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Are Christians God's Superhero-Avengers?

Obadiah 1:21: (NASB) *The deliverers will ascend Mount Zion to judge the mountain of Esau, and the kingdom will be the LORD's.*

The Avengers movie has been a box office sensation, breaking all kinds of records. Why? Good movie, good story, good special effects and (wait for it!) superheroes...lots of superheroes! We all love looking up to those who will stand for what's right and save the world. We all especially love the fact that these heroes, while super, are flawed as well and they still fight for what is right! Does God's plan for humanity include such heroes? Who would they be? What would they do? Would they - could they - save the world? Stay with us!

Every superhero has a world-threatening dilemma - what is ours?

There must be some super problem that needs to be solved!

Genesis 2:15-17: Rules and regulations were put in place, along with major consequences if the rules weren't followed.



Made to be ruled, Avengers Movie Trailer

- You were made to be ruled. In the end it will be every man for himself...*

The consequence of disobedience: **Genesis 3:22-24:** Sin drove man out of the perfect environment. **The ripple effect of that disobedience:** **Romans 3:23:** The whole world sins and falls short of the glory of God - that's a pretty supersized dilemma. Who will fight against such a dramatic evil that has permeated all of mankind? **There is a "superhero" response to the terminal effects of sin:** **Isaiah 6:8** **Romans 6:23** **The expansion of the call to fight sin went out:** **Acts 15:14**

Romans 8:18-21: The whole creation has the ability to be freed through the acts resulting from the calling of the true church - that gives us a sense that some heroic acts must be coming.



God's Superheroes - Old Testament: Moses parts the Red Sea

Exodus 14:21: *And Moses stretched out his hand over the sea; and the LORD caused the sea to go back by a strong east wind all that night, and made the sea dry land, and the waters were divided.*

What "call" do God's heroes answer?



God's Superheroes - Old Testament: Sampson

Judges 16:28-30: (NASB) ²⁸Then Samson called to the LORD and said, O Lord GOD, please remember me and please strengthen me just this time, O God, that I may at once be avenged of the Philistines for my two eyes. ²⁹Samson grasped the two middle pillars on which the house rested, and braced himself against them, the one with his right hand and the other with his left. ³⁰And Samson said, Let me die with the Philistines! And he bent with all his might so that the house fell on the lords and all the people who were in it. So the dead whom he killed at his death were more than those whom he killed in his life.



There was an idea, Avengers Movie Trailer

- There was an idea to bring together a group of remarkable people, so when we needed them they could fight the battles that we never could - what are you prepared to do?*

There was a great redemption work declared by God through Jesus!

Hebrews 2:9: (KJV) *But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man.*



There is no throne, Avengers Movie Trailer (Ironman talking to the bad guy)

- What have I to fear?*
- The Avengers, it's what we call ourselves. It's kinda like a team - earth's mightiest heroes type thing.*
- Yes, I've met them.*
- It takes us a while to get any traction... When they come and they will, they'll come for you!*



- *I have an army!*
- *We have a Hulk!*
- *I have a throne.*
- *You are missing the point - there's no throne - there is no version of this where you come out on top...*

This reminds us of Satan, with all of his fallen angels to take over the world. There is no place of permanent rule for him, even with his so called army.

Superheroes always have to live differently than others. The call of God's heroes was to a life contradictory to the world around them: 1 Peter 2:7-12: Jesus is the key to the whole plan of God, but Israel rejected him. What we see as valuable is rejected. We are responsible to show God's goodness and to reveal the light! We must live that which we profess!

Our mission defined: 2 Corinthians 5:17-20: The world is stuck in sin, but through this New Creation - God's heroes - He is reconciling the world back to Himself.

What powers are associated with the call to Biblical Heroes?



God's Superheroes - Old Testament: Elijah's fiery chariot

2 Kings 2:11: And it came to pass, as they still went on, and talked, that, behold, there appeared a chariot of fire, and horses of fire, and parted them both asunder; and Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven.



Thought I didn't qualify, Avengers Movie Trailer

- *It's called the Avengers' Initiative.*
- *I thought I didn't qualify - apparently I'm "volatile, self-obsessed and don't play well with others."*

Who "qualifies" for this privilege as a hero of God? 1 Corinthians 6:9-11

"Super" powers in the past: Acts 5:12-16

"Super" powers in the present: The Spirit as "teacher": John 14:26

The spirit as "helper": Romans 8:26

The power of prayer: James 5:16

"Super" powers in the future: Judges of Israel and the world 1 Corinthians 6:2

Matthew 19:28 Daniel 7:27: (NIV) *the kingdoms under the whole heaven will be handed over to the saints. (the true called-out ones)*

We are in a development stage to prepare for these future powers.

What is the cost of being a Biblical Hero?

Romans 12:1-2: (Rotherham) ¹*I beseech you therefore, brethren, through the compassions of God, to present your bodies a living, holy sacrifice, unto God acceptable,—your rational divine service;* ²*And be not configuring yourselves unto this age, but be transforming yourselves by the renewing of your mind, to the end ye may be proving what is the thing willed by God—the good and acceptable and perfect.*

Isn't this the model that most superheroes follow? Dedicated to a higher cause greater than themselves - inevitably needing to sacrifice their personal life - always focusing on their personal transformation for the sake of right...

