

## I. MIGHTY 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, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Isa. 9:6***

A. God revealed himself as ‘Mighty God’ to Ahaz. In the midst of the growing conspiracy God seeks to anchor Ahaz in His name, ‘Mighty God.’ Again as we have seen, Ahaz refuses.

B. Much later in Isaiah’s ministry we see what the implications of Mighty God are.

***No weapon formed against you shall prosper, And every tongue which rises against you in judgment You shall condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord, And their righteousness is from Me,” Says the Lord. Isa. 54:17***

C. God revealed himself as one with unprecedented power and strength. Not just in the natural realm performing supernatural feats of power and strength; but able to empower the human heart with that same might.

1. First mention of ‘Mighty God’ was spoken in Jacob’s blessings of his 12 sons and specifically in the blessing of Joseph.

***The archers have bitterly grieved him, Shot at him and hated him. <sup>24</sup> But his bow remained in strength, And the arms of his hands were made strong By the hands of the Mighty God of Jacob...Gen.49:23-24***

D. God delivering with power his son to the womb of a woman to be born, protected, raised by a family, empowered to surrender as God’s lamb.

E. ‘Mighty’ – G1411 – ‘*dynamis*’ or ‘*dunamis*’ – *strength, power, ability*

F. The Mighty Father, our God, by his power leveled mountains, destroyed enemy armies, opened seas and rivers, fed his people, conquered foreign kings, shepherded his people and by His power placed the seed of his Son’s human life into the womb of a willing woman.

## II. WAITING (PURPLE CANDLE)

A. As we consider the reading for this week, and the expectation of the arrival of Immanuel from Mary’s womb; we are highly encouraged that finally someone is willing to make room for God’s plan.

B. Though Ahaz so many years prior would not bend to the plan of God for his life, now here we have a young teenage woman willing to forego the stigma God’s plan will create. Mary will suffer, not just in laboring to deliver the Messiah but in the stigma it will create in the community.

C. Mary may have been ignorant of ALL the cost she would eventually pay, but what Gabriel told her that day was enough. She considered it and agreed to God’s plan.

***<sup>38</sup> Then Mary said, “Behold the maidservant of the Lord! Let it be to me according to your word.”***

D. What King Ahaz refused three times Mary received by faith at the word of Gabriel.

*<sup>26</sup> Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, <sup>27</sup> to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. <sup>28</sup> And having come in, the angel said to her, "Rejoice, highly favored one, the Lord is with you (Immanuel is with you); blessed are you among women!" <sup>29</sup> But when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and considered what manner of greeting this was. <sup>30</sup> Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup> And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name Jesus. <sup>32</sup> He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. <sup>33</sup> And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end." <sup>34</sup> Then Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I do not know a man?" <sup>35</sup> And the angel answered and said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God. <sup>36</sup> Now indeed, Elizabeth your relative has also conceived a son in her old age; and this is now the sixth month for her who was called barren. <sup>37</sup> For with God nothing will be impossible." <sup>38</sup> Then Mary said, "Behold the maidservant of the Lord! Let it be to me according to your word." (Mary agrees) And the angel departed from her.*

E. Like every average human pregnancy there is a 9 month gestation period followed by painful contractions and a traumatic delivery.

F. Every man who watches the birth of his child is changed forever his heart tenderized by the travail of his wife to bring forth the life of his child. And for every woman who has delivered a child, the travail is quickly forgotten by the joy of a new life having been born.

G. But the waiting! O the waiting. As the baby grows in its mother's womb, life forms, and the parents prepare for the transition in their home.

H. What do they wait for? The promise of new life. The promise that this new life represents another human opportunity to love God, and impact this world with "good" by the grace of God.

I. What did Jesus' birth mean? What was Mary and Joseph waiting for. New life from God. The promise that death would be swallowed up forever. That the grave which is unyielding, unrelenting and hungry for human life, will be broken in its power.

J. Mary and Joseph were awaiting the coming of Messiah. Just like you and I wait for him again. That is 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming will be even more profound and powerful than the first. We imagine what it will be like, what will happen, how will he drive out death once and for all?

K. We wait with expectation and the plan for his coming shared the week before he died in Matt. 24 he likened to another birth coming in the future, with strong contractions and a catastrophic delivery.

L. This time the delivery will be the kingdom of God. In the first coming, the king of God's eternal kingdom was born, in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming that king will bring the entire kingdom rule of God to the earth in open display.

M. So we wait...in expectation...in wonder...when he comes will he find faith on the earth?

- N. We wait like Mary, willing to bear the stigma of an impending delivery that just doesn't make sense to the rest of our culture and community. We bear the stigma because we believe that what God has spoken and what Father has offered in Christ is worthy of our lives and any pressure we must endure.
- O. We wait like Mary, allowing God access to her life, changing the trajectory of her life, and willing to follow God. Willing to let her life change forever. Knowing her life would never be "normal" as normal was defined by her culture.
1. Mary was the clay and Father God the potter. And in her womb God shaped and formed the life of Messiah.
- P. As an expectant mother, though times of pressure and discomfort make the waiting challenging, we bear with it patiently...waiting for the joy of fulfilled times.
- Q. And so friends, we wait!
1. Expectantly, we *wait*!
  2. *Joyfully*, we wait!
  3. With full assurance of *faith*, we wait!
  4. In *hope*, we wait!