MIGHTY GOD

Isaiah 9:6-7

Colossians 2:15

Awareness

Before listening, reflect:

- When you hear someone call another person "mighty," what does that description lead you to believe about him/her?
- Which of Jesus' character traits do people talk about and reflect on most prevalently during the Christmas season?

When Isaiah wrote about the coming Messiah, Israel was seeking political salvation. Enduring military battles, oppression, occupation, and exile, the Israelites of Isaiah's day longed to be set free. Isaiah boldly declares that the Messiah will deliver the Israelites and bear the title "Mighty God." Join us as we examine what that title may have meant to the original hearers of Isaiah's message, what it means in light of the Christmas story, and what it means for us to recognize Jesus Christ as the "Mighty God" of our lives today.

Listen: Mighty God

Reflection

After listening, consider:

- In segment 1, hosts Dave Bast and Scott Hoezee discussed how Israel's history and oral tradition influenced how the biblical stories were passed down and even recorded, noting "The way they told the stories...were...for a people who were looking for good news because they had been conquered and carried off to a foreign land." Think about the realities of your life. What conditions might act as a lens or prism that influences how you read scripture?
- What spiritual battles have you experienced or are you experiencing? How can the knowledge that Jesus has already won the ultimate victory over sin and death help you think about and endure these battles? How does describing Jesus as "Mighty God" give you strength and comfort?
- God restored Israel, but not the way the people expected. God sends a Savior, but the Savior came as a baby not a warrior. Where in your life have you asked God for help or deliverance and he answered, "Yes, but not the way you think"?
- At the close of the episode, Dave and Scott talk about forgiveness, an act that seems weak, but in reality has the power to change lives. Where have you seen or experienced the power of Christ present in weakness?

Related Passages

• Psalm 46

- Acts 1:6-11
- 2 Corinthians 12:8-10

Conclusion

The Israelites waited for the coming of the Messiah. We wait for the Messiah's return. Read and reflect on 1 Corinthians 1:26-31. Are there any areas in which you are boasting in or relying on your own strengths? Repent and give thanks to God for the ultimate deliverance he provides. Are you struggling with weakness? Bring your weakness to him in prayer and ask for Christ's power to be made known through your weakness.

https://groundworkonline.com/episodes/mighty-god

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