

**Jesus: Mighty God**  
Isaiah 9.6

**Introduction** – This isn't probably much of a big deal in this area, but have you ever known someone who didn't want their little boy(s) to play with guns? It doesn't work. Little boys will create a gun out of a stick or some Legos or their own finger, but they are going to point and go "bang" by the time they are 3 no matter what you do!

And I know that I'm going to be vulnerable to accusations of being utterly out of touch, chauvinistic, completely old fashioned, but I'm going to go ahead and say it anyway. I think that boys play with swords and guns and make believe war because they are hardwired by God to fulfill the male role of protection. And of course, I realize that it often gets distorted into all kinds of wrong manifestations, but nevertheless, there does seem to be something innate in boys that thrives on role playing a soldier or a hero or a hunter or a pioneer. They want to feel the thrill of danger and triumph even if it is just pretend.

Now, I'm going to go even further and say this: when it is not distorted the little boy playing with his plastic soldiers or defending his pretend territory in the yard is a good thing. And it is a good thing because there is something of the image of God in that. Our God is a MIGHTY WARRIOR. And that is part of what our passage is about this morning. **Isaiah 9** presents God as victorious on behalf of His people and presents the coming Messiah as bearing the name **Mighty God**.

Of course, I recognize that there are plenty of other things about God that can be said. God is more nurturing than a new mother; God is more tender than a grandmother! But at the same time, for our focus on Isaiah 9 this morning, we are going to see God flexing His muscles. We are going to see the might and power of God revealed in Jesus Christ! We are going to begin by reading the text, and then we will have a very simple division to our focus this morning...

**First** we will focus on Jesus Christ the Mighty **GOD**. And then...

**Second** we will focus on Jesus Christ the **MIGHTY** God.

**Isaiah 9:1-7** - But there will be no gloom for her who was in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he has made glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations.

<sup>2</sup> The people who walked in darkness  
have seen a great light;  
those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness,  
on them has light shined.

<sup>3</sup>You have multiplied the nation;  
you have increased its joy;  
they rejoice before you  
as with joy at the harvest,  
as they are glad when they divide the spoil.

<sup>4</sup>For the yoke of his burden,  
and the staff for his shoulder,

the rod of his oppressor,  
you have broken as on the day of Midian.  
<sup>5</sup>For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult  
and every garment rolled in blood  
will be burned as fuel for the fire.  
<sup>6</sup>For to us a child is born,  
to us a son is given;  
and the government shall be upon his shoulder,  
and his name shall be called  
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.  
<sup>7</sup>Of the increase of his government and of peace  
there will be no end,  
on the throne of David and over his kingdom,  
to establish it and to uphold it  
with justice and with righteousness  
from this time forth and forevermore.  
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

## 1. Jesus Christ the Mighty **GOD!**

- a. For the Messiah to be called “Mighty God” obviously teaches the deity of Christ. “Mighty God” is a title reserved for YHWH in the Old Testament. There are many examples that we could use, but here are a couple:

**Deuteronomy 10:17** - For the Lord your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great, the mighty, and the awesome God, who is not partial and takes no bribe.

**Jeremiah 32:18** - You show steadfast love to thousands, but you repay the guilt of fathers to their children after them, O great and mighty God, whose name is the Lord of hosts

- i. Listen to this quote from Charles Spurgeon, “We do continually affirm that an error, with regard to the divinity of Christ, is absolutely fatal, and that a man cannot be right in his judgment upon any part of the gospel unless he think rightly of him who is personally the very center of all the purposes of heaven and the foundation of all the hopes of earth.” – Spurgeon
  - ii. If Christ is not God, then we are practicing idolatry every Sunday.
  - iii. If Christ is not God, then our hope of salvation is gone.
  - iv. But since Christ is God, then we should stand in wonder and in awe that the Son of God, co-eternal with the Father, co-creator with the Father, came into this world as a child, as a son.
  - v. **Illustration** – You know how when an adult needs to communicate something very important to a small child, we kneel down and look them in the eye. That is what God did in sending His Son as baby. He knelt down to get on our level to communicate His love and grace and His power and justice!
  - vi. **Application** – Let us worship Him for it!!!
  - vii. **Transition** – Next I want us to consider the word “God”...
- b. As you know there are many names for God in the Bible, but this is the Hebrew name for God pronounced “E!”.

