

OLD-TIME RELIGION
12 Fervent, Soul-Winning Sermons

By

Evangelist Joe Henry Hankins, D. D.

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CHAPTER TWO

"HIS NAME SHALL BE CALLED WONDERFUL"

(Sermon preached at First Baptist Church, Little Rock, Arkansas, Sunday morning, December 22, 1940. Stenographically reported).

"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, Counselor, The Mighty God, The Everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace" (Isaiah 9:6).

From this text I call attention to this statement: **"His name shall be called Wonderful."**

I have thought that sometime I would go through the Bible and select out of it the names by which the Bible calls CHRIST and preach a series of sermons on those names. You would be astounded at the number of different names that are used in the Bible. It simply means that CHRIST is so wonderful in all of His many-sidedness, in all of the beauty and meaning of His work, His person and relationship to human life, that GOD has all but exhausted human language in an effort to find terms in which to express, in the names that are given unto Him in the Word of GOD, this meaning.

- He is called the Redeemer.
- He is called the Saviour.
- He is spoken of as the Light of the world - **"that true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world."**
- He is called **"The Sun of righteousness"** that shall **"arise with healing in his wings."**
- He is the **"Day Star,"** the **"Bright and Morning Star."**
- He is the **"Rose of Sharon"**
- the **"Lily of the Valley,"**
- the **"One altogether lovely,"**
- **"the fairest among ten thousand,"**
- the **"Balm of Gilead,"**
- the **"Great Physician."**
- **"His name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor . . . Prince of Peace."**
- He is the **"Lamb slain from the foundation of the world."**

- Again He is called, "**The fulness of the Godhead bodily.**"
- He is "**The Word.**" "**In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God . . . All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life; and the life was the light of men.**"
- He is the "**Good Shepherd.**"
- He is the CHRIST, the Anointed of GOD . . . the Messiah, promised to the Jews.
- He is "**Our Passover that was slain.**"
- He is the "**King of kings and the Lord of lords.**"

On and on you could go recounting the names by which He is called in the Scripture.

He is the "**Seed of the woman**" that should bruise the serpent's head. Oh, the matchless CHRIST - the wonderful CHRIST, the Saviour of the world!

"**Thou shalt call his name Jesus: for he shall save his people from their sins.**" No wonder Heaven bent low that night, and the multitude of the heavenly host sang, "**Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.**" "**His name shall be called Wonderful.**"

How I thank GOD this morning for JESUS CHRIST! Truly He is wonderful.

I. He Was Wonderful in His Birth

It was no ordinary birth. His birth had been prophesied from the time GOD came down in the Garden of Eden that day - that awful day when sin had entered into the world and Adam and Eve were trying to hide themselves among the trees of the garden in an effort to hide their nakedness from GOD. In their hopelessness and despair GOD came walking in the cool of the day calling, "**Adam, where art thou?**" Then, when they must reveal their sin and GOD must pronounce the curse that comes by sin, GOD holds out a promise of a Redeemer, saying, "**The seed of the woman shall bruise the serpent's head.**" In that prophecy is the promise of the virgin birth of JESUS CHRIST.

Four thousand years before that event took place GOD said that He was to be born of a virgin. Then, after centuries came and went, the prophets took up the prophecy and again and again pointed to that holy hour, naming the time and the place. For when wicked King Herod would find out where the King should be born, he called the teachers of the Scripture, and they said, "**In Bethlehem of Judea.**"

When old Simeon searched the Scriptures he was conscious that the time was drawing near, for GOD had set the time of that birth as well as the place and the circumstances under which He should be born. Simeon began to pray that he might live to see with his own eyes the King, and when they laid that babe in his arms he said, "**Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace . . . For mine eyes have seen thy salvation**" (Luke 2:29, 30).

It was no ordinary birth, but the most wonderful and the most miraculous birth that ever took place from the beginning of the world. For it was the incarnation of the GOD of the universe in a little babe. It was the result of the overshadowing of the Holy Spirit as He begot, in the womb of

the virgin Mary, the great GOD of creation Himself.

I believe with all my heart in the virgin birth of the Son of GOD.

