



“Mighty God”

Isaiah 9:6-7 & Selected Scriptures

December 11, 2022

This week I was reminded of a classic commercial that has been airing on broadcast television for as long as I can remember. I think it was with a smirk of delight that I saw an updated version of this commercial, and at the end of it was that same advertising slogan that I remember from my childhood. I think just about every other Southern Californian knows it as well.

I wonder how many of you can finish this sentence? ”My name is Larry H. Parker, and I WILL FIGHT FOR YOU!” It always cracks me up that when Parker says this, there is a curl in his nose and he starts snarling. Then there is an additional screen that pops up at the end and another man says, “Larry H. Parker got me 2.1 million!”

This morning though it is my joy to let each follower of Christ know that there is someone much more powerful than Larry H. Parker who is not only in your corner but who is actively fighting for you. He is waging war against foes that are more dreadful than you can imagine. But, praise God and hallelujah, this one has more than enough might, power, and strength to handle them for us.

I think that we will get a sense of the reality of this as we consider the second aspect of the four-fold name revealed in Isaiah Chapter 9 and Verse 6. However, let’s start by reading through this majestic portion, this unit of prophecy, once again where we read of the birth and the reign of the one who is called Mighty God.

Follow along as I read from Isaiah Chapter 9 and Verses 1 through 7:

**<sup>1</sup>But there will be no gloom for her who was in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he has made glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations.**

**<sup>2</sup>The people who walked in darkness  
had seen a great light;  
those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness,  
on them has light shone.**

**<sup>3</sup>You have multiplied the nation;  
you have increased its joy;  
they rejoice before you  
as with joy at the harvest,  
as they are glad when they divide the spoil.**

**<sup>4</sup>For the yoke of his burden,  
and the staff for his shoulder,**

**the rod of his oppressor,  
you have broken as on the day of Midian.  
<sup>5</sup>For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult  
and every garment rolled in blood  
will be burned as fuel for the fire.  
<sup>6</sup>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.  
<sup>7</sup>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.**

And because the Lord of hosts has spoken to us, we say AMEN and may God bless the reading of His Word.

Once again at the end of this unit of prophecy, we are reminded that God the Father is zealous for the reign of God the Son. And in that zeal, God the Father has given Christ the perfect name revealing who and what He is. For all that we hear about gentle Jesus, meek and mild, let us remember that He is also fearsome Jesus, great and mighty. This is in fact revealed to us in this second aspect of the fourfold name—that Jesus, He is Mighty God.

Let me start by saying that Isaiah Chapter 9 and Verse 6 has to be among the clearest statements of the dual nature of Christ found in the Bible because in Christ, we have deity and we have humanity joined in one person. For in this text we read and recognize that on the one hand, Jesus is called Mighty God. And on the other hand, He is a child born.

So on the one hand, Jesus is given the title of divinity and at the same time, He has one of the most human of all arrivals into the world, namely birth. He is the God-man. He is genuine humanity. He is undiminished deity joined in one, the Christ. And oh what a mighty warrior He is. This morning I would like for us to consider how Christ is Mighty God and how He is Mighty God born unto us, and He is Mighty God for us, by His grace and by His goodness.

So this morning we will start by taking a good look at those two words that are used in the second aspect of his Name. Then we are going to consider two ways that He is asserting and manifesting His power for His people to fight for them.

Let's start by taking a good look at what He is called. "His name shall be called Mighty God." The first word that I want to draw your attention is this: God. This is the Hebrew that is underneath the English translation, Mighty God.

The first word in the Hebrew title is El, which is God. El is the singular form of the plural word Elohim. And Elohim is used as a plural of majesty for the One Triune God. It is used of Him all throughout the pages of the Old Testament.

Yet, this singular word El, what we find is that it is frequently used of the One Living God when coupled with another word which is one of His attributes and that is to fill out who He is. So perhaps you are familiar with the name of God, El Shaddai, which means, God Almighty. Or perhaps El Elyon, which means, God most high. Or El Olam, which means God Everlasting.

Isaiah used some of those words and here Isaiah, this prophet of God who was strictly, even fiercely, monotheistic, declared that the Immanuel, the Christ, is titled:

### **El Gibbor — Almighty God, God Heroic**

The first word underlying the English is El. The second is Gibbor. The first part identifies Him as God. You put them together and He is Mighty God. What does Gibbor reveal to us?

The noun form of this word Gibbor is sometimes translated hero or warrior. The nuance is that it describes one who is heroic or valiant. It is a being of valor who performs mighty works and powerful feats on behalf of others.

