

WHAT'S IN A NAME; THE GREATEST NAME OF ALL?

By Mark Jurkovich

To many of us the name of the Lord Jesus Christ strikes a lot of personal meaning. The Bible itself tells us "*That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow... And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord*" (*Philippians 2:10-11*). But how many times does this name just roll off our tongues without much thought, or the shorter name, Jesus Christ used in vain?

But these three words bear much meaning in themselves that many of us fail to fully realize. Let us look at the word **Christ** first. The name comes from the Greek Christos (Χριστός), which in turn comes from the Hebrew word Messiah, which literally means "anointed one". Je-

sus was the anointed one. To be anointed in the old testament meant one was called out for a special service. The first to be anointed for special service was Aaron, the first high priest (*Ex 28:41*). Only one person at a time could be anointed as high priest. Kings were also anointed to serve their roles (ex. David, *2 Sam 2:4*). And in at least one instance, a prophet was anointed to the role (*Elisha, 1Ki 19:16*). Jesus is THE anointed one, serving all three roles as prophet (*Acts 3:22-23*), priest (*Heb4:14+*) and king! (*Lk 1:32-33*) As prophet, revealing God's word to us; as priest, offering **himself** as the sacrifice for our sins and serving as our intermediary before God the father; as king, the one to whom all our obedience is owed and to whom we will all one day bow before.

Jesus: Many of us know and love the song "Jesus, Jesus, Jesus, there's just something about that name". There is something about

that name, which has even more meaning when you understand that the Hebrew version of Jesus' name, Yeshua, means "salvation", or "the Lord our salvation". The passage in Matthew makes more sense when you understand what the meaning of his name is; "*and thou shalt call his name Jesus: for he shall save his people from their sins.*" (*Matthew 1:21*)

LORD: "*That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.*" (*Romans 10:9*)

How can we so glibly call him Lord and forget that it means he is the supreme authority over every aspect of our lives. We owe all our thanks, all our love, and all our obedience to him.

Therefore, He is the Lord to whom we owe every ounce of our thanksgiving, praise and obedience; he is Jesus our salvation by no other name; he is Christ the anointed one, our prophet, priest and

king! Give Him the honor due His name; today, and every day of your life.

Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need. (Heb 4:14-16, NKJV)

AND BEING FOUND IN APPEARANCE AS A MAN, HE HUMBLED HIMSELF AND BECAME OBEDIENT TO THE POINT OF DEATH, EVEN THE DEATH OF THE CROSS. THEREFORE GOD ALSO HAS HIGHLY EXALTED HIM AND GIVEN HIM THE NAME WHICH IS ABOVE EVERY NAME, THAT AT THE NAME OF JESUS EVERY KNEE SHOULD BOW, OF THOSE IN HEAVEN, AND OF THOSE ON EARTH, AND OF THOSE UNDER THE EARTH, AND THAT EVERY TONGUE SHOULD CONFESS THAT JESUS CHRIST IS LORD, TO THE GLORY OF GOD THE FATHER. (PHILIPPIANS 2:8-11)