

Morning Sermon December 9, 2018

“Mighty God” Isaiah 9:6-7

I. These verses clearly identify Jesus Christ as God, and as God, having the attributes of God –

For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, **Mighty God**, ... (Isaiah 9:6 NKJ)

1. Jesus is plainly called God here – El is the word used in Scripture both for the true God and false god(s) -

אֱלֹהִים 'el {ale} **Meaning:** 1) god, god-like one, mighty one 1a) mighty men, men of rank, mighty heroes 1b) angels 1c) god, false god, (demons, imaginations) 1d) God, the one true God, Jehovah 2) mighty things in nature 3) strength, power

2. Here the word is used in a context that limits it to Christ

A. a Child is born, unto us a Son is given – points to His human and divine natures

B. Wonderful – points to miraculous abilities

C. Everlasting Father – show Him to be eternal with the Father - ... Everlasting Father, ... (Isaiah 9:7 NKJ)

3. Other passages of Scripture identify Jesus as God –

of whom are the fathers and from whom, according to the flesh, Christ came, who is over all, the eternally blessed God. Amen. (Romans 9:5 NKJ)

4. Even Thomas, Jesus' disciple known for doubting acknowledges Jesus as God – ²⁸ And Thomas answered and said to Him, "My Lord and my God!" ²⁹ Jesus said to him, "Thomas, because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed." (John 20:28-29 NKJ)

5. As God, He, Jesus shares divine attributes with God the Father and God the Holy Spirit –

WSC - What is God? Answer: God is a Spirit, (John 4:24) infinite, (1Kings 8:27) eternal, (Psalm 90:2) and unchangeable, (James 1:17) in his being, (Exodus 3:14) wisdom, (Proverbs 3:19) power, (Psalm 147:5) holiness

(Revelation 4:8) justice (Deuteronomy 32:4) goodness, and truth. (Exodus 34:6-7)

6. God is also –

A. Tri-personal God –

He who does not love does not know God, for God is love. (1 John 4:8 NKJ)

⁴ "Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one! (Deuteronomy 6:4 NKJ) אֱלֹהִים 'elohiyim {el-o-heem'} **Meaning:** 1) (plural) El

God has relationship, love within His own being! The Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, three Persons in One Divine Nature!

B. Transcendent –

It is He who sits above the circle of the earth, And its inhabitants are like grasshoppers, Who stretches out the heavens like a curtain, And spreads them out like a tent to dwell in. (Isaiah 40:22 NKJ)

C. Yet knowable –

Thus says the LORD: "Let not the wise *man* glory in his wisdom, Let not the mighty *man* glory in his might, Nor let the rich *man* glory in his riches; ²⁴ But let him who glories glory in this, That he understands and knows Me, That I *am* the LORD, exercising lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness in the earth. For in these I delight," says the LORD. (Jeremiah 9:23-24 NKJ)

D. Our Lord Jesus Christ made and makes God known to us –

God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, ² has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds; ³ who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, (Hebrews 1:1-3 NKJ)

No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared Him. (John 1:18 NKJ)

E. Jesus tells us, in recorded prayer to His Father, that knowing God, and Himself is eternal life –

"And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent. (John 17:3 NKJ)

II. Jesus is also called here - Mighty God, ... (Isaiah 9:6 NKJ)

גִּבּוֹר gibbowr {ghib-bore'} or (shortened) גִּבּוֹר gibbor {ghib-bore'}

Meaning: adj 1) strong, mighty 2) brave, hero

This is a different word than the word translated Almighty in Genesis 17 -

When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram and said to him, "I *am* Almighty God; walk before Me and be blameless. (Genesis 17:1 NKJ)

That word is שַׁדַּי Shadday {shad-dah'-ee}

Meaning: 1) almighty, most powerful 1a) Shaddai, the Almighty (of God)

Both words refer to Christ –

⁵⁶ "Your father Abraham rejoiced to see My day, and he saw *it* and was glad." (John 8:56 NKJ)

El gibbor has more of the hero idea mixed in it, it focuses more on God's saving power. In Isaiah 9, the idea of Christ being a Savior / Hero God is communicated in verse :4 –

⁴ For You have broken the yoke of his burden And the staff of his shoulder, The rod of his oppressor, As in the day of Midian. (Isaiah 9:4 NKJ)

1. *The Midian circumstance was terrible, caused by sin, Israel's sin, they deserved the situation they were in –*

Then the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the LORD. So the LORD delivered them into the hand of Midian for seven years,² and the hand of Midian prevailed against Israel. Because of the Midianites, the children of Israel made for themselves the dens, the caves, and the strongholds which *are* in the mountains.³ So it was, whenever Israel had sown, Midianites would come up; also Amalekites and the people of the East would come up against them.⁴ Then they would encamp against them and destroy the produce of the earth as far as Gaza, and leave no sustenance for Israel, neither sheep nor ox nor donkey.⁵ For they would come up with their livestock and their tents, coming in as numerous as locusts; both they and their camels were without number; and they would enter the land to destroy it.⁶ So Israel was greatly impoverished because of the Midianites, and the children of Israel cried out to the LORD. (Judges 6:1-6 NKJ)

2. *Their human hero was not up to the task –*

And the Angel of the LORD appeared to him, and said to him, "The LORD is with you, you mighty man of valor!"¹³ Gideon said to Him, "O

my lord, if the LORD is with us, why then has all this happened to us? And where *are* all His miracles which our fathers told us about, saying, 'Did not the LORD bring us up from Egypt?' But now the LORD has forsaken us and delivered us into the hands of the Midianites."¹⁴ Then the LORD turned to him and said, "Go in this might of yours, and you shall save Israel from the hand of the Midianites. Have I not sent you?"¹⁵ So he said to Him, "O my Lord, how can I save Israel? Indeed my clan *is* the weakest in Manasseh, and I *am* the least in my father's house." (Judges 6:12-15 NKJ)

3. *Midian's army was huge, Israel was outnumbered –*

¹² Now the Midianites and Amalekites, all the people of the East, were lying in the valley as numerous as locusts; and their camels were without number, as the sand by the seashore in multitude. (Judges 7:12 NKJ)

- A. *The Israelite army was limited to 300 men –*
- B. *They blew trumpets and broke pitchers – Judges 7:18-20*
- C. *Midian's army fought among themselves – Judges 7:22*

4. *Jesus deals with our sin problem with seeming weakness, not strength –*

²⁵ Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men. (1 Corinthians 1:25 NKJ)

III. This Mighty, Hero God Jesus is on our side –

What then shall we say to these things? If God *is* for us, who *can* be against us? (Romans 8:31 NKJ)

1. *We win even when we seem to be losing -*

As it is written: "For Your sake we are killed all day long; We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter."³⁷ Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. (Romans 8:36-37 NKJ)

2. *The Church is Jesus' Church - "And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it. (Matthew 16:18 NKJ)*

"The church shall never perish! Her dear Lord, to defend,
To guide, sustain and cherish, Is with her to the end;
Though there be those that hate her, And false sons in her pale,
Against the foe or traitor She ever shall prevail."

Samuel J. Stone

Arnold A. Brevick