So with this understanding of this name, I love the title, Mighty God. And sometimes I also like to think of this: He is God Heroic. He is God oh so valiant for His people. This is the rich nuance of His title.

As we use this word hero to think of our Christ, let's understand this in the truest and purist sense of the word because I think we as a people have become a little bit lose in our use of the word hero. I truly like sports. I am a fan and I appreciate the hard work and dedication that is required to achieve excellence in sports. It's hard work.

But I must say that a professional athlete with a multimillion dollar contract is not necessarily a hero because of their exploits on the field or in the arena. Athletes may do heroic things outside of that venue, but that is sports.

On the other hand, an army ranger or a fire fighter who enters into harm's way to protect and or to deliver others, that is heroic. Entering into harm's way. Entering into peril to deliver others from danger is heroic.

And, brothers and sisters, that is exactly what Christ Jesus has done. He has entered into the experience of pain and harm for the sake of those He loves. He is Christ Heroic and this is the unique glory of the incarnation of God in Christ that we celebrate this month because in Christ—once as a zygote, then as an embryo, this human being within the womb growing into adulthood.

Now the High and Holy One is capable of suffering collapsed lungs and heart failure. Now in Christ, suddenly the Eternal One can suffer death. Suddenly the Omnipotent One can be pierced. The invisible and all-powerful Spirit can now shed blood. This is Jesus. This is Christ. This is God Heroic. This is Mighty God being a hero for His people. Praise God!

This is the first way that I want for us to be so appreciatively clear about Jesus on what He and His power does for us. Christ, our Mighty God, He is powerful and He carries it out.

**Christ, our Mighty God, is powerful to....**

**1. Atone for our iniquity (Isaiah 53:5-6; Matthew 1:20-23)**

This gets to the absolute heart of the Christian faith and the heart of Christmas, as Isaiah would later proclaim in the glorious 53<sup>rd</sup> Chapter, which speaks of the Messiah who has come. Isaiah 53 and Verse 5:

**<sup>5</sup>But he ...**

Immanuel He. Mighty God. He, the Christ

**<sup>5</sup>But he was pierced for our transgression;  
he was crushed for our iniquities;  
upon him was the chastisement that brought him peace,  
and with his wounds we are healed.**

Hallelujah, praise God for Christ who has done this for us! For:

**<sup>6</sup>All we like sheep have gone astray;  
we have turned—ever one—to his own way;  
and the LORD has laid on him  
the iniquity of us all.**

Our sin was imputed to Christ as He was pierced. He suffered the judgment due that sin to set us free. This is Mighty God, Hero Christ, the Warrior of Scripture delivering His people.

In what we see in this text and texts like it is that we have Isaiah speaking to you about the greatest crisis of your existence. The greatest crisis of your existence is not that you are going to be shown incompetent in your vocation, especially in comparison to other people that you are afraid are outperforming you.

The greatest crisis of your existence is not whether you are going to save up enough money to last twenty-five-years of retirement. The greatest crisis of your existence is not that a terminal disease will wrack your body.

The greatest crisis of your existence is that your sin, your daily sin, your repeated sin, has offended the holiness of God and has earned for you everlasting judgment. This is the greatest crisis of the existence of every last human being: the wrath of God abiding upon you for your sin.

BUT, BUT, hallelujah for Mighty Christ, Mighty God, Jesus the Godman Himself who has stood in your place. Praise God that Immanuel has changed places with you. He took your place when He went to the cross and the pure, white, holy, judgment for sin fell upon Him so that in Him, it does not fall upon you.

You are delivered. You are forgiven. You are set free when you come to God, confessing your sin and your need for a Savior. And looking to Jesus in faith, you are eternally saved to live forever in a kingdom that will never end. Mighty God, King Christ, is coming into this world to perform this mighty act of valor for His church and His people.

Praise His Name, the Perfect Name, the Name that is above all names. The Name of Jesus which means Savior. Any time you see that language of salvation or savior in the pages of the Bible, it is speaking directly to this Name, Mighty God. God Heroic, who saves His people.

The infinitely, enormous, wonderful work of salvation that Christ has performed is salvation from sin and the gift of righteousness by which we stand through faith in Him before the holiness of God. Set free. Born anew. Someday to appear before Him with mighty shouts of joy.

This is at the heart of Christmas. This is what Christmas is all about. One of the three songs that the Children's Choir just sang put tingly feelings all inside of me. The name of that song is *The Christmas Cross*, which is the sign of His love for me. Amen to that!

This is at the heart of Christmas as expressed in Matthew Chapter 1. Matthew Chapter 1, Verse 20:

**<sup>20</sup>But as he (Joseph) considered these things...**

Namely, that Mary was claiming to be pregnant by an act of God in her womb.

