

# CLAIM THE NAME... *Jesus*

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## **Introduction**

In this very short series on the names and titles of Jesus, we will end with one passage that lists four powerful names given to Messiah Jesus.

### **Isaiah 9:2 – 7:**

The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned.<sup>3</sup> You have enlarged the nation and increased their joy; they rejoice before you as people rejoice at the harvest, as warriors rejoice when dividing the plunder.<sup>4</sup> For as in the day of Midian's defeat, you have shattered the yoke that burdens them, the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor. <sup>5</sup> Every warrior's boot used in battle and every garment rolled in blood will be destined for burning, will be fuel for the fire.

<sup>6</sup>For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.<sup>7</sup> Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the Lord Almighty will accomplish this.

Isaiah is writing under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. God is giving him a glimpse of who Messiah would be and what Messiah would do. We know the prophets were inspired by God to deliver his word to those who lived before Messiah.

**2 Peter 1:21:** *For prophecy never had its origin in the human will, but prophets, though human, spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.*

## **Wonderful Counselor**

The word translated *wonderful* is a much weightier word than the way we use the word.

**Judges 13:17 - 18:** *And Manoah said to the angel of the Lord, "What is your name, so that, when your words come true, we may honor you?" <sup>18</sup>And the angel of the Lord said to him, "Why do you ask my name, seeing it is wonderful?"*

Manoah was Samson's father and we see again the importance of a person's name in that culture. He's speaking to an angel—who was a visible manifestation of God, and the angel said *Why do you ask my name since it's beyond your understanding?*

## **What are some teachings of Jesus that were revolutionary for his day and for ours?**

Attributes of Our Wonderful Counselor:

- He is always available, and you don't need an appointment.  
**Matthew 11:28:** *Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.*
- He is qualified for any situation you will ever face.  
**Colossians 2:3:** *in whom (Christ) are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.*
- He will patiently listen as you tell him your problems.  
**1 Peter 3:12a:** *For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous and his ears are attentive to their prayer.*

- You can totally trust him to guide you rightly.  
**John 10:3b – 4:** *He (Jesus) calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. <sup>4</sup> When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice.*
- He always has your best interests at heart because he loves you.  
**Romans 5:8:** *But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*

## Mighty God

Isaiah is prophesying that Israel's Messiah would be more brave and powerful than any other.

**Deuteronomy 10:17:** *For the Lord your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great God, mighty and awesome, who shows no partiality and accepts no bribes.*

Here's how Isaiah described this Mighty King Messiah:

**Isaiah 42: 1 – 4a:**

*"Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen one in whom I delight; I will put my Spirit on him, and he will bring justice to the nations. <sup>2</sup> He will not shout or cry out, or raise his voice in the streets. <sup>3</sup> A bruised reed he will not break, and a smoldering wick he will not snuff out. In faithfulness he will bring forth justice; <sup>4</sup> he will not falter or be discouraged."*

How would you describe the coming Messiah, based on what Isaiah prophesied here?

A bruised reed and a smoldering wick are very fragile but for different reasons. A reed is a fragile plant, and if it is bruised, it must be handled very gently or else it will break.

The smoldering wick refers to the flax that was used in an oil lamp as a wick. When it is smoldering, it can be easily snuffed out.

What beautiful imagery for us to show how our Wonderful Counselor helps us when we feel like a bruised reed or a smoldering wick.

**Psalms 32:8:** *I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will guide you with My eye.*

Jesus is your Wonderful Counselor who can and will "strengthen you in your inner being" and fan into a flame the gifts he has invested in you.

**Ephesians 3:16:** *I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being.*

This is his promise to you:

**Matthew 11:28 – 30:** *Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. <sup>29</sup> Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. <sup>30</sup> For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.*

So, Jesus didn't come looking like "Mighty God," as Isaiah named him but rather he was humble and avoided every suggestion that they should crown him as king:

**Matthew 20:28:** *"Just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as ransom for many."*

**John 6:15:** *Jesus, knowing that they intended to come and make him king by force, withdrew again to a mountain by himself.*

**John 18:36:** *Jesus said, "My kingdom is not of this world. If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jewish leaders. But now my kingdom is from another place."*



Speaking of his death, Jesus said:

**John 10:18:** *No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again. This command I received from my Father."*

As Mighty God, Jesus rose from the dead and now sits at God's right hand in heaven. As Mighty God, Jesus will judge all the people of the world.

