

What Are the Names of Jesus?

Names of Jesus - The Significance

What's in a name? Do the titles and names of Jesus hold any significance? 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, i.e. Esau (hairy) and Korah (bald). Some babies were named because of an incident at their birth or their names were based on some hope or prayer of the parent, as in Zechariah's name (God has remembered). Sometimes babies received the name of an everyday object, like Tamar (palm tree), and Tabitha (gazelle). Parents often named their children by the time of day they were born. For example: Shaharaim (dawn), Hodesh (new moon). The condition of the mother also frequently inspired a name: Leah (exhausted) and Mahli (sick).

Jesus was named prophetically. Matthew 1:21 says, *"But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.' All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: 'The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel' - which means, 'God with us.'"*

Names of Jesus - The List

Why are there so many different names of Jesus? The names serve as a description of who Jesus is and how He works in the lives of individuals. Some scholars have located over 700 titles and different names for Jesus in the Bible. Let's study a few of them here.

God - Jesus is called God in several passages in the Bible. Along with His sinless life, miracles, and resurrection from the dead, His claims to be God stand firm (John 20:28).

Lord - In the New Testament, this term is used as a salutation to honor a man of distinction. The disciples used this term to salute Jesus as their teacher and master (Matthew 22:43-44).

Word - This title was used by the apostle John to describe the mission of Jesus. The title states Jesus' Godhead and eternal and absolute deity (John 1:1, 14).

Son of God & Son of Man – Jesus Christ is the only “natural” son of God, which means he partakes fully in the Divine nature. We become God’s children by adoption and inherit eternal life in and with Christ (Luke 1:35; 3:22; 9:35; Hebrews 4:14). He is also true man, born of a woman, a virgin, under the Law, to redeem those under the Law (Luke 12:8; 19:10; Galatians 4:4-7). Jesus came to seek and to save the lost.

Messiah - The long awaited "anointed one" who would deliver Israel. Jesus came to deliver mankind from sin and death (John 4:25-26).

Alpha and Omega - These two characters were the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet. This descriptive title expresses the eternal nature of God - the beginning and the end (Revelation 1:8; 22:13). Jesus is Almighty: all-powerful!

Savior - Jesus is the person who rescues mankind from an eternity in hell.

Redeemer - "One who frees or delivers another from difficulty, danger, or bondage, usually by the payment of a ransom price."¹ In the New Testament, Jesus is viewed as the ultimate Redeemer who gave His life as a ransom (Mark 10:45, Titus 2:14).

Light of the World - Jesus is the Person who brings true knowledge of God. Those who reject this light bring judgment upon themselves (John 8:12; 3:19-21).

Lamb of God - This title refers to the Old Testament sacrificial system where God accepted the blood of animals as atonement for sin (John 1:29, 36). Jesus' blood made atonement for sin!

Ruler of Creation - Christ existed before the creation of the world and He is sovereign over it (Revelation 3:14).

Bright Morning Star – Jesus is the brightest star in the heavens that lights our way. Also referred to as the Star of Jacob, Jesus is the Day Star that leads His followers into the way of truth (Revelation 22:16; 2 Peter 1:19).

Mediator - Because Jesus is fully God, He can represent God to man. Because He is fully man, Jesus can represent man to God. Reconciliation is possible (1 Timothy 2:5).

Good Shepherd – Jesus describes Himself as the Good Shepherd who knows His sheep and His sheep know Him. He cares for them and lays down His life for them (John 10:1-18).

Resurrection and the Life – Jesus told Martha that Lazarus would live again. Jesus assured Martha that He was the resurrection and the life and all who believe in Him, even though they die, will live (John 11:25-26).

Living Water – While drawing water from a well, a woman encountered Jesus who offered her Living Water, that believing in Him she would never thirst again (John 4:10-14).

Bread of Life - Jesus is the one and only supplier of true spiritual nourishment (John 6:35). **Way, Truth, and Life** - Jesus is the only way to heaven, the only source of truth, and the foundation of all life (John 14:6)!

Names of Jesus - Personal Meaning

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 has offered to you.

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 Living Water and the Bread of Life and I can feast on Your spiritual nourishment to keep me in perfect peace. As my Good Shepherd You provide for my every need. Because You are my Lord and my God. In Your holy name I pray, amen."*