**<sup>20</sup>But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the LORD appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup>She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins."**

There you go! That is the capital S salvation right there at the heart of this Christmas season and story. Jesus, the Savior.

**<sup>22</sup>All this took place to fulfill what the LORD had spoken by the prophet:  
<sup>23</sup>"Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,  
and they shall call his name Immanuel"  
(which means, God with us).**

Which means, God—Almighty God. El Gibbor. El Shaddai. El Elyon. El Olam.—God with us!

Christ is the hero of the Bible. That is why He is given the Name that is above all names. This is why He is given unique glory. Brothers and sisters, what a friend we have in Jesus.

The primary issue of Christmas is this: Christ saving sinners from eternal destruction and damnation. Did I just use that word? Yes, to save us from eternal damnation. That being the primary issue. Believe it!

That is not the only thing, though. That is the primary thing. That is the main thing. And Christ is God Heroic for us in that above all else. But he is God Heroic and God Merciful and God Kind and so much more! He loves us and He is God Heroic for us also in every calamity and in every predicament—in a crunch and in every heartache and in anguish and in every burden that we bear.

Our Christ is concerned for our greatest need and for our every need. That refreshes my heart, that He loves us in such a thorough way. He loves us in view of our eternal peril and our temporal anxieties.

A few moments ago, I mentioned a whole series of crises that we face. I said to you that none of these are the primary crisis of your existence. None of them are! But those things are hard, no less. Those things that I was talking about—struggles at work. Disease in the body—this is hard. It weighs us down.

Sometimes our view of things can get dim and we can get discouraged. This even happens among Christians, or am I the only one? And He is our God Almighty, and our God Merciful in the midst of the burdens of life.

How many of you have heard the phrase, “the light at the end of the tunnel?” I’m sure that we have all heard it. Maybe even a number of us have used it. That phrase reminds us that in the midst of hard times, it is bound to get better eventually. There is some credible likelihood of relief at the end, so you got to look at that light at the end of the tunnel.

But sometimes we struggle to see that light at the end of the tunnel. I wonder how many of us can identify with this sign that says:

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

Due to recent budget cuts,  
the rising cost of electricity,  
gas and oil, plus the current state of the economy, the  
**LIGHT AT THE END OF THE TUNNEL**  
**HAS BEEN TURNED OFF**  
—“Have a Nice Day”—

I wonder what variation you might use? “Due to the total ruin in my marriage and in my closest relationships, the light at the end of the tunnel as far as I can see has been turned off.” In the midst of job stress, in the midst of occupation, where the gifts of others seem to burn so brightly and you are feeling so feeble and you don’t see the light. “In the midst of my own foolish sinful, stupid choices, messing things up beyond repair, I don’t see the light at the end of the tunnel.”

“In view of the fact that there is nobody that really knows me or even seems to care to know me, I don’t see the light at the end of the tunnel.” And whatever variation we can use, most of us go through such times and sometimes those times can be prolonged.

But there is light at the end of the tunnel! There is light and it is magnificent light. It is brilliant light. Whether you see it or not, there is supernatural, all-consuming light that is to be experienced. And it burns so brightly. It is the light of the Lord, which is powerful to dispel our despondency.

As we look back in the context of the unit that revealed the Perfect Name, we are supplied with a picture in that historical setting of this reality that Christ can and ultimately will dispel and heal the despondency of His people. It is going to be mighty and glorious at the end of all things. And throughout this life, we call upon Him for more and more of His light to enter into our hearts in the midst of the discouragement we face

And Judah is an example of it in this text of Isaiah Chapter 9. In this portion of Scripture, Judah was in a very dark place, desperately needing hope. The land was filled with idolatry. The leadership of Israel, they were constantly engaging in wicked acts of oppression against the vulnerable, the weak, and the poor.

More and more of the population started to carry out those same things against one another. Some of the leaders were even offering their children as burnt offerings, as sacrifices to the pagan gods of the nations all around them. Things were dim and dark in Israel.

This deep despondency even started to enter into the people, even the elect of God. Even the remnant would have been experiencing dimness and darkness, encroaching with a heavy blanket of spiritual darkness that was all around them. They desperately needed hope, and:

**Christ, our Mighty God, is powerful to....**

## **2. Dispel our despondency (Isaiah 9:1-7)**

But in the midst of this, there is the proclamation and the statement:

**<sup>1</sup>But there will be no gloom for her who was in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he has made glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations.**

Going back to our study a few weeks ago, this is talking about the remnant; those saved in the Lord. Ultimately, that gloom is going to be dispelled as Isaiah proclaimed the life to come, starting in Galilee. Is that familiar with anybody here? Where was the ministry of Jesus centered for the most part for those three years? In Galilee!

