

Mighty God

Isaiah 9:2 (ESV) — 2 The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone.

Isaiah 9:6 (ESV) — 6 For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Remember that the context of this promise came during a time of darkness for Israel. They were in a famine....not for food.....but rather a famine for hope and a famine from God. God through Isaiah tells us....a light will come that will overcome the darkness....Joy will replace despair.....the enemies power will be broken.....

Mighty God

Pretty easy in English right? There is just one word for God....and its God. Big G when talking about God.....little g when talking about gods.

But in Hebrew there are several words for God. One is Jehovah. When Moses asked who he should say sent him to the Egyptians....God said tell them Jehovah sent you. Without getting to far into the Hebrew, Jehovah means "the One who exists and continues to exist" This same term caused consternation when Jesus said that before Abraham existed....I am....Jehovah.

A more common word for God is "El". El in Hebrews means power. It is usually combined with another word that describes some character or attribute. El was the most common word used for Deity in the Ancient World. In the Hebrew it refers to The God Almighty...the one true Hebrew God.

When El is used to describe the one true Hebrew God it is usually combined with another word so it will not be mistaken for the pagan counterfeit. EL-ohim means power who creates. That is the name of God used in "And God (Elohim) said let us make man in our image." El-Shaddi means power almighty. El meaning power or potency....and Shaddi means power that breaks through,, overcomes, is victorious, bursts forth, etc. El Elyon means the most high God.

When Isaiah says He shall be called Mighty God....the term he uses is El Gibbor A child shall be born and he shall be called EL = GOD. The first cause of all things, the sustainer and up holder of all things. And he shall be called Gibbor = MIGHTY. The power that breaks forth breaks through and causes victories. The over comer of all things.

Gibbor carries with it the idea of a conquering powerful mighty warrior. Gibbor carries with it the concept of a warrior and champion. When David returned from killing the Philistine, the women came out of towns and sang songs "Saul has killed his thousands, and David his ten thousands." That imagery of a Mighty Warrior returning victorious points to the Messiah who would one day be called. El Gibbor....Might God. Jesus would one day be the most powerful Commander-in-chief.

So God through Isaiah said.....one of the ways you will know this one of a kind special Messiah is that people will call Him God. Not He will call Himself God....although Jesus clearly does.....but others will call Him God. At not "a god" But "El" the Jewish God.

Many emperors have claimed to be a god. So why was this child Jesus so special. Well think about the most impressive person that you personally know. What would that person have to do before you would call them God?

What if they controlled the most violent weather with a spoken word? What if they healed the blind, the lame and the terminally ill with just a touch of word? What if they spoke and tombs opened and dead men came back to life? What if they interrupted a funeral procession and turned it into a celebration with the dead man leading the dancing? What if they knew things that only God could know....if their knowledge was limitless What if they could read your mind and answer you questions before you voiced them.

What if they could speak and multiply food to feed thousands? What if they stepped on shore and demons started begging for their lives? What if they knew everything about you....your past....your present....and your future. What if they were tortured, beaten, and killed and all the time they were forgiving those who tormented them? What if they walked out of their own tomb and had breakfast with you?

James the brother of Jesus knew of all of these things and still didn't believe until after Jesus resurrected. Perhaps it was best summed up by the Roman Guard at the cross....

Matthew 27:53–54 (ESV) — . 54 When the centurion and those who were with him, keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were filled with awe and said, "Truly this was the Son of God!"

Notice that he said the Son of God.....Not just Messiah Jesus but the second person of the trinity.

So Isaiah tells us that we will know this child because He will be a wonderful counselor who wows us with His counsel that is full of wonder and awe.....But he tells us that this child will also be called God.....and not just any God....but El The Hebrew God and Gibbor....the God of mighty conquering power.

The power of this man would change the world. People would be in awe of his power....not physical power.....but spiritual power.....God kind of power.... What is it like to be in the midst of God power.....

