



Week 11 Session Guide

JESUS “Jehovah is my Salvation”

Is it possible that one of God’s names is greater than the others? After all, each of His Names are an ultimate representation of one of the attributes of His perfection. But Scripture itself tells us that indeed one of the Names of God is greater than not only all of God’s other names but greater than every name that ever existed:

God highly exalted Him, and gave Him the name which is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. (Philippians 2:9-11)

You might wonder that “Jesus” is one of God’s names. Indeed it is. In fact Jesus’ Hebrew name is found over 200 times in the Old Testament. It is the name transliterated as “Jehoshua” which the English translators shortened to “Joshua” (‘and sometimes “Jeshua”) and like the other names we’ve studied, it is one of God’s compound names and it means “Jehovah is Salvation”.

In fact, when Joseph found out that Mary was pregnant and wanted to quietly divorce her we read in Matthew 1:20-23,

But when he had considered this, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife; for the Child who has been conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. She will bear a Son; and **you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins ... and they shall call his name Immanuel** (which means “God with us)

You may wonder why God found it necessary to involve Himself (through Jesus) in the plan to bring Salvation to His Creation. When Adam and Eve sinned, they completed a cycle of evil that had been begun by Satan. Their disobedience plunged Creation into a state of chaos, death and destruction. The task of reconciliation was MASSIVE. Covenants had been broken. Laws had been broken. Evil had entrenched itself in the heart of human beings. Salvation from this evil darkness was FAR beyond the capabilities of any being in the Creation.

So God sent His Son, the second person of the Trinity, to “restore all things” and gave Him the name Jesus.

And the reason that this name would have to be the greatest name was because the job of ridding the Universe of the pervasive evil was so great that it would have to encompass all of God’s attributes to accomplish it. So “Jehovah is Salvation” would require “Jehovah Jireh” to provide the necessary Sacrifice, “Jehovah Tsidkenu” to restore Righteousness, “Jehovah M’Keddes” to restore purity and holiness, “Jehovah Rapha” to heal the damage wreaked by sin, and “Jehovah Shalom” to restore Peace between God and His Creation.

So how was Jesus to accomplish this super human task? Would He do it by demonstrating His Omnipotence and crushing His enemies? Would He do it by manifesting His Omniscience and destroying them with His wisdom and intelligence? Would He institute a totalitarian government enforced by the angels who remained faithful?

No. God demonstrated a wisdom born of love that was (and still is) incomprehensible to His enemies. Paul writes in Philippians 2:6-8, that Jesus humbled Himself to become as a human, die a terrible death for us, thereby paying

the penalty meant for us to bring salvation to the world.

And there was still one more rift that needed to be healed. The great divide between races, nationalities and ethnic groups had been responsible for wars, injustice, murder and destruction since the days of Cain and Abel. Paul described the tension between Jews and Gentiles (and all people groups) as being dealt with once and for all. Through the sacrifice on the cross Jesus restored both Jew and Gentile (all people) to allow each of us to be a part of His family forever (Ephesians 2:16).

So what is the responsibility for us who have committed to live for, love and obey Jesus?

Once again we get guidance from Paul in 2 Corinthians 5:18-19.

Now all these things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation, namely, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and He has committed to us the word of reconciliation.

God sent Jesus to show us the way to salvation, to be the light and bring restoration to brokenness and sin in the world. He calls all of us who are Christ followers to do the same. That's a tremendous responsibility and honor.

We, as the very Body of Christ on this Earth in this Church Age have been given the assignment of completing the work that Jesus began during His short tenure on this planet. Just as Jesus told His disciples in the "Great Commission" found in Matthew 28:18-20, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

Just as Jesus (Joshua, "Jehovah is Salvation") was commissioned by His Father to reconcile all things to God, we have likewise been given authority and the Name of Jesus to grow and to strengthen the Body of Christ to fulfill the good purpose of "restoring all things" and "preparing the way" for the Lord's return.

Study Questions:

- 1) Why do you think Adam and Eve's disobedience had such a drastic effect on all of Creation? How does Christ restore what was broken?
- 2) In the beginning of Colossians, the Apostle Paul writes about Jesus. Read Col. 1:15-22 and discuss what we learn about Christ in these Scriptures and what we learn about He desires to accomplish.
- 3) What other names is Jesus called by or referred to in the New Testament? How have you seen the power of the name of Jesus in your life? What authority do we have in Jesus Christ?
- 4) How are some ways we can be agents of reconciliation to this world still lost in brokenness?