The modern religionist says that it does not make any difference whether you believe in the virgin birth or not. Friend, it does make all the difference in the world. For if He were begotten by an earthly father and had only a natural birth, then we have no Saviour. We have only a beautiful example in a great man - only a beautiful life and martyrdom in the end, with unrealized hopes and ambitions snuffed out by death. If He were not virgin-born, then His bones are rotting somewhere in the tomb in Palestine today. But, thank GOD, He was the incarnate GOD Himself - wonderful in His birth.

The most wonderful story ever told is that story of the appearance of the angel Gabriel to that young woman chosen of GOD, saying: "**The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God . . . He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there shall be no end**" (Luke 1:32, 33, 35).

But I hear a skeptic say, "If a young woman said today that her son was virgin-born, would you believe it?"

Yes:

- If the birth of that one had been predicted centuries in advance, I would believe it.
- If the place of his birth, the manner of his life and death and burial and resurrection had been predicted centuries in advance, I would believe it.
- If he lived a perfect life so that even his enemies could find no fault in him, I would believe it.
- If he could walk on the waves; still the tempest; heal the leper; raise the dead; open the eyes of the blind; and read the innermost thoughts of the hearts of men, I would believe it.
- If in the hour of his death the sun, moon and stars refused to shine; the earth reeled to and fro like a drunken man; and the dead came forth from their graves, I would believe it.
- If all the power of the mighty Roman Empire could not keep his body in the tomb; if he could tear away the bars of death, take up his body and show himself alive for forty days after his resurrection, I would believe it.
- If unlearned fishermen could preach the message of his resurrection and see three thousand lives instantaneously transformed, I would believe it.
- If belief in and trusting the power of that man's sacrificial death on a cross would cause the thief to steal no more; the murderer to hate no more; the drunkard to drink no more; the moral leper to sin no more; then I would believe it.
- If there is dense darkness, terrible sin, gross ignorance wherever the name of that man is not known; and if there is light, and peace, and progress, and righteousness where this name is known, I would believe it.

II. He Was Wonderful in His Life

The atheists, skeptics, infidels, agnostics and believers alike are of one accord in saying that His was the most wonderful life. And the words that fell from His lips are words such as no man ever spoke, and a life, the story of which is told in such simple grandeur that all exclaim with one accord,

No mortal can with Him compare
Among the sons of men;
Fairer is He than all the fair
That fill the heavenly train.

His was such a life that not a single time did He ever make a mistake. Not one single time did He utter a word that He had to take back. Never did He have to apologize for anything He said or did. Not even His bitterest enemies, try as they did - and they sought out their shrewdest, and hounded His footsteps day and night trying to trap Him could find anything of which to accuse Him. But He can challenge them all: "**Which of you convinceth me of sin?**" (John 8:46). And not a single one is ever, even with their false witnesses, able to convict Him of a single sin. Even the one who betrayed Him comes with that blood money and throws it at the feet of the Sanhedrin and says, "**I have betrayed innocent blood.**" Even the one who sat on the judgment seat and passed sentence on Him said, "**I find no fault in him.**"

III. He Was Wonderful in His Humility

So completely had the Son of GOD emptied Himself of His divinity that not one single time did He exercise the power that was in His own right, but even His ministry and His miracles were performed by the anointing of the Holy Spirit.

So completely had He emptied Himself that Paul said, "**Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross**" (Philippians 2:6-8).

Oh, the humility of the Son of GOD, who stood on nothing in the beginning and by the word of His power spoke worlds into existence! For GOD said,

"**All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made**" (John 1:3).

The Son of GOD who upholds all things by the word of His power had so humbled Himself that He rested on a mother's bosom as a helpless little babe. Then in His manhood, even in His ministry, He has so completely humbled Himself that we hear Him saying to those who follow Him, "**Foxes have holes, and the birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay his head**" (Matthew 8:20). He who was rich became poor that we through His poverty might be rich. The very clothes that He wore were provided by the hands of a little group

of women. The food that He ate must be provided by others. He must sleep on the ground or on another man's bed. He was fed from another man's table. He was buried in another man's tomb and wrapped in another man's shroud. Oh, wonderful, wonderful, that the eternal GOD should stoop so low to become man's Saviour!

