

Moments *for* You

Volume 62, Number 2

Theme: Names of Jesus



At the name of
Jesus
every knee should bow

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

In the days when the Bible was being written, the Israelites often chose names for their babies based on the child's character or appearance. For example, Esau means "hairy" and Korah is from a word that means "bald." Some babies were named because of an incident at their birth. Other names were based on a hope or prayer of the parent, as in the case of Samuel (heard of God) or Zechariah (God has remembered). Sometimes babies received the name of an everyday object, like Tamar (palm tree) and Tabitha (gazelle). Parents even named their children by what time of day they were born, like Shaharaim (dawn) and Hodesh (new moon). The condition of the mother could also inspire a name, as with Leah (exhausted) and Mahli (sick).

WHAT DOES "JESUS" MEAN?

Jesus was named prophetically, before His birth, by an angel. Matthew 1:20-21 says, "But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost. And she shall bring forth a Son, and thou shalt call His name Jesus: *for He shall save His people from their sins.*" Jesus means "Jehovah our Savior," and proclaims both His identity and purpose. Jesus came to save sinners like you and me (1 Timothy 1:15).

WHY SO MANY OTHER NAMES?

Some scholars have located over 700 different names and titles for Jesus in the Bible. Some of the more common names are: Christ (Matthew

16:16), Lord (Romans 14:9), Master (Mark 9:5), Son of Man (Luke 5:24), and Son of God (1 John 4:15). Why does Jesus have so many different names and titles? Each one serves to expand and refine a fuller description of who Jesus is and how He works in the lives of individuals.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

What do the names of Jesus mean to you? Do they have personal significance? Is Jesus your Savior, your Mediator, your Redeemer? If not, we encourage you to learn more about Him and accept the gift of salvation He offers to you. Jesus, the creator and eternal Son of God, lived a sinless life and then died for our sins, taking the punishment we deserve. He was buried, but then rose from the dead. If you truly believe and trust this in your heart, receiving Jesus alone as your Savior, you will be saved from judgment and spend eternity with God in heaven (John 3:16; Romans 10:9-10).

If Jesus is your Savior, are you overcome with thankfulness for what God has done for you? Take a moment and praise Him using His various names. "Jesus, You are the Way, the Truth, and the Life. You are my Life, for without You my life would be worth nothing. You are my Savior and my King, the Lamb of God who atoned for my sin. You are the Alpha and Omega and You control the beginning and end of each circumstance in my life. You are the Bread of Life and I can feast on Your spiritual nourishment to keep me in perfect peace. You are my Lord and my God. In Your holy name, amen." —Adapted from "Names of Jesus" by All About GOD Ministries, allaboutjesuschrist.org

THE NAME OF JESUS

The name Jesus means “Jehovah our Savior.” It is the New Testament equivalent of the Hebrew name Joshua, Yeshua, or Hoshea. While others wore these names to honor God, Jesus bore His name as the Savior-God that the New Testament says He was. It’s important for us to see that the Scriptures honor the name Jesus for several reasons:

- It is the name by which we must be saved. “Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved” (Acts 4:12).

- It is the name that establishes the tone for everything a Christian does. “Whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by Him” (Colossians 3:17).

- It is the name at which every knee will bow in a future day. “At the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father” (Philippians 2:10-11).

From the time of Jesus’ birth until now, many have missed or dismissed the significance of His name. In His childhood days, His neighbors knew Him as the son of Joseph the carpenter. In our generation, many know Jesus only as an expression of anger or profanity. Few understand the many additional names and titles given to Him in the Bible. By discovering His names, we can be led deeper into an understanding of who He is and why He deserves our trust.

WHAT DO YOU CALL HIM?

Jesus asked His disciples a critical question: “Whom say ye that I am?”

(Mark 8:29). This is the eternal question because it is only by acknowledging Jesus Christ and responding to His gift of forgiveness by faith that a person can live forever in Heaven.

