

John 20:31 Commentary

[PREVIOUS](#)

[NEXT](#)

John 20:31 but these have been written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name.

Greek - tauta de gegraptoi (3SRPI) hina pisteuete(2SAAS) (or 2SPAS = pisteusete) hoti Iesous estin (3SPAI) ho` Christos ho` huios tous theou kai hina pisteuontes (2PPAP) zoen echte (2PPAS) en to onomati autou
([NASB: Lockman](#))

- **these:** John 20:28 Jn 1:49 Jn 6:69,70 Jn 9:35-38 Ps 2:7,12 Mt 16:16 Mt 27:54 Lu 1:4 Ac 8:37 Acts 9:20 Ro 1:3,4 1Jn 4:15 1Jn 5:1,10,20 2Jn 1:9 Rev 2:18
- **believing:** John 3:15,16,18,36 Jn 5:24,39,40 Jn 6:40 Jn 10:10 Mk 16:16 1Pe 1:9 1Jn 2:23-25 1Jn 5:10-13
- **in His name:** Lu 24:47 Acts 3:16 Acts 10:43 Acts 13:38,39

JOHN'S CLEAR PURPOSE FOR THIS GOSPEL

NIV But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

NAB But these are written that you may (come to) believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through this belief you may have life in his name.

Technical Note - Some manuscripts have the aorist tense for the first **pisteuo** (NAS, ESV, NET, NIV) but other manuscripts have the present tense. The aorist tense would read "that you may come to believe" which would speak of coming to faith for the first time. The present tense could be paraphrased "that you may continue believing" and would suggest it was "primarily addressed to those who already believed and was intended to strengthen their faith" (See detailed note - scroll down to verse 31 and select note 61 - [NET Note](#))

A. T. Robertson calls the Gospel according to John the "most wonderful of all books."

Context: In the preceding verse John wrote "Therefore many other signs Jesus also performed in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book but these have been written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name."

Dear reader, what is the most important question every man ever born needs to ask and answer? The question was the one Jesus addressed to His disciples - "**But Who do you say that I am?**" Peter gave the only correct answer "**You are the Christ (the Messiah), the Son of the Living God.**" (Mt 16:15-16).

Steven Cole explains that "If Jesus is who the Bible portrays Him to be and who He claimed to be-the Christ (Messiah), the Son of the living God then the only sensible response is to trust Him as your Savior from sin and judgment and to follow Him as your Lord. If He is not who the Bible portrays Him to be, then you're wasting your time being a Christian, because you're following a fictional character. "Who do you say that I am?" is *the* crucial question in life!" ([John 20:30-31 1,14 The Nature and Purpose of John's Gospel](#))

Sidlow Baxter comments on the significance of John's Gospel in the context of Jn 20:31 - "The three synoptists simply set forth the facts, and leave them to make their own impression on the reader. Not so John: all is stately selected and directed to the securing of a verdict. He is concerned not only with the facts but with the issues. In this is there supernatural foreplanning again? By the time anyone has gone through Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, the biggest of all decisions must be made. It may have been made before John is reached, but if not it can no longer be side-stepped. The reader is directly challenged, and must choose - to receive and be saved, or to reject and perish forever." (Explore the Book)

W H Griffith Thomas on the Gospel of John - The fourth Gospel, therefore, is not a history, or a theology, or a philosophy, or ethics; it is a gospel, a message of grace for the heart and life of man. ([The Purpose of the Fourth Gospel - Part 1](#))

Merrill Tenney comments that John's words in Jn 20:30-31 can be divided into several distinct components...

A Selective Gospel = Many other signs therefore did Jesus ... which are not written in this book: but these are

written ...

An Attested Gospel = Many other signs therefore did Jesus in the presence of *the disciples* ... (Italics ours)

An Apologetic Gospel = The use of the word apologetic does not mean a Gospel that is making an excuse for what it teaches. It rather connotes a defense of an established position. Plainly John sought to establish conviction: "these are written, that ye may believe."

An Interpretative Gospel = "that Jesus is the Christ" - The Fourth Gospel interprets the life of Jesus of Nazareth in terms of the Messiah predicted in the Old Testament and awaited by the Jewish nation.

A Definitive Gospel = "the Son of God"

An Effective Gospel = "And that ... ye may have life" - The purpose of this Gospel goes far beyond the mere creation of an opinion about its subject. The creation of a personal faith in Christ is the summit of its purpose; but this very faith has a still greater objective, life. (John, the Gospel of Belief - NINCT)

But these - What is "these?" In context John is referring to the **signs** described in Jn 20:30.

W H Griffith-Thomas comments on **these** signs - The particular selection of signs found in this Gospel must also be considered. They are eight in number; seven before and one after the resurrection. They may be said to be at once expressive of our Lord's divine person and symbolic of His redemptive work. The first at a wedding feast (John 2) reveals Christ as heightening life's gladness. The second, in a sorrowing home (John 4), reveals Christ as removing life's sadness. The third, on an impotent man. (John 5) reveals Christ as healing life's sin in one whom sin had led to suffering (John 5:14). The fourth, the feeding of the five thousand (John 6), is a picture of Christ as the Bread of life. The fifth, the stilling of the storm (John 6), is a symbol of Christ as the Peace of life. The sixth, the healing of the blind man (John 9), shows Christ as the Light of life. The seventh, the raising of Lazarus (John 11), reveals Christ as the Lord of life. The eighth, the miraculous draft of fishes (John 21), is a symbol of Christ as the Lord of service. Of these, the first and second were worked in connection with private and personal ministry. The next five were associated with His public work and conflicts with the Jews, while the last one was worked in special connection with the training of the Twelve after the resurrection. ([The Purpose of the Fourth Gospel - Part 1](#))

Barry Horner on the "dual" purpose of the Gospel of John - There are good textual reasons for suggesting that John declares a dual purpose for the writing of his Gospel. There are two *hina*, purpose clauses here in John 20:31, the first of which has the aorist subjunctive of *pisteuo*, "I believe," while the second has the present subjunctive of *echo*, "I have." Further, the structure of John naturally lends itself to such a division as the following basic outline indicates. **1. The evangelistic purpose:** "These things have been written that you may believe [with initial saving faith] that Jesus is the Christ [Messiah]" (Jn 20:31a). This is particularly the emphasis of Jn 1:19-12:50. **The sanctification purpose:** "These things have been written that ... in believing [having ongoing faith following conversion] you may be having life in His name," Jn 20:31b. This is particularly the emphasis of Jn 13:1-17:26.

Have been written - These signs are clearly on record and are said to have a clear purpose (conjunction *hina* = usually introduces a purpose clause) - (1) to lead to personal belief that the Man Jesus is the Christ (the Messiah) and the Son of God and (2) to lead by believing to the possession of eternal life ("life in His Name.")

Have been written ([1125](#))(**grapho**) literally means to inscribe characters on some surface and by so doing making a record for that can be read. **Written** is in the **perfect tense** which signifies written at some point in the past and stands written. In other words the **perfect tense** speaks of the permanence of the inspired Word. Jesus said (cf Mt 24:35). The **passive voice** speaks of the external inspiration of the words John penned (cp 2Pe 1:21-note).

BELIEVING WHAT JOHN RECORDED

Believe ([4100](#))(**pisteuo**) means to consider something to be true and therefore worthy of one's trust. To accept as true, genuine, or real. To have a firm conviction as to the goodness, efficacy, or ability of something or someone. *Pisteuo* in secular use had a basic meaning of an intellectual assent or a belief that something was true. This kind of faith does not require any action on the part of the believer but only an intellectual acceptance. The other secular Greek meaning that is the more common use in the New Testament is the transitive or active use which means to "put faith in" or "rely upon" someone or something.

As noted above, *pisteuo* can refer to an "heart belief" (saving faith, genuine belief that leads to salvation, this believing involves not only the consent of the mind, but an act of the heart and will of the subject) or an intellectual belief (mental assent, "head" knowledge, not associated with bringing salvation if it is by itself), both uses demonstrated by Jesus' statement in John 11:26 = "Everyone who lives and believes (refers to genuine saving faith) in Me shall never die. Do you believe (intellectually) this?"

The respected Greek lexicon author **W E Vine** defines **belief** as consisting of (1) a firm conviction which produces full acknowledgment of God's revelation of Truth - (2Thes 2:11 - "in order that they all may be judged who did not believe [*pisteuo*] the

truth, but took pleasure in wickedness.") (2) a personal surrender to the Truth (Jn 1:12 "But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe [pisteuo] in His name") and (3) a conduct inspired by and consistent with that surrender.

W H Griffith-Thomas on believe - A very prominent part of the purpose of the writer is shown in the element of **believe**. He wrote in order to lead his readers to faith in the historical Jesus as at once Messiah and Son of God, and it is perfectly clear that every section of the Gospel bears on this definite aim of eliciting faith and illustrates it. The word believe (**pisteuo**) occurs in this Gospel no less than ninety-eight times, though it is noteworthy and perhaps significant to see that the substantive faith (**pistis**) is not once found. When it is remembered that the verb **pisteuo** occurs only eleven times in Matthew, fifteen times in Mark, and nine times in Luke, it can at once be seen how prominent the thought is in the fourth Gospel. The keynote is struck as early as John 1:7, 12. In John 1 also we have the record of the first members of the apostolic band who were led to faith, among whom was Nathaniel who at once confessed his belief in Jesus as the Messiah and the Son of God (John 1:49). It is noteworthy that in John 20 we have the record of the last of the apostolic band to come to full faith, though when Thomas did believe he went higher than all the rest in his consciousness and confession of Christ as God (John 20:28). In between these two limits there are many aspects of believing brought before us in the Gospel, starting from **superficial belief** (John 2:23–25) and leading up to **genuine trust** in Christ as Messiah and Savior (e.g., John 4:42; John 6:69). The various expressions connected with the act and attitude of believing are noteworthy: **the act of believing** (John 1:7; John 9:38); **faith in His word** (John 4:21; John 10:38, *emoi*; John 4:50, *to logo*); **faith in the Scripture or written Word** (John 2:22, 46); **belief in facts about Him** (John 13:19; John 14:11, *hoti*); **faith in Him as the goal and object of life** (*pisteuein eis*, John 1:12, and *passim*). This (*pisteuein eis*) is an expression particularly characteristic of John and, in the *constructio pregnans* of a verb of rest with a preposition of motion, it shows the idea of the movement of the whole being toward Christ, the outgoing of the soul toward Him (*eis*) in order to find rest in Him. All this indicates what faith is according to John and what stress he lays on it in relation to Christ. Faith is the only and adequate response of man to our Lord's divine revelation. It is based on testimony (John 1:7); it is elicited by experience (John 1:50); it rests on words spoken (John 10:38) or written (John 2:22); and it involves the wholehearted surrender of the moral being (*eis*). When these statements are successively understood, we come to the knowledge of what is meant by **faith in Christ**. (**Ibid**) (Bolding added)

Milne on believe - It needs to be added, however, that there is a possible alternative reading in the Greek for **believe** in this verse. The reading followed in the NIV reflects an **aorist tense** expressing a decisive act of believing: 'that you may (come to) believe (Greek. *pisteusēte*)'. By this reading John's purpose is **evangelistic**; he writes to produce decisive commitment to Christ. The alternative reading is a present tense (Gk. *pisteuēte*), and would give a meaning like 'these are written so that those who believe may go on believing', i.e. may hold on to their faith and grow in it, a **disciplining** purpose. On balance the textual support for the former appears stronger. Certainly there can be no doubt as to John's intention to confront his readers with the claims of Christ and to challenge them to respond. The proven evangelistic power of this gospel needs no documentation. While acknowledging this to be the primary purpose, however, it is not impossible to affirm a number of secondary aims as well. There can be little doubt that John is conscious of addressing Christians as well as non-Christians through his gospel, and hence of encouraging Christians **to continue and grow in their faith**. The 'upper room' discourses in particular are replete with teaching for the disciple of Christ. It is also likely that John is not unaware of the docetic tendencies in the Greco-Roman culture within which he wrote, so the clear stress which John places on the true humanity of Jesus may well have had that heretical tendency in view. Above all, however, John is an evangelist in the classical sense; he writes to win lost people for Christ. At a time when world evangelization is again on the church's agenda John's presentation of his Master is truly a 'tract for the times'. (**Milne, Bruce - The Message of John - Bible Speaks Today**)

Jesus (2424)(**lesous**) is **transliteration** of the Greek *lesous*, which in turn is the transliteration of the Hebrew name **Jehoshua** (**Yehoshua**) or **Jeshua** (**Yeshua**), which mean *Jehovah is help* or *Jehovah is salvation*. Stated another way the Greek **lesous** corresponds to the OT **Jehoshua** (**Yehoshua**) which is contracted as **Jeshua** (**Yeshua**).

