

# Series: The Names of Our Savior

Sermon: Mighty God

Text: [Isaiah 9:6](#)

Gary L. Wackler

December 6, 2009

**Introduction:** Make no mistake about it. Ever since the Fall in the Garden of Eden God has been telling his people there would be a day of reckoning ([Gen. 3:15](#)) for Satan. What Isaiah is given to tell is no more than a continuation of the covenant promises and another prediction of the Messiah.

So no one is confused, Isaiah is telling us ahead of time that there will be a baby born to us that is for us. This promised Messiah from the house of David will be called by many names. One of these names will be “Mighty God.”

[Isaiah 9:6 \(NIV\)](#) <sup>6</sup>For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

In the history of the world there have been many powerful civilizations. Also in reviewing this history, one can see weaknesses that eventually caused their demise and destruction. God’s chosen people would be found in captivity. Egypt would release probably millions of people out into the wilderness into God’s hands. Later, mighty Babylon would fall. The Medes would annihilate them. King Cyrus would actually release God’s people and help them rebuild Jerusalem and the Temple. Man’s so-called power and might is no match for the “finger” of God.

Even in the United States’ short history there have been many powerful people. But under close analysis all of our heroes are found short of the ideal. What everyone needs is Someone who is strong and dependable at all times. What the world has always needed is a Savior. Jesus, our Messiah, fits the bill perfectly. Last week we heard Jesus called “Wonderful Counselor.” That was the “first” name Isaiah shared.

This second name of the Messiah, *Mighty God*, speaks to:

## **I. His Power**

This power is innate, i.e. it is not something that is given and therefore can be taken away. Jesus, our Messiah, has always been mighty. In fact, in the beginning it was his desire and will:

### **A. To create (us)**

Paul speaking of Jesus the Messiah tells us this:

**Colossians 1:13-17 (NIV)** <sup>13</sup>For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, <sup>14</sup>in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. <sup>15</sup>He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. <sup>16</sup>For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him. <sup>17</sup>He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

This is the same light Isaiah mentions:

**Isaiah 9:2 (NIV)** <sup>2</sup>The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned.

It has always been God's purpose to create life both physical and spiritual. And to create anything from nothing requires a "Mighty" God.

Man has no ability to create permanent status. You can ask questions regarding who is the greatest, but those are always time-bound. Mighty God has the ability and certainly the desire to create for you a new, and permanent relationship with him.

**John 1:12-13 (NIV)** <sup>12</sup>Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— <sup>13</sup>children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

We live in a dangerous time, in a spiritually-confusing world where wrong is right and where down is up. Sin is winked at, and talk of righteousness produces a smirk. Make no mistake, though; Satan is out to devour you.

We need a "Mighty" God

**B. To protect (us)**

**Psalms 64:1-10 (NIV)** <sup>1</sup>Hear me, O God, as I voice my complaint; protect my life from the threat of the enemy. <sup>2</sup>Hide me from the conspiracy of the wicked, from that noisy crowd of evildoers. <sup>3</sup>They sharpen their tongues like swords and aim their words like deadly arrows. <sup>4</sup>They shoot from ambush at the innocent man; they shoot at him suddenly, without fear. <sup>5</sup>They encourage each other in evil plans, they talk about hiding their snares; they say, "Who will see them?" <sup>6</sup>They plot injustice and say, "We have devised a perfect plan!" Surely the mind and heart of man are cunning. <sup>7</sup>But God will shoot them with arrows; suddenly they will be struck down. <sup>8</sup>He will turn their own tongues against them and bring them to ruin; all who see them will shake their heads in scorn. <sup>9</sup>All mankind will fear; they will proclaim the works of God and ponder what he has done. <sup>10</sup>Let the righteous rejoice in the LORD and take refuge in him; let all the upright in heart praise him!

If you are a child of God, you need not fear, but those who do not believe - do so at

great peril to themselves.

**John 17:11-15 (NIV)** <sup>11</sup>I will remain in the world no longer, but they are still in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them by the power of your name—the name you gave me—so that they may be one as we are one. <sup>12</sup>While I was with them, I protected them and kept them safe by that name you gave me. None has been lost except the one doomed to destruction so that Scripture would be fulfilled. <sup>13</sup>“I am coming to you now, but I say these things while I am still in the world, so that they may have the full measure of my joy within them. <sup>14</sup>I have given them your word and the world has hated them, for they are not of the world any more than I am of the world. <sup>15</sup>My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one.

What is so compelling about our “Mighty” God is that he was willing to die:

### C. To redeem (us)

Can you imagine for a moment the kind of strength that was required of Jesus to provide for our redemption?

He came to earth giving up all privilege and position to be a slave for our benefit!  
He was rejected by his own family and people.

He willingly died for even his enemies because in spite of what they did and said, he loved them.

He provided his life on a Roman cross, the only sacrifice that would do in God’s eyes.

He freely forgives everyone who will accept him now as “Mighty” God.

And now he waits for our decision before it becomes too late to accept his powerful and loving offer. For the entire earth, Jesus, our Redeemer - and above all else, Mighty God, is poised:

### D. To judge (us)

In the closing book of the New Testament we see the odd picture of a Lamb in battle. And it sounds much like what we have recently studied in Isaiah 2.

**Revelation 6:15-17 (NIV)** <sup>15</sup>Then the kings of the earth, the princes, the generals, the rich, the mighty, and every slave and every free man hid in caves and among the rocks of the mountains. <sup>16</sup>They called to the mountains and the rocks, “Fall on us and hide us from the face of him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb! <sup>17</sup>For the great day of their wrath has come, and who can stand?”

