



3 | ISAIAH 9:6

MIGHTY GOD

Jesus went from the highest place to the very lowest place to be our advocate. He deserves our complete trust and devotion as Lord of our lives.

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Call to Worship

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, who alone does wondrous things.
¹⁹ Blessed be his glorious name forever; may the whole earth be filled with his glory! Amen and Amen! —*Psalm 72:18-19*

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King of Kings

Hark the Herald Angels Sing

Come Thou Long Expected Jesus

Joy has Dawned

Joy to the World

Announcements

WELCOME: We are glad you are here! Be sure to grab a Welcome Packet if you are visiting with us.

GIVING: You can give over Zelle through your bank with no fees (use secretary@livinghopechurch.net). We also have a collection box on the Welcome Center. Malachi 3, “Test me in this” Proverbs: “**Give of your first fruits.**” We believe blessing comes by putting God first.

Introduction

We are in a new series for Christmas called “What Child is This?” Our message today is entitled, “Mighty God”.

Christmas is a time of “peace on earth” and “goodwill toward men, right? And yet we come to a title of the Lord Jesus Christ in Isaiah that seems to be the opposite of peace. Unto us a child is born, to us a Son is given, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor. Ok, that sounds peaceful. But the next name doesn’t sound so Christmassy. His name shall be called... the Mighty God, or literally, the Warrior God. We fully embrace the divinity of Jesus Christ. He is God in human flesh. That’s what Christmas is all about. But the title he is given is the title as God our Warrior. Consider what Isaiah is saying.

Isaiah 9:6a | 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...

Mighty God is “El Gibbon” literally, God our Warrior, our divine general. It’s a name that seems so out of place for the peace and bliss of the incarnation. Jesus, the little baby in the manger is born for war? That’s right. The child that is born is also God, and he’s come to bring peace on earth by defeating his enemies. Jesus as the God-Man goes to war to rescue his people.

We read about this “mighty God” from Moses. It is none other than Yahweh. Jesus is God himself. Listen to Moses.

Deuteronomy 10:17 | The Lord your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great, the mighty, and the awesome God.

This word “mighty” is the same as Isaiah 9:6. This child who is born is Yahweh of the Old Testament who comes in human flesh to defeat sin and death. Now we notice that this one who is coming manifests himself in glorious light.

Key Thought: Jesus, our divine warrior King has come to take over the government of our lives. We ought to yield our life and our all to him.

1. THE GLORY OF OUR MIGHTY GOD (9:2)

Isaiah 9:2 | 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.

We come to Isaiah 9, a passage about the incarnation, and we see glorious light that is reintroduced. It's interesting that Isaiah begins this passage by saying that those who are in the deepest darkness of sin will see a great light. This child is being born as a defender and protector for those who are in darkness, in the slavery of sin.

THE MANIFESTATION OF THE GLORY CLOUD

When I was a kid, we would walk on the railroad tracks for miles. We could get places faster by cutting through forests. When we would see the light of the train, we knew to get off the tracks. We would actually put pennies on the tracks to flatten them. But before we ever heard the sound, we saw the light of the train. We knew that train was coming. So it is for all of God's people that he delivers. We "see the light" Isaiah says.

Isaiah 9:2a | The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

What does it mean, when Isaiah says that God's people "have seen a great light"? It means God has come to deliver. **The glory and light of God is the manifestation of his presence.**

Remember **in the Old Testament, the glory cloud always leads the people into battle.** The most memorable is when the glory cloud fighting against Pharaoh and his army, blinding them, while God's people escape Egyptian slave masters and are granted freedom. In the middle between God's people and the enemies in Egypt is the glory cloud of God's presence.

Remember before Joshua goes into the promised land, and the divine warrior appears to him? He finds out it's the Captain of the Lord's armies, and it's not another angel. Joshua realizing this is the Lord himself, takes his shoes off, just like Moses at the burning bush. Joshua gets down and worships this divine warrior, because it is Yahweh himself. We see the glory of God manifested as a sign that this indeed is God. The glory cloud follows Moses and later Joshua to fight their battles.

We see the glory cloud manifesting not only in the Old Testament, but also in the New Testament.

The Glory Cloud at Jesus' Birth

We see the manifestation of divinity, the glory cloud from the Old Testament, appearing at the important events in Jesus' life. At his birth, we see the same divine glory manifested from heaven. The shepherds are in the field, and Luke tells us about the glory.

