

I like the prayer a little boy prayed. "Dear God, please take care of my daddy and my mommy and my sister and my brother and my doggy and me. Oh, please take care of yourself, God. If anything happens to you, we're gonna be in a big mess."

The people of Isaiah's day were in a "big mess." The prophesy, which Isaiah shared, was intended to give the people confidence and hope. The people were looking down the smoking barrel of the Assyrian guns. They were living in a day of political anarchy. They were living in a day of pain and heart-ache. Isaiah wrote to give them hope.

"A child is born to us! A son is given to us! And he will be our ruler. He will be called, "Wonderful^[b] Counselor," "Mighty God," "Eternal Father," "Prince of Peace."(Isaiah 9:6)

We continue reflection on the message of Christmas in the royal oracle of Isaiah 9:6. We consider the second royal title, "Mighty God."

The Hebrew words for Mighty God are El Gibbor. "El" is the noun in the phrase. "Gibbor" is the adjective that modifies the noun. "El" is the shortened form of "Elohim," which is the most common name used for God in the Old Testament. "Gibbor" means strong, powerful, mighty, champion, and hero.

A champion is supreme, in first place or most powerful. We are familiar with the concept of a champion. The champions of any event are applauded and treated with respect. Jesus is "Gibbor" and "Champion." Jesus is above all others.

Listen to what one person said about Him. “Socrates taught for 40 years, Plato for 50, Aristotle for 40 and Jesus for only 3. Yet the influence of Christ’s 3-year ministry infinitely transcends the impact left by the combined 130 years of teaching from these men who were among the greatest philosophers of all antiquity. Jesus painted no pictures; yet, some of the finest paintings of Raphael, Michelangelo and Leonardo da Vinci received their inspiration from Him. Jesus wrote no poetry; but Dante, Milton and scores of the world’s greatest poets were inspired by Him. Jesus composed no music; still Haydn, Handel, Beethoven, Bach, and Mendelssohn reached their highest perfection of melody in the hymns, symphonies and oratorios they composed in His praise. Every sphere of human greatness has been enriched by this humble Carpenter of Nazareth.

Jesus is Gibbor and mighty. Jesus will give confidence and victory. We do not know what the future holds, but we know who holds the future. The hope of Jesus Christ guarantees victory, no matter the situation.

Second, Jesus is “Mighty” and “God.” He is a teacher but more than a teacher. He is a prophet but more than a prophet. He is a religious leader but more than a religious leader. He is a miracle worker but more than a miracle worker. **HE IS GOD!**

Some people have a limited view of Him. The scripture translation used by a cult reveals a very interesting insight. This is found in John 1:1. In traditional translations you find that verse translated “In the beginning was the word and the word was with God and the word was God.” In the cult Bible it is translated “In the beginning was the word and the word was “a god.” Jesus is not a god. **JESUS IS GOD!** Jesus is not a little God. He is the mighty God!

In Jesus' time some were tired of being ruled by the Romans, and Jesus appeared to be their ticket out of the occupation. Some were tired of a disability, or a disease. They saw Jesus as a miracle-working machine who would make life easier. Some were hungry, and they'd heard that Jesus could stretch food to miraculous proportions. Very few of the people coming down the mountain that day had any idea that God was working His greatest act of love right in front of their eyes.

Amazingly, it's still possible for us to miss Jesus. People in prison, or headed to incarceration, might see Jesus as their way of miraculous release. People surprised by serious illness might look to Jesus as the miraculous cure. People on the verge of a relationship crisis might see Jesus as the ultimate psychologist.

Make no mistake about it. Millions of people alive right now who've followed Jesus have reported many miraculous events. Jesus is still in the miracle-working, disease-healing, relationship-mending business.

But if that's all Jesus is seen for, we've missed it. When the crisis is over, Jesus won't be needed. He can be discarded as quickly as the crowd around Jerusalem discarded Jesus.

C.S. Lewis in "Mere Christianity" said about Jesus. "I am trying here to prevent anyone saying the really foolish thing that people often say about Him: I'm ready to accept Jesus as a great moral teacher, but I don't accept his claim to be God. That is the one thing we must not say. A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. He would either be a lunatic — on the level with the man who says he is a poached egg — or else he would be the Devil of Hell. You must make your choice. Either this man was, and

is, the Son of God, or else a madman or something worse. You can shut him up for a fool, you can spit at him and kill him as a demon or you can fall at his feet and call him Lord and God, but let us not come with any patronizing nonsense about his being a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us. He did not intend to.”

Jesus is presented as one with extraordinary power and authority, but there has been resistance along the way to identifying him as God. In the New Testament, the Gospel of John make it clear that Jesus is God. When Thomas met the resurrected Jesus, he spoke a full unqualified confession: “My Lord and my God!” (John 20: 28)

I think some of you are asking, “So What?” The reason why this title of Jesus should bring joy and worship to our heart. It means He is Able to do what he promised. In Matthew 10:30-31 Jesus said, “As for you, even the hairs of your head have all been counted. So do not be afraid; you are worth much more than many sparrows! And In Matthew 28:20 Jesus promised, “And I will be with you always, to the end of the age.”

Moreover, the most important thing he promised is eternal life. Jesus promises that He can give us eternal life. Once He has given it to us, no one can take it away from us. I hope that you realize that the helpless little baby in the manger was really the Mighty God.

Jesus is the mighty God. This truth should affect our confidence. We can have hope and confidence even though our situation may not be ideal. We can have hope and confidence and be living in darkness. Isaiah 9:2 says, “The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in the land of the

shadow of death, upon them a light has shined.” The message of Christmas is, no matter how dark the night there is hope. Because Jesus is Mighty God