

THE NAME ABOVE ALL NAMES

I. Hebrews 1:1-4 Philippians 2:5-11 Ephesians 1:18-21

A. There are people in our Church Family you may or may not know. For example, have you ever met Bernard, Eldon, Carlton, Merritt, Evelyn & Carmen? Actually you probably have. While it may not be important that you know these names, I have to know these names just to visit them in the hospital. :-)

B. In Ephesians 3:14-15 (NIV) Paul says this about where names actually come from: **14** *For this reason I kneel before the Father, 15 from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name.*

C. And then there's the fact that God saw fit to change a few names. The Lord changed *Abram* to *Abraham* and his wife, *Sarai* to *Sarah*; their grandson *Jacob* was changed to *Israel* but he was known by both; *Simon*, was renamed *Peter* (Gk. *Petros*, Aramaic--*Cephas*, i.e. Rocky!) God the Father of course revealed to Peter that Jesus was the Christ and he'd build His church on guys like him! Brothers *James & John* were nicknamed *Boanerges* by Jesus which means, "*Sons of thunder.*" James became the first of the disciples martyred and John became known as the Apostle of love. (*Probably good they never lived up to their original nicknames.*) Then there was Levi, a.k.a. Matthew; Nathanael, a.k.a. Bartholomew; Thomas, a.k.a. Didymus; Joseph, a.k.a. Barnabas; and Saul famously became Paul...

D. But perhaps no one had more names than what Jesus had, or actually has. Here's my top 20 list which is far from exhaustive: *The Son of God; Emmanuel; Christ/Messiah; The Word made flesh; Savior; Redeemer; The Light of the world; The Bread of Life; The Morning Star; The Prince of Peace; The Faithful & True Witness; The Alpha & Omega; The Way, Truth & Life; The Good Shepherd; The Great High Priest; the Holy One; the Righteous One; The Lion of Judah; The Lamb of God; King of kings & Lord of lords...*

E. So how do people make a name for themselves these days? Some do something *famous*. Others, do something *infamous*. In business, they make lots of money. In Hollywood, they star in a blockbuster movie. When the star quits shining, they write a *tell-all* book or have *show-all* pictures taken and published. In sports, they star in their respective sport. After retiring a couple times, write *tell-all* books, do analysis or commercials. In politics, win elections, then work hard to get reelected, and when voted out, become political pundits, lobbyists, corporate figure heads or college presidents, unless a scandal makes them otherwise, infamous. Some may also write *tell-all* books under the heading of *memoirs*. And then there's appearances on late night talk shows...

F. But let's talk about what Jesus did. The Son of God, from eternity past, took on flesh, was born in a Bethlehem stable, laid in a feeding trough, and spent the first 30 years of His life working His father's trade as a carpenter. Then around 30 His ministry began in a town called Cana where He turned water into wine. From there He taught His disciples as well as the multitudes, did miracles to affirm *WHO* He truly was, and confronted the religious leaders who vehemently denied *WHO* He truly was. Of course outside His closest followers, the demons absolutely knew *WHO* He was and so He had to command them to keep silent.

G. So how--without TV, radio, print media, social media, etc. did Jesus become the Name Above All Names? The Scriptures are very clear...

1) Hebrews 1:1-4 (ESV) declares: *1 Long ago God spoke many times and in many ways to our ancestors through the prophets. 2 And now in these final days, He has spoken to us through His Son. God promised everything to the Son as an inheritance, and through the Son He created the universe. 3 The Son radiates God's own glory and expresses the very character of God, and He sustains everything by the mighty power of His command. When He had cleansed us from our sins, He sat down in the place of honor at the right hand of the majestic God in heaven. 4 This shows that the Son is far greater than the angels, **just as the name God gave Him is greater than their names.***

2) Philippians 2:5-11 (ESV) is an ancient credo hymn. It tells us why Jesus' name is above all others: *5 Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, 6 who, though He was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, 7 but emptied Himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. 8 And being found in human form, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. 9 Therefore God has highly exalted Him and bestowed on Him **the name that is above every name, 10 so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, 11 and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.***

H. In my early days as a believer I heard what follows. Excerpted from a sermon in 1926 by James Allan Francis, it's titled: *One Solitary Life*, and it goes like this:

