

UNTO US – MIGHTY GOD

INTRODUCTION

Titles bestowed upon famous people who have had successful lives:

- Elvis Presley – The King of Rock and Roll, The King
- Wayne Gretzky – The Great One
- Richard I – Richard the Lionheart

Nicknames or titles would be a lot to live up to even though they were bestowed after the individuals had proven themselves. Alexander the Great was great because of what he achieved militarily and politically. Muhammed Ali was called simply “The Greatest” after he had achieved notoriety in the ring. But still, it’s a lot to live up to.

Imagine if those names or titles were granted before the people in question had ever accomplished anything, or before they were even born.

That is what happened in the case of Jesus. Over 700 years before he was born he received titles which the prophet Isaiah predicted would be true of his character and true of his accomplishments. *He would have to live up to them*

↳ Wonderful Counsellor
↳ Mighty God

Isaiah 9:6 ESV

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.

FORECAST

In this passage Isaiah is prophesying about a deliverer who will come and deliver his people from oppression and bring about God's salvation. This saviour who will come, who would be born as a child and given as a son, among other things will be called, Mighty God. When Isaiah prophesies that his name shall be called Mighty God, he means that this Saviour will deserve that title and it will be descriptive of his character and actions. We begin by considering what Isaiah meant when he predicted the Saviour would merit being called "Mighty God."

"MIGHTY"

Mighty means having or showing great strength, force, or intensity, having might; being powerful or strong, possessing impressive power.

Isaiah 49:24-25 ESV

²⁴ Can the prey be taken from the mighty,
or the captives of a tyrant be rescued?

²⁵ For thus says the Lord:

"Even the captives of the mighty shall be taken,
and the prey of the tyrant be rescued,
for I will contend with those who contend with you,
and I will save your children.

- In the grasp of an enemy - [Jerry Crafts] on bus

Isaiah 5:22 ESV Woe to those who are heroes at drinking wine, and valiant men in mixing strong drink,

"GOD"

El – God, god, god-like one, mighty one, mighty men, men of rank, mighty heroes, angels

Men (Ezekiel prophesying of Egyptian leaders) – **Ezekiel 32:21 ESV** The mighty chiefs shall speak of them, with their helpers, out of the midst of Sheol: 'They have come down, they lie still, the uncircumcised, slain by the sword.'

Could this be a title of a powerful human and not necessarily God? If "mighty" can refer to men and even "el" can refer to men, maybe this is just a powerful human.

Immediate context

Isaiah 10:20-21 ESV ²⁰In that day the remnant of Israel and the survivors of the house of Jacob will no more lean on him who struck them, but will lean on the Lord, the Holy One of Israel, in truth. ²¹A remnant will return, the remnant of Jacob, to the mighty God.

WARRIOR

Connotation: Strong, brave, valiant, warrior

2 Samuel 23:8-12 ESV

⁸ These are the names of the mighty men whom David had: Joshebbasshebeth a Tahchemonite; he was chief of the three. He wielded his spear against eight hundred whom he killed at one time.

⁹ And next to him among the three mighty men was Eleazar the son of Dodo, son of Ahohi. He was with David when they defied the Philistines who were gathered there for battle, and the men of Israel withdrew.¹⁰ He rose and struck down the Philistines until his hand was weary, and his hand clung to the sword. And the Lord brought about a great victory that day, and the men returned after him only to strip the slain.

¹¹ And next to him was Shammah, the son of Agee the Hararite. The Philistines gathered together at Lehi, where there was a plot of ground full of lentils, and the men fled from the Philistines. ¹² But he took his stand in the midst of the plot and defended it and struck down the Philistines, and the Lord worked a great victory.

Isaiah 42:13 ESV The Lord goes out like a mighty man, like a man of war he stirs up his zeal; he cries out, he shouts aloud, he shows himself mighty against his foes.

Motyer, *Isaiah by the Day*: **Isaiah 9:6** Because a child has been born to us, a son has been given to us, and the princely rule has been set on his shoulders, and one has called his name Wonderful Counsellor, Warrior God, Father in perpetuity, Prince of peace.

Isaiah prophesied that the Saviour who would come and save his people from oppression would earn, through his character and actions, the name or title "Mighty God." In declaring this, he was declaring that the human Saviour—born a child—would be strong, brave, and powerful; the Saviour would also be God; the Saviour would be a divine warrior fighting for the salvation of his people.

FORETASTE

We get a foretaste of this Saviour who is the Mighty God in the life of Jesus. The initial evaluation indicates that Jesus is the fulfillment of this prophecy.

