

and demands, a sob was heard. It was little Billy—a thin, undernourished child. His family was the poorest of the poor.

“Did you take Sally Jane’s lunch?” demanded the teacher.

“Yes, sir,” mumbled Billy through his tears. “I was hungry.”

“Nevertheless, you did wrong to steal and you must be punished,” declared the teacher. As the teacher removed the leather strap from its place on the wall, Billy was ordered to the front of the room and told to remove his shirt. The arm of the teacher was raised over the bent and trembling form of little Billy. “**HOLD IT, TEACHER!**” shouted a husky voice from the rear of the room. It was Big Jim striding down the aisle removing his shirt as he came. “Let me take his whipp’n,” he begged. The teacher was aghast, but knowing that justice must be demonstrated, he consented and laid the belt to the back of Big Jim with such force that even the stronger boy winced and his eyes watered. But Billy never forgot the day that Big Jim took his place.

Bearing shame and scoffing rude,
In my place condemned He stood;
Sealed my pardon with His blood.
Hallelujah! What a Savior! (Philip P. Bliss)

CONCLUSION

He is named **Mighty God**. Mighty means powerful. This name of the Messiah tells us he is powerful in holiness, powerful in justice and powerful in love.

NAMES OF THE MESSIAH

2. MIGHTY GOD

Isaiah 9:2-7

INTRODUCTION

Some tell us that Jesus’ earthly life was not very important. They say he wrote no books, composed no songs, drew no pictures, carved no statues, amassed no fortune, commanded no army, ruled no nation. And yet... He who never wrote a line has been made the hero of unnumbered volumes. He who never wrote a song has put music into the hearts of nameless multitudes. He who never established an institution is the foundation of the Church that bears his name. He who refused the kingdoms of this world has become the Lord of millions. Yes, He whose shameful death scarcely produced a ripple on the pool of history in his day has become a mighty current in the vast ocean of the centuries since He died. (Mack Stokes)

700 years before Jesus was born, Isaiah said one of his names would be **Mighty God**.

MIGHTY IN HOLINESS

The LORD God of Israel was different from the gods of the other nations in that he was holy. Holy means different, separated. In the Bible it also has a moral and ethical implication. *God makes Himself the absolute standard of Himself. (Godet)* God’s holiness is His moral perfection to which there is no limit. Holiness describes all that God is. Just as all the colors of the spectrum come together in the sun’s shining and blend into light, so all God’s attributes: wisdom, righteousness, justice, love, omnipotence, self-existence, eternity, and more come together and blend into holiness. As well as all that he is, all that God does is perfect and right and pure and good. All his deeds are holy. By naming and describing the Messiah as **Mighty God**, the Bible intends us to understand that everything about God applies to the Messiah. When the angel came to Mary and told her she was going to conceive and bear a son, he said that the child would be holy. He is holy because he is the Son of God. **For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell.** Peter and John praised God for the signs and wonders they had been able to perform through the name of **his holy servant, Jesus**. Throughout Jesus’ life, in all that he is and does, we see the divine holiness. Jesus was without sin, but this was more than sinlessness. It was his complete consecration to the will and purpose of God, his Father. In his high-priestly prayer, Jesus consecrated himself to this.

John 17:19 ¹⁹And for their sakes I sanctify myself, so that they also may be sanctified in truth.

*He is a path, if any be misled;
He is a robe, if any naked be;
If any chance to hunger, he is bread;
If any be a bondman, he is free;
If any be but weak, how strong is he!
To dead men, life is he; to sick men, health;
To blind men, sight; and to the needy, wealth;
A pleasure without loss; a treasure without stealth.*

Giles Fletcher (1584-1623)

MIGHTY IN JUSTICE

Justice was one of the first attributes of God that his people had to learn. It means we can trust God. In ancient times people did not necessarily expect their gods to be just. The gods were capricious. Apollo, angry at king Agamemnon for insulting the priest of Apollo, sent plague among the troops fighting against Troy, causing the suffering and death of thousands. The fight between Achilles and Hector was simply because it was the will of Zeus. The gods had to be appeased, but this was never so with Israel's God.

Psa 36:6 ⁶ Your righteousness is like the mighty mountains, your judgments are like the great deep; you save humans and animals alike, O LORD.

Only when God hath brought to light all the hidden things of darkness, whosoever were the actors therein, will it be seen that wise and good were all his ways, that he saw through the thick cloud, and governed all things by the wise counsels of his own will, that nothing was left to chance, or the caprice of men, but God disposed all strongly and sweetly, and wrought all into one connected chain of justice, mercy, and truth. (John Wesley)

God's righteousness means his reliability. The king was expected to sit at the city gate and dispense justice. Great and low, rich and poor could come and get the same justice. The king was God's representative. He must rule and judge as God rules and judges: justly, reliably, righteously. Such was Israel's God. Even Pharaoh acknowledged, *the Lord is a just Judge; I and my people are wicked.* Isaiah gave his prophecy about the coming one at a time when the worthless Ahaz was king. It was a message of hope, that there would be justice in the land again. In Israel it meant that God required justice from his people. Amos, who ministered a few years before Isaiah emphasized this. It was a time of prosperity. Wealth had become the people's god. The judges could be bought, so the poor and needy were deprived of justice. They thought that as long as the religious rituals were observed, that was all God required. Don't you believe it! The lack of justice

polluted the whole sacrificial system. God requires justice because he is just.

A famous lecturer came to the college and spoke about feeding the people of India. He listed several good reasons for doing so, such as more men would be employed, friendly relations with other countries would be established; in addition, he would continue to be in the good graces of the Indian people and of the government. During the informal discussion the oldest and most revered professor at the college asked, "But, Doctor, don't you think maybe we ought to feed them just because they're hungry?" That is the question of goodness and justice.

The Messiah is the Mighty God, mighty in justice. Jesus tells of a man going out early in the morning to hire workers for his vineyard. He agreed with them the usual daily wage – one denarius. At 9 o'clock he went and hired more men, agreeing to pay them whatever was right. Three more times he went and hired more men, some as late as 5 o'clock in the afternoon. At the end of the working day, the manager was told to pay the men, beginning with those who were hired last. Each man was given the daily wage – one denarius. Those who had been hired first thought they should have been paid more. The owner of the vineyard explained they had agreed to the daily wage – one denarius. There was much grumbling, but as Jesus explained they had been treated justly. They had been paid what they had agreed to.

MIGHTY IN LOVE

God is just, but his justice is not only an expression of precise moral desert. There is also pity, mercy, grace and love. When David sinned with Bathsheba, committing adultery and murder, he acknowledged and confessed his sin to God and prayed for forgiveness. He was asking for undeserved pardon.

Psa 51:14 ¹⁴ Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God, O God of my salvation, and my tongue will sing aloud of your righteousness.

The Messiah is the Mighty God – mighty in love. When Isaiah speaks of a **just God and Savior**, he is not saying that God is just and at the same time a Savior. God is just and *therefore* a Savior. So we who know Jesus, are told to confess our sins because **he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.** The Mighty God is our Savior. His love is so great that he has taken the punishment on himself. The demands of justice have been met, but they have been met with love.

It was a mountain one-room school house where severe discipline was used to keep the rowdiness of uninterested pupils in check. The noon recess was ended and the teacher was interrogating the class with regard to the disappearance of Sally Jane's lunch. After a few minutes of verbal threats