That little baby lying helpless on Mary's bosom held the universe together. He said, "All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth." He is the Mighty God! Jesus clearly claimed and proved Himself to be God. El Gibbor is also used in other parts of the Bible to remind us of God's Power. In Isaiah 10:21, the prophet uses the exact same phrase to refer to Yahweh: The remnant will return, the remnant of Jacob, to the Mighty God. When Isaiah said this man will be called El Gibbor He was clearly telling us that this child would be God Himself coming to rescue us.

This Mighty God would save us on the cross and then in the future He will return as a Conquering Warrior to save His Remnant. "The Remnant of Jacob will return to Mighty God" It was Jesus' claim to this specific messianic prophecy that led to His crucifixion. He was brought before that Sanhedrin, charged with blasphemy, and it was upon that charge that they condemned him to die, because he made himself the Son of God."

But many of us don't see Jesus as a Mighty Warrior

We are very comfortable seeing Him as a Wonderful Counselor.....but Mighty God....Mighty Warrior God? That is not the comfortable Jesus we have imagined....

In fact we don't really like to think about Jesus returning as a warrior.....we don't like the idea that Jesus is going to come back and destroy someone.....sure we want evil to be gone....we want to live with Jesus as our Savior and Lord.....but we prefer not to think about the battle.

C. S. Lewis suggests, "If we have never had the experience of taking our casual, religious shoes off our casual, religious feet – getting rid of all the excessive informality with which we approach God – it is questionable whether we have ever stood in His presence."

Truthfully many in the church today have traded the real Jesus in for a God called El Wimpo We have made Jesus of the Bible seem like a teddy bear, cute....fuzzy....but powerless. Dare I say it.....we have made Jesus.....some inferior...beaten down....politically correct....all affirming....God of Love. Yet God said this child would be called El Gibbor....Mighty God!

What does that mean? Mighty God means a hero.....a strong valiant hero....we would know Him as such A proven warrior.....unafraid of battle...and never defeated. One of high-ranking power who is leading others into battle....never afraid of the fight.

God is telling us through Isaiah that we will recognize Him when he arrives because He will come with power. Not just sustaining power but the kind of power that overcomes.....breaks through obstacles....and is always victorious.

He would have power greater than any one who would ever live. He would become a Mighty God....a miracle working supernatural power God.....a Satan defeating God....a circumstance changing God.....an overcoming God....a Victorious God.

Why did people call this child.....El Gibbor?

I am going to highlight 4 reasons this morning. There are hundreds though. They....we....call Him Mighty God.....because 1)He has no limitations 2) He has destroyed and owns Satan 3) He overcomes death 4) He isn't done yet..Let's explore these a bit deeper and learn about why this child is Mighty God.

1) Mighty God has no limits. Think about that for a moment. Nothing can limit Him. There is nothing that defeats Him. Nothing that causes Him concern, worry or anxiety. No physical, spiritual or mental boundary that He cannot glide through. Storms, disease, demons, laws of physics, nature or man. Nothing can place a limit on Him. He is not limited by time, space and certainly not limited by human opinion.

Mark 5:21–24 (ESV) — 21 And when Jesus had crossed again in the boat to the other side, a great crowd gathered about him, and he was beside the sea. 22 Then came one of the rulers of the synagogue, Jairus by name, and seeing him, he fell at his feet 23 and implored him earnestly, saying, "My little daughter is at the point of death. Come and lay your hands on her, so that she may be made well and live." 24 And he went with him. And a great crowd followed him and thronged about him.

But Jesus gets delayed....a hemorrhagic woman reaches out and touches His cloak....in faith.

Think about this father...His daughter dying....The Man with Miracle powers of God is headed to my house....but then he stops....he delays....something about someone touching Him....who cares? Let's go....So someone touched you there are a thousand people pressing in. Jesus stops to heal a woman who had been bleeding for 12 years....can you imagine how frustrated this father must have been...He thought Jesus was limited by time. And then during that delay...the father hears what no father should ever have to hear....

Mark 5:35 (ESV) — 35 While he was still speaking, there came from the ruler's house some who said, "Your daughter is dead. Why trouble the Teacher any further?"

