

BIBLE CHALLENGE 2019

Week 20: May 12-18

What Should I Call Jesus?

Read: Genesis 49:24; Numbers 24:17; Deuteronomy 18:15-19; 2 Samuel 7:12-13; 22:47; Psalm 118:22; Isaiah 4:2; 6:1; 7:14; 8:14; 9:2,6; 11:1,10; 26:4; 28:16; 42:1,6; 49:5; 53:2,11; 54:5; 60:20 Jeremiah 23:5-6; 30:9; Ezekiel 1:26-28; 34:15,23; Daniel 2:34; 7:13; Zechariah 3:8; 4:7; 6:12; Malachi 3:3; 4:2; Matthew 1:1,21,23; 2:6,23; 3:11-12,17; 8:20; 9:15,28; 11:19; 12:18,39-42; 17:5; 13:37; 20:30; 21:9,11; 26:63; 27:11; 28:18; Mark 2:17; 3:35; 4:3,14; 5:7; 6:3; 9:5; 10:17,45; Luke 1:32,35,69; 2:25; 11:29-32; 20:13; John 1:1-3,14,18,36,41,49; 3:2,16; 4:10-14,25; 5:19; 6:35,41; 7:38; 8:12,58; 10:9,11; 11:25; 12:41; 14:6; 15:1; 20:16; Acts 2:36; 3:15,18; 4:11; 5:31; 10:11,36; Romans 8:29; 9:5; 11:26; 1 Corinthians 1:2,30; 2:8; 15:45,48; 2 Corinthians 4:4; Galatians 4:5; Ephesians 1:22-23; 2:20; 4:15-16; 5:23; Colossians 1:15,18; 3:4; Titus 2:13; 3:4-6; 1 Timothy 1:17; 2:5; 6:15; 2 Timothy 4:8; Hebrews 1:2; 2:10; 3:1; 4:14; 5:9; 9:15; 10:21; 12:2; 1 Peter 1:19; 2:4,8; 5:4; 2 Peter 2:20; 1 John 2:1; 4:9; 5:20; Revelation 1:5,8; 5:5-6,9; 2:1,8,12,18; 3:1,7,14; 12:17; 13:8; 15:3; 17:14; 19:7,11,13,16; 21:23; 22:13,16-17. Read in full: Psalms 2, 23, 24.

Just as there are many names and titles that are given to God the Father, there are also quite a few names that are given to the Son. And, you will find, just as with names given to the Father, many if not all of these names carries with it a certain degree of theological weight, pointing us toward very specific aspects of our Savior's mission. My encouragement with these names is that you use them to inform your prayer life and your personal reflections on who Jesus is.

So, what do we call Jesus? Jesus, of course, is the given name to the Son of God. It is the Greek rendering of the Hebrew name, "Joshua," which means "He will save." The word, "Christ," of course, is not Jesus' last name (surnames hadn't been invented yet). The closest thing to a surname in the English culture would be "son of..." But we will get to that in a minute. "Christ" is the Greek word that means "Messiah," which in turn, is the Hebrew word for "the Anointed One." In the Jewish culture, a number of people/roles were given a special anointing for the purpose of service. This applied especially to the High Priest and to the King (both of which are offices that Jesus fulfilled).

Probably the most important pair of names given to Jesus are "Son of God" and "Son of Man." As noted already, "son of" was the closest thing to a surname or family name that a person could have. Peter is called "Simon Bar-Jonah" (John 21:15), which literally translates as "Simon the Son of John." The other thing that sometimes was used was their place of residence. So, there are Mary Magdalene (Matthew 27:56) and Joseph of Arimathea (Mark 15:43). Both Magdaene and Arimathea are place names indicating where these folks are from.

Son of God

This name is used in three ways. The first has to do with the nativity of Christ. Here we are reminded that this baby whose birth is being spoken of, is very much the divine Son. There is also the Messianic sense, that here is the Christ who is the divine and eternal Son of the Father. And the third is the Trinitarian sense, which speaks about who the Son is within the Triune Godhead.

It should be noted that names like "Son of the Most High" or "My Beloved Son" or "Heir of All Things" or "The Man from Heaven" or "The Firstborn of all Creation" all are meant to reflect the divine nature of Jesus' Sonship. Remember too, that in the reference of Christ to the "Firstborn" and to "Heir" this is not suggesting that Jesus was created or that there ever was a time when Jesus was not (those views are heretical). This is speaking of Jesus' rights according to his preeminence in the Father's house.