Luke 2:9 | The glory of the Lord shone around them.

Then suddenly, a multitude of heavenly host appeared worshipping the child and glorifying him, shouting, "

Luke 2:14 | Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased.

If the angels would have stopped, I believe the rocks would have had to cry out. You see the angels knew the plan. The world needed a miracle working counselor, but just as much, the world needed a divine warrior. God's answer to everything that has ever terrorized the world is a child.

So **here is a child that is born to bring peace through war.** Christ was born not just to save his people, but to defeat the enemy. So whether you think of a deliverer like

Moses or a general like Joshua, both are accompanied in war by the glory cloud, which is the very manifestation of God's presence.

The Glory Cloud at Jesus' Baptism

Again, we hear the voice of God at **Jesus' baptism**, and his glory is revealed publicly in the form of a dove, resting on Jesus. A voice attends the glory of his baptism.

Matthew 3:17 | Behold, a voice from heaven said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased."

He is wrapped in the glory of the heavenly Dove, anointed, as it were, as the rightful heir of David, the King of the universe.

The Glory Cloud at Jesus' Transfiguration

We see this glory return to him at his **transfiguration**, when his heavenly glory is revealed to Peter, James, and John. John says,

John 1:14b, KJV | We beheld his glory, the glory as of the only Begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

His glory was most veiled at the cross, yet it is there that Jesus takes on the evil one and wins the ultimate war. His throne is a cross where he hangs, and yet it is there that he defeats the devil. Through death, Jesus puts death to death. It is at the cross that Jesus actually gains the victory. He puts the demonic race to open shame and through death Jesus defeated death.

What glory! And we know that Jesus' victory over sin is accepted by the Father, for on the third day, what glory is revealed. Jesus walks out of the tomb. Death could not hold him. Legions of Roman soldiers could not contain him. Our glorious Mighty God has defeated death itself! Death where is your sting? The sting of death is removed! Death is dead! Life has won!

The Glory Cloud at Pentecost

Now We can't forget one more display of glory. Where do we see one of the most glorious displays of glory? How about the tongues of fire resting upon the heads of the 120?

Acts 2:2-4 | Suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. ³ And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them. ⁴ And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit.

As the Holy Spirit is poured out, three thousand are baptized. Now the glory cloud dwells in each one of us! **We are individually and collectively the very temple of the Holy Spirit.** We could speak as well of the glory of Jesus ascension to the right hand of the Father, and the glory of his soon return! Oh, praise him that "the people who walked in darkness have seen a great light" (Isa 9:2a). The glory of Christ is now manifested through his people.

THE MEANING OF THE GLORY CLOUD

But now, why is this glory in his people so important? What is the significance of God manifesting his glory? What does it mean?

Isaiah 9:2b | Those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone.

The glory cloud is the sign of victory in war. This is why in the time of Samuel, the people tried to bring out the ark of the covenant to war. They thought they could manipulate the presence of God. It didn't work. So many died when they tried that. You can't manipulate the glory of God, even though so many today try to do that. But listen, saint, God will give you his glory freely if you trust in his Son Jesus Christ.

The Christ child was born to wage war against sin, Satan, your flesh, and the devil. Those who dwell in deep darkness will be rescued and delivered by the "child" who is "born" and the "son" who is "given" (9:6).

What is Jesus doing in heaven? He's interceding for his people, but he's also preparing for war. Of course, there is no contest. The nations will gather together to fight against God and his Christ, but there will be an instant defeat of God's enemies.

The next item on God's agenda is the second coming which is the final battle in the war against sin. Christ will win Armageddon with ease. After the second coming, the **penalty** and **power** of sin will be dealt the fatal blow, and the very **presence** of sin will be banished.

In the **Book of Revelation**, in chapter 1, we see Jesus outfitted in his glorious war garment. All his clothing is mediatorial in its function. As our **high priest**, he has the golden sash across his chest. As our **perfect prophet**, he brandishes a weapon, the sword of the Spirit coming out of his mouth. And as our great and mighty God, our divine **warrior king**, he walks with molten boots of brass. The fire of divinity as our Mighty God proceeds from his eyes. This is what he is born for. He's our Warrior King. **He's fighting for us right now, guiding us through our sanctification**, and then at the end of time, he's coming again in power and glory to deliver the final blow, the final defeat to sin, the flesh, the world, and the devil. And he shall reign forever and ever. Amen!

