

Mighty God

Message 2 of 4 in the series: "What a Wonderful Name!"

A. 700 years before Jesus was born, the OT prophet Isaiah foretold the coming of the Messiah.

"For a child is born to us, a son is given to us. The government will rest on his shoulders. And he will be called: Wonderful Counselor, **Mighty God**, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His government and its peace will never end. He will rule with fairness and justice from the throne **of his ancestor David** for all eternity. The passionate commitment of the Lord of Heaven's Armies will make this happen!"

Isaiah 9:6-7 (NLT)

"Therefore, the Lord himself will give you a sign: **The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son**, and will call him Immanuel." Isaiah 7:14 (NIV)

Note: Messiah (ancient Hebrew) = Christ (ancient Greek) = anointed one = a mighty king who, like David, would be empowered by God to set things right again. "So as David stood there among his brothers, Samuel took the flask of olive oil he had brought and anointed David with the oil. And the Spirit of the LORD came powerfully upon David from that day on." 1 Samuel 16:13a (NLT)

Note: We recognize and worship Jesus as the Christ/Messiah Isaiah was talking about because He checks all of the boxes of Isaiah's prophecies.

- The Messiah would come into the world as a human baby.
- The Messiah would be God's son.
- The Messiah would be a descendant of King David.
- The Messiah would be born of a virgin.

"...God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a village in Galilee, to a virgin named Mary. She was engaged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of King David. Gabriel appeared to her and said, 'Greetings, favored woman! The Lord is with you!' Confused and disturbed, Mary tried to think what the angel could mean. 'Don't be afraid, Mary,' the angel told her, 'for you have found favor with God! You will conceive and **give birth to a son**, and you will name him Jesus. He will be very great and will be called the **Son of the Most High**. The Lord God will give him the throne of **his ancestor David**. And he will reign over Israel forever; his Kingdom will never end!' Mary asked the angel, 'But how can this happen? **I am a virgin.**' The angel replied, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the baby to be born will be holy, and he will be called the Son of God.'" Luke 1:26-35 (NLT)

B. Jesus' life and ministry proved that He is **Mighty God**.

1. Jesus is **Mighty God** because only **Mighty God** is stronger than the forces of nature.

"...Jesus insisted that his disciples get back into the boat and cross to the other side of the lake, while he sent the people home. After sending them home, he went up into the hills by himself to pray. Night fell while he was there alone. Meanwhile, the disciples were in trouble far away from land, for a strong wind had risen, and they were fighting heavy waves. About three o'clock in the morning Jesus came toward them, **walking on the water**. When the disciples saw him walking on the water, they were terrified. In their fear, they cried out, 'It's a ghost!' But Jesus spoke to them at once. 'Don't be afraid,' he said. 'Take courage. I am here!' Then Peter called to him, 'Lord, if it's really you, tell me to come to you, walking on the water.' 'Yes, come,' Jesus said. So Peter went over the side of the boat and walked on the water toward Jesus. But when he saw the strong wind and the waves, he was terrified and began to sink. 'Save me, Lord!' he shouted. Jesus immediately reached out and grabbed him. 'You have so little faith,' Jesus said. '**Why did you doubt me?**' When they climbed back into the boat, the wind stopped. Then the disciples worshiped him. '**You really are the Son of God!**' they exclaimed."

Matthew 14:22-33 (NLT)

2. Jesus is **Mighty God** because only **Mighty God** can instantly heal sickness and disease.

"Soon the house where he (Jesus) was staying was so packed with visitors that there was no more room, even outside the door. While he was preaching God's word to them, four men arrived carrying a paralyzed man on a mat. They couldn't bring him to Jesus because of the crowd, so they dug a hole through the roof above his head. Then they lowered the man on his mat, right down in front of Jesus. Seeing their faith, Jesus said to the paralyzed man, 'My child, your sins are forgiven.' But some of the teachers of religious law who were sitting there thought to themselves, 'What is he saying? This is blasphemy! **Only God can forgive sins!**' Jesus knew immediately what they were thinking, so he

asked them, 'Why do you question this in your hearts? Is it easier to say to the paralyzed man "Your sins are forgiven," or "Stand up, pick up your mat, and walk"? **So I will prove to you that the Son of Man has the authority on earth to forgive sins.**' Then Jesus turned to the paralyzed man and said, 'Stand up, pick up your mat, and go home!' And the man jumped up, grabbed his mat, and walked out through the stunned onlookers. They were all amazed and praised God, exclaiming, 'We've never seen anything like this before!'" Mark 2:2-12 (NLT)