### **Revelation 5:12 – 13:**

*In a loud voice they were saying: "Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise!"<sup>13</sup> Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all that is in them, saying: "To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and honor and glory and power, for ever and ever!"*

### **Everlasting Father**

How can Jesus the Messiah, the second person of the Godhead, be called Everlasting Father?

Isaiah described God as "the high and exalted One, who lives forever, whose name is holy" (Isaiah 57:15). He uses that same kind of language here when he describes Messiah as the Everlasting Father. Isaiah is prophesying a child yet to be born but by calling him "Everlasting Father," he is saying that this baby is the author of eternity.

**Revelation 1:8:** *"I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty."*

How do you and I know what God is like? How do we know God?

**Hebrews 1:3a:** *The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word.*

Spurgeon once said: "There is no unfathering Christ, and there is no unchilding us. He is everlastingly a father to those who trust in him."

### **Prince of Peace**

A prince is someone who is a leader and has influence and authority. Therefore, the Prince of Peace can bestow peace on a person or situation. Ephesians 2:14 says that Jesus himself is our peace. **Peace is a Person!**

**John 14:27:** *Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.*

### **What kind of peace does the world give?**

The world looks for peace in resources. World peace depends on money. The world thinks you'll find peace if you develop your skills and abilities and you're good at execution. World peace is the absence of trouble.

### **What kind of peace does Jesus, the Prince of Peace, give?**

**Romans 5:1:** *Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ...*

The peace of the Prince of Peace begins with a relationship to the Prince of Peace!

**Romans 14:8:** *If we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord. So, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord.*

He has promised never to leave us or forsake us. This mindset brings immense peace. And we have the blessed Holy Spirit to constantly remind us of who we are in Christ, and comfort us when trouble starts to brew.

**Philippians 4:7:** *And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*

The world can never give you that kind of peace.

## Where do you go when you need some peace?

### We should strive for peaceful relationships.

**Romans 12:18:** If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.

Do you see how useless and unnecessary it is for you as a child of God, to live in worry or fear? You can claim the name of Jesus, your Prince of Peace? And you do that by faith. You don't have to feel it; you just have to believe that Jesus is the Prince of Peace and he has peace for you.

### Closing

**John 14:6:** *Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."*

Christians are often criticized for claiming that Jesus is the only way to God. Most people believe that all roads lead to god. And here's why:

**2 Corinthians 4:4:** *The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel that displays the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.*

If you do not wholeheartedly believe that Jesus was and is God, divine, and the only way to God, then consider what Jesus said when he was preaching in the Temple to the religious leaders:

**John 8:21 - 24:** *Once more Jesus said to them, "I am going away, and you will look for me, and you will die in your sin. Where I go, you cannot come."*

<sup>22</sup> *This made the Jews ask, "Will he kill himself? Is that why he says, 'Where I go, you cannot come'?"*

<sup>23</sup> *But he continued, "You are from below; I am from above. You are of this world; I am not of this world. <sup>24</sup> I told you that you would die in your sins; if you do not believe that I am he, you will indeed die in your sins."*

As C.S. Lewis once pointed out, many are willing to accept Jesus as a great moral teacher, but not his unique claims to be God. Lewis responded with these memorable words:

*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 the 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 a 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 with any patronizing nonsense about his being a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us. He did not intend to."*

(Mere Christianity, Book 2, Chapter 3, pp. 50-51 in The Complete C.S. Lewis Signature Classics edition, New York: Harper One, 2002.).

So, wherever you are today—in whatever predicament you find yourself, your need is met in Jesus. Claim his names: He is your Wonderful Counselor, the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father and the Prince of Peace. He is the Way, the Truth and the Life. Run to Jesus; call on Jesus; trust Jesus. That is your privilege if you are truly born from above.