In Verse 2 it says:

**<sup>2</sup>The people who walked in darkness  
had seen a great light;  
those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness,  
on them has light shone.**

We have this repeated imagery of light from God breaking through into the land and even more, into the hearts and the souls of His people. What we read here in Verse 2 reminds me of what we find in Genesis Chapter 1 and Verses 1 and 2, when at the beginning of all things, there was darkness and formlessness and void that filled it all. Then God called forth light. “Let there be light.”

Similarly, with coming of the light of the world:

**<sup>2</sup>The people who walked in darkness  
had seen a great light;  
those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness,  
on them has light shone.**

It started with this prophetic hope in Isaiah’s day, coming to fruition when Christ Jesus the light of the world appeared, then ultimately culminating at the Second Advent when Christ Jesus comes back in power. Believe me, brothers and sisters, it is going to be light shine, with glory unspeakable in our hearts when God will completely take away the darkness.

This beautiful language continues into Verse 3 and into the remainder of this unit. With the light appearing and with it coming and growing and increasing and dispelling darkness, it says next:

**<sup>3</sup>You have multiplied the nation;**

God will cause this light to shine not only upon a few people in Judah 2700 years ago and not even upon tens of thousands of people at the coming of Christ in Galilee 2000 years ago, but there is coming a time where the light is going to shine on the multiplied nation—this uncountable throng of people in the fulfillment of what is here.

**<sup>3</sup>You have multiplied the nation;**

I think the fulfillment of it is seen in Revelation Chapter 7 when John saw a vast throng of people gathered from before the Lamb from tongues and all the tribes and nations of the earth, now united with Israel as one massive, multiplied congregation, praising the Lamb that was slain forevermore.



**<sup>3</sup>You have multiplied the nation;  
you have increased its joy;  
they rejoice before you  
as with joy at the harvest,  
as they are glad when they divide the spoil.**

What we see here is that the time is coming when Christ will destroy all His foes and He will bring peace and joy to this world like never before, and we will rejoice in His triumph. And the joy that is depicted in this text is no meager joy. It is the fourfold joy of the Messiah, who has the fourfold name.

We see that it is likened to the joy of the harvest and the joy of the plunder. To put it in more contemporary images, the joy of the plunder is like when payday comes with a Christmas bonus. You receive your direct deposit and you find that there is ten million trillion dollars in your account. What?!! Wow!!

“The joy of the plunder.” Picture the locker room of the winning Super Bowl team five minutes after the victory with everybody celebrating! This is the kind of joy that is depicted for us here. Joy unspeakable and full of glory. It is a vision of the total transformation that God will catch us up in. It is a transformation from darkness to light and it is a beautiful, beautiful picture.

Moving forward into the next verses, the question arises: how can we be sure? Those people had been in gloom and despondency. Is this credible? Can we really be sure that this is going to be something that happens—that we are going to be caught up in this? Is there really light at the end of the tunnel?

Answering that question is what Verses 4 through 7 are all about. Because if you look at the first word of Verses 4, 5, and 6, it is the same. It is the word *for*. So this text is giving the picture of an explosive experience of joy for the people of God. Then the text gives the grounds for confidence in that joy. Isaiah was saying, “It is the kind of joy I’m talking about and I will give you three reasons why it is going to happen.”

First we see that we can have confidence that this kind of explosive joy is going to culminate at the return of Christ and we can experience it now by the Spirit of Jesus, even now as we see it approaching. And we can know the certainty of this kind of joy, first because of God’s previous victories as expressed in Verse 4:

**<sup>4</sup>For the yoke of his burden,  
and the staff for his shoulder,  
the rod of his oppressor,  
you have broken as on the day of Midian.**

All forms of oppression are going to be broken and we can know this is certain because of God's previous victories. God has shown His power to break burdens and bring His people into the fullness of joy, because He has done it in the past. Therefore, we know that He is going to do it in the future.

Verse 4 pictures every kind of burden being broken. There is a picture of the people of God enslaved with a yoke around the neck, a staff with two heavy buckets across the shoulders. It pictures the rod of the oppressor in the oppressor's hands.

All of these things are going to be busted to pieces by El Gibbor. Not only these tools of oppression in the hands of Babylon and Assyria, but also in the hands of Satan and death. They are going to be destroyed by El Gibbor, and He has proved His ability to do this repeatedly, namely how about in the day of Midian? Midian is one of the classic stories of the book of Judges. It is a delight to read through.

