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All scriptures are printed verbatim with translations noted.

## HISTORICAL CONTEXT

- Written by Isaiah
- Written 700 years before the birth of Jesus
- Israel is in political turmoil
- Assyrians are about to invade
- Israel has turned their back on God
- Israel have begun to seek counsel from the mediums

*Isaiah 8:19 (ESV) And when they say to you, "Inquire of the mediums and the necromancers who chirp and mutter," should not a people inquire of their God? Should they inquire of the dead on behalf of the living?*

- The Bible describes this time as dark

*Isaiah 8:22 (ESV)-And they will look to the earth, but behold, distress and darkness, the gloom of anguish. And they will be thrust into thick darkness.*

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# HOW WONDERFUL IS OUR

## 1. CARING COUNSELOR

1 Peter 5:7 (ESV)-casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you

Luke 12:7 (ESV)-Indeed, the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Do not fear; you are more valuable than many sparrows.

## 2. COMPASSIONATE COUNSELOR

Hebrews 4:15-16 (ESV)- For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Luke 19:41-42 (ESV)-And when he [Jesus] drew near and saw the city, he wept over it, saying, "Would that you, even you, had known on this day the things that make for peace!

## 3. COMPETENT COUNSELOR

Colossians 2:2-3 (ESV)-that their hearts may be encouraged, being knit together in love, to reach all the riches of full assurance of understanding and the knowledge of God's mystery, which is Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

James 1:5 (ESV)-If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him.

## 4. CLOSE COUNSELOR

Matthew 1:23 (ESV)-"Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel!" (which means, God with us).

Psalms 73:28 (ESV)-But as for me, the nearness of God is my good...

Matthew 28:20b (ESV)- And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

**Here is the Point:** We have a Wonderful Counselor!!

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