This is the claim of the Bible, and the heartbeat of the Christian faith: Jesus Christ is God and He came into the world to rescue lost humanity. What is your response to that claim and to the evidence that He is the only deliverer for sin-burdened people who are the object of God’s love? Will you receive His gift of forgiveness?

If you already know Him, will you live under His perfect will and wisdom so that He may guide you into a life that pleases Him? May it be so, for He brings peace wherever He reigns!

—Condensed from *The Amazing Names of the Messiah* by Bill Crowder. Copyright © 2011 by RBC Ministries.

THE LAMB OF GOD

“The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world” (John 1:29).

WHY IS JESUS CALLED A LAMB?

A lamb is an emblem of patience, meekness, and gentleness. You cannot provoke a lamb, nor did you ever hear of a lamb injuring anyone. Innocence and harmlessness are inseparable from all our ideas of a lamb, and thus it is a fitting picture of Christ. In His strength and majesty the lion is His emblem, but in His meekness and humility He resembles a lamb. Thus we read, “He is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so He openeth not His mouth” (Isaiah 53:7). But He is called a lamb principally in reference to His sacrificial death, since it was a lamb that was used for the Passover and the morning and evening sacrifice.

WHY IS JESUS CALLED *THE LAMB*?

Because He is not a sacrifice of our choosing but of God's appointment. God has not left us to ask, "Where-with shall I come before the Lord?" (Micah 6:6). But He Himself provides a lamb for the offering, even His only begotten Son (Genesis 22:8).

In Psalm 40:6-8 we read that God had no pleasure in burnt offerings for sin. Why? Because by them justice was not satisfied, and sin was not removed. Therefore He has provided another Sacrifice, even Christ, who accepts the appointment and comes to do His will.

WHAT DID GOD'S LAMB ACCOMPLISH?

Among the Jews, the priest was said to *bear* their iniquity, but he did not *suffer* for it. He put it upon the lamb, and the lamb suffered for it. But Jesus, our great High Priest, bore our sins Himself. And the sins of the world were such a load, even to Christ, that He sweat great drops of blood while contemplating His suffering (Luke 22:44).

What an agonizing death He died! Who can ponder without shuddering the pain of those wounds in His hands and feet, as He hung for hours suspended on the cross? Yet He uttered not one word of complaint, until to all of His other sorrows was added the sense of God's absence or desertion. Then that bitter cry fell from His lips: "My God, My God, why hast Thou forsaken Me?" (Mark 15:34).

Behold a fearful picture of the anguish of mind that will surprise the lost sinner when he shall feel himself finally abandoned by God! See what will then befall him! When God forsakes His Son, all sorts of evils are let loose upon Him as He atones for our sin. In those last hours of His mortal conflict, does He not seem to say, "Is it nothing to you, all ye that pass

by? Behold, and see if there be any sorrow like unto my sorrow, which is done unto me, wherewith the Lord hath afflicted me in the day of His fierce anger" (Lamentations 1:12).

And why all this? Because He stood in *our place* and suffered what was due to *our sins*. He was the Victim on whom the fire of God's wrath fastened that we might escape. But if any of you despise that wonderful intervention, and neglect to apply it by faith to your great need, then we do most solemnly warn you: the fire of God's wrath will fasten on *you*. And can you endure to think of so fearful a fate? Oh, make haste! Fall down before Him and say, "Lord, let that blessed sacrifice avail for me! Let that precious blood cleanse me from all my sin. Let its atoning virtue remove all my guilt, and let its sanctifying virtue, applied by the Holy Spirit, purify me from all defilement! Let me be numbered with those who have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb!"

—Condensed from *Concise Names of Christ* by James Large.

THE SON OF GOD

Jesus said, "I am the Son of God" (John 10:36). What does that claim mean to you? Does this "I am" statement change your life? Does it affect your world today? Does it change the way you do business, the way you treat your family, the way you follow the Savior? It should. Everything in the Bible points to the fact that Jesus is God.