Son of Man

This was Jesus' most frequently used reference to himself. He is referred to in this way 85 times in the New Testament alone. This reference is sometimes a bit misunderstood. People usually think that just as Jesus is fully God, he is also fully human and thus, just as he is "Son of God" he is also "Son of Man." In a sense, this is correct. The word "man" in Hebrew is "Adam," derived from the word for "dirt" or "ground." And so, to say that Jesus is "Son of Man" or "Bar-Adam"

is to indicate that Jesus is man and is the one who has come to be the second Adam, bearing the guilt for the first, at least for God's elect.

Yet, to stop there is to miss the Biblical significance of this title, for in Daniel 7:13, the term "Son of Man" is used to speak of a divine being who has come before the Ancient of Days. So here, in this title, we have a name that emphasizes *both* the human nature and the divine nature of Christ.

Groups of Names

When I teach on the names of Christ, I like to group the names into categories of "like" names. In other words, putting the many names together by the way they are used and the connotations that they have. I divide groups as follows:

Names of Messiahship: Jesus, Savior, Messiah/Christ/Anointed One, Righteous Servant, Chosen Servant, honored Servant, Immanuel, Redeemer, Paraclete, Lamb of God

Names of Sonship: Son of God, Son of Man, Son of David, Son of the Most High, Beloved Son, Only-Begotten Son of God, Heir of All Things, Man from Heaven, Firstborn of all Creation, Root of Jesse, Root of David, Son of Abraham, Seed of the Woman, Firstborn of many Brothers

Monarchical Names: Prince of Peace, King of Kings, Lord of Lords, King of Glory, Lord of Glory, Lord, Lion of Judah, Scepter, King of Israel, Only Sovereign, Governor, King Eternal, Lord of All

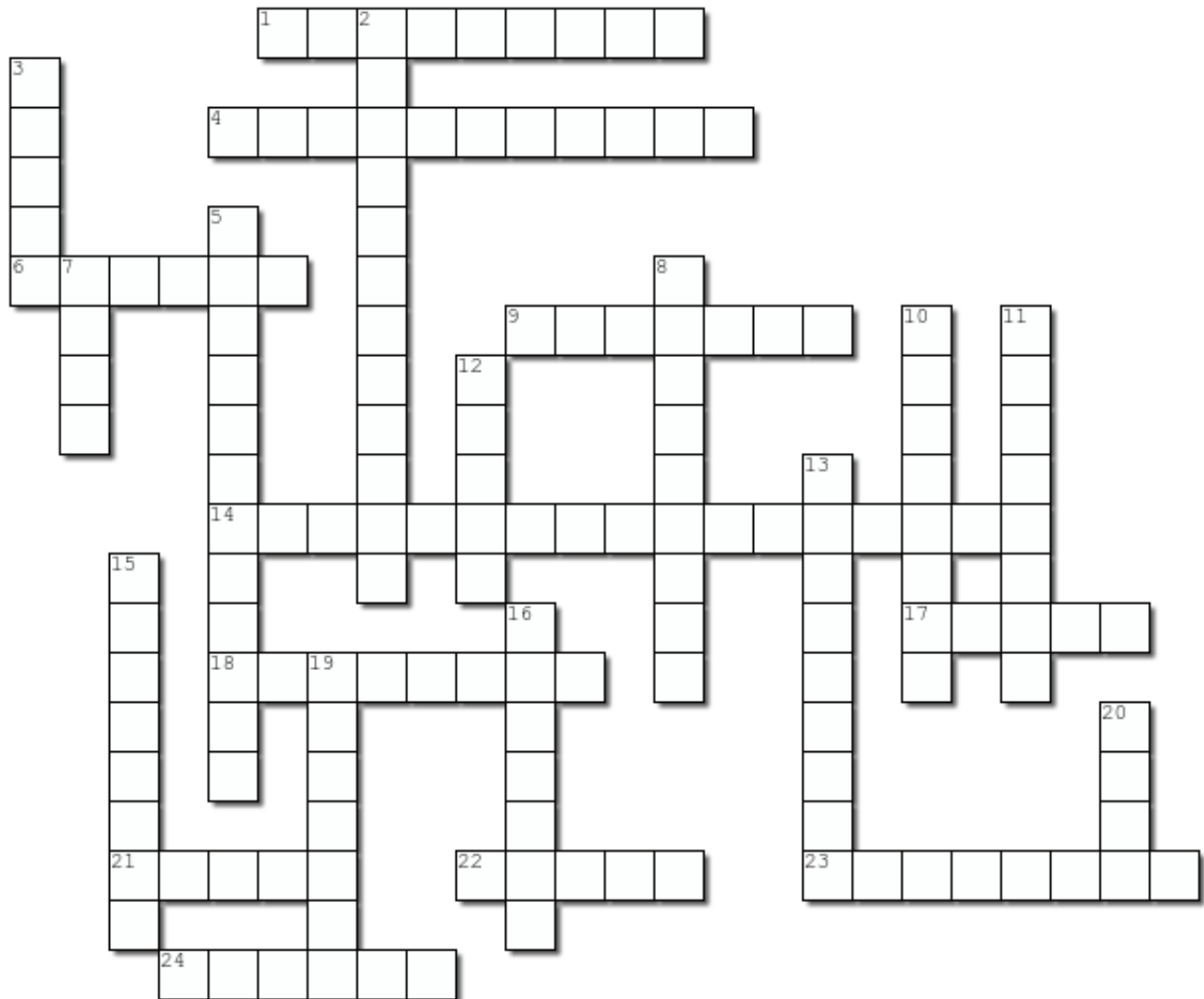
Occupational Names: Shepherd, Creator, Wonderful Counselor, Pioneer, Captain, Author, Carpenter, Bridegroom, Everlasting Father, Refiner, Prophet of Nazareth, Water Giver, Righteous Judge, Teacher from God, Good Teacher, Faithful Witness, Master, Rabbi, Great Physician, Great High Priest

