

HE SHALL
BE CALLED

Good Morning Church!

Today we are in week 2 of our Advent Series entitled “**He Shall Be Called.**” This series looks at the **NAMES OF GOD** given to the Messiah back in the Book of Isaiah chapter 9.

Now by a show of hands **HOW MANY OF YOU LIKE YOUR NAME?**

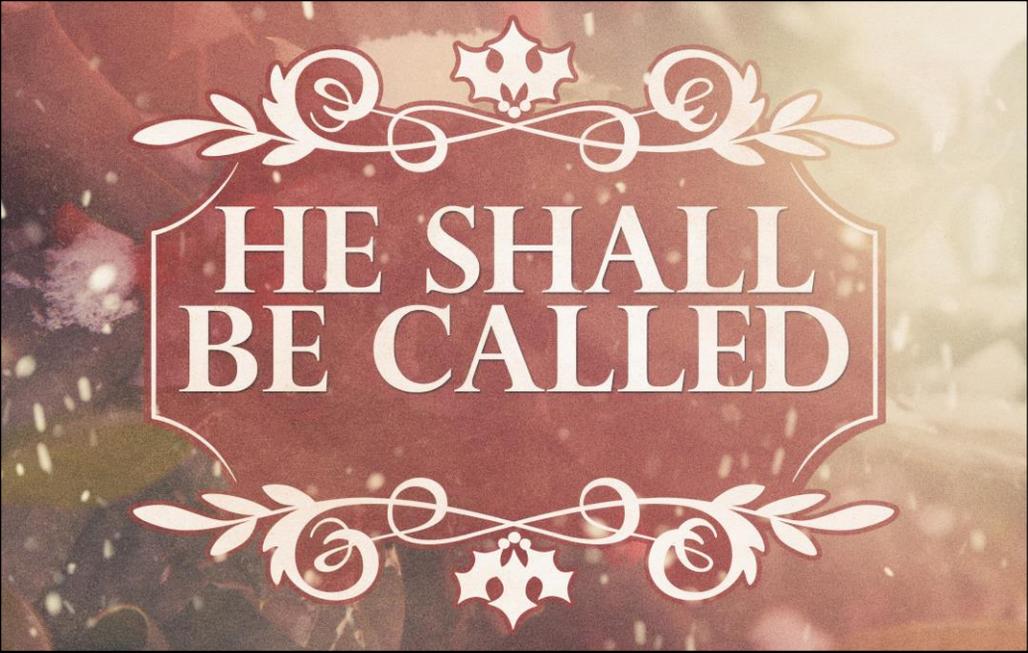
Some of us like our name because it’s a family name. Others of us like the way our name sounds, or we like the meaning behind our name...we draw identity from our name and it’s meaning in many cases.



Here is a picture of Gary dressed as his alter ego.... Boomer the Dog explained his reasoning as he appeared before the Judge in the following quote.

"I've been known as Boomer the Dog by friends in this community for more than 20 years. And so now I want to bring my legal name in line with that."

The Judge ended up denying Gary's request, the Judge reasoned with Gary stating that if you call 911 in an emergency and they ask you to identify yourself, and you say **IT'S BOOMER THE DOG CALLING**...emergency service will not take you seriously...because Mr. Matthews **YOU ARE NOT A DOG!**



HE SHALL BE CALLED

I tell this story to illustrate the fact that our names have meanings.

Just because you call yourself a Dog doesn't make you one...my name Todd means Fox in the Old English...but I'm not a Fox.

And so while it is true that our human names don't always speak to our character.....I want to draw you attention to the fact that the NAMES OF GOD we find in the scripture absolutely DO speak to His nature.

And it's not that GOD is just given great names in scripture...throughout the ages He has PROVEN that He lives up to every title given.

Isaiah 9:6 (ESV)

⁶For 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.



To bring us once again into the context of this passage let's read Isaiah 9:6

Read: 

· Hebrew Names of God ·

אֵל גִּבּוֹר

EL GIBHOR - MIGHTY GOD



The name **MIGHTY GOD** holds deep meaning.

The Hebrew word that we translate MIGHTY GOD is ***EL GIBBOR***.

El Gibbor means strong or mighty, it refers to someone who is bold, audacious, strong or valiant.

It can also be translated “Mighty Ruler,” or “Hero-God.”

