



Sermon Growth Guide

December 8, 2024

What Do You Name Him - Might God

Isaiah 9: 1-7

Key Verse: Isaiah 9:6

“For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be upon his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.”

Big Idea: Jesus himself is the mighty God and only he can save us. Only he can show us who the Father is.

Foundations

It is hard to read our key verse without singing it, or at least hearing it sung in the soaring music of Handel’s Messiah. But our text for today is more than glorious music, it is, and it was salve for a sin-sick people.

The context of Isaiah’s words is one of impending doom because of the failure of a king, Ahaz, to trust God for the security of Jerusalem. Israel, the northern kingdom had already been dragged off into exile. Now Judah was being threatened by the Assyrians. King Ahaz had negotiated a settlement with this enemy, against the word of Isaiah who had warned him to trust God rather than human rulers.

Assyria drained Judah. It was given the holy objects of gold and silver from the Temple and was now an oppressor instead of a political ally. The king’s failure to trust in God rather than humans led to disaster. Darkness and gloom were on the horizon.

This was the darkness of God’s judgment. But God’s judgment was a sign of God’s love. In holding his people to account for their sin, rebellion and idolatry, God was revealing the truth about their lives to them. They needed to know what was true before they could receive the remedy – salvation in God alone. Salvation from Immanuel, the God who is with us.

Understanding God’s Word

Read together Isaiah 8:21-22. Here Isaiah describes the condition of those who do not turn towards God...those who seek solutions only from the natural world. It is a description of blinding and inescapable darkness. Then we read the very first word of our text for today: Nevertheless...in the New Revised Standard Version it reads: But...Reflect on this: What does the word “nevertheless” tell you about the character and will of God?

Applying God’s Word

Scott Peck in *The Road Less Travelled* said that most people want to know the source of their problems but are unwilling to face the truth of what needs to be done to make them well. How does the darkness of our lives help us think about a savior and how salvation is found? How can knowing Jesus as Mighty God help you in dark and distressing times?

Witnessing God’s Word

When Jesus saves us, that is not the end of his work in our lives. It is the beginning. Now we are called to reflect the light of Jesus into the darkness that haunts the world so that others may see the glory of the Lord and seek to walk in his light.