Items: Stone, Rock of My Salvation, Rock of Stumbling, Sanctuary, Everlasting Rock, Living Stone, Cornerstone, Stone of Israel, Capstone, Sure Foundation, Stone Cut by No Human Hand, Manna, Fountain of Living Water, Star, Bright Morning Star, Sun of Righteousness, Everlasting Light, Great Light, Light of the Gentiles

I Am Names: The Way, The Truth, The Light, The Vine, The Good Shepherd, The Door for the Sheep, The Bread of Life, The Light of the World, The Resurrection, The Life, The Alpha, The Omega

Apocalyptic Titles: Him who holds the seven stars and walks amongst the Lampstands, The First and the Last, The One who Died and Came to Life, Him who Holds the Two-Edged Sword, The Son of God with Fiery Eyes and Bronze Feet, Him who has the Seven Spirits and the Seven Stars, the Holy One, the True One who has the Key of David, The Amen

Week 20 - Names of Christ



Created using the Crossword Maker on TheTeachersCorner.net

Across

1. This name has connotations of Passover (3 words).
4. Jesus is this with respect to the building of the church.
6. This Old Testament prophet uses the title 'Son of Man' to speak of the Messiah.
9. Jesus was also called 'Son of ____.' (hint: father of the faithful).
14. It sounds odd to speak of the Son in this way, but it is a title that Isaiah gives to Jesus.
17. Jesus is referred to as the King of this (think Psalm 24).
18. Literally means: 'God with us.'
21. This is the Hebrew word for 'teacher,' though literally it means 'Great one.'
22. Jesus is referred to as prince of this.
23. Jesus is called 'prophet of ____.'
24. This is the Hebrew version of Jesus' name.

Down

2. Jesus is referred to as the firstborn of _____. (2 words)
3. Jesus is said to have the Key of this person.
5. Jesus said, 'I am the ____ and the Life.'
7. Jesus is the ____ and the faithful and true witness.
8. Jesus is referred to both as 'the Son of this title and by this occupational title.
10. Jesus is called 'Son of the ____' by the Angels at his birth (2 words).
11. This is one of the less-used names of Jesus by the church, another word for a ruler.
12. Jesus is referred to as the Lion of ____.
13. Luke records that Jesus is the Horn of our what?
15. 'Good' and 'Chief' belong to this title.
16. God refers to Jesus as 'My ____ Son.'
19. Christ is the Greek synonym of this Hebrew word.
20. Jesus is this of Jesse.