Thomas writes that John emphasizes the historical person known as Jesus noting "it is a simple fact that in not one of the Gospels is the true humanity and historical character of our Lord more clearly set forth. This element of the personal, human life of Jesus Christ is one of the threads running through the Gospel (of John)."

The Christ (Anointed One) (5547)(**Christos** from **chrío** = to rub or anoint, consecrate to an office) means one who has been anointed, symbolizing appointment to a task. The majority of the NT uses refer to Jesus (exceptions = "false Christs" - Mt 24:24, Mk 13:22)

Christos is used 55x in 54v in the Gospels not as Jesus' personal name but as an official designation for the One Whom the Jews were expecting (Mt 2:4, Lk 3:15). Over time as the human Jesus came to be recognized and accepted as the personal **Messiah**, the definite article ("the") was dropped and the designation **Christ** came to be used as a personal name.

The word **Messiah** in John 1:41 and John 4:25 is a different Greek word **messias** but is clearly synonymous with **Christos**. Jesus'

disciple Andrew helps us understand the relationship between **Christos** and **Messiah** (**messias** transliteration of **mashiach/masiah**) declaring to his brother Simon Peter "We have found the **Messiah** (**messias**) (which translated means **Christ** [**Christos**])." (John 1:41) Similarly, the Samaritan woman at the well declared to Jesus "I know that **Messiah** (**messias**) is coming (He who is called **Christ** [**Christos**]); when that One comes, He will declare all things to us." **(See related study on Messiah - Anointed One)**

W H Griffith-Thomas on Christ - We learn from the second name, **Messiah**, the first element of the writer's purpose to prove that the man Jesus was the Jewish Messiah. The idea comes before us as early as the first chapter (John 1:11, 23, 29, 41), and it is found in one form or another throughout the entire Gospel. In John 2 we have the claim involved in the cleansing of the Temple (John 2:19). In John 4 the revelation to the woman of Samaria (John 4:26). And then from John 5 to John 12 we have brought before us the various aspects of the great conflict between our Lord and the Jews in which was involved from first to last His Messiahship (John 5:46; John 6:69; John 7:26, 31, 41; John 8:56; John 9:22; John 11:27). The allusions to the Old Testament in relation to Jesus as the Messiah are frequent and unmistakable (John 2:19; John 3:14; John 6:35). ([Ibid](#))

Thomas on Son of God - To show that Jesus is the **Son of God** is another element of the purpose of the writer. The distinction between this title and that of the **Messiah** seems to be that the former is wider and includes more than is involved in Messiahship. It refers (1) to His special and unique relation to God, and also (2) to those aspects of His redemptive work which have to do with the world at large as distinct from the Jewish nation; or, rather, it is concerned with those features in Him of that special relation to God which is involved in His being the Savior of all men instead of the Messiah of Jews only. Accordingly, we find throughout this Gospel great stress laid upon (1) our Lord's relation to God as Son (John 1:18; John 3:16–18, 35, 36; John 5:18–27; John 6:40; John 8:36; John 9:35; John 10:36), and also (2) His work as on a wider scale than that of the Jewish Messiahship, namely, His relation to the **world** (John 1:9, 29, 34). The term **kosmos** may be said to be one of the characteristic words of the fourth Gospel. It occurs over seventy times and frequently with a moral meaning. The two aspects of Messiahship and Sonship are found combined in John 1:49 and John 4:42. **As Messiah, Jesus unites Christianity with Judaism while as Son of God He transcends Judaism** These two aspects interpret practically every section of the Gospel. ([Ibid](#))

Believing ([4100](#))(**pisteuo**) - see discussion above. This use of **pisteuo** is in the **present tense** which speaks of continuing belief. This use of **pisteuo** describes a belief unto salvation or genuine conversion.

Many saw Jesus' signs and yet were unbelieving (cp Jn 12:37). The fact is that UNBELIEF ignores the evidence -- it was that way in John's day and it is true today! Human hearts have not changed!

Warren Wiersbe on believing - It is not necessary to "**see**" Jesus Christ in order to **believe**. Yes, it was a blessing for the early Christians to see their Lord and know that He was alive; but that is not what saved them. They were saved, not by **seeing**, but by **believing**. (**Ed**: As an aside many still think God's order is see and believe, when in fact it is really believe and see!) The emphasis throughout the Gospel of John is on believing. There are nearly 100 references in this Gospel to believing on Jesus Christ. You and I today cannot see Christ, nor can we **see** Him perform the miracles (signs) that John wrote about in this book. But the record is there, and that is all that we need. "**So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God**" (Ro 10:17-**note**; and note 1John 5:9-13-**note**). As you read John's record, you come face to face with Jesus Christ, how He lived, what He said, and what He did. All of the evidence points to the conclusion that He is indeed God come in the flesh, the Saviour of the world. The signs that John selected and described in this book are proof of the deity of Christ. They are important. But sinners are not saved by believing in miracles; they are saved by believing on Jesus Christ. Many of the Jews in Jerusalem believed on Jesus because of His miracles, but He did not believe in them! (John 2:23–25) Great crowds followed Him because of His miracles (John 6:2); but in the end, most of them left Him for good (John 6:66). Even the religious leaders who plotted His death believed that He did miracles, but this "faith" did not save them (John 11:47-49). **Faith in His miracles should lead to faith in His Word, and to personal faith in Jesus as Saviour and Lord.** Jesus Himself pointed out that faith in His works (miracles) was but the first step toward faith in the Word of God (John 5:36-40). The sinner must "**hear**" the Word if he is to be saved (John 5:24). ([Bible Exposition Commentary](#)) (Bolding added)

Have ([2192](#) - [click for Liddell-Scott & Thayer's definitions](#)) ([echo - Vine's definition](#)) means to have, to hold, to possess, this last sense fitting well with the context of Jn 20:31 = to possess life! In this passage have is in the present tense which describes the believer's possession of life as continual. Positionally we as believers always **have** life, but we may not always walk in the full experience (abundance - Jn 10:10b) of that truth (e.g., unconfessed sin, ignorance of the truth, etc).

Thomas on have - It may seem almost impossible to think of the ordinary verb **have** as at all characteristic of a work like the fourth Gospel. Yet it seems clear that its use is noteworthy and significant. In relation to things **spiritual** as distinct from mere **temporal** usage, it occurs at least thirty-five times, more especially in connection with such expressions as "**having life**," or "**having eternal life**." It was to imply not only **possession**, but **conscious possession, possession with retention**. The idea of **having, knowing, and holding** appear to be included. When thus understood in connection with **life**, it is full of the deepest suggestion and greatest help as indicating a **life** which is at once received, possessed, experienced, enjoyed, and retained. **This is part of the purpose of**

this Gospel, as it certainly is part of essential, vital, personal Christianity. ([Ibid](#))

REAL LIFE IN JESUS' NAME

Life - John is referring not to physical life but spiritual life. If a sinner needs life, the implication is that he is dead in his trespasses and sins (Eph 2:1). Salvation is not resuscitation -- it is a resurrection (Jn 5:24). The lost sinner is not sick or weak -- he is dead, spiritually dead and in need of spiritual life found only in faith in Christ.

G Campbell Morgan on life in His Name - Life, what kind of life? Life that masters sin, that realizes holiness, that is growingly conformed to the image and likeness of God. (Westminster Pulpit)

Life ([2222](#))([zoe](#)) speaks of "life in the sense of one who is possessed of vitality and animation. It is used of the absolute fullness of life, both essential and ethical, which belongs to God. The ethical and spiritual qualities of this life which God is, are communicated to the sinner when the latter places his faith in the Lord Jesus as Saviour, and this becomes the new, animating, energizing, motivating principle which transforms the experience of that individual, and the saint thus lives a Christian life." (Wuest)

Richards adds that "It is used to designate the life which God gives to the believing sinner, a vital, animating, spiritual, ethical dynamic which transforms his inner being and as a result, his behavior." In classical Greek refers to natural life--the principle that enables living things to move and to grow. In the NT, zoe focuses on the theological meaning rather than on the biological. From the perspective of the NT, in every respect life is the counterpart of death. Each book of the NT speaks of zoe. In each, the principle of life lifts our vision beyond our earthly existence to reveal a unique quality of life that spans time and eternity and that has its roots in God."

Zoe - 135x in 127v in NT and in the Gospels is used **by far most often in John = 36x** (note zoe is used twice in each of the following verses Jn 1:4, 3:36, 5:24, 26) -

Mt 7:14; 18:8-9; 19:16-17, 29; 25:46; Mk 9:43, 45; 10:17, 30; Lk 10:25; 12:15; 16:25; 18:18, 30; John 1:4; 3:15-16, 36; 4:14, 36; 5:24, 26, 29, 39-40; 6:27, 33, 35, 40, 47-48, 51, 53-54, 63, 68; 8:12; 10:10, 28; 11:25; 12:25, 50; 14:6; 17:2-3; 20:31;

Eternal life - This phrase occurs 41 times in the NAS with 15 of the uses being in John's Gospel and 6 more uses by John in his epistle, so that over half the NT uses of this phrase are by John (Mt 19:16, 29; 25:46; Mk 10:17, 30; Luke 10:25; 18:18, 30; Jn 3:15-16, 36; 4:14; 5:24, 39; 6:27, 40, 47, 54, 68; 10:28; 12:50; 17:2-3; Acts 13:46, 48; Rom 2:7; 5:21; 6:22f; Gal 6:8; 1Tim 1:16; 6:12; Titus 1:2; 3:7; 1John 1:2; 2:25; 3:15; 5:11, 13, 20; Jude 1:21)

Thomas on life - Another characteristic word of John's Gospel is **life**. It expresses the ultimate element of his purpose in writing. As the result of believing, the readers of this Gospel are intended to have life. The word (zoe) always refers in this Gospel to the principle of spiritual life as distinct from the earthly manifestation or principle of natural life (bios). This latter word is not found in the fourth Gospel and only twice in all of John's writings (1John 2:16; 1John 3:16), where the meaning is quite clear. The word zoe occurs thirty-six times in the Gospel of John as compared with seven in Matthew, four in Mark, and six in Luke. This again shows the prominence given to it and the important place it occupies in the teaching of this Gospel. The idea is found as early as John 1:4, and then almost chapter by chapter various aspects of the life are seen and various relationships to it are borne by our Lord. **The meaning of this life is perhaps best given in the words of our Lord's prayer: "This is life eternal, to know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent" (John 17:3). It consists, therefore, not in any mere existence whether here or hereafter. Its essence lies in the experience of fellowship with God. Quality, not duration, is the predominant thought of life in this Gospel.** ([Ibid](#))

John Piper on this new life in Christ - "In John 10:10 Jesus said that the reason He came into the world was that His sheep might have overflowing life: "I came that they might have life and have it abundantly." This word (**perissos**) speaks of excess, overflow, surplus. The idea is that Jesus gives life that is more than ordinary life. The life of a Christian is life upon life. Excess life. Life added to life." (**Ed comment:** "I came in order that they [believers] might continuously [**present tense**] have life, even that they may continuously [**present tense**] have it all-around [one of the meanings of **perissos**].")

