

“The Lord Jesus Christ”

Acts 11:1-18 (text v. 17)

This is the beginning of a series of messages on the names and titles of the Lord Jesus Christ. For example: *“Wonderful”... “Counselor”... “The Mighty God”... “The Everlasting Father”... “The Prince of Peace”... “The rose of Sharon”... “The lily of the valleys”... “The Lamb of God”... “The Good Shepherd”... “The Ancient of days”... “The bright and morning star”... “Lion of the tribe of Judah”... “Emmanuel”... “Alpha and Omega”... “The last Adam”... “the Amen”... “King of kings and Lord of lords.”*

In Biblical times, names were significant. They often revealed the nature, character, or position of a person.

It is interesting to hear how people got their names—Why their parents give them the name they did. Some are named after a relative in their family. Some are named after some heroic Bible character or an outstanding character trait. I wish I could tell you that I got my name because of some special attribute my parents hoped would be true in my life. (Allan means “handsome and smart.”) However, I got my name because of a mistake. After I was born, my mother filled out the information for my birth certificate. When she got to the line to write in the baby’s name, she thought it was the line for the baby’s father’s name, so she wrote down my dad’s name. So I have the same name as my Dad, but it was a mistake.

- God instructed Mary and Joseph to name the child ***“Jesus”*** (Mt. 1:21). In a sense Jesus was named after His father (Jehovah)—*“Jesus”* means literally “Jehovah is salvation” / “Jehovah saves.”
- Matthew 8:2 is the first reference of someone calling Him ***“Lord.”***
- Matthew 1:16, He is called ***“Christ.”***

➡ Sometimes He was called *“Jesus Christ,” / “Christ, the Lord,” / “the Lord Jesus,”* or simply *“Lord,”* or *“Christ,”* or just *“Jesus.”*

Acts 11:17 is the first place where all three names are clustered together: ***“The LORD JESUS CHRIST.”*** The combination of all three names together—*“Lord Jesus Christ”*—is found 87 times in the Bible.

Paul, particularly liked using the full name, *“the Lord Jesus Christ.”* Anyone who ever met the Apostle Paul, learned very quickly that Paul was mainly about one thing—*“The Lord Jesus Christ.”*

The full name, *“Lord Jesus Christ,”* typifies an allusion to the Godhead.

1. *“Lord”* = God the father (deity).
2. *“Jesus”* = God the Son (humanity- Heb. 2:9).
3. *“Christ”* = God the Spirit (anointed - 1 Sam. 16:13; Luke 4:18).

In this message I want to study the significance of this three-fold name — *“The Lord Jesus Christ.”*

I. **“LORD” — Signifies His PREDOMINANCE.**

➡ *“Lord”* speaks of Him as **MASTER** (John 13:13-14). Indicates authority.

➡ *“Lord”* identifies **Who He is**—He is GOD... He is LORD... OWNER.

A. The first mention of **“LORD”** in Genesis 2:4. Cf. Colossians 1:16—*“For by him [Jesus] were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth... all things were created by him, and for him.”* John 1:1, 3—*“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God... All things were made by him; and without him was not anything made that was made.”*
Jesus is the Creator and Lord of the O.T.

1. The name **“LORD”** (all capital letters) is *“Jehovah”* in Hebrew. It means the “self-existent One.” When Moses asked the Lord at the burning bush what His name was, God answered, *“I am that I am”* — He is who He is! Whenever you find **“LORD”** in the Bible it was always a reference to God.
2. Sometimes the Bible refers to God as *“Lord”* (small letters). See Daniel 9:9-10. This is “Adoni” in Hebrew (OT) and “kurios” in Greek (NT).

B. Early Christians used the title *“Lord”* referring to the deity of Jesus Christ (John 20:28).

II. **“JESUS” — Signifies His PERSON.** He is the Savior.

➡ Speaks of His **MANHOOD**. He is the God-man.

➡ Used over 900 times in the New Testament.

