

Proclaiming the Gospel

Message
of
Jesus Christ

For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness;
But unto us which are saved it is the power of God" (1 Cor. 1.18).

Edifying the Body of Christ (Eph. 4.10-16)

March, 2016

The Wise Still Seek Him

Vol. VIII.03

He Is Mighty God!

Seeing the world and the many gods, of which the writer of Psalms 115 and 135 writes, is enough to enlighten us and make it clear there is but one LIVING GOD, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob – and, that **He is Mighty God**.

The Israelites experienced the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob as **Mighty God**. They knew Him as the God Who defeated the Egyptians, parting the Red Sea for Israel to cross on dry ground, then drowning the Egyptians by closing the Sea upon them. They knew Him as **Mighty God** Who fought their battles with and for them, the God Who parted the Jordan River and gave them Canaan Land. They knew Him as **Mighty God** Whose presence inhabited the Ark of the Covenant and dwelt among them. He was their God!

I Samuel, Chapters Four through Six, are informative regarding the gods of this world, specifically the god, Dagon, of the Philistines and how the idol was found fallen before the LIVING GOD. The God of Israel is the only omnipotent, **all-powerful, God**.

The Philistines had just won a battle against Israel; nevertheless, they feared greatly when they realized the Ark of the Covenant had come into the camp of the Israelites. They said, "Woe unto us! Who shall deliver us out of the hand of these mighty gods?" (I Sam 4.5-9)

The battle went in favor of the Philistines, and they stole the Ark of the Covenant. Would they not now have the power of **Mighty God** fighting for them? **Not so!** What brought life to God's people brought death to the enemy.

The Israelites saw the power of their God and knew **He is Mighty God**. The Philistines saw the power of the **Mighty God** and wanted no part of Him!

And the Philistines took the ark of God, and brought it from Ebenezer unto Ashdod.

When the Philistines took the ark of God, they brought it into the house of Dagon, and set it by Dagon.

And when they of Ashdod arose early on the morrow, behold, Dagon [was] fallen upon his face to the earth before the ark of the LORD. And they took Dagon, and set him in his place AGAIN. (I Sam 5.1-3).

The Philistines, like so many today, took the Ark of the Covenant, God's presence, and set it by their god, Dagon. The writer makes it clear in verse three that their god, Dagon, was fallen upon "his" face before the Ark of the Lord. The writer tells

He commands us to live for Him and encourages us with this word: He is with us to help us and to fight our battles (II Chr 20.17; Acts 12.6-17; 16.25-30). **HE IS ALIVE!**

With [the enemy] [is] an arm of flesh; but with us [is] the LORD our God to help us, and to fight our battles. And the people rested themselves upon the words of Hezekiah king of Judah (II Chr 32.7, 8).

The Lord calls us to surrender to Him. Giving our lives to the Lord brings peace and joy that the world cannot know (Phi 4.7). The Lord implored Israel, as He implores us today, through His Word, "...trust thou in the Lord; he [is] their help and their shield" (Ps 115.9, 11). Read Psalm 115 and invite the Lord God to come into your life as never before – to be **Mighty God** – IN YOUR LIFE.

Let us hear the Word of the Lord to Gideon: "...Go in this thy might..." (Jdg 6.14). Gideon's might was from the Lord; we are to go forth in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ for -

He is mighty God!

Mrs. Bettie L. Lowery, M.R.E., Deaconess The Rev. Mrs. Dr. C. S. Cole, Pastor, Ret.

Co-laborers together for Jesus Christ

Come apart and rest (Mark 6.31).

us that they set their god by the Ark of the Lord again. The Lord God in Christ Jesus will **not** allow this (Eze 43.5-9).

And when they arose early on the morrow morning, behold, Dagon [*was*] fallen upon his face to the ground before the ark of the LORD; and the head of Dagon and both the palms of his hands [*were*] cut off upon the threshold; only [*the stump of*] Dagon was left to him (1 Sam 5.4).

What is significant to us is the Philistines recognized that the God of Israel was the LIVING GOD; but, they did not want Him, His presence, with them. They did not reverence the holiness of the Lord God. They could not lower themselves to acknowledge their sinfulness. They could not stand before him, nor can any, except through Christ Jesus Whose blood was shed on the Cross of Calvary for our sins. His righteousness is the way of holiness.