That glory cloud means victory is coming and it's guaranteed. And that glory cloud no longer dwells in a temple in Jerusalem. You are his temple, and his glory dwells in you! Victory is guaranteed.

2. THE VICTORY OF OUR MIGHTY GOD (9:3-5)

Now Isaiah moves from the glorious light of the Mighty God to the glorious victory for the Mighty God who is born in Bethlehem.

THE JOY OF VICTORY

Isaiah 9:2-3 | 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. ³You 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.

There is such great joy in victory because of the addition of the Gentile church, which, in the coming age, would unite with Jewish Christians to carry out Christ's Great Commission and bring in the harvest of the redeemed from all the earth. All nations will be brought in by faith in Christ. God has multiplied the nation because the Gentiles are now grafted into Israel (Rom 11:13-24). As a result, our joy is multiplied! The victory of our mighty God, our warrior King Jesus, is so overwhelming that it effects every nation under heaven, and all nations are blessed through salvation available to all nations in Jesus (Gen 22:18; Gal 3:16).

The sheer number of people that Jesus saves points to the unmistakable victory of this the great Son of God, our divine victor. Through Christ, the light of the gospel will spread to more and more people, multiplying a remnant long ago into an innumerable multitude. **On the final day, John looks, and he sees something amazing.**

Revelation 7:9, 10 | I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages ... crying out with a loud voice, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!"

This is a joy that is our joy. Rejoice that Christ will have his heaven full from people from all nations. We participate in this joy, and it is more than we can ever imagine. Isaiah compares it with **the joy of workers at the harvest**, a huge bonus on payday, and **the gladness of soldiers dividing the spoil**, like the locker room of the Super Bowl champions right after the game. The triumph of God's grace over our depressing failures is joy unspeakable and full of glory forever.¹

THE EASE OF VICTORY

Isaiah 9:4 | 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.

Not only is the joy of salvation multiplied, but the ease in which God can save sinners is breathtaking. God says that through the person and work of this child who is born, we **break the chains of the oppressor, "as in the day of Midian."** Remember Gideon broke the power of the Midianite hordes with a very small number. They started with **32,000 and ended up with only 300**. The point is, the victory is easy for our mighty God born in Bethlehem, because he is omnipotent.

Zechariah 4:6 | Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit says the Lord.

Remember the words of Jesus. He promises that nothing and no one will stop him from building his church.

Matthew 16:18 | I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

It is breathtaking to me how God builds his church. We pray. We evangelize. But God must do the saving. Just as in the day of Midian, God doesn't need us. We really are

¹ Raymond C. Ortlund Jr. and R. Kent Hughes, *Isaiah: God Saves Sinners*, Preaching the Word (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books, 2005), 98.

spectators on the frontlines. It's like God has given us front row seats at a premium event: the salvation of his people. And we get to observe. Sure we do the work of evangelism.

1 Corinthians 3:6 | Some plant, some water, but God gives the increase.

THE FINALITY OF VICTORY

Isaiah 9:5 | For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult and every garment rolled in blood will be burned as fuel for the fire.

Our glorious Redeemer will not only defeat all the forces of evil, but he will also put a final end to conflict itself. Every mechanism for tyranny will go into the bonfire of God's victory. The passive voice "will be burned" whispers that this victory is not our accomplishment.² It reminds me of the prophecies in Revelation of how when the Lamb comes, there is no competition. It's an instant win! "Every garment rolled in blood" will be thrown into the bonfire of God's victory. Tanks and nuclear bombs, all weapons of war will be destroyed when Jesus comes. There will be no more need.

Isaiah 2:5 | They shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore.

There will be **no challenge to the rule and reign of this child who is born when he comes again in glory and power.** With Christ comes the complete destruction of all weapons of oppression, for when Christ returns, he defeats all his enemies. Heaven and earth pass away like a garment, and a new heaven and earth are fashioned out of the ashes of the old. In that day, the Son who is given will bring a final and perfect peace. At that moment we will all hear the loud voices of a great multitude in heaven, that cannot be numbered, saying:

Revelation 11:15 | The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he shall reign forever and ever.

So dear saint, as you step on to the battlefield today, remember, the victory is already won, and all we do is celebrate. The victory of this child is full and complete. Rest in it. He fulfills the demands of the law and lives a perfect life. He fulfills the demand of the penalty of sin and perfectly atones for our sin. He fulfills the demand for the very presence of sin and banishes it forever at his second coming. Our Lord's victory is final and forever. **There's no challenger that our Mighty God, our divine warrior Jesus Christ has not already defeated.** Let us claim the victory and walk in it with holy lives, awaiting the final celebration when he comes again.