Jesus is called "God" in the Bible. The prophet Isaiah said Messiah will be called "Wonderful, Counselor, The Mighty God" (Isaiah 9:6). The disciple Thomas fell before Jesus and said, "My Lord and my God" (John 20:28). The apostle Paul said Christ "is over

all, God blessed for ever” (Romans 9:5). And the apostle John said, “we know that the Son of God is come, and hath given us an understanding, and that we may know Him that is true, and we are in Him that is true, even in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and eternal life” (1 John 5:20). If anyone says to you that the Bible doesn’t say Jesus is God, tell them to go back and read their Bible again.

Jesus exists in “the form of God” (Philippians 2:6). He is “the image of the invisible God” (Colossians 1:15), and He is “the express image of His [God’s] person” (Hebrews 1:3). The Son of God manifests divine attributes: omnipresence (Matthew 28:20), omnipotence (Hebrews 1:3), omniscience (Colossians 2:3), righteousness (2 Timothy 4:8) and more. Jesus claimed to be God. And what’s more, Jesus did things only God could do, such as forgiving sin (Luke 5:20-21) and giving life (John 5:20-21).

In fact, the “I am” passages in John’s Gospel are all about Jesus being God. These are not simply earthly metaphors; they are metaphors of divinity. They show the divine nature of the Vine, the Door, the Good Shepherd. There’s something more to this “I AM” than what the religious leaders saw. There’s a sufficiency in Him to sustain us as the Bread of Life, to give us life as the Resurrection and the Life, to open the door to heaven as the Way. He is sufficient because He is God. If He were not God, He couldn’t possibly be sufficient for all the things the “I am” statements claim.

Paul knew this. He wrote to the Corinthian believers, “such trust have we through Christ to God-ward: not that we are sufficient of ourselves ... but our sufficiency is of God” (2 Corinthians 3:4-5). God’s sufficiency

becomes our sufficiency when the Son of God becomes our Savior. Our eternal Savior is not a good man who tragically died; our Savior is God the Son, who laid down His life for us (John 10:18).

Jesus is what no other religious leader dare claim to be: He is the Son of God, God in the form of the Son. To the religious leaders of His day He boldly proclaimed, “I and My Father are one” (John 10:30). And when they questioned Him further and accused Him of blasphemy He reiterated, “I am the Son of God.”

—Condensed from *The I Am God* by Woodrow Kroll.

THE SON OF MAN

“Ye shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man” (John 1:51).

This chapter abounds in striking names and titles for our Lord: the Word, the Light, the Only-begotten of the Father, the Christ, the Lamb of God, the Master, Son of God, and King of Israel. But the one with which this marvellous chapter closes is as wonderful as any: The Son of Man. It occurs more than eighty times in the Gospels, and is always applied by our Lord to Himself.

It is a glorious title, full of hope to every member of the family of mankind. To be Son of David, or Son of Abraham, would limit Him to a family or race; but to be Son of Man is to have a relationship to every man, woman, and child.

The nature of our Lord Jesus is infinite in its extent. On the one hand it touches the heights of Godhead, on the other the depths of manhood. At one end is the title, Son of God; at the other, Son of Man. And there is not one of the human family too frail or sinful to pass upward through the

power of the blessed Lord, from the lowest depths of degradation to the furthest heights of blessedness.

Whatever we need most, we can find in Him. He Himself is the all-sufficiency for all human need; the supply of every lack; the answer to every inquiry. Do we need purity? He does not simply give us purity, but He is in us “that Holy Thing.” Do we want life? He does not merely impart it, but He Himself is our life. Do we require strength? The Lord is the strength of our life.

I know not how many wounded and incomplete hearts may be reached by these words. But it may be that hundreds who will read them have been painfully conscious of heart-ache and heart-need; waiting for someone who never comes; watching for a light which never breaks; bemoaning a lack which lies at the bottom of the heart, but is never satisfied. The Son of Man said, “Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled” (Matthew 5:6). This filling can come from no human or earthly source; in Christ alone can we be replenished and satisfied.