Now, because Gibbor is a character trait, often the Old Testament uses this word Gibbor to describe people as well...people who possessed the fundamental virtues of WISDOM and STRENGTH.



And here in Isaiah we see the prophet use this word EL GIBBOR to describe the characteristics of the Messiah...a Wise, Strong, Hero-God.

***[change slide now]**

Illus:

It would not be an overstatement to say that we live in a world that is obsessed with HEROS.

In almost every story we tell from antiquity up till today there is a HERO that emerges to save the day.

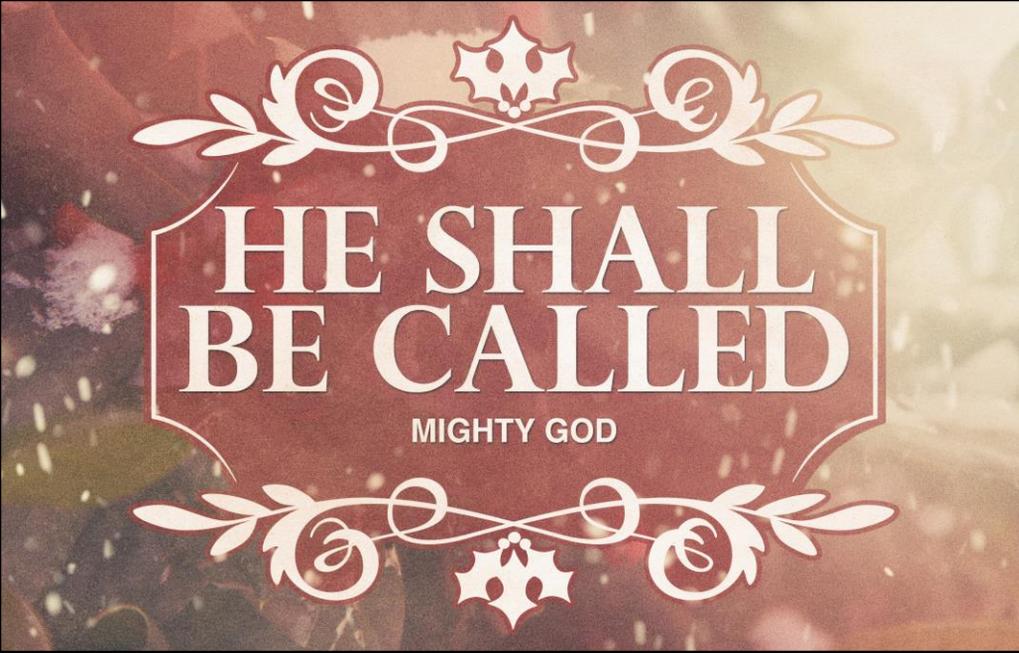
We human beings are drawn to this idea of a HERO in every culture, across the globe since the dawn of mankind. It's as if our longing for a HERO is woven into our DNA.....and I would contend that it actually is.....but that's for another sermon.



It's obvious why our culture is shifting this way..... I mean who wouldn't rather be the SUPERHERO.

But you know what the problem is.....we are NOT GOD.....but the beauty of the Gospel is that God did send His Son to be our SUPERHERO and HIS NAME IS EL GIBBOR...the Messiah, Jesus Christ.

****[change slide here]** *I love this graphic. It depicts what would happen if Jesus actually met up with the Avengers. Jesus says, "And that is how I saved the world." Church isn't it awesome that we have a real SUPERHERO who actually did come down and save us. Who needs Iron Man when you've got El Gibbor...AMEN!?!?*



Alright, so what I want to do with our remaining time *[now that you have an understanding of the meaning of El Gibbor]* is to give you 3 practical statements that can help you trust in the Mighty God of your salvation.

Because that's the point of having a WISE, STRONG, HERO-GOD.....that we might trust in HIM and ***NOT*** OURSELVES.

#1

**JESUS' MIGHT IS
AT WORK IN YOU.**



And so our first statement is **JESUS' MIGHT IS AT WORK IN YOU.**

You know the humanists *are* incorrect...we are not SUPERHEROS.....but IN CHRIST we do have access to some special powers. And what I mean by that is when we are indwelt with the Holy Spirit of the Living God we are granted access to immeasurable power.

When you love the unlovable...that is Jesus' Might At Work In You.

When you forgive the unforgivable...that is Jesus' Might At Work In You.

When you stand firm to trust God in the midst of uncertainty...that is Jesus' Might At Work In You.