Right now it is not too late. Someday it will be past the time for us to accept Jesus. I pray you do not delay your decision with Him who is “Mighty” God.

We can identify the Messiah by the uniqueness of:

## **II. His Person**

Over the years there has been much theological discussion regarding the name “Mighty God.” The Hebrew is “el gibbor.” It is rendered God-man by some. Others want a heroic figure, even a human warrior-king because of the word gibbor. *El* always is a reference to God even in compounds like Immanuel (God with us). Isaiah, though, always uses “el gibbor” to refer to the covenant God of Israel - Yahweh, Jehovah, LORD.

### **A. The Messiah is God.**

No matter what the various cults like the Jehovah Witnesses, Mormons, Unitarians and others may say, Jesus is God in every sense. Jesus’ deity is essential to the hope of our salvation.

There is certainly biblical testimony:

John sharing Jesus’ words to the church has the Messiah say:

Jesus has always been. He was from the beginning, God.

**John 1:1-4 (NIV)** <sup>1</sup>In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He was with God in the beginning. <sup>3</sup>Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. <sup>4</sup>In him was life, and that life was the light of men.

**John 8:58 - 59 (NIV)** <sup>58</sup>“I tell you the truth,” Jesus answered, “before Abraham was born, I am!”

“I am” (*ego eimi*) is an expression used throughout John’s gospel that identifies Jesus with Yahweh. Virtually every time Jesus says “I am,” he is saying I am God!

<sup>59</sup>At this, they picked up stones to stone him, but Jesus hid himself, slipping away from the temple grounds.

Later in John’s gospel an even clearer picture is developed.

**John 10:30-33 (NIV)** <sup>30</sup>I and the Father are one.” <sup>31</sup>Again the Jews picked up stones to stone him, <sup>32</sup>but Jesus said to them, “I have shown you many great miracles from the Father. For which of these do you stone me?” <sup>33</sup>“We are not stoning you for any of these,” replied the Jews, “but for blasphemy, because you, a mere man, claim to be God.”

Now either Jesus was delusional or he was who he claimed to be and what the orthodox church has always believed: He was God come to man - in the flesh - God and very God!

Isaiah makes it very clear by providing a clear distinction between “the Mighty One of Israel” (1:24) and the “mighty man” and his vulnerability (1:31; 22:17).

### B. The Messiah is perfect.

Everything Jesus did was perfect, sinless, and flawless. This aids our worship!

**Isaiah 25:1 (NIV)** <sup>1</sup> O LORD, you are my God; I will exalt you and praise your name, for in perfect faithfulness you have done marvelous things, things planned long ago.

Jesus, even though he was tempted, tested and tried just like us, lived his life perfectly.

**Hebrews 4:15 (NIV)** <sup>15</sup>For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet was without sin.

And not only is Jesus, our Messiah, perfect, he is able to produce perfection in us someday!

**Hebrews 12:22-23 (NIV)** <sup>22</sup>But you have come to Mount Zion, to the heavenly Jerusalem, the city of the living God. You have come to thousands upon thousands of angels in joyful assembly, <sup>23</sup>to the church of the firstborn, whose names are written in heaven. You have come to God, the judge of all men, to the spirits of righteous men made perfect,

### C. The Messiah is holy.

From his birth Mary knew.

**Luke 1:34-35 (NIV)** <sup>34</sup>“How will this be,” Mary asked the angel, “since I am a virgin?” <sup>35</sup>The angel answered, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God.

Even demons recognized Jesus.

**Mark 1:23-24 (NIV)** <sup>23</sup>Just then a man in their synagogue who was possessed by an evil spirit cried out, <sup>24</sup>“What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God!”

Everything Jesus did was dedicated to bringing glory to God, the Father.

That was then. This is now!

D. The Messiah is coming.

**Revelation 1:8 (NIV)** <sup>8</sup>“I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, “who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty.” (literally “the Coming One”)

Jesus is coming in power and every eye will see him and every knee will bow.

For some “your father is home” is welcome news, for others it is dreadful!

**Isaiah 5:19-24 (NIV)** <sup>19</sup>to those who say, “Let God hurry, let him hasten his work so we may see it. Let it approach, let the plan of the Holy One of Israel come, so we may know it.” <sup>20</sup>Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness, who put bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter. <sup>21</sup>Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes and clever in their own sight. <sup>22</sup>Woe to those who are heroes at drinking wine and champions at mixing drinks, <sup>23</sup>who acquit the guilty for a bribe, but deny justice to the innocent. <sup>24</sup>Therefore, as tongues of fire lick up straw and as dry grass sinks down in the flames, so their roots will decay and their flowers blow away like dust; for they have rejected the law of the LORD Almighty and spurned the word of the Holy One of Israel.

Some prophecy is fulfilled more than once. Some biblical principles are always true!

**Conclusion:** From the beginning of human history mankind has attempted to do what only God can do. The Messiah was sent to earth to save us. Jesus is God’s *only* Messiah. Jesus is the only one capable of helping us.

**Acts 4:12 (NIV)** <sup>12</sup>Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved.”

If you have not accepted God’s Messiah, Jesus Christ, I hope you will reconsider. God is a God of mercy, love and compassion, but he is also mighty, just, and jealous. Jesus is Mighty God, able to keep all his promises, willing to forgive us, wanting to help us - if only we will accept his reign in our lives. The real story of Christmas is our “Mighty God,” Jesus - the Father’s perfect gift. We can’t help but sing the lyrics of Hezekiah Walker: *What A Mighty God We Serve*

**Chorus:** What a mighty God we serve (What a mighty God we serve)

Angels bow before Him

Heaven and earth adore Him

What a mighty God we serve.