- i. It can be used of any god, both the God of the Hebrews, YHWH, or of idols.
  - ii. It is even sometimes used of powerful men.
  - iii. The basic idea is one of power. It basically means one who is powerful and to be feared.
  - iv. And it is often combined with other words to create specific names for God.
    - In Genesis 16, Hagar calls God “El Roi”, “the God who sees me.”
    - And many of you are familiar with the name for God, “El Shaddai”, which means God Almighty.
  - v. There are basically two different things that are associated with this name of God in the Old Testament...
    - the fear of God and...
    - relationship with God...
- c. As GOD, Christ is to be feared...
- i. As I mentioned the most basic idea of the name “El” is as a name for a being of power that is to be feared, and the idea of fearing God is associated repeatedly with this name for God.
  - ii. Here are just a couple of examples...
  - iii. In a plea for God to judge the proud and the wicked the Psalmist cries out in Psalm 94: “O Lord, God of vengeance, O God of vengeance, shine forth!” (Psalm 94.1)
  - iv. Nahum tells us that...
 

The Lord is a jealous and avenging God;  
                   the Lord is avenging and wrathful;  
                   the Lord takes vengeance on his adversaries  
                   and keeps wrath for his enemies.  
                   (Nahum 1.2)
  - v. In fact, in the King James Version of the Bible this name “El” is used in conjunction with the words “terrible” and “dreadful”. For example, Nehemiah prays to God as the “great and terrible God” (Nehemiah 1.5). And Daniel prays to God as the “great and dreadful God” (Daniel 9.4).
  - vi. There is no room for carelessness or casualness in our relationship with God. And this applies to Jesus as well! Someday He will sit upon the throne of judgment and we will be accountable to Him for our lives. We cannot treat Him with anything but reverence.
  - vii. When Jesus was here on earth, He walked and talked with men and women. Some loved Him, some doubted Him, some were His friends, some were His enemies. But for me, all of that culminates in the resurrection, and when Thomas sees Jesus for the first time after the cross, he falls on his knees in reverence and awe and cries out, “My Lord and my God!” That is the kind of reverence that we should all have in our hearts for Jesus Christ!
  - viii. Transition – But the fear of the Lord is not the only thing in our relationship with Jesus Christ...
- d. As GOD, Christ also invites relationship...
- i. Listen to the personal pronouns used in our relationship to God...
 

**Isaiah 12:2** - "Behold, God is my salvation;  
                   I will trust, and will not be afraid;  
                   for the Lord God is my strength and my song,  
                   and he has become my salvation."

**Psalm 89:26 –**

He shall cry to me, 'You are my Father,  
my God, and the Rock of my salvation.'

- ii. Jesus is God, and He is to be feared and revered. But the other side of this coin is that Jesus is God and invites us into a personal relationship with Himself! Constantly throughout the Bible, God is referred to as “my God”. Yes, when Thomas saw Jesus for the first time after the resurrection, he fell on his knees, but he also cried out “my Lord and my God”.
- iii. **Illustration** – This balance of fearing the Lord and yet entering into personal relationship with Him isn’t easy to understand. Perhaps this illustration may help: Winston Churchill was a warrior. His best years were when he had a worthy opponent in Adolf Hitler. His call for “blood sweat, and tears” kept England going during her darkest days. And yet, when he came home at night and his children came to give him a hug, his eyes very often misted over with tears. When we think of this powerful man leading a nation at war and yet teary eyed and tender with his children, we get an image of how Christ is to be feared, respected, acknowledged as powerful and awesome and at the same time desires to enter into a tender and gracious relationship with each individual one of us.
- iv. **Application** - So we should just pause for a moment at this point and consider whether or not we reverence Christ, whether we truly fear Him. And whether or not our relationship with Him is up close and personal.
  - Do you fear the Lord? Do we recognize that everything in our lives, our thoughts, our motives are open to His gaze? Do we obey His Word, do we listen to His instructions? Are we anxious to please Him? Are we humbled before the divine Ruler of all the universe?
  - And at the same time, are we pursuing a personal relationship with Jesus? Do we realize that Jesus died for ME? Do we see that He is personally MY refuge, when I am in trouble? Do we see Him as closer to us than a brother? Do we take our greatest joy in life from spending time in fellowship with Jesus Christ? Do we realize that Jesus CARES for us personally?
  - And then we need to recognize that without the fear of the Lord, there is no relationship with the Lord. Unless we recognize our sinful offense against God, there can be no reconciliation to a right relationship with God. God wants us to see our sinfulness and the danger of His judgment SO THAT we will come to Christ for forgiveness of sin and restoration to God. So often people get this backwards. They don’t want to think about sin and judgment; they want Jesus to be like a life sized teddy bear. But for a “personal relationship” to be meaningful at all, we have to take seriously whatever may breach that relationship. That means taking the sin seriously and taking the cross seriously because it was the God ordained means of forgiving sin and restoring the breach.
- e. **Transition** – So far, we’ve reviewed this word “God”, Jesus is God, the One who is to be feared, and yet at the same time the one who has made a way for us to be rightly related to God, and He is our caring Friend. Now I want us to consider this word “Mighty”.