IV. He Was Wonderful in His Compassion

See Him as He goes about touching humanity. See Him and feel the great throb of His compassionate heart as He sees the multitudes as sheep without a shepherd and is moved with compassion for them.

Watch Him as He goes among suffering, sin-cursed humanity. He is never too tired to forget Himself and minister to the suffering multitude and answer every cry of need. He never sends the multitude away hungry, but takes the loaves and fishes and feeds them until they are all filled.

Never does He come upon a sinner who is tired of sin but that we hear Him saying, "**Son, thy sins be forgiven thee.**" He comes into a sick room, healing the sick. He met a leper, making him whole. He met many a blind man, giving him his sight, a deaf man, making him to hear. He entered a death chamber and He raised the dead to life. He goes out to the cemetery with the sorrowing and with infinite compassion weeps with them and calls forth the dead and gives him back to his loved ones again. Oh, the compassionate CHRIST!

He never met an adulterer or an adulterous but that He loved them to His own great heart and sent them away clean, if they repented - their sins forgiven. The very crowd that even the religious world had cast out and said, "**Master, the law says she should be stoned,**" had the compassion of His heart. Even in the court of the temple when an adulterous woman has been dragged out before Him, we hear Him saying, "**Where are those thine accusers? hath no man condemned thee?**"

She said, "**No man, Lord.**"

And JESUS said unto her, "**Neither do I condemn thee: go, and sin no more**" (John 8:10, 11).

See Him at Jacob's well; as JESUS leans on the well curb, He forgets about His own weariness and His compassionate heart reaches out to a nameless woman of sin. When she realizes who He is, she leaves her empty waterpot to tell the story of divine grace and to bring the whole town to Him of whom she said, '**Surely this is the Messiah.**'

Oh, the compassionate CHRIST who was not willing that any should perish! "**For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life**" (John 3:16).

V. He Was Wonderful in His Death

His was no ordinary birth, no ordinary life, and no ordinary death. Hear Him as He says, "**For this cause came I into the world.**"

The Son of man hath the power to lay down His life and the power to take it up again. That death was prophesied from the Garden of Eden. That death was portrayed in type in Eden when GOD took an innocent victim, and slew it and spilled its blood and with the skin made a garment to clothe the first sinners. Oh, the Lamb of GOD that was slain, not only for these in the garden, but the Lamb of GOD that, from all eternity, had His face set toward Calvary, comes of His own accord to lay down His life! "**No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again**" (John 10:18).

When they come to arrest Him, He steps out and says, "**Whom seek ye?**" They say, "**Jesus of Nazareth.**" Then we hear two words fall from His lips with such majesty and power that those soldiers who have come to arrest Him fall backward on the ground paralyzed and helpless in His presence. Those two words were the words spoken to Moses on Sinai when he said to GOD, "**Whom shall I say hath sent me?**" GOD says, 'Tell them I AM hath sent you.' And when JESUS, the eternal "**I AM,**" even in His humiliation, speaks those words there is such power that the soldiers of Rome fall on their backs in utter helplessness.

No soldier could bind His hands. All the armies of the world could not put handcuffs on those wrists. '**The Son of man came to GIVE His life**' (Matthew 20:28). He has such power in the tip of His finger that when Peter draws the sword and slashes off the ear of the servant of the high priest, He can touch that ear and it is healed. But the Son of GOD stretched out His hands and they placed the handcuffs on Him and led Him like a "**lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before the shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth.**"

He is wonderful as He hangs on that old rugged cross. In that hour of death He is wonderful.

See Him as He looks down on the raging mob. We hear such words fall from His lips as we never heard before under such conditions. Listen! It is a prayer - "**Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do**" (Luke 23:34).

As He comes to the end He lifts up His majestic head and looks up into the Father's face and there is a shout of victory coming from His soul, the like of which never fell on human ears before. It is not the weak, exhausted cry of a dying martyr. It is the shout of a victor. And as He speaks, this earth upon which the scene is taking place is shaken by a mighty earthquake, and it rocks and reels on its axis. Rocks are rent and tumble into the valley below as we hear those words, "**IT IS FINISHED.**"

The "**Seed of woman**" has come to redeem.