So they sent and gathered together all the lords of the Philistines, and said, Send away the ark of the God of Israel, and let it go again to his own place, that it slay us not, and our people: for there was a deadly destruction throughout all the city; the hand of God was very heavy there (1 Sam 5.11).

We need to rise up in our hearts giving thanks to the Lord God that we serve the God Who is the LIVING GOD – Who is **Mighty God**.

The Philistines knew they could not stand before the Holy Lord God. The sad part is how like them are people today who do not want the Lord in their midst because of the sin in their lives; they are not walking in the holiness of the Lord God. The Philistines wanted the Lord God removed from their midst. They, knowing HE IS ALL POWERFUL and that he threw down their idol, still did not open their hearts to seek forgiveness and ask Him to be their God, the God of THEIR LIVES and of THEIR COUNTRY. Full of fear, they cried: "...send away the Ark of the God of Israel..." Anywhere – just get the God of Israel out of our midst. They knew there was no god like the LIVING GOD Who is **Mighty God**; yet, they wanted no part of Him.

How like that are we today. We want our way. We want to be the center of attention. We want options. We are taught that this world is about me, me, me. We have come to a place of choosing NOT to bow before the Lord God. It is said oft times, "I bow my head, but I am not bowing my knees." That statement is an act of rebellion; it is not submission to the Lord. Others say, "I am not living for the Lord as He is a forgiving God, so I can do what I want." Let us bow our hearts unto the Lord Jesus Christ, the LIVING GOD, Who is **Mighty God**.

We ask everyone with whom we speak of the Lord, "Are you reading the Bible daily?" The answers are varied from the few who answer with strength, "Yes! I do," to answers such as, "No, but I read a devotional book." "No, I am reading a book that has stories in it for the day." "No, I do not have time" – *but have time to do many other things through the day* ... "No, but I am fine with God. God has let me know He is pleased with me."

When we are not reading the Holy Bible, we are not hearing the Word of the Lord – contrary to what many believe. If you do not know the way of the Lord, Satan will deceive you into believing a goodly life is the plumbline. He has spent eons deceiving people; and his voice is one that people undoubtedly enjoy listening to, as evidenced by the sinful lives lived today under the auspices of goodness. This is sad as goodness leads to hell. Only godliness, a life lived in Christ Jesus according to His Holy Word, the Bible, walking on the straight and narrow way, leads to eternal life in heaven.

There were people in other places who did not want the presence of the Lord God (1 Sam 6.19, 20; Ps 106.7, 13-22). All too often the question is asked, "Where can I go to be out of the presence of the Lord?" Are people today not walking away from the Lord God in Christ Jesus, walking in their own willful way?

The Lord God **WILL NOT** be reduced to being placed among the many gods that so many people have. It is written in the Bible:

Thou shalt have no other gods before me.

Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness [*of any thing*] that [*is*] in heaven above, or that [*is*] in the earth beneath, or that [*is*] in the water under the earth:

Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God [*am*] a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth [*generation*] of them that hate me (Ex 20.3-5).

Psalms 115 and 135 make it clear that idols made by man (as all are)

... have mouths, but they speak not: eyes have they, but they see not: They have hands, but they handle not: feet have they, but they walk not: neither speak they through their throat: (Ps 115.4-7).

The Word of the Lord continues: "They that make them are like unto them; [*so is*] every one that trusteth in them" (Ps 115.8). Idols have no life and no power.

How glorious to know that the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob is **Mighty God** (Ps 50.1; 132.2, 5; Isa 9.6; 10.21; Jer 32.18; Hab 1.12). He is the Creator and Father God Almighty. He is our Redeemer, our Healer, our Provider, Lover of our souls, our Savior, our all in all – when we repent of our sins, and ask Him to come into our hearts and lives to be our Lord and Savior, when we surrender our lives to Him and live for Him in Christ Jesus - daily.

The Lord God loves us so much that He sent His only Begotten Son to come to this earth to dwell among us, to live as one of us, to suffer, to be crucified, to die on the Cross of Calvary for our sins. This is how much He loves us – and, praise the Lord, He arose from the grave on the third day. He calls us to come unto Him, to know His love and live for Him.

For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, **The mighty God**, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace (Isa 9.6).