Rob Morgan tells the story of one who found life in His Name - **C S Lewis** - John's Gospel is the book of life, and Jesus is the God of Life and the Giver of Life to all who place their trust in Him. Let me close by telling you of a man who did that—the author of the Chronicles of Narnia and the man who wrote The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe. C. S. Lewis was born in 1898 into a bookish family of Protestants in Belfast, Ireland. He grew up reading and imagining. His mother died from cancer when he was nine, and it turned him away from God. He felt that God had not answered his prayers for her recovery, and that, coupled with some bad experiences in boarding school, convinced the boy that God did not exist. By the time C. S. Lewis entered Oxford in 1917, he was an avowed atheist. After he graduated from Oxford, he began teaching there, becoming a renowned expert on medieval English literature. He possessed a brilliant mind, and he read deeply and widely. One of his books, English Literature in the Sixteenth

Century Excluding Drama, took him eighteen years to write because to write it he read every single book translated into English during that century. But as C. S. Lewis read, he came across some Christian authors such as George MacDonald and G. K. Chesterton, and he began to have agonizing doubts about his own atheism. There were also several other brilliant professors at Oxford who challenged Lewis's atheism, and finally C. S. Lewis could not intellectually resist or refute the logic of theism (a belief in God). His journey to Christ took several years, as he moved from Atheism to Theism to Christianity and on to Christ. He once called himself the "most reluctant convert in all of England." Interestingly, J. R. R. Tolkien, author of the Hobbit and the Lord of the Rings, played a decisive role in Lewis's decision to receive Christ. On a fall evening in 1931, Lewis had dinner with Tolkien. They walked through a nearby park and talked until the wee hours of the morning, and the conversation took an interesting turn. Both men, of course, were deeply fascinated by the literature of fantasy and mythology. Tolkien suggested that the beauty of Christianity is that it is a myth that happens to be true. The universal story that is somehow in the heart of every individual, the universal hunger, the universal need that is played out in myth is in truth and actually acted out with full veracity in Christ. In Jesus Christ, God really did walk across this earth, die, and rise again. A few days later, as C. S. Lewis pondered the conversation, he got into the sidecar of a friend's motorcycle for a trip to the zoo. He later wrote, "When we set out I did not believe that Jesus is the Son of God, and when we reached the zoo I did." Almost immediately Lewis began writing books that reflected his new-found faith. His autobiographical account of his conversion is a wonderful book entitled **Surprised by Joy**. When I graduated from Columbia Bible College, Ruth Bell Graham sent me a hardbound edition of **The Screwtape Letters**, and she told me that reading C. S. Lewis always helps her "think straight," as she put it. And it was by reading C. S. Lewis' classic book, **Mere Christianity**, that the Watergate villain and Nixon hatchet man, Charles Colson, was converted in prison. By the time he died in 1963, C. S. Lewis was one of the most influential spokesmen for Christianity in the English-speaking world. Here's what C. S. Lewis wrote about Jesus Christ in his book on miracles:

The historical difficulty of giving for the life, saying and influence of Jesus any explanation that is not harder than the Christian explanation is very great. The discrepancy between the depth and sanity of His moral teaching and the rampant megalomania which must lie behind His theological teaching unless He is indeed God has never been satisfactorily explained. Hence the non-Christian hypotheses succeed one another with the restless fertility of bewilderment." What Lewis was saying is this. Those opposed to Christianity have a real problem when it comes to explaining the person of Christ and His teachings. He made remarkable and extravagant claims for Himself. He claimed to be life itself. He claimed to be light. He claimed to be the water and the bread of life that quenches the hunger and the thirst of every human being. He claimed to be truth itself. He claimed to be the resurrection and the life. He claimed to be God. If He is not who He claimed to be, He was a megalomaniac madman. And if He was a megalomaniac madman, how is it possible that He spoke such beautiful, life-changing, ethically pure, and eternally hopeful words that have so changed human history and that have so changed so many individual lives. No one has ever offered a satisfactory answer to that quandary.

Lewis said something similar, but in simpler terms, in **Mere Christianity**.

I am trying here to prevent anyone from saying the really foolish thing that people often say about Him [Jesus Christ]: "I'm ready to accept Jesus as a great moral te

acher, but I don't accept his claim to be God." That is the one thing we must not say. A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. He would either be a lunatic -- on a level with a man who says he is a poached egg -- or else he would be the Devil of Hell. You must make your choice. Either this man was, and is, the Son of God, or else a madman or something worse ... You can shut him up for fool, you can spit at him and kill him as a demon; or you can fall at his feet and call him Lord and God. But let us not come up with any patronizing nonsense about his being a great human teacher. He has not left that option open to us. He did not intend to.

THE NAME ABOVE ALL NAMES

W H Griffith-Thomas adds his thoughts on **Name** - The sphere in which life becomes ours and is enjoyed by us is found in the words in **His Name**. The word **name** is characteristic of John, and the two prepositions (eis and en) in connection with it are also among the features of this Gospel. The name stands in Holy Scripture for the nature or revealed character of God, and not as a mere label or title. It is found very frequently in the Old Testament as synonymous with God Himself in relation to man; for example: "The name of the Lord is a strong tower" (Prov. 18:10). "In the name of the Lord will I destroy them" (Ps. 118:10); and: "Shall the enemy blaspheme thy name?" (Ps. 74:10). In the New Testament the same usage is perfectly clear. For example: "In the name of Jesus" (Phil. 2:10), "Baptizing them into the name" (Matt. 28:19). In the fourth Gospel we have "Into the name" (eis) as the object of faith (John 1:12; John 2:23; John 3:18). Then we have "In the name of the Father" (John 5:43; John 10:25), referring to the divine authority and power with which our Lord came. The same phrase occurs no less than nine times in John 14 through John 17. Then

our Lord is said to have manifested and made known His Father's name to the disciples (John 17:6, 26). These passages clearly show the importance and significance of the name as standing for the revealed character and will of God in Christ. Thus, to have life in His name is to have it in union with what we know of Him and of His manifested character and revealed will. Life is thus "in Christ" and not outside or apart from Him. ([Ibid](#))

Name - What's in a Name? Well, if it's the Name Jesus, then the answer is **"Everything is in that Name!"** His Name **Jesus (Iesous)** means "Jehovah saves" which is what sinners need! His Name used frequently in John is also **I Am,**" (cf Jn 8:58, 8:24, 8:28, 13:13, Jn 18:5, 6, 8) signifying He is eternally self-existent and is the source of eternal life for spiritually dead sinners. It is as if Jesus says *"I Am everything you will ever need for time and eternity!"* In short, in just these two Names of Jesus, we find everything a sinner needs for eternal and abundant life! And remember that **eternal life** is not simply endless time, for even the lost will experience this fate. Eternal life is better thought of not as a quantity of life but as a quality of life. Wiersbe says "Eternal life means the very life of God experienced today... it is the spiritual experience of "heaven on earth" today." When we are saved the Lord of Heaven comes to live within our very being so that we immediately begin to experience this new quality of life referred to as eternal life. We don't have to wait to die to possess it beloved! Now that's Good News. That's the Gospel truth! Amen

Name ([3686](#) -Strong's number includes L-S and Thayer's definitions) ([onoma](#)) means that by which something or someone is called or known. Thus a name constitutes the distinctive designation of a person or thing. However in antiquity the **name** meant more than it does today. We use a **name** as little more than a distinguishing mark or label to differentiate one person from another. But in the ancient world the **name** signified not only the person's identity but the inherent character of the person designated by the name. Stated another way, in ancient times, one's whole character (title, reputation, person) was implied in the **name**. For example, in John 1:12 to "believe in His **Name**" (cf Jn 3:18, 20:31, 1Jn 3:23) is to believe (with a belief that results in a new, "circumcised" heart) in all Jesus is and all He has accomplished to effect our eternal redemption (Heb 9:12).

Baker Encyclopedia of the Bible - "Name" in biblical usage correctly describes the person, place, or object and indicates the essential character of that to which the name is given. Adam names the animals according to their nature (Gen 2:19, 20); "Noah" means "one who brings relief and comfort" (Gen 5:29); "Jesus" means "savior" (Mt 1:21).

Hayford's note on **onoma** - Compare "anonymous," "synonym," "onomancy," "onomatology." In general, the word signifies the name or term by which a person or thing is called (Matt. 10:2; Mark 3:16; Luke 1:63). However, it was quite common both in Hebrew and Hellenistic Greek to use onoma for all that the name implies, such as rank or authority (Matt. 7:22; John 14:13; Acts 3:6; 4:7), character (Luke 1:49; 11:2; Acts 26:9), reputation (Mark 6:14; Luke 6:22), representative (Matt. 7:22; Mark 9:37). Occasionally, onoma is synonymous for an individual, a person (Acts 1:15; Rev. 3:4; 11:13).

God's Names are in a very real sense God in His self revelation. This is especially true in the Old Testament where we repeatedly and progressively see God revealing His character through a new Biblical Name - **See table summarizing some God's names** - Name of the LORD is a Strong Tower and discussion of the Name of the LORD is a Strong Tower: Why Should You Study It?

An interesting aspect of Names especially in the Old Testament is the **change** of a person's name to reflect a change in their relationship with God. We see this especially with Abram who was renamed (by God) Abraham and Sarai who was renamed Sarah. **See The Oneness of Covenant - Exchange of Names and Sharing Names or Change of Names.**

Onoma is a root of our word **metonymy** (mesa + onoma = a change of name) which is a word used in place of another word to portray some actual relationship between the things signified. For example in Ex 12:21KJV the passage literally says "kill the Passover" (NAS adds lamb, but more accurately Passover is a metonymy for the paschal lamb).

As **Detzler** says " In Hebrew thinking a **name** is identified with character, and the **name** of God is the repository of God's power."

In Mark 3:17 Jesus "gave the **name** Boanerges, which means, "Sons of Thunder"." Their **name** depicted their character (specifically James and John, the later who when "tamed" by the Gospel became the disciple who Jesus loved! [Jn 19:26, 20:2, 21:7, 21:20]

THOUGHT - Who do you think is too distant from the radically transformative power of the Gospel of Jesus Christ? Think again! He can turn a personality from thunder to a gentle shower so to speak!

Onoma is used over 1000x in the Septuagint. In Daniel 9 there is an interesting use. In this chapter Daniel is confessing the sins of the nation (Da 9:4-14) recalling that God made "a Name (Lxx = onoma)" for Himself in delivering Israel from Egypt (Da 9:15). And then in Da 9:18, because of the fact that God's Name is on the city (Jerusalem), Daniel asks God to take action because of His Name - "For Thine own sake, O my God, do not delay, because Thy city and Thy people are called by Thy **Name**." (Da 9:19) And so we see the fundamental basis of Daniel's appeal for God to intervene on behalf of His people is the Name of God. We see parallel passages in Isaiah 48:9-11 and Ezekiel 36:20-32 (See especially Ezek 36:20-23-**note**), where the Name of God (His reputation, honor, glory) is the ultimate grounds for Jehovah's action of sparing a remnant of Israel. These uses emphasize that God Himself considers His Name as equivalent to all that He is. Little wonder that Exodus 20:7 states "You shall not take the **name** (Lxx = onoma)

of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not leave him unpunished who takes His **name** (Lxx = *onoma*) in vain." Warren Wiersbe has these insightful comments on God's Name and the book of Ezekiel - "If the Book of Ezekiel teaches us anything, it teaches us that we must honor God's **NAME** and magnify His glory. The glory of God departed from Israel because they defiled the temple. The glory of God returned to the new temple because it was holy and a place where God could dwell (**Ed**: See related resource: **Jehovah Shammah -The LORD is There**). "*They shall know that I am the Lord*" (Lxx = *ego eimi kurios*) is a statement found at least sixty times in Ezekiel's book. While God's glory doesn't dwell in our church buildings, God can be glorified or disgraced by what we do in those buildings we have dedicated to Him. As His people, we must be reverent and honor His **NAME**."

