

**A GIFT FOR HARD TIMES:  
WONDERFUL COUNSELOR**

*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.*

*(ISAIAH 9:6 NLT)*

*HE LIFTS UP A BANNER FOR THE DISTANT NATIONS, HE WHISTLES FOR THOSE AT THE ENDS OF  
THE EARTH. HERE THEY COME, SWIFTLY AND SPEEDILY! NOT ONE OF THEM GROWS TIRED OR  
STUMBLES, NOT ONE SLUMBERS OR SLEEPS; NOT A BELT IS LOOSEMED AT THE WAIST, NOT A  
SANDAL THONG IS BROKEN. THEIR ARROWS ARE SHARP, ALL THEIR BOWS ARE STRUNG; THEIR  
HORSES' HOOFS SEEM LIKE FLINT, THEIR CHARIOT WHEELS LIKE A WHIRLWIND. THEIR ROAR IS  
LIKE THAT OF THE LION, THEY ROAR LIKE YOUNG LIONS; THEY GROWL AS THEY SEIZE THEIR  
PREY AND CARRY IT OFF WITH NO ONE TO RESCUE. IN THAT DAY THEY WILL ROAR OVER IT LIKE  
THE ROARING OF THE SEA. AND IF ONE LOOKS AT THE LAND, HE WILL SEE DARKNESS AND  
DISTRESS; EVEN THE LIGHT WILL BE DARKENED BY THE CLOUDS.*

*(ISAIAH 5:26-30 NIV)*

THEIR PROMISE IS ALSO OUR HOPE:

*NEVERTHELESS, THAT TIME OF DARKNESS AND DESPAIR WILL NOT GO ON FOREVER.*

*(ISAIAH 9:1A NLT)*

*THE LAND OF ZEBULUN AND NAPHTALI WILL BE HUMBLD, BUT THERE WILL BE A TIME IN THE  
FUTURE WHEN GALILEE OF THE GENTILES, WHICH LIES ALONG THE ROAD THAT RUNS BETWEEN  
THE JORDAN AND THE SEA, WILL BE FILLED WITH GLORY.*

*THE PEOPLE WHO WALK IN DARKNESS WILL SEE A GREAT LIGHT. FOR THOSE WHO LIVE IN A  
LAND OF DEEP DARKNESS, A LIGHT WILL SHINE.*

*(ISAIAH 9:1-2 NLT)*

*THIS FULFILLED WHAT GOD SAID THROUGH THE PROPHET ISAIAH: "IN THE LAND OF ZEBULUN AND OF NAPHTALI, BESIDE THE SEA, BEYOND THE JORDAN RIVER, IN GALILEE WHERE SO MANY GENTILES LIVE, THE PEOPLE WHO SAT IN DARKNESS HAVE SEEN A GREAT LIGHT. AND FOR THOSE WHO LIVED IN THE LAND WHERE DEATH CASTS ITS SHADOW, A LIGHT HAS SHINED."*

*(MATTHEW 4:14-16 NLT)*

*FOR ONCE YOU WERE FULL OF DARKNESS, BUT NOW YOU HAVE LIGHT FROM THE LORD. SO LIVE AS PEOPLE OF LIGHT!*

*(EPHESIANS 5:8 NLT)*

*FOR A CHILD IS BORN TO US, A SON IS GIVEN TO US.*

*(ISAIAH 9:6A NLT)*

BIG IDEA: WE MUST NEVER FORGET THAT \_\_\_\_\_ CAN BE \_\_\_\_\_.

*THE LORD HAS GIVEN ME A STRONG WARNING NOT TO THINK LIKE EVERYONE ELSE DOES. HE SAID, "DON'T CALL EVERYTHING A CONSPIRACY, LIKE THEY DO, AND DON'T LIVE IN DREAD OF WHAT FRIGHTENS THEM. MAKE THE LORD OF HEAVEN'S ARMIES HOLY IN YOUR LIFE. HE IS THE ONE YOU SHOULD FEAR. HE IS THE ONE WHO SHOULD MAKE YOU TREMBLE. HE WILL KEEP YOU SAFE.*

*(ISAIAH 8:11-14A NLT)*

*SOMEONE MAY SAY TO YOU, "LET'S ASK THE MEDIUMS AND THOSE WHO CONSULT THE SPIRITS OF THE DEAD. WITH THEIR WHISPERINGS AND MUTTERINGS, THEY WILL TELL US WHAT TO DO." BUT SHOULDN'T PEOPLE ASK GOD FOR GUIDANCE? SHOULD THE LIVING SEEK GUIDANCE FROM THE DEAD? LOOK TO GOD'S INSTRUCTIONS AND TEACHINGS! PEOPLE WHO CONTRADICT HIS WORD ARE COMPLETELY IN THE DARK.*

*(ISAIAH 8:19-20 NLT)*

KEY THOUGHT: IF WE DON'T COMPLETELY \_\_\_\_\_ HIM WE WILL FALL INTO COMPLETE \_\_\_\_\_.

*MANY WILL STUMBLE AND FALL, NEVER TO RISE AGAIN. THEY WILL BE SNARED AND CAPTURED." PRESERVE THE TEACHING OF GOD; ENTRUST HIS INSTRUCTIONS TO THOSE WHO FOLLOW ME. I WILL WAIT FOR THE LORD, WHO HAS TURNED AWAY FROM THE DESCENDANTS OF JACOB. I WILL PUT MY HOPE IN HIM.*

*(ISAIAH 8:15-17 NLT)*

*"BUT TRUE WISDOM AND POWER ARE FOUND IN GOD; COUNSEL AND UNDERSTANDING ARE HIS.*

*(JOB 12:13 NLT)*

*YOU GUIDE ME WITH YOUR COUNSEL, LEADING ME TO A GLORIOUS DESTINY.*

*(PSALMS 73:24 NLT)*

*THEY REBELLED AGAINST THE WORDS OF GOD, SCORNING THE COUNSEL OF THE MOST HIGH. THAT IS WHY HE BROKE THEM WITH HARD LABOR; THEY FELL, AND NO ONE WAS THERE TO HELP THEM. "LORD, HELP!" THEY CRIED IN THEIR TROUBLE, AND HE SAVED THEM FROM THEIR DISTRESS. HE LED THEM FROM THE DARKNESS AND DEEPEST GLOOM; HE SNAPPED THEIR CHAINS. LET THEM PRAISE THE LORD FOR HIS GREAT LOVE AND FOR THE WONDERFUL THINGS HE HAS DONE FOR THEM.*

*(PSALMS 107:11-15 NLT)*