He was born in an obscure village, the child of a peasant woman. He grew up in another village, where He worked in a carpenter's shop until He was thirty. Then for three years He was an itinerant preacher. He never wrote a book, never held an office, never went to college, never visited a big city. He never travelled more than two hundred miles from the place where He was born. He did none of the things that usually accompany greatness. He had no credentials but Himself. He was only thirty-three when the tide of public opinion turned against Him. His friends ran away. One of them denied Him. He was turned over to His enemies and went through the mockery of a trial. He was nailed to a cross between two thieves. While dying, His executioners gambled for His clothing, the only property He had on earth. When He was dead, He was laid in a borrowed grave through the pity of a friend ... All the armies that have ever marched, all the navies that have ever sailed, all the parliaments that have ever sat, all the kings that ever reigned put together, have not affected the life of mankind on earth, as powerfully as that One Solitary Life.

I. But let's compare a couple good ole boys... Billy Wayne Bob wanted to make a name for himself. So he did everything he could to be seen by others. If it brought him prestige or notoriety, he did it. If not, he avoided it. When he struck up a conversation, it very swiftly veered toward himself. Billy was a go-getter. He wore, drove, ate, and rewarded himself with the best of the best. He owned lots of toys. He displayed his trophies in a beautiful glass case. In many ways he was a self-made man but he publicly gave thanks to God because that too garnered him kudos and applause. When the sunshine was radiant, he absorbed as much as he could. Billy Wayne always wore shades because he deemed his future so bright...

J. Johnny B. Little lived under the radar. He was quiet but wise. He worked hard. He was frugal yet generous. He was quick to promote others. He sat in the back so others could sit closer to the front. He eagerly volunteered. No task was beneath him. He wore gloves but his hands were still calloused and dirty. He knew people by name and made a fuss over each one. He stored his trophies in the basement. Gratitude oozed out of him as He knew God's favor was abundant yet so undeserved. When the sunshine was radiant, he tried to reflect as much of it as he could. Johnny B. also wore shades--but it was to keep others from seeing the tears of joy and thanksgiving which were often ponding on his cheeks...

* Both Billy Wayne Bob and Johnny B. Little made names for themselves, just different kinds of names. But as our previous Scriptures stated, there is no name, named, above the name of Jesus Christ our Lord! **Ephesians 1:18-21** (VOICE) is will be our prayer to close: **18** *Open the eyes of their hearts, and let the light of Your truth flood in. Shine Your light on the hope You are calling them to embrace. Reveal to them the glorious riches You are preparing as their inheritance.* **19** *Let them see the full extent of Your power that is at work in those of us who believe, and may it be done according to Your might and power. Friends, it is this same might and resurrection power that* **20** *He used in the Anointed One to raise Him from the dead and to position Him at His right hand in heaven. There is nothing over Him.* **21** *He's above all rule, authority, power, and dominion; **over every name invoked**, over every title bestowed in this age and the next.*

* Close with Prayer...

[Scriptures, Videos, & Bonus Stuff](#)

[Ephesians 3:14-15 \(NIV\)](#)

14 For this reason I kneel before the Father, **15** from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name.

[Hebrews 1:1-4 \(NLT\)](#)

1 Long ago God spoke many times and in many ways to our ancestors through the prophets. **2** And now in these final days, He has spoken to us through His Son. God promised everything to the Son as an inheritance, and through the Son He created the universe. **3** The Son radiates God's own glory and expresses the very character of God, and He sustains everything by the mighty power of His command. When He had cleansed us from our sins, He sat down in the place of honor at the right hand of the majestic God in heaven. **4** This shows that the Son is far greater than the angels, just as the name God gave Him is greater than their names.

[Philippians 2:5-11 \(ESV\)](#)

5 Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, **6** who, though He was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, **7** but emptied Himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. **8** And being found in human form, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. **9** Therefore God has highly exalted Him and

bestowed on Him the name that is above every name, **10** so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, **11** and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

One Solitary Life

- Dr James Allan Francis © 1926.