Onoma - (1) **Onoma** is used for proper names of persons and places. (2) In Revelation 3:1 **onoma** conveys the sense of "*reputation*". (3) **Onoma** also occurs in the sense of title, as in Mt 10:41 (the literal in the name of a prophet means "because he is a prophet" or "because he has the title prophet"). In Hebrews 1:4 **onoma** refers to "Son" as the name or title that is more excellent than the angels', and in Philippians 2:9 the "Name that is above every name" is the title "Lord" (*kurios*), as explained in verse Php 2:11 (But see Moule's comment below on this passage). (4) The phrase "**in Jesus' name**" is not a mystical formula attached to the end of a prayer. It's an expression of faith that identifies the Person whom believers serve (Acts 2:38).

In Acts 1:15 **name** refers to **person** which is a use found in the Greek Papyri of that period as well as in the Septuagint. In 1Cor 5:4 the phrase "**in the name of our Lord Jesus**" means in the **authority** of (Paul was speaking to the church at Corinth as Christ's apostle with His authority).

In Rev 13:1 "blasphemous names" is an indication of the (godless, ungodly) character, emphasizing that *onoma* in many contexts signifies character. (cp Nabal = fool - 1Sa 25:25; Babel = confusion)

In some contexts, to give a name in the OT was to signify lordship over (Adam naming the animals - Ge 2:19ff)

It is probably no coincidence that in the NT, the first use of **onoma** is also the greatest use, for there we see the **Name Jesus** which means "Jehovah saves" (Mt 1:21) and it is closely followed by the name "**Immanuel**" which means God with us (Mt 1:23). Acts 3:16 says "on the basis of faith in His **Name**, it is the **name** of Jesus which has strengthened this man." It is still on the basis of faith in His **Name** that healing of a sin sick soul occurs (and no other Name - Acts 4:12!) The Father's **Name** is to be treated as set apart, holy, consecrated (Mt 6:9). The 3 uses of *onoma* in Mt 7:22 clearly show the human tragedy that one can intellectually know Jesus' Name, but still not know Him in their heart!

For other Biblical Names for Jesus which give a powerful picture of His personality and personal care for us His creation take some time to study, ponder, meditate, worship and praise the [Names, Titles and Characters of Jesus Christ](#). You won't be disappointed! Anyone who has ever sat at the feet of Jesus and beheld His beauty has never been disappointed! (cp Lk 10:39-42)

Vine on Name - is used

(I) in general of the "name" by which a person or thing is called e.g., Mark 3:16,17 , "(He) surnamed," lit., "(He added) the name;" Mark 14:32 , lit., "(of which) the name (was);" Luke 1:63; John 18:10; sometimes translated "named," e.g., Luke 1:5 , "named (Zacharias)," lit., "by name;" in the same verse, "named (Elizabeth)," lit., "the name of her," an elliptical phrase, with "was" understood; Acts 8:9 , RV, "by name," Acts 10:1; the "name" is put for the reality in Revelation 3:1; in Philippians 2:9 , the "Name" represents "the title and dignity" of the Lord, as in Ephesians 1:21; Hebrews 1:4;

(II) for all that a "name" implies, of authority, character, rank, majesty, power, excellence, etc., of everything that the "name" covers:

(a) of the "Name" of God as expressing His attributes, etc., e.g., Matthew 6:9; Luke 1:49; John 12:28; 17:6,26; Ro 15:9; 1Ti 6:1; Heb 13:15; Rev 13:6;

(b) of the "Name" of Christ, e.g., Mt 10:22; 19:29; Jn 1:12; 2:23; 3:18; Acts 26:9; Ro 1:5; James 2:7; 1 John 3:23; 3 John 1:7; Revelation 2:13; 3:8; also the phrases rendered "in the name;" these may be analyzed as follows:

(1) representing the authority of Christ, e.g., Matthew 18:5 (with *epi*, "on the ground of My authority"); so Matthew 24:5 (falsely) and parallel passages; as substantiated by the Father, John 14:26; 16:23 (last clause), RV;

(2) in the power of (with *en*, "in"), e.g., Mark 16:17; Luke 10:17; Acts 3:6; 4:10; 16:18; James 5:14;

(3) in acknowledgement or confession of, e.g., Acts 4:12; 8:16; 9:27,28;

(4) in recognition of the authority of (sometimes combined with the thought of relying or resting on),

Matthew 18:20; cp. 28:19; Acts 8:16; 9:2 ([eis](#), "into"); John 14:13; 15:16; Ephesians 5:20; Colossians 3:17;

(5) owing to the fact that one is called by Christ's "Name" or is identified with Him, e.g. 1 Peter 4:14 (with en, "in"); with heneken, "for the sake of," e.g., Matthew 19:29; with dia, "on account of," Matthew 10:22; 24:9; Mark 13:13; Luke 21:17; John 15:21; 1 John 2:12; Revelation 2:3 (for 1 Peter 4:16, see Note below);

(III) as standing, by metonymy, for "persons," Acts 1:15; Revelation 3:4; 11:13 (RV, "persons"). [Vine's Expository Dictionary - NT](#)

NIDNTT ([see online page 648](#) for 9 page article on **NAME**) - Of primary significance is the name of Yahweh, which He Himself made known in his revelation (Ge 17:1; Ex 3:14; 6:2). **One of the most fundamental and essential features of the biblical revelation is the fact that God is not without a name: he has a personal name, by which he can, and is to be, invoked.** When appeal is made to Yahweh, He comes near and makes his promise true: "in every place where I cause my name to be remembered I will come to you and bless you" (Exod. 20:24; cf. Num. 6:24ff.; → Remember). Priests and Levites, and even the king, → bless in the name of Yahweh (Num. 6:27; Deut. 10:8; 2 Sam. 6:18). The name of Yahweh, indeed, is such a powerful expression of his personal rule and activity that it can be used as an alternative way of speaking of Yahweh himself (Lev. 18:21; Ps. 7:17; Amos 2:7; Micah 5:4). It is the side of Yahweh which is turned towards men, in which Yahweh reveals himself. His historical dealings with men in the past (Exod. 3:6, 13, 15), present (Exod. 20:7) and future (Ezek. 25:17; 34:30 et al.) are inextricably bound up with his name. Misuse of this name in → magic or in false oaths (for oaths were accompanied by mention of Yahweh's name; → Swear) is forbidden (Exod. 20:7), for the name of Yahweh is a gift of the revelation which is not at man's disposal (Gen. 17:1; Exod. 3:14; 6:2). The name of Yahweh is committed in trust to Israel: the heathen do not know it (Ps. 79:6). Israel has the task of hallowing it. This takes place in the cult, at sacrifice, in prayer, in blessing and cursing, and also in the holy → war (Ps. 29:8), in other words, in serving Yahweh, and him alone, and in obeying his commands. To take part in the cult-worship of another god therefore involves profanation of the name of Yahweh (Lev. 18:21). The invocation of his name over → Jerusalem (Jer. 25:29), over the → temple (Jer. 7:10) and over the ark (2 Sam. 6:2), consecrating them and associating them with him, is the sole basis of that sanctity

Wayne Detzler on Name - MEANING - The word "name" is a translation of the Greek word **onoma**. This word is most commonly identified by its root *nom*, which is seen in the Latin word *nomen* and the English and German word "name." It is also reflected in such a combination word as "pseudonym" (a false name) or "homonym" (a word or name which sounds the same), or "synonym" (a word which means the same). In ancient Greek culture, which was ruled by irrational demons, there were many animistic superstitions concerning names. For instance, some believed that to know a person's name was to hold some superstitious power over him. Later on Greeks came to believe that the higher a god stood in the pantheon, the more names he had. Finally the Stoics combined all the gods into one, Zeus. Thus the name of the true God became identified with the power of that deity. In the Septuagint Greek Old Testament the word **onoma** appears no fewer than 1,000 times. In Hebrew thinking a name is identified with character, and the name of God is the repository of God's power. In the times of the patriarchs human names were still full of meaning. But by the dawn of New Testament times, names were much less indicative of character. **BIBLE USAGE** - In the New Testament the word **onoma** and its verb form, **onomazo** (to name someone), appear 228 times. The most significant use of "name" is in relation to God or Jesus. In fact, when Jesus declared that discipleship was to be His disciples' main ministry, He commanded them to baptize in the **name** (singular) of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit (Matt. 28:19). This is the clearest New Testament reference to the Trinity. The **name** of God the Father seems to embody all that He is. His **glory** is identified with His name (John 12:23-28). His **love** is vested in the name (Jn 17:26). The perseverance of the saints is related to His **name** (Jn 17:12). **Prayer** is performed in His name (Mt 6:9). The **name** of God is able to impute life to the spiritually dead (1Jn 5:13, cp Jn 20:31). The focus of the proclamation of Christ was the **name** of God, His Father (John 17:26). Just as the name of God is significant, so are the **names of Christ**. Before His birth Christ was the divine Logos, the Word of God (John 1:1-3). At His birth He was given the name of Jesus, to signify that He is the Saviour (Mt. 1:21). Because He is the God-Man, God come in the flesh, He is also called Emmanuel, "God with us" (Mt 1:23). He was called God's "beloved Son" at His baptism in the Jordan (Mt 3:17). He continually acted on behalf of His Father and in His Father's name (John 10:25). After His suffering He was exalted to heaven, where His triumph was trumpeted with a new name (Phil. 2:9-11). **The Holy Spirit is poured out** on Christians in the name of Jesus (John 14:26). **Salvation** is seen as belief in the name of Jesus Christ (Jn 1:12; 2:23; 1 John 3:23). In the name of Jesus, and because of Him, Christians claim **innumerable blessings**. **Salvation** is mediated through His name (John 20:31; Acts 4:12). When Christians do good deeds, they should do them **for the glory of the name of Jesus Christ** (Col. 3:17, 23). Christians also **pray in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ** (John 16:24)... The sole subject of Christian proclamation is embraced in the name of Jesus Christ. This is our confession before a doubting world (Acts 8:12). Paul was commissioned at his conversion to bear that name (Acts 9:15). Missionaries go out to declare the name of Christ (3Jn 1:7). The disciples summarized their message by referring to the name of Christ (Acts 4:17; 5:28, 40). On the basis of Christ's name Paul pleaded with the Corinthians to believe biblically (1 Cor. 1:10). **ILLUSTRATIONS** - When compared with all other names, the name of Jesus is the most sublime of all. The Bible attributes more than 100 names to Christ, among which are these: Advocate (1 John 2:1), Alpha and Omega (Rev. 1:8), Author and Perfector of our Faith (Heb. 12:2),

Cornerstone (Ps. 118:22), Chief Shepherd (1 Peter 5:4), Sunrise (Luke 1:78), Firstborn (Rev. 1:5), Head of the church (Eph. 1:22), I Am (John 8:58), King of kings (1 Tim. 6:15), Lamb of God (John 1:29), Light of the world (8:12), Lord of Glory (1 Cor. 2:8), Mediator (1 Tim. 2:5), Morning Star (Rev. 22:16), Nazarene (Matt. 2:23), Passover (1 Cor. 5:7), Rock (1Cor 10:4), Saviour (Luke 2:11), Truth (John 14:6), Word (Jn 1:1). Few themes are so often sung as the name of Jesus. Several years ago my wife and I translated a German hymn titled, "The Wondrous Name of Jesus." Here is the first stanza:

*O hear the matchless, wondrous name of Jesus,
Sent from heaven down to earth.
It is the only hope of saint and sinner
Ever since Creation's birth.*

Many eloquent hymn-writers have also added their praise to the name of Jesus. In the 19th century Caroline Noel (1817-77) wrote the famous hymn which commences:

*At the name of Jesus every knee shall bow,
Every tongue confess Him, King of glory now;
'Tis the Father's pleasure we should call Him Lord,
Who from the beginning was the mighty Word.*

During the past few years many choruses have also been written that exalt the name of Jesus Christ. One of these is "His Name Is Wonderful." It contains the names Great Shepherd, Rock of all Ages, Almighty God, and King. The aim of this chorus is that its singers may bow down in adoration before the Lord. (BORROW [New Testament words in today's language](#) PAGE 288)

Rob Morgan on Name - Onomastics is the study of names, and I was somewhat surprised to learn there is a vast body of literature on this subject. There's even an organization called the American Name Society that was founded in 1951 to promote the study of onomastics. From that society and from many other sources we learn that the purpose of a personal name like Robert or John or whatever your name is or mine, has one primary purpose: It is to distinguish us from other people, to give us our own identity.

