

What Child is This?
Mighty God
Job 38-42, especially Job 42:1-6

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Text Introduction: Christmas is the reminder that God is our Wonderful Counselor, our Mighty God, our Eternal Father, and our Prince of Peace. Today, we examine specifically God as our Mighty God.

Text: **1** Then Job answered the LORD and said:

2 “I know that You can do everything,
And that no purpose *of Yours* can be withheld from You.

3 *You asked*, ‘Who is this who hides counsel without knowledge?’
Therefore I have uttered what I did not understand,
Things too wonderful for me, which I did not know.

4 Listen, please, and let me speak;
You said, ‘I will question you, and you shall answer Me.’

5 “I have heard of You by the hearing of the ear,
But now my eye sees You.

6 Therefore I abhor *myself*,
And repent in dust and ashes.”

Introduction: The prophet Isaiah prophesied that Jesus would be wonderful counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, and Prince of Peace—a God for all occasions. Sometimes we need a counselor; sometimes we need a mighty God—a God who is more mighty than our greatest struggle, more mighty than our greatest fear. We need a God who will fight for us. I believe we meet God in this way in the demanding trials of life. I believe that we meet God in this way when everybody is trying to say something about God, but no one is really communicating the voice of God.

Such is the case for Job. You know Job’s story. It is in Job’s story that we have an illustration of an encounter with the Mighty God.

Encounters with the Mighty God

Job’s Encounter:

We probably all know something about Job’s story, but here is a quick summary.

- Job’s Faith—The first verse of the book tells us of Job’s faith—he was blameless and upright, and one who feared God and shunned evil. God said about him, as recorded in verse 8, that

“There {is} was none like him on the earth.” He had 7 sons and 3 daughters, and a vast estate.

- Job’s Misfortune—God allows Satan to take all of his family and estate from him. When this does not thwart Job’s faith, Satan takes away even Job’s health.
- Job’s Friends—Then Eliphaz, Bildad, Zophar, and finally Elihu come by to “counsel” him. They might have meant well enough but from chapters 3-37, they take turns talking—arguing, trying to speak for God, trying to philosophize about God.
- Job’s Faith—Though these so called friends, Job’s faith might have been shaken, but his faith was never destroyed. Chapters 38-42 is the dialogue between God and Job, with God doing most of the talking. We probably ought to learn something right there. Only when we are silent and let God speak, do we really encounter the Mighty God. Actually what we can say is that...

Job’s faith grows deeper even through adversity.

Our Encounters:

Job’s story helps us to see several things about our encounters with the Mighty God. Our encounters with the Mighty God....

- Usually come as the result of Difficult circumstances.
- Usually come when we are Desperate.

Job came to a place when the words of his friends were insufficient. Job came to a place where his own words were insufficient. When we run out of things to say and do, we get desperate. To quote Job 38:1, “Then the LORD answered...”

- Ought to leave us Different.

Job was different in that he became silent. Job 40:3-5 reveals Job’s silence.

Job was different in that he had a brand new understanding of God. Job 42:1-6 reveals this understanding.

Conclusions Concerning Our Mighty God

Job’s story as well as our story helps us to draw some conclusions about God working as our Mighty God.

1. I need God to be mighty in my life.

Last week, we talked about Jesus coming to be our Wonderful Counselor. Certainly, there are times when we need a counselor. However, there are other times when we need God to be “mighty.”

2. God desires to be mighty in my life.

His desire is consistent with my need. 2 Corinthians 12:9 comes to mind. "My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness."

3. God cannot be mighty in my life unless I allow Him to work in my life.

4. The first step in God working mightily in my life is to recognize who I am.

5. The second step in God working mightily in my life is to let go and let God.

The Cross Is the Greatest Example of our Mighty God

In the cross, we see the greatest example of our Mighty God. Understanding Jesus as our Mighty God is all about recognizing that He is able to do what we cannot do for ourselves. The greatest need of our life is to be reconciled to God. The greatest incapability that we have in our own merit is to be reconciled to God. Christmas is the beginning of the story of God doing for us what we could not do for ourselves.

At Christmas time, I like to quote something that I first saw on a Christmas card some years ago. It goes like this:

If our greatest need would have been information, God would have sent us an educator.

If our greatest need would have been technology, God would have sent us a scientist.

If our greatest need would have been money, God would have sent us an economist.

If our greatest need would have been pleasure, God would have sent us an entertainer.

But since our greatest need is forgiveness, God sent us a Savior.