

## CONTENTS

Jesus	8	Resurrection and the Life	50
The Word	10	The Truth	52
Son of God	12	Savior	56
Son of Man	16	Lord	58
Immanuel	18	Head	60
Wonderful Counselor	20	Great High Priest	64
Mighty God	24	Advocate	66
Prince of Peace	26	Alpha and Omega	68
Messiah	28	Lion	72
Chief Cornerstone	32	Bridegroom	74
Captain	34	King	76
Friend of Sinners	36	Servant of the LORD	80
I AM	40	Man of Sorrows	82
Bread of Life	42	Redeemer	84
Light of the World	44	Lamb of God	88
Good Shepherd	48	Amen	90
Notes			94

# Jesus

*“There is salvation in no one else,  
for there is no other name under heaven given among men  
by which we must be saved.” (Acts 4:12)*

The name *Jesus* was common in His day, yet this ordinary name became extraordinary, and down through history it has become unique. The reason for that is revealed in what the angel said to Joseph: “You shall call his name *Jesus*, for he will save his people from their sins” (Matt. 1:21). There has never been another *Jesus* like this one. His name reveals why He came to earth. It sums up His mission, His purpose, and His destiny.

Jesus is the Greek equivalent of the Old Testament Jewish name *Joshua*, which means “Jehovah saves.” There were two Joshuas in the Old Testament. The first Joshua led the children of Israel from the wilderness into the Promised Land. He was a prototype of Jesus—a savior, a rescuer, a deliverer.

Our Joshua—Jesus—fights our battles. He has conquered every enemy, including death, and He enables us to be victorious over temptation and sin. Our Joshua leads us into the spiritual inheritance that God has promised us, far surpassing the work of that first Joshua.

The other Old Testament Joshua was a high priest. God told the prophet Zechariah to make a crown of silver and gold and set it on the head of this Joshua (Zech. 6:11). God’s instruction was a sign of royalty. Before this, the roles of king and priest had always been separate. Here,

however, they are symbolically combined in one person. This is a wonderful picture of our Jesus, who is both King and Priest.

There is no other name like the name of Jesus. There is pardon in His name. By bearing our sins as His own on the cross and refusing to save Himself, Jesus has saved us from the penalty of sin and from the wrath of God, which we rightly deserve for our sins. He saves us daily from the power of sin. Jesus came not only to save us from the guilt and penalty of our sin, but also to take away our love for sin. And one day, we will be fully delivered from the very presence of sin.

*There is power in His name.* This name is what gives us access to God’s greatest treasures. Of course, we know that the power is not in the name itself but in the Person who bears that name.

*Jesus’ name is precious.* It is of infinite value. In fact, this common name became “the name that is above every name” (Phil. 2:9), and it is to be treated with great reverence.

“God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father” (Phil. 2:9–11).

Jesus! Name of wondrous love,  
Human name of God above!  
Pleading only this, we flee,  
Helpless, O our God, to Thee.

**WILLIAM W. HOW**  
(1823-1897)

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More than a great teacher, more than an enlightened man, more than a worker of miracles, more than a source of meaning in life, . . . more than a caring friend, more than a transformer of cultures, more than a purpose for the purposeless, Jesus is the Savior of sinners.<sup>1</sup>

**KEVIN DEYOUNG**

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All hail the power of Jesus' name!  
Let angels prostrate fall;  
Bring forth the royal diadem,  
And crown him Lord of all.

**EDWARD PERRONET**  
(1726-1792)



*“Jehovah saves”—  
that is the meaning  
of the name Jesus.  
In what ways have  
you experienced the  
deliverance promised in  
this name? Do you love,  
respect, and honor  
His name?*

# THE NEW WORD

*In the beginning was the Word,  
and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.  
He was in the beginning with God. . . .  
And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us. (John 1:1–2, 14)*

God is transcendent, and He dwells in unapproachable light (1 Tim. 6:16). It's impossible for us to see Him, much less draw near to Him, apart from Jesus. Jesus is God's mirror, and He came to earth to reveal God to man.

The apostle John tells us, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. . . . And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth" (John 1:1, 14).

John is the only New Testament author to call Jesus "the Word"—*Logos* in Greek. The Word has always existed, even before the heavens and the earth were created. John tells us that Jesus, the Word, is God. He became a man so we could see what God is like. He took on human flesh so God could be revealed to mankind.

Jesus is the physical manifestation of God the Father. He is the expression of the Father's thoughts, the Father's heart, and the Father's will. Jesus makes the invisible God visible. He makes the unknown God knowable.

He is also the means of communication between God and man. "For God, who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness,' has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ" (2 Cor. 4:6). Through Jesus, the transcendent, invisible, unknowable God draws near to us.