3. THE GOVERNMENT OF OUR MIGHTY GOD (9:6-7)

Who is this all-powerful, new figure being born into the world? Through what magnificent person does the zeal of the Lord renew the world forever? It is through the gift of his Son, the child born of a virgin in the manger at Bethlehem. What a gift!

² Ortlund, *Isaiah*, 98-99.

THE GIFT OF HIS GOVERNMENT

Isaiah 9:6a | For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder...

To us God the Son is given! Our mighty Warrior was born into this world as a gift to you. **His government over your life is a gift.** Whoever believes in him receives the great Ruler of our hearts, the Holy Spirit. Every thought is taken captive to the obedience of Christ. **Have you received the gift that God has given?**

The gift is not an easier or better life now. The gift is not good vibes and good feelings. The gift is not better circumstances for you. It's not good health or a lot of money. God never promised us any of that. The gift is Christ. We walk by faith with Christ.

We **received the gift by faith, and we walk in the gift of Christ by faith.** It is by faith that we receive and apply the gift of Christ. We do **not walk according to our feelings**, but by **faith** in all that Christ has done as the child born and the Son given. He promises us with his life that he gave for us that we get not only his robe of righteousness, but we walk in that righteousness in a life of holiness and love and power. We don't generate the power to walk in the Christian life. We get it as a gift. With the gift is the wisdom of his word. We do not walk according to what we see, not by our feelings or our circumstances. We walk by faith alone. We received the gift by faith, and we **walk by faith.**

THE POWER OF HIS GOVERNMENT

Isaiah 9:6b | 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...

The power for our salvation is on Christ's shoulders. In Revelation 5, it is the Lamb of God alone that is worthy to open the scroll of salvation and redemption. Only he can do it, and he has done it. **This child was born to go to war against Satan, sin, death, and hell.** What was the weapon that the Lord used to defeat his enemies? The government is on his shoulder because the cross was first.

Bound up in our Christmas celebration is a recognition of the fact that **Jesus came as the serpent crusher** (Gen 3:15) to destroy the works of the devil (1 Jn 3:8). The Seed of the woman will crush the great serpent's head. How?

Satan is a prosecutorial attorney in the courtroom of God, accusing and harassing the people of God on the basis of their sin (Job 1, Rev 12:10). He is the **accuser of the brethren.** As Satan accuses, Jesus, our legal advocate in the divine courtroom (1 Jn 2:2), intercedes for us, based on penalty he took on our behalf, paying the full price, and pleading our case so that **we can stand justified and without spot** before a holy God, clothed in a righteousness not our own (Zech 3:1-5, 2 Cor 5:21; cf Heb 7:25).

Satan's activity as a legal accuser, ruler, and tyrant over this sin-cursed earth **would be unbreakable were it not for our Mighty God**, Jesus Christ defeating Satan at the cross.

Satan is the "god of this world" (2 Cor 4:4), the "prince of the power of the air" (Eph 2:2), and the "deceiver of the whole world" (Rev 12:9), He

is prowling around right now, “as a **roaring lion**, seeking whom he may devour” (1 Pet 5:8), yet he is a **defeated foe**.

1 John 4:4 | Greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.

Jesus disarmed Satan on the cross for all who put their trust in him. God nailed the charges against us to the cross. We were guilty, but Jesus has removed our guilt and shame. Christ by death, defeated death and put our demonic accusers to open shame and distain (Col 2:13-15).

In fact, the **first century Christians had a saying, that Jesus cross had become his throne where the king defeated death by death**. By taking into himself the sin and oppression, the horror and tragedy of this world, he was able to give back righteousness and freedom, hope and salvation.³ The government of our lives is now upon his shoulder. He told us to take the yoke of his harness upon him, and he would give us rest. He government and rule of our lives is not on his shoulder.

Now, the mission of the church is to announce to the whole world that the shackles have been broken and the prison doors are unlocked, and anyone formerly under Satan’s global dominion can step out of captivity led by Christ’s guiding, nail-pierced hand. The government is indeed upon Christ, the serpent crusher’s shoulders!

THE INCREASE OF HIS GOVERNMENT

Isaiah 9:7a | Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom...