3. Jesus is Mighty God because only mighty God is stronger than death.

"Soon afterward Jesus went with his disciples to the village of Nain, and a large crowd followed him. A funeral procession was coming out as he approached the village gate. The young man who had died was a widow's only son, and a large crowd from the village was with her. When the Lord saw her, his heart overflowed with compassion. 'Don't cry!' he said. Then he walked over to the coffin and touched it, and the bearers stopped. 'Young man,' he said, 'I tell you, get up.' Then the dead boy sat up and began to talk! And Jesus gave him back to his mother. Great fear swept the crowd, and they praised God, saying, 'A mighty prophet has risen among us,' and 'God has visited his people today.'"

Luke 7:11-16 (NLT)

Note: Jesus proved that He was more than a mighty prophet by coming out of the grave Himself. "God promised this Good News long ago through his prophets in the holy Scriptures. The Good News is about his Son. In his earthly life he was born into King David's family line, and **he was shown to be the Son of God when he was raised from the dead by the power of the Holy Spirit**. He is Jesus Christ our Lord." Romans 1:2-4 (NLT)

4. Jesus is Mighty God because only Mighty God is strong enough to free us from the power of Satan.

"Then a demon-possessed man, who was blind and couldn't speak, was brought to Jesus. He healed the man so that he could both speak and see. The crowd was amazed and asked, 'Could it be that Jesus is the Son of David, the Messiah?' But when the Pharisees heard about the miracle, they said, 'No wonder he can cast out demons. He gets his power from Satan, the prince of demons.' Jesus knew their thoughts and replied, 'Any kingdom divided by civil war is doomed. A town or family splintered by feuding will fall apart. And if Satan is casting out Satan, he is divided and fighting against himself. His own kingdom will not survive... But if I am casting out demons by the Spirit of God, then the Kingdom of God has arrived among you. **For who is powerful enough to enter the house of a strong man and plunder his goods? Only someone even stronger**—someone who could tie him up and then plunder his house.'" Matthew 12:22-29 (NLT)

Life Application: We can bring all of our problems/cares/concerns to Jesus. No problem is too hard for Mighty God to solve. "For with God nothing will be impossible." Luke 1:37 (NKJV)

Life Application: We need to stop doubting and surrender every part of our lives to Jesus. "Mary responded, 'I am the Lord's servant. May everything you have said about me come true.' And then the angel left her." Luke 1:38 (NLT)

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Connect Group Discussion Questions:

1. Read Isaiah 7:14 & 9:6-7 & Luke 1:26-35. In what ways did Jesus fulfill these prophecies of Isaiah? Why do Christians make such a big deal out of fulfilled prophecy?
2. Why is it significant that Mary was a virgin when she gave birth to Jesus? (Hebrews 4:15, 2 Cor. 5:21)
3. Discuss the following ways in which Jesus' life and ministry proved that He was Mighty God:
 - Jesus is Mighty God because only Mighty God is stronger than the forces of nature. (Matthew 14:22-33)
 - Jesus is Mighty God because only Mighty God can instantly heal sickness and disease. (Mark 2:2-12)
 - Jesus is Mighty God because only mighty God is stronger than death. (Luke 7:11-16, Romans 1:2-4)
 - Jesus is Mighty God because only Mighty God is strong enough to free us from the power of Satan. (Matthew 12:22-29, Hebrews 2:14-15)

Which of these proofs means the most to you this Christmas season?

4. Read Luke 7:2-10 & Mark 6:1-6. What amazed Jesus/made Him marvel in these two passages? Who are you most like when you pray, the Roman Officer or the people of Nazareth?
5. Why do you think Mary told Gabriel, "I am the Lord's servant. May everything you have said about me come true."? (Luke 1:38) How much faith did this take?
6. Discuss the following quotations:

"A mighty fortress is our God, A bulwark never failing, Our helper he amid the flood Of mortal ills prevailing." Martin Luther

"You can never truly enjoy Christmas until you can look up into the Father's face and tell him you have received his Christmas gift." John R. Rice

"When we were children, we were grateful to those who filled our stockings at Christmas time. Why are we not grateful to God for filling our stockings with legs?" G.K. Chesterton

"Who can add to Christmas? The perfect motive is that God so loved the world. The perfect gift is that He gave His only Son. The only requirement is to believe in Him. The reward of faith is that you shall have everlasting life." Corie Ten Boom