## 2. Jesus Christ the **MIGHTY** God...

- a. The Hebrew word for “Mighty” means “heroic, warrior, champion, mighty man”. This is the same word used for the “mighty men of David” that core group of valiant soldiers who wholeheartedly protected David’s life. They were mighty warriors!
- a. And Jesus Christ is a Mighty Conqueror! As we’ve gone through the book of Mark, we’ve seen Jesus control the weather, dominate the demons, and raise the dead!
- b. But there is something else that I want to point out. Jesus was mighty in the Spirit. From time to time in the Old Testament, we read of how “the Spirit of the Lord rushed upon” one of the leaders of Israel. Samson is an example...

**Judges 14:5-6** - Then Samson went down with his father and mother to Timnah, and they came to the vineyards of Timnah. And behold, a young lion came toward him roaring. Then the Spirit of the Lord rushed upon him, and although he had nothing in his hand, he tore the lion in pieces as one tears a young goat. But he did not tell his father or his mother what he had done.

**Judges 14:19** - And the Spirit of the Lord rushed upon him, and he went down to Ashkelon and struck down thirty men of the town and took their spoil and gave the garments to those who had told the riddle. In hot anger he went back to his father's house.

**Judges 15:14-15** - When he came to Lehi, the Philistines came shouting to meet him. Then the Spirit of the Lord rushed upon him, and the ropes that were on his arms became as flax that has caught fire, and his bonds melted off his hands. And he found a fresh jawbone of a donkey, and put out his hand and took it, and with it he struck 1,000 men.

- c. Samson wasn’t particularly a spiritual man. But in the purposes of God, He received the power of the Spirit to accomplish the victory that Israel needed. The phrase that the Bible used was “the Spirit of the Lord rushed upon him”. But now listen to this passage that Jesus quotes from Isaiah right at the beginning of His ministry...

**Isaiah 61:1-3** (quoted by Jesus in Luke 4.18-19)

<sup>1</sup>The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me,  
because the Lord has anointed me  
to bring good news to the poor;  
he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted,  
to proclaim liberty to the captives,  
and the opening of the prison to those who are bound;  
<sup>2</sup>to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor,  
and the day of vengeance of our God;  
to comfort all who mourn;  
<sup>3</sup>to grant to those who mourn in Zion—  
to give them a beautiful headdress instead of ashes,  
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,  
the garment of praise instead of a faint spirit;  
that they may be called oaks of righteousness,  
the planting of the Lord, that he may be glorified.

- d. Jesus Christ is absolutely a Mighty Conqueror, but He came to conquer people’s hearts. He came to set spiritual prisoners free. He came to heal broken hearts!

**Conclusion** – Now... The key for us is to surrender to Jesus, our Mighty Conqueror, our personal God! We can talk all day about victorious Christian living, but the first step to victory is surrender. Surrender to Christ's power, surrender to Christ's agenda, surrender to Christ's call.

- Will you surrender to Christ's offer of salvation? Will you stop attempting to please God through your own efforts and surrender to the reality that Jesus has paid it all?
- And then will we surrender to Christ as our Lord and Master? Will we fear and reverence Him as we should?
- And finally, will we surrender to Jesus as our personal friend? Will we pursue a deeply personal and intimate relationship with Him?