

1. Our difficulties are not insignificant to God, and we have confidence because we find refuge in the Mighty God. He gives us great hope in all circumstances.
2. Part of the emphasis on Isaiah 9 is to remind us to stay focused on God's capacity to rescue. The prophecy is intended to give a Living Hope to people who desperately need it in a difficult time.
3. Jesus will to some degree wear the titles we read about in His first coming to earth, but the titles actually find their full consummation in His second coming.
4. The name "Mighty God" is one of the most powerful evidences that the Messiah (Jesus) will be God in human flesh. We have Omnipotent God in Christ Jesus.
5. Isaiah does not say He will *become* Mighty God, but that he will be *called* Mighty God. People will know Him for what He is.
6. Jesus is co-equal and co-eternal with God the Father.
7. Revelation 4:2 reveals astonishing details about God on His throne in Heaven. God is unshakable, and He refracts all colors of the spectrum in incredible brilliance, accompanied by flashes of lightning and peals of thunder.
8. Jesus is worthy to take the scroll because He has overcome sin (Rom. 8), death (Heb. 2), and the forces of Hell (Col. 2:15, 1 Peter 3:19).
9. Because Jesus is Mighty, we become overcomers *through* His overcoming!
10. The outburst of worship results from the reality that Jesus is the mighty champion. He is our unshakable refuge no matter what happens on this earth.

GREEK & HEBREW WORDS

Gibbôr (ghib-bore') - *powerful warrior* :- champion, mighty (one), strong, valiant

QUOTES

"[John's tears] ...represent the tears of all God's people through all the centuries. Those tears of John are the tears of Adam and Eve, driven out of the Garden of Eden, as they bow over the first grave, as they water the dust of the ground with their tears over the silent, still form of their son, Abel. They are the tears of God's elect through the centuries as they cry unto heaven. They are the sobs and tears that have been wrung from the heart and soul of God's people as they look on their silent dead, as they stand beside open graves, as they experience the sufferings of life, heartaches and disappointments indescribable. Such is the curse that sin has laid upon God's beautiful creation; and this is the damnation of the hand of him who holds it, that usurper, that interloper, that intruder, that alien, that stranger, that dragon, that serpent, that Satan-devil. *"And I wept audibly"* -failure to find a Redeemer meant that earth in its curse is consigned forever to death.

It meant that death, sin, damnation and hell should reign forever and ever and the sovereignty of God's earth should remain forever in the hands of Satan."

Dr. W. A. Criswell **1947**

TODAY'S WORSHIP

Joy to the World
Names
Jesus Messiah
How Great Is Our God

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Pastor Mark opens by acknowledging that Christmas can be challenging for many reasons.

- What burdens or difficulties are you carrying into this Christmas season?

Mark mentions that part of the reason God describes the Messiah as “Mighty God” is to emphasize His capacity to rescue us.

- Brainstorm on ways that Messiah Jesus rescues us.
- How have you understood or seen God as “Mighty” in your life?
- How does the promise that "God is greater" speak to your current situation?

The sermon contrasts "Manger Jesus" with "Ruler Jesus on a throne."

- Why do you think people are more comfortable with the image of baby Jesus than with Jesus as Sovereign Ruler?
- How do you personally and practically respond to Jesus' authority over your life?

In Revelation 4, John describes God's throne as unshakeable, with flashing lightning, peals of thunder, and brilliant colors.

- What comfort do you find in knowing that God's throne and His absolutes cannot be altered by anything humanity does?
- How might this reality encourage you to act with greater boldness or confidence as God's representative with those around you?

As we approach Christmas, how can you shift your focus from the challenges you're facing to being "consumed with the wonder of what God has done"?

- What practical steps can you take to acknowledge Jesus as your Mighty God throughout the coming year?