Luke 4:40-41 ESV ⁴⁰ Now when the sun was setting, all those who had any who were sick with various diseases brought them to him, and he laid his hands on every one of them and healed them. ⁴¹ And demons also came out of many, crying, "You are the Son of God!" But he rebuked them and would not allow them to speak, because they knew that he was the Christ.

- Powerful and strong – mighty healing
- Warrior – Demons

Jesus, the people, the apostles recognized Jesus' might

- **Luke 10:13 ESV** "Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the mighty works done in you had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago, sitting in sackcloth and ashes."
- **Luke 19:37 ESV** As he was drawing near—already on the way down the Mount of Olives—the whole multitude of his disciples began to rejoice and praise God with a loud voice for all the mighty works that they had seen,
- **Acts 2:22 ESV** "Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with mighty works and wonders and signs that God did through him in your midst, as you yourselves know—

FULFILLMENT

The fulfillment of Jesus being the Saviour who is called Mighty God begins with his life and comes to its pinnacle in his the death and resurrection.

"The strength of the general in other hosts lies in his troops ... but in the army of saints, the strength of every saint, yea, of the whole host of saints, lies in the Lord of hosts" – William Gurnall, *The Christian in Complete Armour*,

Not only is Jesus mighty and strong, but he is our might and our strength

SIN AND DEATH

Romans 6:5-10 ESV ⁵For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. ⁶We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. ⁷For one who has died has been set free from sin. ⁸Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. ⁹We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. ¹⁰For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God.

Riding a bike – "unable to ride a bike" has dominion, ride the bike, "unable to ride a bike" no longer has dominion

→ Jesus demonstrated his might and his divinity in defeating death and sin

DEVIL

Hebrews 2:14-15 ESV ¹⁴Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, ¹⁵and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery.

Isaiah saw a Saviour who was a divine, mighty warrior who would save his people. Jesus fulfilled that prophecy, mightily defeating the oppressors of his people. His victory over sin, death, and the devil establishes that he indeed is the Mighty God of Isaiah 9. His birth that we celebrate at Christmas was the birth of the Mighty God.

FOR YOU

Jesus birth as a child and his being given as a son who would be a Mighty God is one reason we celebrate Christmas. But how does that help you today? How can we apply that truth to our lives?

GOSPEL *FIRST, IF YOU DON'T BELIEVE ~ JESUS - born at Xmas - is the MIGHTY GOD WHO SAVES ALL THOSE WHO REPENT AND BELIEVE. HE SAVES THROUGH HIS MIGHTY CONQUERING OF SIN, DEATH, AND THE DEVIL*

HEAD

Athanasian Creed: Whoever desires to be saved should above all hold to the catholic faith. Anyone who does not keep it whole and unbroken will doubtless perish eternally. Now this is the catholic faith:

That we worship one God in trinity and the trinity in unity, neither blending their persons nor dividing their essence.

For the person of the Father is a distinct person, the person of the Son is another, and that of the Holy Spirit still another.

But the divinity of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit is one, their glory equal, their majesty coeternal.

...

This is the catholic faith: one cannot be saved without believing it firmly and faithfully.

Delighting in the Trinity by Michael Reeves

"God is a mystery, but not in the alien abductions, things-that-go-bump-in-the-night sense. Certainly not in the "who can know, why bother?" sense. God is a mystery in that who he is and what he is like are secrets, things we would never have worked out by ourselves. But this triune God has revealed himself to us. Thus the Trinity is not some piece of inexplicable apparent nonsense, like a square circle or an interesting theologian. Rather, because the triune God has revealed himself, we can understand the Trinity. That is not to say we can exhaust our knowledge of God, comprehend and wrap our brains around him simply cramming in a few bits of information before moving on to some other doctrine. To know the Trinity is to know God, an eternal and personal God of infinite beauty, interest and fascination. **The Trinity is a God we can know, and forever grow to know better.**"

HEART

The Saviour, who was promised to come as both a human child and as the Mighty God, is mighty in his love for his people so much so that they cannot be separated from that love even ^{by anything} by the devil himself. In your ^{trials} suffering, know that the Saviour has shown himself as a divine, ^{everyday life} mighty warrior in his love to you.

Romans 8:37-39 ESV ³⁷ No, in all these things (trials) we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹ nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Find heart-encouragement, heart-motivation, heart-protection ^{by} reflecting, rejoicing, and remembering the mighty love of the ^{Mighty God}

HANDS

PROVISION

Power for evangelism to spread the news of the Saviour's mighty victory over sin and death.

Matthew 28:18-20 ESV ¹⁸ And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority (the power of authority and right/privilege) in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

His mighty power = your provision for sharing the gospel! ⇒ GIVEAWAY

Head – know the Trinity

Heart – find help in the mighty love of God

Hands – share the gospel