Jesus Christ, the living Word, was active in creation, and He holds together the world that He created. He has the whole world in His hands. The Word is active in redemption and in illumination. The psalmist writes, "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path" (Ps. 119:105). Our lamp is Jesus, the Word of God. He is the one who shines light on our steps.

Jesus is the eternal Word of the eternal God, the full and final revelation of God to all people. He will always be the personal, visible expression of the Father. Jesus did not come just to give us the Word of God—He is the Word of God. When Jesus speaks, God speaks.

Jesus reveals the way to the Father. He is God's final Word. He has spoken. Are we listening? Are we filling our minds with the world's novels, television programs, and music, or are we filling our minds with Jesus, the Word of God?

Because of Jesus, the *Logos*, we can know the Father. But we will never know the will of God, the thoughts of God, the mind of God, or the heart of God any better than we know His Son. If you want to know God, you must know Jesus. If you want direction for your life, listen to Jesus. Let Him speak to you through His Word.

Unless a person expresses himself, his mind remains inscrutable. Similarly, God ordinarily would have remained beyond the comprehension of human beings. It became necessary for the Almighty to express Himself; in order to reveal Himself, He used the Word. Jesus became the channel of communication between God and human beings. . . . Jesus was the expressed eloquence and wisdom of the Most High God.<sup>1</sup>

IVOR POWELL

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Ere the blue heav'ns were stretched abroad,  
From everlasting was the Word:  
With God he was; the Word of God,  
And must divinely be adored.

ISAAC WATTS  
(1674-1748)

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In Christ, the revelation of God is complete and lacking in nothing.<sup>2</sup>

RUBEL SHELLY



*What does it mean to you to know that God desired to communicate to you through the living Word—His Son, Jesus? Jesus is revealed to us in the written Word, by the power of the Spirit. What steps are you taking to get to know God through His Son?*

# SON OF GOD

*“The Holy Spirit will come upon you,  
and the power of the Most High will overshadow you;  
therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God.” (Luke 1:35)*

Jesus is called the Son of God forty-seven times in the New Testament. He was declared by the Father to be the Son of God at His baptism and again at the transfiguration; even demons recognized Jesus as the Son of the Most High God. Jesus frequently referred to God as His Father, and in doing so, He was claiming to be God Himself—a claim that has caused no small controversy throughout church history.

As the Son of God, Jesus bears all of the divine nature. “He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of [God’s] nature” (Heb. 1:3). Jesus shares every attribute of God the Father equally.

The Father sent His Son to this earth to save us, but the Son was rejected by those He came to save. “He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him” (John 1:11), so they put the Son of God to death. But that was not the end of the story. The Father had the final word: “[Jesus] was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead” (Rom. 1:4). Forty days after the resurrection, the Son of God ascended back to heaven, and today the Son is seated at the right hand of the Father.

This is the Son of whom the Father says, “Your throne, O God, is forever and ever. . . . Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet” (Heb. 1:8, 13).

Psalms 2 tells us that the Son was given the kingdoms of the world as His inheritance. By His obedient life and death on the cross, Jesus won the right to rule over the nations. He won the right to judge and destroy those who rebel against Him and the right to save those who repent of their sins and believe on Him.

As the holy Son of God, Jesus perfectly loved, honored, and trusted His Father. When the Father sent Jesus to the world, Jesus fulfilled the Father’s direction. When the Father sent Jesus to suffer and sacrifice His life for our sins, Jesus obeyed the will of the Father.

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life” (John 3:16). Oh, the wonder that, through believing in Jesus as the incarnate Son of God, we can have eternal life!

From God our heavenly Father  
A blessed angel came;  
And unto certain shepherds  
Brought tiding of the same;  
How that in Bethlehem was born  
The Son of God by name.

TRADITIONAL ENGLISH CAROL

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We may well each one of us, cry out in astonishment, “Lord, I ask no other sign, I want no further proof of Thy love. Now I know that Thou hast loved mankind with an everlasting love, seeing that Thou hast not withheld Thy Son, Thine only begotten Son Jesus, from us!”<sup>1</sup>

JAMES LARGE

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From Heav’n the Son of God descends,  
And takes the form of Man.  
To reconcile His foes as friends  
Was all His gracious plan.

A. W. PICKARD-CAMBRIDGE  
(1873-1952)



*Do you love, honor,  
and trust your heavenly  
Father as Jesus did?  
Do you delight to obey  
the will of the Father?  
How do you respond  
when He sends you  
out to serve Him and  
sacrifice on behalf  
of others?*

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*And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him,  
the Spirit of wisdom and understanding,  
the Spirit of counsel and might,  
the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.*

ISAIAH 11:2

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