A. The **PREMINENCE** of the name Jesus. “*Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow...*” (Phil. 2:9-10).

1. No other name compares to the name “Jesus.” No other name is more loved or more hated than the name of Jesus. It is spoken in blessing and used in cursing.

You can match every good name the world has ever known with another name that is equally as good or greater. Plato is equaled by Socrates... Peter is matched by Paul... Luther is matched by Tyndale... Beethoven is matched by Bach... Washington is matched with Lincoln... Spurgeon is matched by Moody. But when you come to the name of “Jesus” it stands alone. It is a name unequalled in its admiration... adoration... and acclaim.

2. What is it about the name Jesus that is so significant, so inspiring. Why is Jesus the name ABOVE every name?
 - a) It is the only name that can bring **salvation** (Acts. 4:12).
 - The name “Jesus” describes His work—“*And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins*” (Mt. 1:21).
 - JESUS SAVES! That is why He came and that is what He does (1 Tim. 1:15). He ALONE saves!
 - One savior—God (Isa. 43:11 cf. Titus 1:3-4; 2:13).
 - b) It is the name to which every knee will **bow** (Phil 2:10).
 - c) It is the name that should govern our **conduct** (Col. 3:17)
 - d) It is the name by which we **pray** (John 14:13).
 - e) It is the name by which we **baptize** (Acts 19:5).

B. The **POWER** of the name Jesus. “*All Hail the Power!*”

- No other name stirs more emotions and evokes more responses... more love... more hatred... more comfort... more

cursing than the name of Jesus. What kind of response does the name of Jesus trigger in you?

Mrs. Lydia Baxter, was a fine Christian lady who was known for her cheerful spirit. However, she was an invalid and often confined to her bed for days at a time. A friend asked her, “How can you be so joyful?”

“I have some very special armor,” she answered.

“Armor? What kind of armor?” her friend asked.

Lydia responded, “I have the name of Jesus, and I use His name as my special protection. When the tempter tries to make me blue or despondent, I just mention the name of Jesus, and he can’t get through to tempt me any more.”

In 1870, when Lydia was 61 years old, she wrote these words of this song while confined to her bed (#324)—

Take the name of Jesus with you, Child of sorrow and of woe;
It will joy and comfort give you, Take it then where’er you go.

Precious name, O how sweet! Hope of earth and joy of heav’n;
Precious name, O how sweet! Hope of earth and joy of heav’n.

Take the name of Jesus ever, As a shield from ev-‘ry snare;
When temptations round you gather, Breathe His holy name in prayer.

III. “**CHRIST**” — **Signifies His POSITION.**

- ➡ Speaks of Him as the **MESSIAH** of Israel, the fulfillment of O.T. prophecies (John 1:41; 4:25-26). The Jews longed for the coming of the Messiah who would deliver them.
- ➡ “*Christ*” literally means “anointed One.” There were three anointed offices in the O.T.
 - A. Prophet—**preaching** the Word (1 Kings 19:16). In the Gospels, Jesus is the Prophet preaching TO the people. He preached of heaven, hell, judgment, love, repentance.
 - B. Priest—**praying** for the people (Ex. 29:7-9)—In the Epistles He is the great High Priest interceding FOR His people. He is our Advocate. Jesus is praying for me (Heb. 7:25).

C. King—**presiding** over the people (1 Kings 19:16)—In Revelation He is coming again as KING reigning OVER His people.

- It is from the name “*Christ*” that the disciples were nicknamed “Christians” (Acts 11:26). Suffix “*ian*”—Belonging to the family of. Do YOU belong to Christ’s family???

SUMMATION: One preacher asked if you could say only four words before you died, what would they be? His answer would be—“Jesus Christ Is Lord.”

Salvation is only in “*THE LORD JESUS CHRIST*” (see Acts 16:31). To be saved you must trust Him as the LORD (God)... JESUS (Savior)... and CHRIST (the One Anointed by the Spirit to save sinners).