—F. B. Meyer, condensed

JESUS IS THE CHRIST

“When he [King Herod] had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he demanded of them where Christ should be born” (Matthew 2:4).

“Christ” is the Greek translation of the Hebrew term *Messiah*, which means “the Anointed One.” In Old Testament times, anointing signified being set aside for service, particularly as a king or priest. Jesus came not as an anointed one but as *the* Anointed One, both King and Priest, set apart not by any man but by God Himself.

When John the Baptist appeared on the scene, his contemporaries were attracted to his fierce preaching and rugged appearance. Many were convinced he was the Messiah, but he repeatedly told them he was only the forerunner, and called the people to repent in preparation for the Messiah’s arrival. The scene was set, and many waited with bated breath to meet the One who would deliver them from all their enemies.

Except Jesus wasn’t what they expected. The Jews wanted a military leader who would liberate them from Roman oppression—but Jesus was meek and quiet in spirit. They wanted an established leader, one the rulers of the world would listen to and respect—but Jesus was born in questionable circumstances and possessed no earthly valuables. They wanted a poster child for Jewish superiority—but Jesus hung out with outcasts and upended cultural norms.

Jesus was God’s answer to Israel’s prayers; He was the Messiah, but they rejected Him. “He came unto His own, and His own received Him not. But as many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name” (John 1:11-12). So gratefully we celebrate Him as the Christ, the Anointed One not just for Israel, but for all humankind who believe in Him.

Have you tried to fit Jesus into your idea of who He should be or how He should act? Take time to read through the Gospels. Reacquaint yourself with Jesus. Marvel at His miracles. Chuckle at His witty responses to the Pharisees’ snide remarks. Weep as His people reject Him and He walks toward Golgotha. Rejoice as the stone is rolled away and the tomb is found empty. Go be-

yond surface familiarity with the accounts and engage with the Anointed One as He is revealed in the pages of Scripture.

—Condensed from *Unwrapping the Names of Jesus* by Asheritah Ciuciu.

THE LORD JESUS CHRIST

The writers of the New Testament use various combinations of the name “Jesus” along with His primary titles “Lord” and “Christ.” Do these combinations all convey the same meaning, or are there nuances for us to discover?

JESUS CHRIST

Scripture does not use words loosely or at random, but with the utmost precision of meaning. When the combination Jesus Christ is used, we see a Divine Man, living a blameless life, going about doing good, dying a sacrificial death on the cross for God’s glory, establishing divine righteousness, rising the third day, and ascending to glory. In other words, in thinking of Jesus Christ, you begin with our Lord as on earth (Jesus), and end in the glory (Christ).

For example, we read: “The birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise” (Matthew 1:18). Here the Lord had His whole life before Him, as well as His death and resurrection. Again we read: “By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all” (Hebrews 10:10). Peter, too, writes of the sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ, of the resurrection of Jesus Christ, and of the kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. All these references begin with Jesus on the earth, and project forward to the glory.

CHRIST JESUS

On the other hand, this combination leads us to view Christ in glory at God’s right hand. In Ephesians 2:6

we read that God “hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus.” Ephesians 2:10 says of believers, “We are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works.” Our thoughts turn to Christ in glory as the one from whom all our spiritual blessings flow. Again we read, “My God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus” (Philippians 4:19).

LORD JESUS CHRIST

There is a wonderful majesty in this complete title. When the Philippian jailer cried in anguish of deep conviction of sin, “What must I do to be saved?” the memorable answer was given, “Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved” (Acts 16:30-31).

Here we have the combination of the names of: 1) the Lord to whom we bow and whose claims we recognize, 2) Jesus the Savior whom we trust for salvation, and 3) Christ the Anointed Mediator between God and man.

—Adapted from *Divine Titles and their Significance* by A. J. Pollock.

