

WHAT'S IN A NAME: A Name You Can Trust!

Scripture used: [Isaiah 9:6 \(NLT\)](#); [Judges 6:11-24 \(NLT\)](#)

OVERVIEW

Pastor Jesse closed our series “*What’s in a Name*” by teaching about two powerful names of God—**El Gibbor** (“The Mighty God”) and **Jehovah Shalom** (“The Lord is Peace”). These names remind us that God is both our warrior and our source of wholeness. Isaiah’s prophecy of Jesus as “El Gibbor” points to God’s unstoppable strength, fighting battles we cannot win on our own. Gideon’s encounter with God as “Jehovah Shalom” shows us that even in fear and chaos, God offers deep peace and safety. Pastor Jesse shared his own story of being called into greater roles at church—from leading Sunday school to shepherding the Redwood City campus—always experiencing a cycle of fear but also God’s strength and peace. Scripture shows us that when God gives a new name—Abram to Abraham, Jacob to Israel, Gideon to Jerub-Baal—it signals a new identity and destiny. Likewise, through Jesus, we are made new creations and carry His name into our future. There is no name greater than the name of Jesus. His name carries the full authority of God, and one day every knee will bow before Him.

KEY POINTS

1. **El Gibbor – The Mighty God Who Fights for You.** When Isaiah prophesied about the coming Messiah, he used the name *El Gibbor*, declaring that He would be the Mighty God who fights for His people. This name reminds us that God’s strength is not limited like ours. He never grows weary, never faces defeat, and never abandons His people in battle. Whether we are struggling through physical illness, emotional turmoil, or spiritual warfare, God Himself steps in as our warrior and champion. He fights battles that we cannot win on our own, carrying a power that is both divine and eternal. Scripture describes Him as “the King of glory, strong and mighty in battle” ([Psalm 24:8](#)). Because of this, we can face the challenges of life with confidence, knowing that the God who is undefeated stands with us and for us.
2. **Jehovah Shalom – The Lord is Peace.** The story of Gideon in Judges shows us another dimension of God’s character. Gideon was fearful of his enemies and overwhelmed by the task God had called him to. Yet in that moment, God reassured him that he would not die. This declaration of safety was more than just comfort—it was the gift of shalom. Shalom is not simply the absence of conflict; it is a wholeness, a deep well-being, a harmony that only God can give. In response, Gideon built an altar and named it Jehovah Shalom, “The Lord is Peace” ([Judges 6:11-24](#)). In the same way, God offers us peace that holds steady even in times of fear, uncertainty, and chaos. His peace does not remove every storm, but it anchors our hearts in His presence until the storm passes.
3. **God Transforms Our Identity Through His Name.** One of the remarkable truths in Scripture is how God changes people’s names to mark a new identity and a new destiny. Abram became Abraham, the father of many nations. Sarai became Sarah, the mother of promise. Jacob became Israel, the one who wrestled with God and prevailed. Even Gideon was renamed Jerub-Baal after tearing down the altar of Baal in obedience to God. Each new name carried with it a new purpose tied to God’s plan. The apostle Paul echoes this truth when he says that if anyone is in Christ, they are a new creation—the old life is gone, and a new life has begun ([2 Corinthians 5:17](#)). Our past does not define us. In God’s hands, our names, our stories, and our very identities become testimonies of His grace and promises for our future.

DISCUSSION

- 1) **HEAR** - God often gave people new names to show a new identity and purpose. How has following Jesus given you a “new identity”? What part of your “old self” do you sometimes struggle to let go of?
- 2) **UNDERSTAND** - How do the names of God—El Gibbor (Mighty God) and Jehovah Shalom (The Lord is Peace)—reveal the tension and balance between God’s power to fight for us and His desire to transform us into people of peace, and what does that teach us about our new identity in Christ?
- 3) **DO** - Learn more about Gideon by reading Judges chapter 6 and 7.