the person and work of our Lord Jesus Christ.

It would be very difficult to list all of those divine names and titles, and certainly impossible to discover the depths of His infinite greatness and glory. I purpose, over the next number of articles, in the will of the Lord, and with the Lord’s help, to examine some of those names that describe the attributes and offices of our blessed Lord Jesus Christ.

I am reminded of the words of Paul, the apostle, *“Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father”* (Phil. 2:9-11).

The apostle John, in his first epistle, wrote, *“if any man sin, we have an advocate with Father, Jesus Christ the righteous”* (1st Jn. 2:1). *“Advocate”*, is one of the divine titles of the Lord Jesus and means, *“One who pleads another’s case”*. The term was used in a court of law to identify a legal assistant, or counsel for the defense. The case that John refers to is that of a believer who sins. Sin should be a mistake in the life of any believer and not a regular habit.

When this occurs, fellowship and communion with our heavenly Father is interrupted. In the previous chapter of John’s epistle, he wrote, *“if we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse from all unrighteousness”* (1st Jn. 1:9). Confession of sin and repentance are absolutely vital to maintaining fellowship and communion with our heavenly Father.

In the meantime, we need an advocate, to plead our case. Paul wrote these reassuring words in the book of Romans, *“who shall lay any thing to the charge of God’s elect? It is God that justifieth. Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us”* (Rom. 8:33-34).

It is interesting to note the name *“Advocate”*, has the same meaning as the name, *“Comforter”*, that is mentioned in John chapters 14, 15 and 16). John wrote exhorting us not to sin (1st Jn. 2:1). However, it is comforting to know, that when we confess our sin, we have an advocate in the person of the Lord Jesus Christ, who pleads for us on the grounds of His sacrificial death and redeeming blood, shed on the cross.

John also wrote, *“But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin”* (1st Jn. 1:7). This is written in the context of maintaining fellowship and communion with our heavenly Father.

Before we were saved, we needed a mediator, who could stand between us and God, and satisfy God's holiness, while allowing Him to show mercy through a sinless sacrifice. Paul wrote concerning the Lord Jesus, *"For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time"* (1st Tim. 2:5).

John tells us of our Advocate, who pleads for us on the basis of His atoning, sinless, once for all sacrifice. His blood avails for us in the presence of God. The writer of the epistle to the Hebrews tells us of the Lord Jesus who ever lives to make intercession for us at the right hand of God (Heb. 7:25).

Someone once said of the Lord Jesus, *"As the Mediator, He makes the link between man and God, as the Advocate, He mends the link, and as the Intercessor, He maintains the link"*.

*We have a friend, an advocate
Before the throne of God;
Who for us will ever state
The merits of His blood.*

*Though at times we're prone to fail,
He stands our case to plead;
Atoning blood will yet avail,
For us to intercede.*

*Erring ones can be restored,
When all sins are confessed;
Sweet communion with our Lord,
In fellowship most blessed.*

*Cleansed by reconciling blood
And walking in the light;
Knowing we are sons of God
Beloved in His sight.*

*Here below, we watch and wait
To hear the heavenly strains;
Til He come, our Advocate,
Our link to God maintains.*

Bernie Payne