The day of Midian takes us to Judges Chapter 6 through 8. Israel was being oppressed by a thug nation named Midian. They were fierce, powerful, and a bunch of bullies. And there was the tribe of Manasseh, the smallest and weakest of the tribes in Midian.

Midian left Manasseh alone all throughout the year, but when the harvest was about to be reaped, that is when hordes of Midianites came in power and took all of the crops. Men of Manasseh told the Midianites that they had families to feed, the Midianites said, "Tough luck! They are our crops now. What are you going to do about it?" And off they went. That is what was going on.

In the midst of that, there was a man named Gideon, and we find him hiding in a hole in the ground, hiding his crops from the Midianites so that he could hopefully save some of them. Then the angel of the Lord appeared to him and said, "Greetings, mighty man of valor!"

The angel went on to explain to Gideon, "I'm going to use you to lead the battle against the Midianites and there is going to be a conquering of the bully." You are getting the Jeff Saltzmann paraphrase, excuse me!

Gideon asked, "How can I save Israel? It is just me, Gideon. What can I do against Midian? I'm from the weakest, smallest, runt tribe of Israel. What are we going to do?" God's answer is the same answer that is found all throughout the pages of Scripture. "I will be with you. I'm going to be with you. I am right in this thing with you." Emmanuel, God with us. God expressed this to Gideon as with all the victories in Scripture. It is about the victory of God for His people, often using His people, but it is His power that is doing the job.

God told Gideon to gather an army. Gideon did a good job and went out and he got 32,000 men to come and be a part of the battle. That is a pretty impressive gathering. God looked at the 32,000 people and said, "No, too many. It needs to be reduced. Cut it down to size."

Gideon said okay and kept whittling the army down and it went from 32,000 to 300 men. It was just a group of men to face the mighty Midian hosts. Then God armed Gideon's army with trumpets, jars, and lamps. God's strategy was an audacious bluff, with Gideon's army blowing trumpets and breaking jars and holding up torches at night.

In the midst of this, God threw the Midianites into total panic and confusion, so that they turned on themselves and killed their own men. And God did this mighty act of deliverance. And starting with those 300 men and extending to the rest who caught wind of it, that the burden had been removed. Hallelujah, praise God, suddenly they felt light and it is such a pleasing thing.

The moral of this account is that we, the church, can know that we are going to have great joy with all oppression and burdens removed from our existence entirely because God has done it in the past, He has been doing it throughout history, and it is going to culminate in a mighty act of deliverance at the return of El Gibbor, King Christ who is going to totally remove the burdens from the backs of His people.

As we think upon Christ who is God with us here and now and through the trials that we face, we see that there is power in the truth of God, in the prophecy of God, and in the Word of God to release hope and light and lift the hearts of His people.

Coming into this, I just prayed that the Word of God would ring true in what you are facing. Is it terminal disease? Up from the grave He arose, and in Christ you will rise! And I know that there are heavy moments, but may this truth glow with great glory in your hearts.

You are struggling to make ends meet? Have you been among those who say, "Given the economy and inflation, it is either gas or food." Jesus has promised to meet your needs. Call upon Jesus. He is with you and He will see you through. Pray and ask for Him to provide. Jesus hears your prayer.

Let this lift your heart, knowing that He is present. Look forward to the day when we are going to be dancing in the streets that are golden. And He is with us now. According to the imagery of that classic poem about the path in the sand, when there is only one set of footprints and not two, that is then that He is carrying you in ways that you might not even know.

How can we know that there is explosive joy to be experienced that will culminate eschatologically in the end, and that that Jesus wants to give us an increasing measure in this life? First, His previous victories demonstrate it. His promise through victory in Verse 5 speaks of it.

**<sup>5</sup>For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult  
and every garment rolled in blood  
will be burned as fuel for the fire.**

Then ultimately the greatest assurance is this:

**<sup>6</sup>For unto 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.**

In the midst of what you are going through, Jesus has supernatural truth from heaven into your life to see you through, so let the Word dwell in your heart. He is Mighty God. He has shed His blood for your soul, and He will carry you through this life and all that it holds.

He is Everlasting Father. He is your Eternal Provider. I can't wait to talk about this next week. He is Prince of Shalom—comprehensive wellbeing. That is His desire for each of us in Christ. Therefore, we will finish with reading I Peter Chapter 5 and Verses 6 and 7:

**<sup>6</sup>Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so at the proper time he may exalt you, <sup>7</sup>casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you.**

Let's close in prayer.