John 14:15-17 (ESV)

“If you love me, you will keep my commandments. ¹⁶ And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, ¹⁷ even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.



In John chapter 14 Jesus speaks to this indwelling power when he says to his disciples starting in verse 15.

READ: 

Church, “*Jesus’ Might At Work In You*” is not some far fetched fantasy.....it is a living promise from our **MIGHTY GOD**.

Jesus says here that he will ask The Father to send the Holy Spirit/Spirit of Truth upon those who love and follow Him.

Friends if you are a follower of Jesus Christ then you have a Super Power that resides in you.....but this power can’t make you fly or run fast.

Philippians 2:13(ESV)

¹² Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, ¹³ *for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.*



However, turn with me to Philippians chapter 2 because here we will see the Apostle Paul speak to what "special power" the Holy Spirit does give us.

Speaking to the Philippian Church the Apostle writes.....

READ: 

Church the idea here is that as God's Might indwells us.....it doesn't lay dormant.....it's purpose is to work for God's good pleasure.

Meaning that your super powers are tied to His Holy will.



The implications of this truth are profound.

Church think about this for a moment. The Mighty God/El Gibbor our Super Hero came to Earth and rescued us by sacrificing himself...and now he invites us to follow him by living sacrificial lives imbued with the same power.

This name El Gibbor is a statement about who God is.....but also speaks to the type of people GOD calls us to be.....people of **wisdom and strength** who give the world a glimpse of the MIGHTY GOD who is ***at work in us.***

I want to give you and example of a “*real life*” Super Hero family.



Illus:

This is a picture of the Ten Boom family. Many of you know who they are but for those of you who don't; the Ten Booms were a Dutch Christian, family who helped many Jews escape the Nazi Holocaust during World War II. The family was arrested due to an informant in 1944, and sent to Ravensbruck concentration camp where only one of them [Corrie Ten Boom] survived.

Corrie later wrote her autobiography, ***The Hiding Place*** where she retells the story of her family's fight to save as many Jews they could because they knew that God had called them to it no matter what the cost.



You know when I dwell on stories like this one, of believers who used the wisdom and strength of God to follow Jesus in the most difficult of circumstances.....I often wonder how do I fit into this picture.....and God reminds me that I have a story too.....that I am living my story NOW.

And I have areas of my life where I need to level up and be who God is calling me to be – to not run and hide in what comes easy or what is most convenient – but to run and hide in El Gibbor...being led according to His good will for my life NO MATTER WHAT IT IS...because with HIS MIGHT NOTHING IS IMPOSSIBLE.

#2

**JESUS' MIGHT IS
AT WORK FOR YOU.**



Therefore He is trustworthy.

This brings us to our second statement concerning our Mighty God.....**JESUS' MIGHT IS AT WORK FOR YOU.**

One of the things we say here at Brandywine is that we want our church to be a POWERHOUSE in that we become a recharging station for our community to draw upon the strength our MIGHTY GOD gives.

We've learned this morning that we serve a Mighty God.....but it's also important for us to understand that God's Might is FOR US NOT AGAINST US.

Isaiah 40:29-31 (ESV)

²⁹ He gives power to the faint,
and to him who has no might he increases
strength. ³⁰ Even youths shall faint and be
weary, and young men shall fall exhausted;
³¹ but they who wait for the Lord shall renew
their strength; they shall mount up with
wings like eagles; they shall run and not be
weary; they shall walk and not faint.



Some view God as capricious, and erratic.....they might believe that God is powerful but that He uses that MIGHT in an unfair way.

But turn with me to Isaiah chapter 40 as the Prophet testifies concerning how God's power is manifested.

READ:



El Gibbor gives us strength when we are weary. He renews our strength when we are exhausted. But we must notice in verse 31 it says this promise is for those who WAIT FOR THE LORD.....what does that mean?



Illus:

I don't know if you knew this or not, but it's now possible to power things in our home using old fashioned man-power. Engineers have tinkered with unique ways you can power your home using the power generated from riding a bicycle.

The only problem is that in 8 hours of riding on a bike you only generate about 100 watts of electricity. Therefore if you pedaled for 8 hours a day every day of the month [weekends too] you would only generate 2% of the power your home needs in a month...**nowhere near enough power.**

Now how many of you are going to hook up a bike and get pedaling? None of you! Why! Because DelMarVA and PECO have got you covered.

