

23-09-04-Jesus: 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 a personal relationship with God’s Son.

–God chooses His words carefully. The word *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 is God, but He’s 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.

–Christmas is the ultimate birthday celebration, because **HOM.idea**. Advent celebrates the greatest war Hero in human history. Its *meaning* makes the ongoing gift of Jesus Christ—this “*Mighty (conquering) God*” — the gift that everyone needs to unwrap this Christmas.

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

- A. Positive exposure makes some into heroes. (Jesus’ birth wasn’t covered in the *Jerusalem Times*. God chose shepherds—those with a status like that of homeless people, to announce His birth.
- B. When Jesus began teaching and healing, He became popular, but only with the poor and the common people. The *rich* and the *elite* saw Him as a troublemaker—a threat to the status quo.
- C. How He died—not only like a *common criminal*, but as a helpless lamb being led to the slaughterhouse—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, in popular thinking.)

TRANS: But *popularity doesn't make a true hero*. True heroes are honored, because they *got the job done*, no matter what the price. The *job Jesus accomplished was the redemption of humanity*, and *it cost Him tremendous physical and spiritual suffering*. 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 to win fame, but by seeking to serve. [**God has a servant's heart**. He worked so hard at creation that He took time off afterwards to rest. But *He never stopped serving*. He continues to care for His creation. 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 creation (*Deists* teach that God made everything to work like a clock—just winding it up and letting it run by itself. *Not so!*)
1. God got personally involved— **John 3:16a**, "God so **loved the world** that He gave His only begotten Son," (That's *good news*, because we are a *strategic part* of "the world" God's Son was sent to redeem.)
 2. But with *us*, God got 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 arch-devil Satan, who continues to lead humans into sin— **1 John 3:8b**, The reason the Son of God appeared was **to destroy the devil's work**.
 3. The final enemy is death, which was produced by sin, but was defeated by the death and resurrection of Christ— **1 Cor 15:55-57**, "Where, O death, is your victory? 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 at war, doing battle!* Our 3 foes are *sin*,

Satan, and *death*. But too often we see these enemies *intellectually*, and *not practically*. What about *where we live, where the rubber meets the road, day in and day out?* Is **Jesus the mighty Conqueror against these ongoing enemies we face on a daily basis?** Absolutely!

III. Christ Is Our Hero for All of Life

- A. Christ's prophetic name is *Immanuel* ["God with us"] (He will be as *physically present in His 2nd Advent as He was in His 1st*).
1. Between those 2 Advents, He promised to be "*with us*" in another way: to live in 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." (The *Father, Son, & Holy Spirit all come to indwell us!*)
 2. We never face life alone! The conquering, "*Mighty God*" lives in us to meet 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 from humanity's greatest enemies, He **won't abandon us**, as we face these same enemies throughout life's journey.
1. Satan still attacks us, but Jesus, "the Mighty God," is forever with us— **James 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," remains with us— **1 John 1:7**, 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," stays with us— **Phil 4:19b**, 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 precious gift* people should be excited about this Advent season. This is "*the Mighty God*" incarnate Who became the greatest Warrior in human and divine history. It's this Hero's *human birthday* that we are celebrating at Christmas.

—All glory to the incarnate "*Mighty God*," Who became our Almighty, Conquering King!