As with all superheroes, there is always the need to choose your path:

Luke 14:25-33: (NIV) ²⁵*Large crowds were traveling with Jesus, and turning to them he said:* ²⁶*If anyone comes to me and does not hate his father and mother, his wife and children, his brothers and sisters—yes, even his own life—he cannot be my disciple.*

Obviously, we are told to love our neighbor as ourselves, so this text is referring to our new priorities...

²⁷*And anyone who does not carry his cross and follow me cannot be my disciple.* ²⁸*Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Will he not first sit down and estimate the cost to see if he has*



enough money to complete it? ²⁹For if he lays the foundation and is not able to finish it, everyone who sees it will ridicule him, ³⁰saying, This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.

To build the life of a hero of God, we must think it through first, lest we find ourselves half-way with no ability to finish...

³¹Or suppose a king is about to go to war against another king. Will he not first sit down and consider whether he is able with ten thousand men to oppose the one coming against him with twenty thousand? ³²If he is not able, he will send a delegation while the other is still a long way off and will ask for terms of peace. ³³In the same way, any of you who does not give up everything he has cannot be my disciple.

We MUST, as God's heroes, be "all in" because the battle that we face is ominous...



Time, Avengers Movie Trailer

- *The world has changed. We are hopelessly outgunned. Mr. Stark, it's time.*

What kind of dedication does it take when we are "hopelessly outgunned?"

[Philippians 1:21](#) [Revelation 2:10](#) [Romans 8:13](#) [Romans 14:8](#)

Do God's "Superheroes" have the same type of challenges as fictional heroes?

..How does the end of the world sound? That is quite a challenge!

[Matthew 24:21-22](#): (NASB) ²¹For then there will be a great tribulation, such as has not occurred since the beginning of the world until now, nor ever will. ²²Unless those days had been cut short, no life would have been saved; but for the sake of the elect those days will be cut short.



God's Superheroes - Old Testament: David's mighty men

- Ishbaal put 300 to death at one time with his spear. [1 Chronicles 11:11](#)
- The Philistines came together in Lehi to attack the Israelites. While everyone else fled, Shammah stood his ground and repelled Philistine attackers by himself. [2 Samuel 23:11-12](#)

So, the call to heroism simply costs all that we have:

[Mark 8:34](#): (NRSV) He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.



You call on lost creatures, Avengers Movie Trailer

- *(Loki) How desperate are you...you call on such lost creatures to defend you.*
- *(Nick Fury) How desperate am I? You threaten my world with war. You steal a force you can't hope to control. You talk about peace and you kill because it's fun. You have made me very desperate. You might not be glad that you did.*

Loki's sole objective is to rule the world, just like Satan.

[1 Corinthians 1:26-29](#): (NRSV) ²⁶Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. ²⁷But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; ²⁸God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, ²⁹so that no one might boast in the presence of God.

The lowly are called to plainly reveal that their spiritual status is of God and not of self. Humility is key!

But even with this humility in place, there is no room for a hero to let up during the fight:

[1 Corinthians 9:24-27](#): (NASB) ²⁴Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but only one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may win. ²⁵Everyone who competes in the games exercises self-control in all things. They then do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. ²⁶Therefore I run in such a way, as not without aim; I box in such a way, as not beating the air; ²⁷but I discipline my body and make it my slave, so that, after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified.



The battle advantage that God's heroes have is His care for us in whatever circumstance we find ourselves in, as long as we are focused on fighting His battle!

Romans 8:35-39: (NRSV) ³⁵Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? ³⁶As it is written, For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered. ³⁷No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

What is the end result of the battles of God's heroes?

First of all, what does God want out of this whole thing? True salvation! 1 Timothy 2:3-6: (NRSV) ³This is right and is acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, ⁴who desires everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge (full disclosure and understanding) of the truth. ⁵For there is one God; there is also one mediator (one who sits between two parties who are at odds) between God and humankind, Christ Jesus, himself human, ⁶who gave himself a ransom for all-- this was attested at the right time.

...and What God wants, God gets! Romans 8:18-21: (NASB) ¹⁸For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us. ¹⁹For the anxious longing of the creation waits eagerly for the revealing of the sons of God. ²⁰For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it, in hope ²¹that the creation itself also will be set free from its slavery to corruption into the freedom of the glory of the children of God.

(A caller added Ephesians 6. This subject was discussed in detail on a previous Christian Questions program - please refer to: **Are you Armed for Battle? January 24, 2010.**)

So, the plan of God includes ALL men: Daniel 2:44: (ASV) And in the days of those kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed, nor shall the sovereignty thereof be left to another people; but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever.

What role will God's heroes play in this? Revelation 2:26-29: The overcomers are given authority to rule others but under Christ.

Who will this rule be under? Daniel 7:13-14: And what will this rule - this kingdom - produce? Micah 4:1-5: God is developing His true church to be His "superheroes" in setting up His everlasting kingdom. Scripturally we have evidence that the followers of Christ are given the responsibility to be faithful unto death in order to be given a crown of life. They will help the world reconcile back to God in His kingdom here on earth. The Avengers movie was great, but God's plan is so much better!

**So are Christians God's Superhero-Avengers?
For Jonathan and Rick and Christian Questions,
Think about it...!**