#3

**JESUS' MIGHT IS AT
WORK *THROUGH* YOU.**



The reason why I bring this up, is just as its unwise to try to power our house using a bike.....it's even more unwise to try to POWER your life apart from God.....because when it comes to POWER GOD HAS YOU COVERED.

Church, His Might is endless...and it's available to those who will wait on HIM.

And that brings us to our 3rd statement concerning our Mighty God.....**JESUS' MIGHT IS AT WORK *THROUGH* YOU.**

This is a statement that should define the believers life. God's power/might reverberating through our lives impacting the people God has placed on our path for our benefit, but ultimately for His great glory.

Acts 1:8 (ESV)

⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”



This is also the vision Jesus had for his disciples.....in His last lesson to them, the resurrected Christ said in Acts 1:8 speaking to all those who would come after Him.

READ: ↑

You see what Jesus is telling his disciples here is that this soon coming power/might was not just to stay within them.....rather it was to pass through them. Impacting other lives...again and again until the whole world is evangelized.

If you are a disciple of Jesus Christ this passage should both excite and intimidate you.

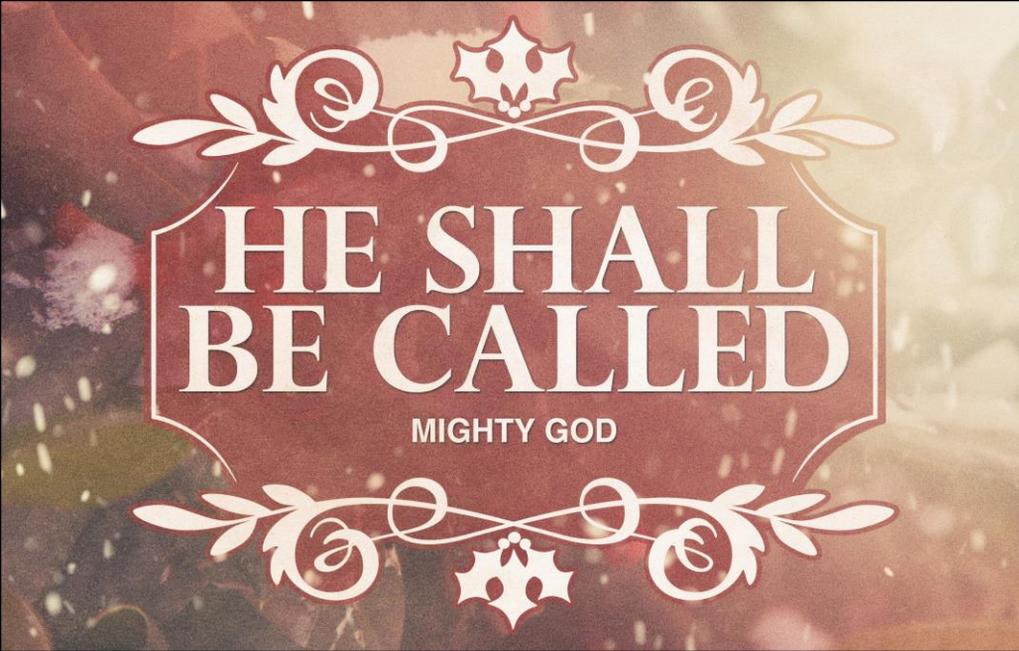


Friends what do you need to unblock so that Jesus can work through your life.....what needs to go, so that God can move in, and work through you?

Illus:

On the screens is a picture of the team from my church in Colorado that 5 or 6 years ago who went to dig a well in Honduras for a very rural community that was sick from a shallow well.

You see in this community people only had the ability to dig a shallow well BY HAND.....the problem with a shallow well is that when animals defecated anywhere near the well and then it rained...the well would quickly get contaminated and these isolated/remote people became sick. And obviously you need water to live.



And you see friends God wants to take His Powerful Tool called the Holy Spirit...and to implant it in your life so deep...that the contaminating forces of this world WILL NOT STOP YOU...BUT THAT EVERY BIT OF GOD'S GOODNESS SHINES **THROUGH** YOUR LIFE.

But in order for God to work **through us** we cannot go shallow with HIM.....WE MUST GO DEEP.

Allowing "***EL GIBBOR/MIGHTY GOD***" TO INVADE EVERY AREA OF OUR LIVES.....so that He can use us to help fulfill The Great Commission.

[Pause]