He was born in an obscure village, the child of a peasant woman. He grew up in another village, where He worked in a carpenter's shop until He was thirty. Then for three years He was an itinerant preacher. He never wrote a book, never held an office, never went to college, never visited a big city. He never travelled more than two hundred miles from the place where He was born. He did none of the things that usually accompany greatness. He had no credentials but Himself. He was only thirty-three when the tide of public opinion turned against Him. His friends ran away. One of them denied Him. He was turned over to His enemies and went through the mockery of a trial. He was nailed to a cross between two thieves. While dying, His executioners gambled for His clothing, the only property He had on earth. When He was dead, He was laid in a borrowed grave through the pity of a friend ... All the armies that have ever marched, all the navies that have ever sailed, all the parliaments that have ever sat, all the kings that ever reigned put together, have not affected the life of mankind on earth, as powerfully as that One Solitary Life.

- Adapted from *The Real Jesus and Other Sermons* by James Allan Francis, Judson Press, 1926, p.p. 123-124 and also found in, *The Long Journey Home*, by Os Guinness, Waterbrook Press, 2001, p. 158.

Ephesians 1:18-21 (VOICE)

18 Open the eyes of their hearts, and let the light of Your truth flood in. Shine Your light on the hope You are calling them to embrace. Reveal to them the glorious riches You are preparing as their inheritance. **19** Let them see the full extent of Your power that is at work in those of us who believe, and may it be done according to Your might and power. Friends, it is this same might and resurrection power that **20** He used in the Anointed One to raise Him from the dead and to position Him at His right hand in heaven. There is nothing over Him. **21** He's above all rule, authority, power, and dominion; over every name invoked, over every title bestowed in this age and the next.

Bonus Goodies

What is the Name Above All Names? - R.C. Sproul (Ligonier Ministries)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=my1tguURyec>

The Titles of Christ - R.C. Sproul (Ligonier Ministries)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4t5vTagJZDg>

5 Things You Should Know about Creeds - Keith Mathison (Ligonier Ministries)
<https://www.ligonier.org/learn/articles/5-things-creeds>

Who Says Who We Are--Man or Maker? - Alan Shlemon (Stand to Reason)
<https://www.str.org/w/who-says-who-we-are-man-or-maker->

[More Verses, Quotes, Excerpts, & Extras](#)

[Isaiah 53:1-12 \(NLT\)](#)

1 Who has believed our message? To whom has the LORD revealed His powerful arm? **2** My Servant grew up in the LORD's presence like a tender green shoot, like a root in dry ground. There was nothing beautiful or majestic about His appearance, nothing to attract us to Him. **3** He was despised and rejected--a Man of sorrows, acquainted with deepest grief. We turned our backs on Him and looked the other way. He was despised, and we did not care. **4** Yet it was our weaknesses He carried; it was our sorrows that weighed Him down. And we thought His troubles were a punishment from God, a punishment for His own sins! **5** But He was pierced for our rebellion, crushed for our sins. He was beaten so we could be whole. He was whipped so we could be healed. **6** All of us, like sheep, have strayed away. We have left God's paths to follow our own. Yet the LORD laid on Him the sins of us all. **7** He was oppressed and treated harshly, yet He never said a word. He was led like a lamb to the slaughter. And as a sheep is silent before the shearers, He did not open His mouth. **8** Unjustly condemned, He was led away. No one cared that He died without descendants, that His life was cut short in midstream. But He was struck down for the rebellion of My people. **9** He had done no wrong and had never deceived anyone. But He was buried like a criminal; He was put in a rich man's grave. **10** But it was the LORD's good plan to crush Him and cause Him grief. Yet when His life is made an offering for sin, He will have many descendants. He will enjoy a long life, and the LORD's good plan will prosper in His hands. **11** When He sees all that is accomplished by His anguish, He will be satisfied. And because of His experience, My righteous Servant will make it possible for many to be counted righteous, for He will bear all their sins. **12** I will give Him the honors of a victorious soldier, because He exposed Himself to death. He was counted among the rebels. He bore the sins of many and interceded for rebels.

[Proverbs 22:1 \(NIV\)](#)

1 A good name is more desirable than great riches; to be esteemed is better than silver or gold."

[Ecclesiastes 7:1a \(NIV\)](#)

1a A good name is better than fine perfume...

[Isaiah 43:1 \(NASB\)](#)

1 But now, thus says the LORD, your Creator, O Jacob, And He who formed you, O Israel, "Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name; you are Mine!

[Ephesians 1:18-21 \(NASB\)](#)

18 I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you will know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints,

19 and what is the boundless greatness of His power toward us who believe. These are in accordance with the working of the strength of His might **20** which He brought about in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, **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.

