
Sermon Notes

December 10, 2023

First Congregational Church of Pomfret

HIS NAME SHALL BE CALLED

Mighty God

Isaiah 9:6, 10:17-23

Isaiah

- ❖ In Isaiah, 9:6, Isaiah describes God's coming Messiah with four magnificent titles
- ❖ The words Isaiah writes are divine speech
 - they are not his own idea, interpretation or perception of how things are or will be
 - they are words through which God reveals Himself and the nature of His coming Messiah
- ❖ One of the titles Isaiah is given for Messiah is: Mighty God
 - the God-hero
 - a Mighty Warrior

Way Back When

- ❖ In 743 BC, Uzziah's grandson, Ahaz begins his rule
 - 8 years of shared reign with his grandfather and father
 - begins to exercise total authority in 735 BC
 - one of the most wicked kings to ever rule in Judah
- ❖ In 733 BC, the king of Syria joins forces with the king of Israel and attempts to force Judah to join their anti-Assyrian coalition

- this causes Ahaz to go "from bad to worse"
- Ahaz attempts to form an alliance WITH Assyria!
- ❖ By 721 BC, Assyria completely crushes the northern kingdom of Israel and then sets its sights on Judah
 - within 20 years, during the reign of Hezekiah, Assyria will invade Judah and begin a devastating siege of Jerusalem
 - the problem: Israel and Judah look to other nations for help rather than to their covenant keeping God
 - God's people keep pushing God's love and God's favor away
- ❖ God reveals to Isaiah the way in which He will use Assyria to bring judgment and correction to His people (10:5)
 - *the rod of my anger*
 - *the staff in their hands is my fury*
- ❖ BUT... Assyria doesn't know the long-range plan of God!
 - whereas Assyria is puffed up, full of pride and thinks she is acting in her own strength
 - God is using her for His purposes and the tables will be turned when God completes His judgment of Judah
 - God sends a wasting sickness (10:16) on the Assyrian army & 185,000 soldiers die in one night! (2 Ki 18-19)
 - 10:17, *The light of Israel will become a fire, and his Holy One a flame*
 - what Isaiah pictures as a light of hope for Judah is also pictured as a consuming fire that burns and destroys Assyria
- ❖ Against this tremendous backdrop of destruction, God has a redemptive purpose for **HIS** people
 - 10:20-21, God will bring a remnant of His people back to Him

- God's promises will not fail
- God's people will finally learn to lean on the Lord and recognize Him as their **Mighty God**
- ❖ Salvation and deliverance are only given to those who are willing to turn to, trust in and depend on the One who is Mighty God, Jesus Christ

Resisting Idolatry

- ❖ Like ancient Israel, we are surrounded by idols and idol worshipers
 - chief among our idols is what Martin Luther calls, the "Great Pope Self"
 - your greatest threat is the homemade idols you manufacture in your own heart
- ❖ To stop mass producing these idols, you must consciously and consistently gaze on Jesus Christ, your Mighty God
- ❖ Jesus Christ, Mighty God is the
 - divine Warrior
 - divine Healer
 - divine Life-Giver
 - divine Lover
 - divine Self-Sacrificer
- ❖ What relationship do you have with Jesus Christ, Mighty God?
 - do you benefit from everything Mighty God offers you?
 - are you like the Mary as she testifies to Elizabeth that the *mighty one has done great things for me*?
 - or are you like those Mary speaks of later in her song when she describes how God has *brought down the mighty from their thrones*?

- ❖ The same Mighty God whose power Isaiah compares with an out of control forest fire is the same Mighty God who tells His disciples
 - to stay dressed for action and keep their lamps burning
 - that He came to cast fire on the earth (Luke 12:49)
- ❖ Jesus Christ, Mighty God, will burn away and destroy any and every thing that opposes Him
 - sin
 - Satan
 - death
 - all forms and every manner of unrighteousness
 - all false teachers and every pompous, arrogant religious leader
- ❖ Our Mighty God is mighty to save
- ❖ Only Mighty God is capable of
 - redeeming people from every tribe and tongue
 - subduing the earth and all of its kingdoms
 - reigning as King of Kings and Lord of Lords

Personal Reflection

1. What relationship do you have with Jesus Christ, Mighty God? Are you receiving the full benefit of everything He offers you?
2. Where do you most frequently find the "Great Pope Self" rearing its ugly head in your life? What can/will you do to protect yourself from that?
3. Take time to list some of the mighty things that Mighty God has done for you.