JESUS IS LORD

Generally speaking, a lord is someone with authority, control, or power over others. In Jesus’ day the word lord was often used as a title of respect toward earthly authorities. When the leper called Jesus “Lord” in Matthew 8:2, he was showing Jesus respect as a healer and teacher.

However, after the resurrection, the title “Lord,” as applied to Jesus, became much more than a title of honor or respect. Saying, “Jesus is Lord,” became a way of declaring Jesus’ deity. It began with Thomas’ exclamation, “My Lord and my God!” (John 20:28). From then on, the apostles’ message was that Jesus is

Lord, meaning “Jesus is God.” Peter’s sermon on the Day of Pentecost contained that theme: “God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ” (Acts 2:36). Later, in Cornelius’ house, Peter declared that Jesus is “Lord of all” (Acts 10:36).

In saying, “Jesus is Lord,” we commit ourselves to obey Him. Jesus asked, “Why call ye Me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?” (Luke 6:46). An acknowledgement of

Jesus’ lordship is logically accompanied by a submission to Jesus’ authority. If Jesus is Lord, then He owns us; He has the right to tell us what to do.

A person who says, “Jesus is Lord,” with a full understanding of what that means (Jesus is God and has supreme authority over all things) has been divinely enlightened: “No man can say that Jesus is the Lord, but by the Holy Ghost” (1 Corinthians 12:3).

—Condensed from GotQuestions.org

WHO IS JESUS TO YOU?

To the architect , He is the Chief Cornerstone	<i>1 Peter 2:6</i>
To the artist , He is the Altogether Lovely One	<i>Song of Solomon 5:16</i>
To the astronomer , He is the Sun of Righteousness	<i>Malachi 4:2</i>
To the baker , He is the Bread of Life	<i>John 6:35</i>
To the banker , He is the Hidden Treasure	<i>Matthew 13:44</i>
To the builder , He is the Sure Foundation	<i>Isaiah 28:16</i>
To the carpenter , He is the Door	<i>John 10:9</i>
To the doctor , He is the Great Physician	<i>Psalms 103:3</i>
To the educator , He is the Great Teacher	<i>John 3:2</i>
To the engineer , He is the New and Living Way	<i>Hebrews 10:20</i>
To the farmer , He is the Sower and Lord of the Harvest	<i>Matt. 13:37; Luke 10:2</i>
To the gardener , He is the True Vine	<i>John 15:1</i>
To the geologist , He is the Rock	<i>1 Corinthians 10:4</i>
To the jeweler , He is the Pearl of Great Price	<i>Matthew 13:46</i>
To the judge , He is the only Righteous Judge of man	<i>2 Timothy 4:8</i>
To the juror , He is the Faithful and True Witness	<i>Revelation 3:14</i>
To the lawyer , He is the Counselor and Advocate	<i>Isaiah 9:6; 1 John 2:1</i>
To the optometrist , He is the Giver of Sight	<i>Luke 4:18</i>
To the philanthropist , He is the Unspeakable Gift	<i>2 Corinthians 9:15</i>
To the philosopher , He is the Wisdom of God	<i>1 Corinthians 1:24</i>
To the politician , He is the Desire of all Nations	<i>Haggai 2:7</i>
To the preacher , He is the Word of God	<i>Revelation 19:13</i>
To the reporter , He is the Good News of great joy	<i>Luke 2:10</i>
To the sculptor , He is the Living Stone	<i>1 Peter 2:4</i>
To the servant , He is the One Master	<i>Matthew 23:10</i>
To the student , He is the Truth	<i>John 14:6</i>
To the theologian , He is the Author and Finisher of our faith	<i>Hebrews 12:2</i>
To the worker , He is the Giver of Rest	<i>Matthew 11:28</i>
To the sinner , He is the Lamb of God who takes away sin	<i>John 1:29</i>
To the Christian , He is the Son of the Living God, the Savior, the Redeemer, and Lord	<i>Matthew 16:16; 1 John 4:14; Titus 2:14; 2 Peter 1:2</i>

—Author Unknown