Mark 1:21-34 (ESV)

21 And they went into Capernaum, and immediately on the Sabbath He entered the synagogue and was teaching. **22** And they were astonished at His teaching, for He taught them as one who had authority, and not as the scribes. **23** And immediately there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit. And he cried out, **24** “What have You to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have You come to destroy us? I know who You are—the Holy One of God.” **25** But Jesus rebuked him, saying, “Be silent, and come out of him!” **26** And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying out with a loud voice, came out of him. **27** And they were all amazed, so that they questioned among themselves, saying, “What is this? A new teaching with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey Him.” **28** And at once His fame spread everywhere throughout all the surrounding region of Galilee. **29** And immediately He left the synagogue and entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. **30** Now Simon's mother-in-law lay ill with a fever, and immediately they told Him about her. **31** And He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up, and the fever left her, and she began to serve them. **32** That evening at sundown they brought to Him all who were sick or oppressed by demons. **33** And the whole city was gathered together at the door. **34** And He healed many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons. And He would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew Him.

Mark 3:11-12 (ESV)

11 And whenever the unclean spirits saw Him, they fell down before Him and cried out, “You are the Son of God.” **12** And He strictly ordered them not to make Him known.

Luke 4:31-41 (ESV)

31 And He went down to Capernaum, a city of Galilee. And He was teaching them on the Sabbath, **32** and they were astonished at His teaching, for His word possessed authority. **33** And in the synagogue there was a man who had the spirit of an unclean demon, and he cried out with a loud voice, **34** “Ha! What have You to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have You come to destroy us? I know who You are--the Holy One of God.” **35** But Jesus rebuked him, saying, “Be silent and come out of him!” And when the demon had thrown him down in their midst, he came out of him, having done him no harm. **36** And they were all amazed and said to one another, “What is this word? For with authority and power He commands the unclean spirits, and they come out!” **37** And reports about Him went out into every place in the surrounding region. **38** And He arose and left the synagogue and entered Simon's house. Now Simon's mother-in-law was ill with a high fever, and they appealed to Him on her behalf. **39** And He stood over her and rebuked the fever, and it left her, and immediately she rose and began to serve them. **40** Now when the sun was setting, all those who had any who were sick with various diseases brought them to Him, and He laid His hands on every one of them and

healed them. **41** And demons also came out of many, crying, “You are the Son of God!” But He rebuked them and would not allow them to speak, because they knew that He was the Christ.

Quote by William Shakespeare's Juliet

"What's in a name? That which we call a rose by any other name would smell as sweet." - From Romeo and Juliet, II, ii, 1-2.

What Does it Mean that Jesus Has the Name Above All Names?

By S. Michael Houdmann

<https://www.gotquestions.org/Jesus-name-above-all-names.html>

Question: *What does it mean that Jesus has the name above all names?*

Answer: In [Philippians 2:9–11](#) we read that Jesus has the name above all names: *“Therefore God exalted Him to the highest place and gave Him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”* What did Paul mean when he said that God gave Jesus the name that is above every name?

In this passage, the apostle appeals to believers to cultivate an attitude of humility. He gives them an example to emulate, namely, Jesus Christ, who is the ultimate model of humility. He says in verses 6–9 that Jesus, who is God and who has always been God, did not hold tightly to His position of equality with God. Instead, Jesus [emptied Himself](#) or made Himself nothing. He left His high rank in heaven to become a humble, human servant. He set aside His rights and privileges as God to live a life of humble service and obedience, even to the point of dying a horrible death on the cross for sinners.

As a result of Jesus Christ’s self-emptying and self-humiliation, God exalted Him to the highest place of honor. Jesus, who stooped down low, was raised by the Father to His glorious position in heaven. The name that is above all names is the supreme name—the divine name Lord. This name acknowledges Jesus Christ’s absolute lordship as divine King of the universe, and it brings with it the right to be worshiped.

It was humbling for the Son of God to become a man. Taking on the character of a servant was even more humbling. But Jesus went a step beyond. He was willing to die one of the most disgraceful forms of execution as a condemned criminal on a cross. Following His humiliation and obedience, God elevated Jesus to His rightful place of glory. After Christ’s victorious resurrection from the dead, God bestowed honor upon His humble, obedient Son: *“Because of the joy awaiting Him, He endured the cross, disregarding its shame. Now He is seated in the place of honor beside God’s throne”* ([Hebrews 12:2, NLT](#)).