We see several things here. First, we see that the child was born to establish his government and to increase it. God had promised David that his dynasty and throne would be established forever (2 Sam 7:16); and this is fulfilled literally in Jesus Christ (Lk 1:32–33; Zech 9:9).⁴ Jesus was born to die, and to secure salvation of a people he would reign over now and forever. And there would be an increase of people. Jesus government is constantly expanding as we obey his command to “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature” (Mk 16:15, KJV). We are seeing people saved in our families and neighborhoods, and people visiting our church. It’s a glorious thing to see Jesus’ government and peace increasing in the lives of his people.

Second, Jesus government means the **end of all other earthly government** in the **consummation** at the second coming. There’ll be no more bad policies. No more elections. No more abortion. No more evil that is put into law. Jesus Christ is coming to rule on the earth with power and glory. I can’t wait. What about you?

Third, this also refers to the increase of peace and holiness in our sanctification. This is not referring to mere earthly comfort. Sanctification occurs when we stop seeking earthly comfort by a removal of conflict, but we look for God’s presence during those conflicts and trials.

Our glorious divine Warrior **Jesus has come to defeat sin in you!** Yes sin is still present on the earth, but it shall not have dominion over you as a follower of Christ. We must live in the truth of sin’s defeat. Jesus won the victory. Martin Luther had great wisdom when it came to dealing with the harassing nature of sin and temptation. He would say,

³ John N. Oswalt, *Isaiah*, The NIV Application Commentary (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House, 2003), 162.

⁴ Warren W. Wiersbe, *Be Comforted*, “Be” Commentary Series (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1996), 37.

You can't keep the birds from flying over your head, but you can keep them from nesting in your hair. —Martin Luther

Jesus has defeated sin for you. Don't let sin abide in your life. Sin is defeated. Walk in the victory of Jesus government and lordship over your life.

THE ESTABLISHMENT OF HIS GOVERNMENT

Isaiah 9:7b | ... 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.

Christ is our divine Warrior. He himself establishes his government. Notice that **you don't have to bend God's arm** when it comes to the **revival of your heart and the revival of our nation**. It is God's great joy to establish his love and lordship in your heart. Notice, "the zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this." God's desire is to sanctify you wholly and establish his kingdom in you and in the world. We are to yield to God, but it is he who works in us.

1 Thessalonians 5:23-24 | Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴ He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it.

Don't make excuses for sin in your life. Christ, our mighty God has died to establish and uphold justice and righteousness in your life. He will do it.

Ezekiel 36:26-27 | I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. ²⁷ And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules.

God puts his Spirit in us to cause us to walk in his way. He establishes his government of righteousness and justice in us first, and then in his second coming, he will rule and reign over the whole world.

THE TIMING OF HIS GOVERNMENT

Isaiah 9:7c | ... 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.

It's interesting that God says the beginning of the establishment of his government over the earth begins "from this time forth," that is beginning at the birth of the child who is the divine Warrior, the mighty God. The kingdom of Christ will be established. Jesus said he would do the work in us.

Matthew 16:18 | I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

God says, "From this time forth" Jesus government is being established. You are the beginning of the new creation. What is coming in Christ's return is already here. It began at his birth. **His kingdom that is coming is already established in you.** And it is a

forever kingdom. It is “from this time forth and forevermore.” Hallelujah. God, in his omnipotence and perfect zeal “will do this.” He will bring it to pass. He died for us. He rose for us. He’s sanctifying us. He will do it. He’s coming again where we will celebrate his government and kingdom forevermore.

Conclusion

Isaiah’s entire point in this passage is this: Have we allowed the Child-King to take over the government of our lives? Only then can we be free from the harassment of our enemies. The Mighty God, our Warrior king is on our side. He’s our mediator, and he’s come to deliver us not only from the penalty of sin, but the power of sin.

Jesus is the Mighty God. He is our God. He is God the Son. Because he is our Mighty God, he can bring forth his plans for your life.

There have been many mighty warriors that we read about in history. Even in our families we have heroes. My **grandfather was just fifteen years old when he joined the Scottish army** and fought in World War I. What courage. What manhood, even at such a young age. But no human valor compares to what our great God and king has done. Jesus is the Mighty God, the divine Warrior. If you walk in him, there is no sin that will hold you back. No sin will have dominion over you. He’s going to present you faultless before his throne with overwhelming joy. Of all people on earth, we should shout, “Joy to the world, the Lord is come!”