Onoma - 230x in 214v (especially in writings of Luke - 34x = Gospel and 60x = Acts and Revelation = 38x) -**NAS Usage:** called (1), name (175), name's (7), named (34), names (8), people (1), people* (1), persons (1).

Matthew 1:21 "She will bear a Son; and you shall call His **name** Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins."

23 "BEHOLD, THE VIRGIN SHALL BE WITH CHILD AND SHALL BEAR A SON, AND THEY SHALL CALL HIS **NAME** IMMANUEL," which translated means, "GOD WITH US."

25 but kept her a virgin until she gave birth to a Son; and he called His **name** Jesus.

Matthew 6:9 "Pray, then, in this way: 'Our Father who is in heaven, Hallowed be Your **name**.'

John Piper on hallowed be Thy Name - It is a plea that God would do something about his **NAME**. It is a plea that God would cause it to be hallowed in our hearts and in the hearts of all people. And what does hallowed mean? It means literally sanctified. But what does that mean when it refers to the infinitely holy **NAME** of God? It means that we are praying that his **NAME** be set apart in people's hearts and minds and lives as the infinitely great and beautiful and valuable reality that it is. That God Would Display the Greatness of God. The first and overarching thing that we are told by Jesus to ask God to do is that God would exercise his jealousy for His **NAME**. That God would display the greatness of God.

Matthew 7:22 "Many will say to Me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your **name**, and in Your **name** cast out demons, and in Your **name** perform many miracles?'

Matthew 10:2 Now the **names** of the twelve apostles are these: The first, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother; and James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother;

22 "You will be hated by all because of My **name**, but it is the one who has endured to the end who will be saved.

Matthew 10:41 "He who receives a prophet in the **name** of a prophet shall receive a prophet's reward; and he who receives a righteous man in the name of a righteous man shall receive a righteous man's reward.

Comment: A. B. Bruce says that [eis onoma](#) means "having regard to the fact that he is a prophet or righteous man" (EGT 1:168 - hence "because he is" (NIV).

Matthew 10:42 "And whoever in the name of a disciple gives to one of these little ones even a cup of cold

water to drink, truly I say to you, he shall not lose his reward."

Matthew 12:21 "AND IN HIS NAME THE GENTILES WILL HOPE."

Matthew 18:5 "And whoever receives one such child in My name receives Me;

20 "For where two or three have gathered together in My name, I am there in their midst."

Matthew 19:29 "And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or farms for My name's sake, will receive many times as much, and will inherit eternal life.

Matthew 21:9 The crowds going ahead of Him, and those who followed, were shouting, "Hosanna to the Son of David; BLESSED IS HE WHO COMES IN THE NAME OF THE LORD; Hosanna in the highest!"

Matthew 23:39 "For I say to you, from now on you will not see Me until you say, 'BLESSED IS HE WHO COMES IN THE NAME OF THE LORD!'"

Matthew 24:5 "For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and will mislead many.

9 "Then they will deliver you to tribulation, and will kill you, and you will be hated by all nations because of My name.

Matthew 27:32 As they were coming out, they found a man of Cyrene named Simon, whom they pressed into service to bear His cross.

Matthew 28:19 "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit,

Mark 3:16 And He appointed the twelve: Simon (to whom He gave the name Peter),

17 and James, the son of Zebedee, and John the brother of James (to them He gave the name Boanerges, which means, "Sons of Thunder ");

Mark 5:9 And He was asking him, "What is your name?" And he said to Him, "My name is Legion; for we are many."

22 One of the synagogue officials named Jairus came up, and on seeing Him, fell at His feet

Mark 6:14 And King Herod heard of it, for His name had become well known; and people were saying, "John the Baptist has risen from the dead, and that is why these miraculous powers are at work in Him."

Mark 9:37 "Whoever receives one child like this in My name receives Me; and whoever receives Me does not receive Me, but Him who sent Me."

38 John said to Him, "Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in Your name, and we tried to prevent him because he was not following us."

39 But Jesus said, "Do not hinder him, for there is no one who will perform a miracle in My name, and be able soon afterward to speak evil of Me.

41 "For whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because of your name as followers of Christ, truly I say to you, he will not lose his reward.

Mark 11:9 Those who went in front and those who followed were shouting: "Hosanna! BLESSED IS HE WHO COMES IN THE NAME OF THE LORD;

Mark 13:6 "Many will come in My name, saying, 'I am He!' and will mislead many.

13 "You will be hated by all because of My name, but the one who endures to the end, he will be saved.

Mark 14:32 They came to a place named Gethsemane; and He said to His disciples, "Sit here until I have prayed."

Mark 16:17 "These signs will accompany those who have believed: in My name they will cast out demons, they will speak with new tongues;

Luke 1:5 In the days of Herod, king of Judea, there was a priest named Zacharias, of the division of Abijah; and he had a wife from the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth.

13 But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zacharias, for your petition has been heard, and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you will give him the name John.

26 Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city in Galilee called Nazareth,

27 to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the descendants of David; and the virgin's name was Mary.

31 "And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name Him Jesus.

49 "For the Mighty One has done great things for me; And holy is His name.

59 And it happened that on the eighth day they came to circumcise the child, and they were going to call him Zacharias, after his father.

61 And they said to her, "There is no one among your relatives who is called by that name."

63 And he asked for a tablet and wrote as follows, "His name is John." And they were all astonished.

Luke 2:21 And when eight days had passed, before His circumcision, His name was then called Jesus, the name given by the angel before He was conceived in the womb.

25 And there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; and this man was righteous and devout, looking for the consolation of Israel; and the Holy Spirit was upon him.

Luke 5:27 After that He went out and noticed a tax collector named Levi sitting in the tax booth, and He said to him, "Follow Me."

Luke 6:22 "Blessed are you when men hate you, and ostracize you, and insult you, and scorn your **name** as evil, for the sake of the Son of Man.

Comment - To attack a person's name is to attack the person and in this context speaks of total rejection. The paradox is that their name is attacked because they have taken a stance for the Name (Jesus - see Luke 21:12).

Luke 8:30 And Jesus asked him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Legion"; for many demons had entered him.

41 And there came a man named Jairus, and he was an official of the synagogue; and he fell at Jesus' feet, and began to implore Him to come to his house;

Luke 9:48 and said to them, "Whoever receives this child in My name receives Me, and whoever receives Me receives Him who sent Me; for the one who is least among all of you, this is the one who is great."

49 John answered and said, "Master, we saw someone casting out demons in Your name; and we tried to prevent him because he does not follow along with us."

Luke 10:17 The seventy returned with joy, saying, "Lord, even the demons are subject to us in Your name."

20 "Nevertheless do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice that your names are recorded in heaven."

38 Now as they were traveling along, He entered a village; and a woman named Martha welcomed Him into her home.

Luke 11:2 And He said to them, "When you pray, say: 'Father, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come.

Luke 13:35 "Behold, your house is left to you desolate; and I say to you, you will not see Me until the time comes when you say, 'BLESSED IS HE WHO COMES IN THE NAME OF THE LORD!'"

Luke 16:20 "And a poor man named Lazarus was laid at his gate, covered with sores,

Luke 19:2 And there was a man called by the **name** of Zaccheus; he was a chief tax collector and he was rich.

38 shouting: "BLESSED IS THE KING WHO COMES IN THE **NAME** OF THE LORD; Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!"

Luke 21:8 And He said, "See to it that you are not misled; for many will come in My **name**, saying, 'I am He,' and, 'The time is near.' Do not go after them.

12 "But before all these things, they will lay their hands on you and will persecute you, delivering you to the synagogues and prisons, bringing you before kings and governors for My **name's** sake.

17 and you will be hated by all because of My name.

Luke 23:50 And a man named Joseph, who was a member of the Council, a good and righteous man

Luke 24:13 And behold, two of them were going that very day to a village named Emmaus, which was about seven miles from Jerusalem.

18 One of them, named Cleopas, answered and said to Him, "Are You the only one visiting Jerusalem and unaware of the things which have happened here in these days?"

47 and that repentance for forgiveness of sins would be proclaimed in His name to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem.

John 1:6 There came a man sent from God, whose name was John.

12 But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name,

John 2:23 Now when He was in Jerusalem at the Passover, during the feast, many believed in His name, observing His signs which He was doing.

John 3:1 Now there was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews;

18 "He who believes in Him is not judged; he who does not believe has been judged already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

John 5:43 "I have come in My Father's name, and you do not receive Me; if another comes in his own name, you will receive him.

John 10:3 "To him the doorkeeper opens, and the sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out.

25 Jesus answered them, "I told you, and you do not believe; the works that I do in My Father's name, these testify of Me.

John 12:13 took the branches of the palm trees and went out to meet Him, and began to shout, "Hosanna! BLESSED IS HE WHO COMES IN THE NAME OF THE LORD, even the King of Israel."

28 "Father, glorify Your name." Then a voice came out of heaven: "I have both glorified it, and will glorify it again."

John 14:13 "Whatever you ask in My name, that will I do, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son.

14 "If you ask Me anything in My name, I will do it.

26 "But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you.

John 15:16 "You did not choose Me but I chose you, and appointed you that you would go and bear fruit, and that your fruit would remain, so that whatever you ask of the Father in My name He may give to you.

21 "But all these things they will do to you for My name's sake, because they do not know the One who sent Me.

John 16:23 "In that day you will not question Me about anything. Truly, truly, I say to you, if you ask the Father for anything in My name, He will give it to you.

24 "Until now you have asked for nothing in My name; ask and you will receive, so that your joy may be made full.

26 "In that day you will ask in My name, and I do not say to you that I will request of the Father on your behalf;

John 17:6 "I have manifested Your name to the men whom You gave Me out of the world; they were Yours and You gave them to Me, and they have kept Your word.

11 "I am no longer in the world; and yet they themselves are in the world, and I come to You. Holy Father, keep them in Your name, the name which You have given Me, that they may be one even as We are.

12 "While I was with them, I was keeping them in Your name which You have given Me; and I guarded them and not one of them perished but the son of perdition, so that the Scripture would be fulfilled.

26 and I have made Your name known to them, and will make it known, so that the love with which You loved Me may be in them, and I in them."

John 18:10 Simon Peter then, having a sword, drew it and struck the high priest's slave, and cut off his right ear; and the slave's name was Malchus.

John 20:31 but these have been written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name.

Acts 1:15 At this time Peter stood up in the midst of the brethren (a gathering of about one hundred and twenty **persons** was there together), and said,

Acts 2:21 'AND IT SHALL BE THAT EVERYONE WHO CALLS ON THE NAME OF THE LORD WILL BE SAVED.'