When Paul said, “*At the name of Jesus every knee will bow—in heaven and on earth and under the earth*” ([Philippians 2:10, CSB](#)), the emphasis was on every creature in the universe acknowledging Jesus as Lord over all creation. When he stated, “*Every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord*” (verse 11, CSB), he meant that every living thing, both in heaven and on earth, will honor Christ. Heavenly forces and demonic powers, people who reject Christ and His faithful in the church—all will bow before Him ([Isaiah 45:23–24](#)). Every tongue will acknowledge Jesus for who He is—the Sovereign Lord of the universe.

The verses stating that all creation will honor Jesus Christ do not mean that everyone will be saved. Instead, they point to the time when every being acknowledges His authority. The exalted Christ, who sits in the place of honor at God’s right hand ([Colossians 3:1](#)) is Lord over all ([Acts 10:36](#); [Romans 10:12](#)). He has the supreme Name; He is Lord of lords and King of kings ([Revelation 17:14](#); [19:16](#)). He is the one Lord, “*Jesus Christ, through whom all things were created, and through whom we live*” ([1 Corinthians 8:6, NLT](#)). Jesus is Lord of both the dead and the living ([Romans 14:9](#)). He is the Lord upon whom the church calls ([1 Corinthians 1:2](#)). Jesus is our Mediator ([Hebrews 3:1–6](#); [8:6](#); [9:15](#); [12:24](#)), Intercessor ([Hebrews 7:24–25](#); [Romans 8:34](#)), Reconciler ([Ephesians 2:12–17](#); [Romans 5:1](#)), and the One who gives us entrance into the Kingdom of Heaven ([Hebrews 4:1](#), [11](#); [6:19–20](#)).

Jesus has the name above all names because Jesus Christ is Lord! This name, given to Him by the Father, affirms His divinity and supreme authority.

- While he is not the author of every article on GotQuestions.org, for citation purposes, you may reference our CEO, S. Michael Houdmann.

It Happened To A Little Boy Named 'Fruit Stand'

When the 1960s ended, San Francisco's Haight-Ashbury district reverted to high rent, and many hippies moved down the coast to Santa Cruz. They had children and got married, too, though in no particular sequence. But they didn't name their children *Melissa* or *Brett*. People in the mountains around Santa Cruz grew accustomed to their children playing Frisbee with little *Time Warp* or *Spring Fever*. And eventually *Moonbeam*, *Earth*, *Love* and *Precious Promise* all ended up in public school.

That's when the kindergarten teachers first met *Fruit Stand*. Every fall, according to tradition, parents bravely apply name tags to their children, kiss them good-bye and send them off to school on the bus. So it was for *Fruit Stand*. The teachers thought the boy's name was odd, but they tried to make the best of it.

"*Would you like to play with the blocks, Fruit Stand?*" they offered. And later, "*Fruit Stand, how about a snack?*" He accepted hesitantly. By the end of the day, his name didn't seem much odder than *Heather's* or *Sun Ray's*.

At dismissal time, the teachers led the children out to the buses. "*Fruit Stand, do you know which one is your bus?*"

He didn't answer. That wasn't strange. He hadn't answered them all day. Lots of children are shy on the first day of school. It didn't matter. The teachers had instructed the parents to write the names of their children's bus stops on the reverse side of their name tags. The teacher simply turned over the tag. There, neatly printed, was the word "*Anthony.*" - Luanne Oleas in Salinas, Calif., Reader's Digest.

His Face Rings A Bell ;-)

The 200-year-old church was being readied for an anniversary celebration when calamity struck: the bell ringer was called out of town. The sexton immediately advertised for another. When the replacement arrived, the sexton took him to the steps leading to the bell tower, some 150 feet above them. Round and round they went, huffing and puffing all the way. Just as they reached the landing, the bell ringer tripped and fell face-first into the biggest bell of all. Bo-o-o-o-ong! Dazed by the blow, the bell ringer stumbled backward onto the landing. The railing broke loose and he fell to the ground. Miraculously, he was unhurt—only stunned—but the sexton thought it best to call an ambulance. "*Do you know this man's name?*" asked the doctor when he arrived. "*No,*" the sexton replied, "*but his face sure rings a bell.*" - Jerry Zenk, quoted by Alex Thien in Milwaukee Sentinel.