

23-09-04.wpd —Jesus is The Mighty God

Jesus, God, conflicts, battles, Conqueror, power

Isaiah 9:6

Jesus is the mighty Conqueror against the ongoing enemies we face.

INTRODUCTION:

–Isaiah 9:6, *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, the Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.*

–Advent season is a time to meditate on the coming of Jesus Christ, and this description, "*The Mighty God*," is one aspect of Jesus that many fail to appreciate. It's a package that sits under the Christmas tree every year, without being opened. Today, with the Spirit's help, I want to try to unwrap it for our minds, so that we will see the mighty power available to us in the Person of God's Son, and in a relationship with Him.

–God chooses His words carefully. This one, *Mighty*, is used at least 156 times in the OT and it carries the connotation of a "valiant warrior of conquering power." This describes Jesus in human terms. He's God, but also a human war Hero. As *Almighty God*, Jesus could have fried Satan to a crisp at one glance. But as the "*the Mighty God*," He chose to join us by Incarnation, and to defeat Satan, sin, and death on human terms, so that the victory He achieved was fully a human victory. This makes Christmas the ultimate birthday celebration, because it celebrates the greatest war Hero in human history. And it makes the ongoing gift of Jesus Christ, this "*the Mighty (conquering) God*," the gift that everyone needs to unwrap this Christmas, because **HOM.idea.**

I. Christ's Heroism is Not the Result of Popularism

- A. Positive exposure makes some people into heroes. (Jesus' birth was not covered in the *Jerusalem Times*. God picked shepherds, with a status like that of homeless people today, to announce His birth.)
- B. When Jesus began teaching and healing, He became popular, but only with the poor and the common people. The elite looked at Him as a troublemaker and a threat to the status quo.
- C. The way He died, not only like a criminal, but like a lamb that is helpless against the sacrificial knife, is no one's idea of a great, conquering hero. (In that sense, applying "*The Mighty God*" to Jesus seems far from an accurate description.)

TRANS: But popularity is not what makes a true hero. True heroes are worthy of honor, because they *got the job done*, no matter what it cost them. The job Jesus got done was the redemption of humanity, and it cost Him tremendous human suffering and a spiritually painful death. He continues to be that "*Mighty God*" by being **the mighty Conqueror against the ongoing enemies we face.** If all He did was to defeat sin, death and the devil, He would be forever worthy of our devotion and praise. But He is our ongoing Hero. He stands beside us in all our earthly conflicts and trials, to bring us to spiritual victory.

II. Christ's Heroism is the Result of Divine Self-Sacrifice

- A. The heart of a true hero is not motivated by seeking fame, but by seeking to serve. [God manifested a servant's heart by working so hard at creation that He took time off to rest afterward. But He didn't stop serving. He continues to care for His creation, and the literal words of Scripture tell us that His providential care over His creatures is a personal involvement.]
- B. There's nothing mechanical about the way God oversees and cares for His creation (Some *deists* think that God made everything to work like a clock, just winding it up and letting it run by laws.)
 1. God got personally involved– **John 3:16a**, "God so **loved the world** that He gave His only begotten Son," (That's *good news* for us, because we're part of the world that God sent His Son to redeem.)
 2. But with us God gets even more intimately personal– **John 15:13**, Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends.
- C. This is what marks a true hero: self-sacrifice. And what makes a hero's self-sacrifice important, is how it delivers loved ones from their enemies. *What were the enemies Jesus delivered us from?*
 1. **One enemy was our sins**, which separated us from God– **1 John 3:5**. But you know that he appeared **so that he might take away our sins.**
 2. **Another enemy was the demon named Satan** who leads people into sin – **1 John 3:8**, He who does what is sinful is of the devil, because the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was **to destroy the devil's work.**
 3. The **final enemy is death**, produced by sin, but defeated by the death and resurrection of Christ-- "Where, O death, is your victory? [it says in **1 Cor 15:55-57**] Where, O death, is your sting?" The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."

TRANS: Remember—we are in a war, and the battle is with these enemies: *Satan, sin, and death*. But all too often we see these enemies too *intellectually*, and not *practically*. What about where the rubber meets the road *day in and day out*? **Is Jesus is the mighty Conqueror against the ongoing enemies we face daily in our lives?** Absolutely!

III. Christ Is Our Hero for All of Life

- A. The prophetic name of Christ was Immanuel ["God with us"] (At His 1st Advent, He was physically present, and will be again at His 2nd).
1. Between those Advents, Jesus promised to be physically with us in another way: to indwell our bodies as temples, through the Holy Spirit— John 14:23, Jesus replied, "If anyone loves me, he will obey my teaching. My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him." (*Father, Son, & Holy Spirit: they all come to us!*)
 2. We do not face life alone, but with "the Mighty God," the "Conquering God" dwelling within us and meeting our deepest needs— Heb 13:5 (Mess.) Don't be obsessed with getting more material things. Be relaxed with what you have. Since God assured us, "I'll never let you down, never walk off and leave you,"
- B. [A war hero is known for *facing the battle*, not for *retreating*] If Jesus didn't retreat with these big enemies of humanity, He won't abandon us as we face these same enemies in practical ways on life's journey.
1. Satan still attacks, but Jesus, the Mighty God, is with us— Ja 4:7, (GW) So place yourselves under God's authority. Resist the devil, and he will run away from you.
 2. Sin still creeps in, but Jesus, the Mighty God, is with us— 1 John 1:7, [and] if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.
 3. Death still steals life, a little bit at a time through losses along life's way, but Jesus, the Mighty God, is with us— Phil 4:19, And . . . God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus.

CONCLUSION:

--Jesus is the mighty Conqueror against the ongoing enemies we face. This is the gift that people should be excited about this Christmas season. This is the "Mighty God" incarnate who became the greatest Hero of the human race. It is this Hero's birthday that we celebrate.