38 Peter said to them, "Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Acts 3:6 But Peter said, "I do not possess silver and gold, but what I do have I give to you: In the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene-- walk!"

16 "And on the basis of faith in His name, it is the name of Jesus which has strengthened this man whom you see and know; and the faith which comes through Him has given him this perfect health in the presence of you all.

Acts 4:7 When they had placed them in the center, they began to inquire, "By what power, or in what name, have you done this?"

10 let it be known to all of you and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead-- by this name this man stands here before you in good health.

12 "And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved."

17 "But so that it will not spread any further among the people, let us warn them to speak no longer to any man in this name."

18 And when they had summoned them, they commanded them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus.

30 while You extend Your hand to heal, and signs and wonders take place through the name of Your holy servant Jesus."

Acts 5:1 But a man named Ananias, with his wife Sapphira, sold a piece of property,

28 saying, "We gave you strict orders not to continue teaching in this name, and yet, you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and intend to bring this man's blood upon us."

34 But a Pharisee named Gamaliel, a teacher of the Law, respected by all the people, stood up in the Council and gave orders to put the men outside for a short time.

40 They took his advice; and after calling the apostles in, they flogged them and ordered them not to speak in the name of Jesus, and then released them.

41 So they went on their way from the presence of the Council, rejoicing that they had been considered worthy to suffer shame for His name.

Acts 8:9 Now there was a man named Simon, who formerly was practicing magic in the city and astonishing the people of Samaria, claiming to be someone great;

12 But when they believed Philip preaching the good news about the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were being baptized, men and women alike.

16 For He had not yet fallen upon any of them; they had simply been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.

Acts 9:10 Now there was a disciple at Damascus named Ananias; and the Lord said to him in a vision, "Ananias." And he said, "Here I am, Lord."

11 And the Lord said to him, "Get up and go to the street called Straight, and inquire at the house of Judas for a man from Tarsus named Saul, for he is praying,

12 and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him, so that he might regain his sight."

14 and here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who call on Your name."

15 But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is a chosen instrument of Mine, to bear My name before the Gentiles and kings and the sons of Israel;

16 for I will show him how much he must suffer for My name's sake."

21 All those hearing him continued to be amazed, and were saying, "Is this not he who in Jerusalem destroyed those who called on this name, and who had come here for the purpose of bringing them bound before the chief priests?"

27 But Barnabas took hold of him and brought him to the apostles and described to them how he had seen the Lord on the road, and that He had talked to him, and how at Damascus he had spoken out boldly in the name of Jesus.

28 And he was with them, moving about freely in Jerusalem, speaking out boldly in the name of the Lord.

33 There he found a man named Aeneas, who had been bedridden eight years, for he was paralyzed.

36 Now in Joppa there was a disciple named Tabitha (which translated in Greek is called Dorcas); this woman was abounding with deeds of kindness and charity which she continually did.

Acts 10:1 Now there was a man at Caesarea named Cornelius, a centurion of what was called the Italian cohort,

43 "Of Him all the prophets bear witness that through His name everyone who believes in Him receives forgiveness of sins."

48 And he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked him to stay on for a few days.

Acts 11:28 One of them named Agabus stood up and began to indicate by the Spirit that there would certainly be a great famine all over the world. And this took place in the reign of Claudius.

Acts 12:13 When he knocked at the door of the gate, a servant-girl named Rhoda came to answer.

Acts 13:6 When they had gone through the whole island as far as Paphos, they found a magician, a Jewish false prophet whose name was Bar-Jesus,

8 But Elymas the magician (for so his name is translated) was opposing them, seeking to turn the proconsul away from the faith.

Acts 15:14 "Simeon has related how God first concerned Himself about taking from among the Gentiles a people for His name.

17 SO THAT THE REST OF MANKIND MAY SEEK THE LORD, AND ALL THE GENTILES WHO ARE CALLED BY MY NAME,'

26 men who have risked their lives for the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Acts 16:1 Paul came also to Derbe and to Lystra. And a disciple was there, named Timothy, the son of a Jewish woman who was a believer, but his father was a Greek,

14 A woman named Lydia, from the city of Thyatira, a seller of purple fabrics, a worshiper of God, was listening; and the Lord opened her heart to respond to the things spoken by Paul.

18 She continued doing this for many days. But Paul was greatly annoyed, and turned and said to the spirit, "I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her!" And it came out at that very moment.

Acts 17:34 But some men joined him and believed, among whom also were Dionysius the Areopagite and a woman named Damaris and others with them.

Acts 18:2 And he found a Jew named Aquila, a native of Pontus, having recently come from Italy with his wife Priscilla, because Claudius had commanded all the Jews to leave Rome. He came to them,

7 Then he left there and went to the house of a man named Titius Justus, a worshiper of God, whose house was next to the synagogue.

15 but if there are questions about words and names and your own law, look after it yourselves; I am unwilling to be a judge of these matters."

24 Now a Jew named Apollos, an Alexandrian by birth, an eloquent man, came to Ephesus; and he was mighty in the Scriptures.

Acts 19:5 When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.

13 But also some of the Jewish exorcists, who went from place to place, attempted to name over those who had the evil spirits the name of the Lord Jesus, saying, "I adjure you by Jesus whom Paul preaches."

17 This became known to all, both Jews and Greeks, who lived in Ephesus; and fear fell upon them all and the name of the Lord Jesus was being magnified.

24 For a man named Demetrius, a silversmith, who made silver shrines of Artemis, was bringing no little business to the craftsmen;

Acts 20:9 And there was a young man named Eutychus sitting on the window sill, sinking into a deep sleep; and as Paul kept on talking, he was overcome by sleep and fell down from the third floor and was picked up dead.

Acts 21:10 As we were staying there for some days, a prophet named Agabus came down from Judea.

13 Then Paul answered, "What are you doing, weeping and breaking my heart? For I am ready not only to be bound, but even to die at Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus."

Acts 22:16 'Now why do you delay? Get up and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on His name.'

Acts 26:9 "So then, I thought to myself that I had to do many things hostile to the name of Jesus of Nazareth.

Acts 27:1 When it was decided that we would sail for Italy, they proceeded to deliver Paul and some other prisoners to a centurion of the Augustan cohort named Julius.

Acts 28:7 Now in the neighborhood of that place were lands belonging to the leading man of the island, named Publius, who welcomed us and entertained us courteously three days.

Romans 1:5 through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for His name's sake,

Romans 2:24 For "THE NAME OF GOD IS BLASPHEMED AMONG THE GENTILES BECAUSE OF YOU," just as it is written.

Romans 9:17 For the Scripture says to Pharaoh, "FOR THIS VERY PURPOSE I RAISED YOU UP, TO DEMONSTRATE MY POWER IN YOU, AND THAT MY NAME MIGHT BE PROCLAIMED THROUGHOUT THE WHOLE EARTH."

Romans 10:13 for "WHOEVER WILL CALL ON THE NAME OF THE LORD WILL BE SAVED."

Romans 15:9 and for the Gentiles to glorify God for His mercy; as it is written, "THEREFORE I WILL GIVE PRAISE TO YOU AMONG THE GENTILES, AND I WILL SING TO YOUR NAME."

1 Corinthians 1:2 To the church of God which is at Corinth, to those who have been sanctified in Christ Jesus, saints by calling, with all who in every place call (**present tense = habitually**) on the **name** of our Lord Jesus Christ, their Lord and ours:

Comment: Among other things calling on the **NAME** of our Lord is an expression signifying our continual dependency on Him for all our spiritual needs. (cp 2Pe 1:3b).

Marvin Vincent says call on the NAME - "is used of worship, and here implies prayer to Christ. The first Christian prayer recorded as heard by Saul of Tarsus, was Stephen's prayer to Christ, Acts 7:59."

10 Now I exhort you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all agree and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be made complete in the same mind and in the same judgment.

13 Has Christ been divided? Paul was not crucified for you, was he? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul?

15 so that no one would say you were baptized in my name.

1 Corinthians 5:4 In the name of our Lord Jesus, when you are assembled, and I with you in spirit, with the

power of our Lord Jesus,

1 Corinthians 6:11 Such were some of you; but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God.

Ephesians 1:21 far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come.

Comment from **Believer's Church Bible Commentary** - Modern readers may find name out of place in a list of powers. And indeed, it may be no more than making sure no potency is left out (Best, 1998:173; Wink, 1984:22). But **name** equaled "**potency**" in the ancient world, as in many places today (cf. Phil. 2:9; Rev. 6:8; 13:1, 17; 14:1; and frequently in Gnostic literature).

Ephesians 5:20 always giving thanks for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God, even the Father;

Philippians 2:9 For this reason also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name,

10 so that at the name of Jesus EVERY KNEE WILL BOW, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

Moule comments - God, in the incarnation, bestowed upon the one who is on an equality with him an earthly name which ... has come to be, in fact, the highest of names, because service and self-giving are themselves the highest of divine attributes. Because of the incarnation, the human name, "Jesus," is acclaimed as the highest name; and the Man Jesus thus comes to be acclaimed as Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Philippians 4:3 Indeed, true companion, I ask you also to help these women who have shared my struggle in the cause of the gospel, together with Clement also and the rest of my fellow workers, whose **names** are in the book of life.

Colossians 3:17 Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the **name** of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father.

2 Thessalonians 1:12 so that the **name** of our Lord Jesus will be glorified in you, and you in Him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

2 Thessalonians 3:6 Now we command you, brethren, in the **name** of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you keep away from every brother who leads an unruly life and not according to the tradition which you received from us.

Comment: Name (onoma) of our Lord Jesus Christ = the sovereign authority of the Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Timothy 6:1 All who are under the yoke as slaves are to regard their own masters as worthy of all honor so that the **name** of God and our doctrine will not be spoken against.

Comment: Clearly to speak against the Name of God is to speak against God Himself, further emphasizing that the divine Name speaks of all that God is. The corollary is that believers (all of us are in a sense bondservants of a higher Master, our Lord Jesus Christ) should walk in a manner worthy of the high calling with which we have been called, that the Name of the Lord might be glorified (Eph 4:1-note, Mt 5:16-note)

2 Timothy 2:19-note Nevertheless, the firm foundation of God stands, having this seal, "The Lord knows those who are His," and, "Everyone who names the **name** of the Lord is to abstain from wickedness."

Comment: In other words, if we say we belong to Jesus (names the name of the Lord = to say we believe in Him), we should have fruit in keeping with repentance (so to speak)! No believer abstains from wickedness perfectly, but the general direction of our life is not toward wickedness but toward godliness! If it is not, then we need to pause and ponder Paul's admonition in 2Cor 13:5-note!

Hebrews 1:4 having become as much better than the angels, as He has inherited a more excellent name than they.

Hebrews 2:12 saying, "I WILL PROCLAIM YOUR NAME TO MY BRETHREN, IN THE MIDST OF THE CONGREGATION I WILL SING YOUR PRAISE."

Hebrews 6:10 For God is not unjust so as to forget your work and the love which you have shown toward His name, in having ministered and in still ministering to the saints.

Hebrews 13:15 Through Him then, let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that give thanks to His name.

James 2:7 Do they not blaspheme the fair name by which you have been called?

James 5:10 As an example, brethren, of suffering and patience, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

14 Is anyone among you sick? Then he must call for the elders of the church and they are to pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord;

1 Peter 4:14 If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you.

16 but if anyone suffers as a Christian, he is not to be ashamed, but is to glorify God in this name.

1 John 2:12 I am writing to you, little children, because your sins have been forgiven you for His name's sake.

1 John 3:23 This is His commandment, that we believe in the name of His Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, just as He commanded us.

1 John 5:13 These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life.

3 John 1:7 For they went out for the sake of the Name, accepting nothing from the Gentiles.

George Brooks - The reason Gaius was encouraged to continue his hospitality was because those whom he was helping were missionaries. They went forth for the sake of the **Name** (onoma). This means that these missionaries went out on the authority and command of Jesus.