Your daughter is dead.....Your daughter is dead.

Mark 5:36–40 (ESV) — 36 But overhearing what they said, Jesus said to the ruler of the synagogue, "Do not fear, only believe." 37 And he allowed no one to follow him except Peter and James and John the brother of James. 38 They came to the house of the ruler of the synagogue, and Jesus saw a commotion, people weeping and wailing loudly. 39 And when he had entered, he said to them, "Why are you making a commotion and weeping? The child is not dead but sleeping." 40 And they laughed at him. But he put them all outside and took the child's father and mother and those who were with him and went in where the child was.

They laughed at Him.

Mark 5:40–43 (ESV) — 40 And they laughed at him. But he put them all outside and took the child's father and mother and those who were with him and went in where the child was. 41 Taking her by the hand he said to her, "Talitha cumi," which means, "Little girl, I say to you, arise." 42 And immediately the girl got up and began walking (for she was twelve years of age), and they were immediately overcome with amazement. 43 And he strictly charged them that no one should know this, and told them to give her something to eat.

Who has this child become? Mighty God...only God raises people from the dead....On Mighty God fights and conquers the ultimate darkness.....we have seen a great light....even death is not an obstacle to El Gibbor.

You see, our life is full of limitations and roadblocks. Everywhere we look someone has erected a boundary that we dare not try to cross over: - medically speaking, this can't get any better - financially speaking, you can't do this - this thing you dream of cannot happen with your resources

I admit like Jarius, I live in limitations. I am limited by... - what I know - by my strength - by my education - finances - insight - my resources

But Jesus, the mighty God, knows nothing of limitations. He crosses every barrier, he breaks through all walls and nothing hinders him from accomplishing anything. It doesn't matter that people laugh. It doesn't matter that they say she is dead. It doesn't matter that this has never been done before It doesn't matter that a father's faith is wavering. It doesn't matter that they say that this can't happen.

He is the Mighty God who transcends time, space, hearts, money, obstacles, the economy, the doctors, the paycheck, the government, the courts - - ALL THINGS! El Gibbor....has no limits. He also is not bound by our rules. .

Acts 3:13–15 (ESV) — 13 The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our fathers, glorified his servant Jesus, whom you delivered over and denied in the presence of Pilate, when he had decided to release him. 14 But you denied the Holy and Righteous One, and asked for a murderer to be granted to you, 15 and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses.

What I love about the Mighty God is that He defies everything that is supposed to happen. They conspired against Jesus, made up all this stuff to get Him out of the way and then they killed Him. They thought they were finished with him, that he was squashed like road kill on I 75 and that he was never coming back. It was the end of the story, one more trouble maker out of the way! BUT...God stepped in usurped all their schemes, turned everything upside down and superseded their plans with the plan of his own.

It is called resurrection power and that is what the mighty God is all about. He is all about taking the most difficult thing, the case we say is unchangeable and doing something amazing with it.

You see Mighty God.....reverses the irreversible.....fixes the unfixable.....beats the unbeatable.....saves the unsavable.....changes the unchangeable.....Find someone who does all those things.....and you have found the child Isaiah speaks of.

El Gibbor....Jesus at the cross.....was Mighty God....He overcame.... High powered people who just wanted to get their own way - Religion which didn't want things disturbed. - Good ole boys who thought they held all the aces - The disappointment and dashed dreams of the disciples - Satan who thought he had won - Doubt – this didn't stop Jesus Bottom line...Jesus is not subject to the rules, to men or to courts, to crosses, to nails, to natural law. Nothing could hold Jesus, not even death and a rock rolled on top of his grave.

Our Mighty God defies all the men who think they are gods....He has no limits...He is not bound by our rules and He has defeated the enemy

2) Mighty God has already defeated His Enemies and deals with them from a position of victory. The enemies we fear have no hold on Him. They are powerless.

