

The Name Above All Names

Philippians 2:5-11

Philippians 2:5-11 (NASB)

⁵“Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus,
⁶ who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped,
⁷ but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, *and* being made in the likeness of men.
⁸ Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.
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,
¹¹ and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”

In Bible times, naming a child was a major event for a Hebrew family. The household took great pains in selecting a name, sometimes choosing one that had personal meaning for the parents. An example of this is Leah—she chose to call her fourth child Judah, saying, “**This time I will praise the Lord**” ([Genesis 29:35](#)).

Genesis 29:35 (NASB)

³⁵“And she conceived again and bore a son and said, “**This time I will praise the LORD.**” Therefore, she named him Judah. Then she stopped bearing.”

Occasionally, a perceived or desired personality trait would determine what a baby was called. [Genesis 25:26](#) shows this to be the case with Jacob (“one who supplants”).

Genesis 25:26 (NASB)

²⁶“Afterward his brother came forth with his hand holding on to Esau's heel, so his name was called Jacob; and Isaac was sixty years old when she gave birth to them.”

Frequently, the name given at birth would symbolize to others who that person was. In the ancient world, this was intentional. Even today people subconsciously associate character traits and experiences with names. We all hope that when others hear ours called, they will have good things come to mind rather than a sense of dread!

Mary and Joseph had a far different experience from that of other Jewish parents. Instead of choosing the name themselves, an angel told them what their child would be called ([Matthew 1:21](#)).

Matthew 1:21 (NASB)

²¹“She will bear a Son; and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.”

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The heavenly Father selected His Son's earthly name to represent His purpose in coming. A day will come when the very mention of Jesus will cause every knee to bow and every tongue to confess that He is Lord ([Philippians 2:10](#)).

Philippians 2:10 (NASB)

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.”

The Hebrew form of Jesus means “**salvation**” or “**He saves.**” Christ is called many things throughout Scripture: Lord, Immanuel, Teacher, Messiah, etc. But His given name tells His story. He came to save the world from sin. No wonder God gave Him a name above all names!