15 Peace be to you. The friends greet you. Greet the friends by name.

Revelation 2:3 and you have perseverance and have endured for My name's sake, and have not grown weary.

13 'I know where you dwell, where Satan's throne is; and you hold fast My name, and did not deny My faith even in the days of Antipas, My witness, My faithful one, who was killed among you, where Satan dwells.

17 'He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, to him I will give some of the hidden manna, and I will give him a white stone, and a new name written on the stone which no one knows but he who receives it.'

Revelation 3:1 "To the angel of the church in Sardis write: He who has the seven Spirits of God and the seven stars, says this: 'I know your deeds, that you have a name that you are alive, but you are dead.

4 'But you have a few people in Sardis who have not soiled their garments; and they will walk with Me in white, for they are worthy.

5 'He who overcomes will thus be clothed in white garments; and I will not erase his name from the book of life, and I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels.

8 'I know your deeds. Behold, I have put before you an open door which no one can shut, because you have a little power, and have kept My word, and have not denied My name.

12 'He who overcomes, I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and he will not go out from it anymore; and I will write on him the name of My God, and the name of the city of My God, the new Jerusalem, which comes down out of heaven from My God, and My new name.

Revelation 6:8 I looked, and behold, an ashen horse; and he who sat on it had the name Death; and Hades was following with him. Authority was given to them over a fourth of the earth, to kill with sword and with famine and with pestilence and by the wild beasts of the earth.

Revelation 8:11 The name of the star is called Wormwood; and a third of the waters became wormwood, and many men died from the waters, because they were made bitter.

Revelation 9:11 They have as king over them, the angel of the abyss; his name in Hebrew is Abaddon, and in the Greek he has the name Apollyon.

Revelation 11:13 And in that hour there was a great earthquake, and a tenth of the city fell; seven thousand people were killed in the earthquake, and the rest were terrified and gave glory to the God of heaven.

18 "And the nations were enraged, and Your wrath came, and the time came for the dead to be judged, and the time to reward Your bond-servants the prophets and the saints and those who fear Your name, the small and the great, and to destroy those who destroy the earth."

Revelation 13:1 And the dragon stood on the sand of the seashore. Then I saw a beast coming up out of the sea, having ten horns and seven heads, and on his horns were ten diadems, and on his heads were blasphemous names.

6 And he opened his mouth in blasphemies against God, to blaspheme His name and His tabernacle, that is, those who dwell in heaven.

8 All who dwell on the earth will worship him, everyone whose name has not been written from the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb who has been slain.

17 and he provides that no one will be able to buy or to sell, except the one who has the mark, either the name of the beast or the number of his name.

Revelation 14:1 Then I looked, and behold, the Lamb was standing on Mount Zion, and with Him one hundred and forty-four thousand, having His name and the name of His Father written on their foreheads.

11 "And the smoke of their torment goes up forever and ever; they have no rest day and night, those who worship the beast and his image, and whoever receives the mark of his name."

Revelation 15:2 And I saw something like a sea of glass mixed with fire, and those who had been victorious over the beast and his image and the number of his name, standing on the sea of glass, holding harps of God.

4 "Who will not fear, O Lord, and glorify Your name? For You alone are holy; For ALL THE NATIONS WILL COME AND WORSHIP BEFORE YOU, FOR YOUR RIGHTEOUS ACTS HAVE BEEN REVEALED."

Revelation 16:9 Men were scorched with fierce heat; and they blasphemed the name of God who has the power over these plagues, and they did not repent so as to give Him glory.

Revelation 17:3 And he carried me away in the Spirit into a wilderness; and I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast, full of blasphemous names, having seven heads and ten horns.

5 and on her forehead a name was written, a mystery, "BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH."

8 "The beast that you saw was, and is not, and is about to come up out of the abyss and go to destruction. And those who dwell on the earth, whose name has not been written in the book of life from the foundation of the world, will wonder when they see the beast, that he was and is not and will come.

Revelation 19:12 His eyes are a flame of fire, and on His head are many diadems; and He has a name written on Him which no one knows except Himself.

13 He is clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God.

16 And on His robe and on His thigh He has a name written, "KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS."

Revelation 21:12 It had a great and high wall, with twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels; and names were written on them, which are the names of the twelve tribes of the sons of Israel.

14 And the wall of the city had twelve foundation stones, and on them were the twelve names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.

Revelation 22:4 they will see His face, and His name will be on their foreheads.

THAT YOU MAY HAVE LIFE

Sermon Notes on Introduction to John and John 20:31 by Bruce Hurt

INTRODUCTION: The Gospel of John is SUBLIME! The word "SUBLIME" is an adjective which describes something as lofty, grand, exalted in thought or expression. SUBLIME speaks of that which tends to inspire awe because of its beauty, grandeur or transcendent excellence. In a word, beloved, the Gospel of John is SUBLIME! May God grant that our study of John's Gospel inspire increasing reverence and awe as we gaze on the beauty, grandeur and transcendent excellence of Jesus in John's Gospel.

Amen

So today we begin a journey exploring the Gospel of John, one of the simplest Greek texts in the New Testament and yet one of the most profound, sublime, deep works in all of the Bible. In fact while the Gospel of John is simple enough for a child to understand, it is so deep a scholar could not master it were he to spend his entire life in it!. (**APPLICATION POINT**) So what's the application of this truth? If John is that profound, then before we open John's Gospel we need to approach it with humble, trembling hearts and beseech God to "Open (our) eyes, that (we) may behold wonderful things from Thy law" (Ps 119:18). Stated another way, we need to pray for a keen sense of observation, the first step in inductive Bible study, asking our Teacher the Holy Spirit to remove the blinders from our eyes so that we might see not just with **physical sight** but with **spiritual insight** into the deep Truth in John's Gospel. **In fact, can I suggest that every time we open our Bible, we need to ask the Author to open our heart**

Has anyone ever handed out a "Gospel tract" to someone in the past, encouraging them to read and praying that God would use it to save them? I would submit that no finer gospel tract has ever been penned than John's inspired account of Christ's life, death and resurrection.

QUESTION 1: So here is my first question -- What is the single most important question ever asked? Here's a clue -- the question came from the lips of Jesus in Matthew 16:15 and was addressed to His disciples -- "**Who do you say that I am?**" **So even as we begin this study of John how would YOU answer the question Who is Jesus?** Would you give the answer that Peter gave in Matthew 16:16 Peter responded answering "**You are the Christ (the Messiah), the Son of the Living God**" In verse 17 Jesus declared "Blessed are you, Simon Barjona, because flesh and blood did not reveal this to you, but My Father Who is in heaven." When we confess Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, we are **blessed** a word which means spiritually prosperous independent of our external circumstances. And how did Peter know Jesus was the Messiah, the Anointed One for whom the Jews of the first century were looking? Was it because Peter was so wise? No, it is because God opened the eyes of his heart to see and understand spiritual truth (cf John 6:44).

So if you are here today and Jesus ask you "**Who do you say that I am?**" and you are not sure how you would answer, then join us over the coming weeks as John reveals His true identity and the Spirit opens your eyes so that you come to **KNOW** Him as LORD. And if you already **KNOW** Jesus as Lord, John's Gospel will strengthen your faith and help you **GROW** to know Him more intimately than you ever thought possible. Recall from the **CHARTS** (if you decide to start out with the charts) that while the 3 Synoptic Gospels (Mt, Mk, Luke, syn-optic ~ "*see together*") focus more on what Jesus taught and did, John's Gospel focuses more on **Who Jesus is**.

ILLUSTRATION - The Gospel of John will radically impact our understanding of Who Jesus is and our intimacy with Jesus will grow greater the more time we spend in it. The impact of our time in the Gospel of John hopefully will be "something like Lucy's experience with the lion **Aslan** (the Christ symbol in C. S. Lewis's Chronicles of Narnia) as she again gazed into his large, wise face.

"Welcome, child," he said.

"Aslan," said Lucy, "you're bigger."

"That is because you are older, little one," answered he.

"Not because you are?"

"I am not. But every year you grow, you will find me bigger." (from R Kent Hughes [John: That You May Believe](#))

PURPOSE: Whenever you study a book of the Bible, you want to understand the writer's purpose for writing. In some books this is difficult to discern but not in the Gospel of John. So let's see if we can understand his purpose by reading John 20:30-31 -

*"Therefore many other **signs** Jesus also performed in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book but these have been written so that you may **believe** that Jesus is the Christ (Messiah), the Son of God; and that **believing** you may have **life** in His name."*

Notice first that John does not call them **miracles** but **signs**. They are of course miracles but John preferred the word **signs**. Why? Think about what a sign does -- it points to **something** larger or more important than itself! In this case John's **signs** clearly point to **Someone larger and greater and more important!** **Signs** are like a finger of God which are valuable not so much for **what** they are as to **Whom** they point! While John acknowledges that he witnessed **many signs** in Jn 20:30, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, he was guided to select only **seven signs** to supernaturally point the reader of his Gospel to the **Messiah, the Son of God**.

Notice that John uses the verb **believe** twice which underscores the two fold purpose for writing this Gospel - (First) He intends for the signs to convince us to **believe** that Jesus is the Messiah. (Second) He wants us to believe in Jesus so that we might have **life**, real life, vital, exciting, compelling, fulfilling, satisfying life as God intended it now and throughout eternity -- the life that He described in John 10:10 declaring "I came to give life and give it abundantly." **Abundant life** brings us a new purpose, new values, new

relationships, new loves, and a new sense of destiny! **Most of you have already believed that Jesus is the Messiah and you have entered into eternal life. But the question is are you experiencing abundant life? John says one of the purposes of this book is that "believing you may have life in His Name."** As we study through John together we should more and more enter into that abundant life Jesus desires for us to experience.

It is notable that John used the verb **believe** some 98 times -- more than all the uses in the Synoptic Gospels combined. So clearly **believe** is a **KEY WORD** that functions like a key to unlock truths in John's Gospel. In Jn 20:31 John emphasized that those who **believe** in Jesus will receive **life in His Name**. The word **Name** is pregnant with meaning and speaks of all that Jesus is. It speaks of His essence, His character. We need to also ask what does it mean to believe? Suffice it to say that Biblical belief is more than **mere intellectual acceptance** of the truth about Jesus.. Listen to **W E Vine's** classic three part definition of Biblical, saving belief - (1) A firm conviction which produces full acknowledgment of God's revealed Truth (this would correspond to intellectual assent, but it does not stop there), (2) A personal surrender to the Truth and (3) A conduct inspired by and consistent with that surrender. --- In short, if you really **believe** in Jesus, that **belief** will change the way you **behave**. In short creed determines conduct! But we'll speak more about that in weeks to come.

Notice also that John is not writing that we would believe Jesus is a **good moral man**, a **good teacher** or a **prophet**, terms that skeptics often use to describe Jesus. They say things like "*Jesus was a moral man and a good teacher but He was not the Son of God. In fact He Himself never even claimed to be God.*" As we will discuss in a moment, in the Gospel of John Jesus did not leave this issue in doubt -- yes, He was a good teacher, and yes He was a prophet, but John says that the **seven signs** He performed were to point (like any good sign does) to one conclusion - that Jesus is the Messiah, the Anointed One, the Christ, the Son of God, the one Who perfectly fulfilled over 300 OT Scriptures that had predicted God's coming to earth to live as a Man so that He might die as a sinless sacrifice to redeem men from the penalty and power of sin.