- the Lamb of GOD has bled His life away.
- sin has been atoned for.
- the price of redemption has been paid.
- the capstone of that great edifice of redemption that GOD has been erecting has been put in place.
- the foundation was laid back yonder before man was created.
- the promise was made in the Garden of Eden.

- the consummation was foreshadowed in every bleeding altar from Abel unto Calvary.

It is now finished. That was no ordinary death. It was GOD Almighty taking upon Himself the sin of a fallen race. The time of that death had been prophesied. Every detail of it had been foretold. It was said that "**he was numbered with the transgressors,**" and that "**he made his grave with the wicked, and with the rich.**" "**He is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth**" (Isaiah 53:7, 9, 12).

The very day was set fifteen hundred years in advance.

That night when the Passover lamb was slain in Egypt the date was set upon which the Son of GOD should die. When the hour approached, the Pharisees said, '**Not on the day of the Passover, lest a tumult arise.**' But GOD had said fifteen hundred years before that it must be on the Passover - the hour when our Passover should be slain - and on the Passover it was "**Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world**" (John 1:29).

His death and atonement for our sins is the Blood that is typified in the Garden of Eden.

- It is the blood that was typified in Abel's offering, "**by it he being dead yet speaketh**" (Hebrews 11:4).

- It is the Blood that was foreshadowed in the night of the Passover on the lintels and doorposts of the homes in Egypt.

- It is the Blood without the shedding of which "**there is no remission**" of sin.

It is atoning, redeeming Blood. And thank GOD this morning, I believe with all my heart in the atoning efficacy of the Blood of JESUS CHRIST. I fasten all my hope as a sinner on the Blood of CHRIST, for time and eternity.

My hope is built on nothing less
Than JESUS' Blood and righteousness;
I dare not trust the sweetest frame,
But wholly lean on JESUS' name.

On CHRIST the solid rock I stand;
All other ground is sinking sand,
All other ground is sinking sand.

"**His name shall be called Wonderful.**" Oh, isn't it wonderful to be a Christian? Isn't it wonderful ! Washed in His Blood, born of His Spirit, begotten with incorruptible seed, "**heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ**"! Living in that hope of the glory of GOD that one day we shall be like Him!

VI. He Is Wonderful in His Power

In His power to save He is wonderful.

"Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for I am God, and there is none else" (Isaiah 45:22). **"Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest"** (Matthew 12:28).

"Thou your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool" (Isaiah 1:18).

"The blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin" (I John 1:7).

It was not possible that the blood of bulls and goats should take away sin, but thank GOD, He appeared in the end of the age to offer Himself once for all - a sacrifice that would take away sin and remove every stain.

It is a wonderful CHRIST that can reach down in the pit of corruption and lift the sinner up from the miry clay, and wash him white in the fountain filled with Blood, drawn from Immanuel's veins. He is wonderful in His power to save to the uttermost all that will come to GOD by Him.

He is wonderful in His power to keep.

He is wonderful in His power to **"supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus."**

He is wonderful in His power to take human life and make it glorious, wonderful, happy, deep, sweet, and blessed.

"I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day" (II Timothy 1:12).

He is wonderful in His power to transform human lives.

He is wonderful in His power to change a human life and put a song in the soul, even the praises of GOD forevermore.

And that power that raised Him from the dead will one day call our sleeping bodies from the dust, and we shall awake in His likeness, and we shall leave that place where we have rested for a while and come forth singing and shouting. The theme of our song will be, **"Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ"** (I Corinthians 15:55-57).

One day He is coming in His glory and all the holy angels with Him; and sin shall be destroyed, and he that hath the power of death shall be placed in the bottomless pit and the key turned on him, and the **"earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea,"** when He shall come forth from the Father riding upon the white horse, and on his thigh is written, **"King of kings and Lord of lords."** **"His name shall be called Wonderful."**

When I think of it my heart wells up in that glorious old song,

All hail the power of JESUS' name!

Let angels prostrate fall;
Bring forth the royal diadem,
And crown Him Lord of all

Let every kindred, every tribe,

On this terrestrial ball,
To Him all majesty ascribe,
And crown Him Lord of all.

~ end of chapter 2 ~

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