

WONDERFUL, COUNSELOR PROBLEM

Floyd Nolen Jones, Th.D., Ph.D.

Excerpt from Apples of Gold

“A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in pictures of silver.” Proverbs 25:11

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 (Isa. 9:6, KJB).

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace (Isa. 9:6 NIV as well as most other new versions).

So does the Scripture read: Wonderful, or Wonderful Counselor? (the comma)

First, the Hebrew **פֶּלֶה** (pronounced *peleh*)¹ does mean “Wonderful”.

Further, Dr. D.A. Waite² states that there are two kinds of accents in Hebrew: the conjunctive and the disjunctive. Moreover, he informs us that there is a disjunctive accent at the end of “Wonderful” as well as another one at the beginning of the word for “Counselor” and that these necessitate the placing of a comma between the “Wonderful” and “Counselor” in the English text.

That is, there is a disjunctive accent placed **after** *peleh* and **before** “Counselor” which indicates that there should be a break in the English language between the two words in the form of a comma.

Dr. Waite adds that this means “Wonderful” is a noun³ and, as such, becomes one of Jesus’ *names* (as Handel knew and so wrote in his musical score “The Messiah”). When the modern versions remove the comma, “Wonderful” is wrongly made into an adjective rather than a noun and Wonderful Counselor becomes a title – not a name. Yet the 1539 Great Bible, the 1560 Geneva & the 1568 Bishops Bible all read “his name” – as does the above 1611 King James.

Dr. Owens confirms (fn. 3 below): he renders the Hebrew (**יְהוָה**) as “his name”.

The newer versions have caused our Lord to lose a name! Shame.

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¹ The lay-reader may verify this at Strong’s #6382 or Gesenius’ Hebrew-Chaldee Lexicon to the OT.

² From a personal 1994 telephone conversation between myself and Dr. D.A. Waite. Dr. Waite is a most qualified linguist possessing two earned doctorates (Th.D., Dallas Theological Seminary, Ph.D., Purdue, Uni.). He has acquired 66 semester hours in combined Classical and Koine Greek from the University of Michigan & Dallas Theological Seminary as well as 25 semester hours in Hebrew (he garnered all A’s in both languages while at Dallas). Furthermore, he has 8 semester hours of Latin, 8 hours of French, and 11 hours of Spanish. Thus, Dr. Waite has amassed a total of 118 semester hours (1,888 regular class hours) in foreign languages! He has over 35 years of teaching experience in varied areas which include Hebrew as well as Bible Greek (called *Koiné*).

³ Dr. John Joseph Owens also records that here the word is a noun – *Analytical Key to the Old Testament*, Volume 4, (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House, 1996), p. 28. Owens was president of the National Association of Professors of Hebrew and taught that language for over 35 years.