He owns Satan

Luke 11:20–23 (ESV) — 20 But if it is by the finger of God that I cast out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you. 21 When a strong man, fully armed, guards his own palace, his goods are safe; 22 but when one stronger than he attacks him and overcomes him, he takes away his armor in which he trusted and divides his spoil. 23 Whoever is not with me is against me, and whoever does not gather with me scatters.

This clearly says that Satan is big, bad and tough...until someone shows up with more muscle. And when that person shows up he attacks, overpowers and takes care of business. Satan threw his best shots at Him and never could win.

He threw disease at Jesus..."by my strips you are healed" He threw temptation..."not my will but my fathers will be done" He threw fame..."you will worship God alone..." He threw demon possessed...he said, "get out." He threw the depressed and hopeless and the addicted..."you are whole" He threw hatred..."father forgive them..." He threw messed up religion...I will build my church He threw political muscle..."the government is upon my shoulder..." He threw false accusations Against his character..."You'll see, on the 3rd day..." He threw storms..."peace be still" He even threw death..."Lazarus, come forth..."

He owns Pontius Pilate.....

John 19:7–11 (ESV) — 7 The Jews answered him, “We have a law, and according to that law he ought to die because he has made himself the Son of God.” 8 When Pilate heard this statement, he was even more afraid. 9 He entered his headquarters again and said to Jesus, “Where are you from?” But Jesus gave him no answer. 10 So Pilate said to him, “You will not speak to me? Do you not know that I have authority to release you and authority to crucify you?” 11 Jesus answered him, “You would have no authority over me at all unless it had been given you from above. Therefore he who delivered me over to you has the greater sin.”

Jesus was saying, “There is a boundary on what you can do. God has put a limit on you. And nothing you do to me hasn’t already been known by my Father and already been planned for His own advantage. No Pilot, you don’t have the power you think you do.

No Satan, you don’t own this situation! You have been outwitted again, you have been out powered...again. That is who we serve today. Anything in your life has been allowed by God above and God has already determined how this is going to back fire on Satan

3) Mighty God overcomes death. Death was never part of His design. His creation. Death came through us not Him. Jesus hated death and often defeated it on the spot. Just ask Jarius about his daughter, Mary and Martha about their brother, The widow at Nain about her son, or ask Pilate what happened out at the tomb.

1 Corinthians 15:54–57 (ESV) —: “Death is swallowed up in victory.” 55 “O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?” 56 The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. 57 But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Even what seems like the last great weapon of Satan, death, is no problem to the mighty God. Jesus turns death into a doorway.

Ephesians 1:18–23 (ESV) —That you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, 19 and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might 20 that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, 21 far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. 22 And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, 23 which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

4) Mighty God is the Victor! isn't done yet. He is coming back to set all things right.

Just like one day there will be a new Government on His Shoulders....A new Kingdom.....One Day El Gibbor will break through the clouds and finally destroy all that is evil. John shows us an image of Mighty God returning and destroying Satan and those who have rejected Jesus.

Revelation 19:11–16 (ESV) — 11 Then I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse! The one sitting on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he judges and makes war. 12 His eyes are like a flame of fire, and on his head are many diadems, and he has a name written that no one knows but himself. 13 He is clothed in a robe dipped in blood, and the name by which he is called is The Word of God. 14 And the armies of heaven, arrayed in fine linen, white and pure, were following him on white horses. 15 From his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations, and he will rule them with a rod of iron. He will tread the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God the Almighty. 16 On his robe and on his thigh he has a name written, King of kings and Lord of lords.

Isaiah 9:6–7 (ESV) — 6 For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. 7 Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

A counselor full of wonder....A prince ushering in Peace with God and offering the peace of God....A man with no limits, no enemy undefeated, no sting of death, and no mission left unfinished...Mighty God....

Isaiah told those living in darkness....if you want to see the light....look for man who is called....Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father and Prince of Peace.

No other human who ever lived changed the world like Jesus did. People stand amazed at His Wisdom....His Peace...and His Power...and like the Centurion at the cross....we too...Conclude...Surely this man is the Son of God.....Let's Pray.