QUESTION 2: So here is my second question and I take this from Josh McDowell's classic work [More Than a Carpenter](#) in which he asks the question every person should be able to answer correctly. **Is Jesus "Lord, Liar or Lunatic?"** (*As an aside when we post this sermon transcript on the Antioch website, we will give you a link to an online version of this simple but well done apologetic resource that can be read in less than 3 hours and equip you to be able to share your faith without fear.*) As we will discuss in a moment Jesus claimed to be God and did not leave any other option open. He either **LIED** about it, was **OUT OF HIS MIND** or He is **LORD**. **And I believe He is Lord of all!**

John's Gospel will clearly show that Jesus is God in the flesh, the eternal Word come to earth, born to die as God's sacrifice for human sin. Using seven signs John will prove that Jesus is "the Christ, the Messiah, the Son of God" and that if you believe in Him you may have life in His Name." **We will discuss the seven signs as we work our way through this Gospel. But today let's address the frequent statement by skeptics that Jesus Himself never claimed to be God. What does John's Gospel say?**

Let's look at several instances where Jesus clearly claimed to be God. Specifically, let's look at His claim to be **"I Am"** which is known affectionately in Greek as the **"Ego Eimi"** (Spell it out for them). **Ego** of course is "I" and **eimi** is the simple verb meaning "to be" and is the usual word for existence. **Eimi** is in the present tense and so what Jesus is saying is "I continually exist." In fact the idea is that when Jesus used this description He was saying in essence "I am eternally self-existent!"

And so for example in John 8:58 (addressing a group of Jews who had supposedly "believed" in Him earlier in John 8:30), He declared "Truly, truly (Amen, Amen), I say to you, before Abraham was born, I am (ego eimi) He (where "He" is not in the Greek but added by the translators. More literally He said "I Am")." And guess what response He solicited from this group of Jews? John records in Jn 8:59 **"Therefore they picked up stones to throw at Him**, but Jesus hid Himself and went out of the temple."

Why did this group of Jews who had professed belief in Jesus some 28 verses earlier now seek to stone Him to death? To answer that question let's turn to Exodus 3 which is Moses' famous "Burning Bush encounter" where God is giving him instructions to go and rescue His chosen people Israel from bondage in Egypt, to which Moses responds in Exodus 3:13 "Behold, I am going to the sons of Israel, and I will say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you.' Now they may say to me, 'What is His Name?' What shall I say to them?" to which "God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM"; and He said, "Thus you shall say to the sons of Israel, 'I AM has sent me to you.'" In the Greek translation (known as the Septuagint) of God's Name "I Am who I Am" find the phrase "EGO EIMI." So when Jesus declared He was "EGO EIMI" the Jews clearly understood that He was saying that He was God and thus they sought to stone Him for blasphemy because they did not believe Him to be God.

We see Jesus make a similar claim in John 8:24 declaring to the Jews"Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins; for unless you believe that I AM (again the translators add "He" but it is not in the Greek text), you will die in your sins." So what is Jesus' claiming? That He is God and He is clearly implying that belief in Him will mean that a person does not have to die in their sins! Who do you say that Jesus is? Do you believe in His Name, "Ego Eimi." If you do, you will never see the Second Death described by John at the Great White Throne Judgment in Revelation 20:11-15.

In fact, the moment you believe in the Name of **Jesus the great "I Am"** you will immediately enter into ETERNAL LIFE... NOW! **Eternal life does not begin with death. It begins when you believe!** And remember Jesus' promise of LIFE does not just describe the **"quantity"** of life (eternal), but He also offers us a new **"quality"** of life. Today. Right now. Not just in eternity future! The godless world is striving desperately to achieve a *better quality of life*. Jesus is saying in essence **cease striving and know that I am God** (Ps 46:10) and I will give you the **BEST** quality of life! In fact in John 10:10 Jesus even trumps Himself declaring **I will give you life and give it abundantly**. Folks, a better offer has never been made to anyone. **So as we journey through this Gospel let us seek to lay hold of that abundant life which is ours in His Name. In fact abundant life will be found no where else other than the Name of Jesus. So if you are trying to accumulate wealth, prestige or power thinking it will fulfill your desire for abundant life, you need to spend time in John's Gospel to let the Spirit renew your mind.**

And let us go and tell others about Jesus offer of the **"BEST QUALITY OF LIFE"** remembering that as good stewards of the manifold grace of God, we are simply called to boldly, confidently tell them about Jesus the Messiah and leave the results to God.

John describes the two reactions we can expect in John 1:11-13 writing that "Jesus came to His own, and those who were His own did not receive Him. But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His Name (notice that believe explains "receive" so here receive Jesus is to believe in Jesus), who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, BUT OF GOD."

As we learned last week "Salvation belongs to the Lord." (Psalm 3:8) Paul says that when offer the Good News about Jesus we are to leave the results to God and I don't know about you but that takes the pressure off me thinking I have to have a perfect presentation or they will never believe. Paul counters that natural way of thinking reminding us that the "Gospel is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes." (Ro 1:16). Who's power? God's! We boldly speak out the Name of Jesus but it is God Who saves them in Jesus' Name.

You may be here today and are saying "I wish I could have lived in the first century and seen Jesus and His miraculous signs. Then I would be able to believe." It is not necessary to "see" Jesus Christ in order to believe. Yes, it was a blessing for the early Christians to see their Lord and know that He was alive; but that is not what saved them. They were saved, not by seeing, but by believing. If you have never made the decision to truly believe in Christ – today is your day of salvation. Today is the acceptable day. John would say to you "He who believes in the Son has eternal life; but he who does not obey the Son will not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him." John 3:36 Believe in the Lord Jesus and be saved (Acts 16:31)!

Next week we will begin looking at John chapter 1, verses 1-5. Let me encourage you this week to be like Mary not overwhelmed by busyness like Martha and chose the one thing that is really necessary and sit at the feet of Jesus listening to His words in the Gospel of John, asking His Spirit to open the eyes of your heart to the deep truths about Him even in just the first 5 verses of John's Gospel. I would also encourage you to treasure these words in your heart that the Spirit might be able to use them in your life in times of need.

CHARTS RELATED TO JOHN'S GOSPEL

This first chart gives us an excellent depiction (almost like a graph) of the upswing in Jesus' popularity in the first 6 chapters and then the declining popularity of Jesus beginning in John 7 and culminated in the Cross. Note **"PREPARATION"** - could summarize with Jn 1:29 - "Behold the Lamb of God Who takes away the sin of the world." On the right side we see that paschal SACRIFICE depicted. This chart also shows the three (and possibly 4) **Passovers** - Jn 5:1 is simply called "the feast" so we cannot be sure.

Notes on preceding chart for possible comments:

The chart shows how John breaks up into public ministry (3 years) in John 1-12 and Jesus' private ministry (Jn 13-21). It allows you to summarize the **7 miracles** in His public ministry (at bottom of chart) and the **KEY WORDS** (could explain what a key word does - how they function as a key to unlock John's gospel which is especially brought out by the 98 occurrences of **believe** (more that all uses in the Synoptics combined). Clearly John's Gospel emphasis is on **believe** and this is reiterated his purpose statement in Jn 20:31.

The Great Pause - John 12:36b has been called "The Great Pause." How is this a turning point in the gospel? Jn 12:37 and "his own" of Jn 13:1. Then refer to Chart, and note the various outlines that have a turning point at 12:36b.

COMPARISON OF GENERAL EMPHASIS OF TEACHING ON JESUS	
SYNOPTIC GOSPELS MATTHEW-MARK-LUKE	GOSPEL OF JOHN
Focus more on WHAT Jesus taught and did	Focuses more on WHO Jesus is
SHOW US JESUS OUTWARDLY	SHOWS US JESUS INWARDLY
EMPHASIZE JESUS' HUMANITY	EMPHASIZES JESUS' DIVINITY
Focus mainly on our Lord's public discourses	Focus more on His private conversations, His verbal conflicts with Jews, His closer teachings with inner disciples
More Factual	More Doctrinal.
Begin with a human genealogy and fulfillment of Jewish prophecy	Begins with a Divine revelation and eternal existence

Note John's paucity of miracles compared with the other Gospels. John's purposes is not to show His miracles but to show us His deity (Jn 20:31). This chart could supplement the one above for a quick review to those who have never seen this material. There is more material than you would probably want to show (too much and you lose people) but I think the sections in yellow are useful.

COMPARISON OF SYNOPTIC GOSPELS WITH THE GOSPEL OF JOHN		
	SYNOPTIC GOSPELS	GOSPEL OF JOHN
Portrait of Christ	God-MAN His HUMANITY	GOD-man His DEITY
Perspective	Historical	Spiritual
Beginning	Begin with a human genealogy and fulfillment of Jewish prophecy	Begins with a Divine revelation and eternal existence
Unique Material	Matthew = 42%, Mark = 7%, Luke = 59%	92% Unique Seven "I Am" Statements
Discourse	More Public Focus is on Jesus & the crowds	More Private Focus is on Jesus & individuals
Teaching Emphasis	More on ethical, practical WHAT Jesus Taught	More on Person of Christ WHO Jesus is
Main Geographic Focus of Ministry	Mainly in North around Galilee	Mainly around Jerusalem at time of Feasts
Feasts	Only 1 Passover recorded	Records 3 Passovers
Key Word	Mt = fulfilled Mk = immediately Luke = Son of man	Believe
Key Verse	Mt 21:5: Behold your King Mk 10:45: To serve Lk 19:10 - To Seek & to save	Jn 20:31

Christ Portrayed As	Mt - King Mk - Servant Lk - Son of Man	Son of God
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Notes for possible comments on preceding chart...

Portrait of Christ - The synoptics emphasize Jesus' **humanity** and John His **divinity**. **Just as a coin has two sides, both valid**, so Jesus Christ has two natures, both valid. Jesus is **fully God** and **fully Man**.

Unique Material - John's Gospel was the last Gospel, written about 85-90BC some 30 years after the synoptics. This would explain why most of John's material is unique. He would have been familiar with the other 3 Gospels and see no need to replicate their material. For example, John does not mention Jesus' baptism, His transfiguration, His teaching in parables or His agony in Gethsemane. Instead of the agony John gives us 4 chapters of intimate conversation by Jesus with His disciples that last night (13-16) followed by His intimate prayer to His father.

Feasts - The fact that John records 3 Passovers (some say 4 - John 5:1 simply says **à feast**) is the main evidence for the common belief that Jesus' ministry covered **three years**.

Spiritual Gospel - "This echoes Clement of Alexandria's second-century characterization of the distinctive witness of the fourth gospel. His full statement runs as follows: 'John, last of all, conscious that the outward facts had been set forth in the Gospels, was urged by his disciples, and, divinely moved by the Spirit, composed a spiritual Gospel.' In Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History, VI, XIV. 7." ([Milne, Bruce - The Message of John - Bible Speaks Today](#))

The first three Gospels focus more on what Jesus taught and did; John focused more on who Jesus is. John shows us who Jesus is by allowing Jesus to speak for Himself in seven dramatic I Am statements, which were not included in the first three gospels. John is a Gospel written for a specific purpose: that we might believe.

GOSPEL GLIMPSES OF JESUS CHRIST				
	MATTHEW	MARK	LUKE	JOHN
Christ Portrayed As	Prophesied King	Obedient Servant	Perfect Man	Son of God
Original Audience	Jews	Romans	Greeks	All Men
Key Word	"Fulfilled"	"Immediately"	"Son of Man"	"Believe"
Key Verse	Mt 21:5	Mk 10:45	Lk 19:10	Jn 20:31
Outstanding Feature	Sermons	Miracles	Parables	Allegories
Miracles	20	18	20	8
Tone	Prophetic	Practical	Historical	Spiritual
Percent Spoken By Christ	60%	42%	50%	50%
Old Testament Quotes	53	36	25	20
Old Testament Allusions	76	27	42	105
Unique Material	42%	59%	7%	92%
Main Emphasis About Jesus	Synoptic Gospels (see together) His Humanity			His Deity