



### A CHILD IS BORN



Barbara Rainey

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### NAME ABOVE ALL NAMES

In the beginning, God created and He named. He called the darkness Night and the light Day. He called the dry land Earth and the sky above Heaven. He created the sun, the moon, and the stars, giving each one its name.

Little children learn at a very young age that the warm yellow ball in the sky is called the sun. That is its name. As they grow older, they learn more about its properties, its size, and its effects on the earth, the oceans, and their own bodies. Their knowledge of what the name "sun" means develops and expands.

Like the sun, we too are known by our names. Meaning is inherent in a name, giving identity to an object or a person.

Jesus is a man of many names three hundred, according to some scholars which tells us right away that He is not like us. Getting to know the names of Jesus introduces us to who He is. It's



the starting place for discovering the greatest treasure, a relationship with the eternal God. In learning the names of Christ, our understanding grows.

The celebration of Christ's birth has gotten lost in a swirl of fairy tales and merchandising. Think about it: the stunning miracle of God becoming human has become trivialized with toys, tinsel, and trips to the mall.

What's the solution? The Bible tells us: "looking to Jesus" (Hebrews 12:2). Learn His names, and in doing so, you will know more of Him. Seeing Jesus stirs a response of adoration and worship. And the things of earth become less important. Our misplaced affections are righted.

May His names adorn your home at Christmas and beyond as you give prominence to the Savior of the world, Jesus Christ.

# IDEAS FOR TEACHING NAMES HISTO YOUR FAMILY

This collection of ornaments was created to be used by families with children of all ages. Because the ornaments are beautiful, and also sturdy and timeless, they will endure through all the seasons of family life. And they will proclaim, every year, the essence of the Christmas season, the celebration of the incarnation of the Son of God, Jesus Christ.

- Hang the ornaments one by one and read each corresponding story in the booklet once a day for a week so you can savor the learning experience. Or hang them all in one evening, taking turns reading the stories. The creative among you might hide the ornaments and make scavenger hunt clues for your children to find them.
- For the youngest children, simply use the ornaments to begin to teach them to



recognize the names of Jesus. Elementary age children can learn to read all the names in the set and can begin to memorize the verses where these names are found. They can listen to the short explanation of each name read by an older sibling or a parent.

Teens and adults can also memorize and, beyond that, think about or discuss why God wants us to know that facet of who Jesus is. Why is that quality important? Why does God describe Himself this way? What does it mean to us, His children, to know Jesus as Prince of Peace, Christ the Lord, Savior, and more? Knowing the names of Jesus is more than just an academic exercise; it's part of developing a relationship with the One who loved us so much He set aside the splendor of heaven, came to earth to dwell with us, and then gave His life to pay for our deliverance from sin.

Make the hanging of these Adorenaments® a family experience with everyone participating. And may your family experience the wonder of Jesus as you learn together the meaning of His many names. The truths they teach will bring comfort and joy well beyond the Christmas season.





Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus (Matthew 1:20–21).

The first Bible name most children learn is Jesus. It's short, easy to pronounce, and easy to remember. We sing, "Jesus loves me, this I know, for the Bible tells me so." Simple, yet full of profound truth. Why was Jesus the name of this baby born in Bethlehem?

When Joseph learned that his fiancée, Mary, was pregnant, he was shocked. In their culture, an engagement was considered as binding as a marriage. So as his anxious mind tried to make sense of what seemed like terrible news, he decided to do the honorable thing and quietly

divorce her. The Bible tells us Joseph was a just man, a man who could have had Mary put to death for becoming pregnant before marriage, but instead he decided to show compassion.

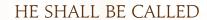
But before Joseph could act on his thinking, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream. The angel told Joseph that the baby in Mary's womb was not from another man, but was conceived by the Holy Spirit. Then the angel said, "You shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins" (Matthew 1:21).

God named this baby in Bethlehem, Jesus.

Jesus is a form of the name Joshua. Do you know another Joshua in the Bible? Joshua led the people of Israel; he fought their battles and inspired them to keep believing that God would deliver them. In what ways was Jesus like Joshua? Or, how was Joshua like Jesus?

Jesus means "God saves." He is our protector, our leader, our Savior. His is the name above all names. And one day, when the name Jesus is spoken, "every knee [will] bow . . . and every tongue [will] confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father" (Philippians 2:10 11).







For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord (Luke 2:11).

Spoken to stunned shepherds in the dark of night, this name speaks to the task prepared for Jesus: He would be the long-awaited Savior. These men and boys whose lives were rough, dirty, and lonely knew nothing of the angel who had visited Joseph or the one who had visited Mary. But suddenly, they too experienced the reality of another realm, for an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and "the glory of the Lord shone around them." Shining as bright as the sun and surrounding God's presence, the glory of the Lord is a brilliant light, and it came with this angel. A supernatural being who serves at God's command, this angel announced that the Savior had come.

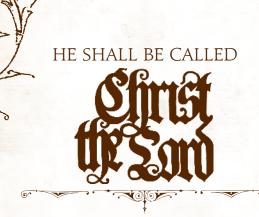


A savior is one who rescues another person in trouble. Imagine someone beginning to drown in a lake. Then a brave soul jumps in and swims to his aid, saving his life. The rescuer is called a savior. What kind of savior did the shepherds need? What kind of savior do you need?

The very first people who lived on earth were also the first ones to need a savior. Adam and Eve chose their own way over God's way and became forever trapped in bondage to bodies that would die instead of live forever. You and I are their children, alive in bodies that are broken by sin and utterly unable to reach God's standard of holiness.

But because God loves us He sent Jesus to be our Savior, to rescue us from our bondage to sin. As you hang the name "Savior" on your tree, think of the symbolism in this action. Then give thanks that He came to save you and me and anyone who believes on His name.

"Hallelujah, what a Savior!"



For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord (Luke 2:11).

The grand announcement delivered by the angel identified this baby not only as our Savior but also as Christ the Lord. Just as we give names to children that connect them to their parents, Jesus' name Christ the Lord declares that He is from God, that He belongs to God. But "Christ the Lord" is also a title and is similar to how we address earthly kings (his royal highness) or leaders of nations (president of the United States). This name declared that Jesus was not only from God, but that He is God. The promised One for whom the Jewish people had been waiting thousands of years was born with a royal title: Christ the Lord.



This declaration was made to simple shepherds who were pasturing flocks of sheep that might have later become sacrificial lambs during Passover. The lambs' shed blood was meant to atone for the people's sin once a year, but Jesus' blood would be shed once for all. Because His sacrifice was perfect and forever, planned before time began, His title Christ the Lord would be firmly authenticated.

What does it mean for Jesus to be Lord? A lord is someone who has great authority over others. For Jesus to be your Lord means that He is your ruler.

Perhaps you've heard it said that if your car doesn't work you take it to a mechanic. If your watch is broken you take it to a jeweler. But you don't take your car to a jeweler or your watch to a mechanic. The one who made it is the one who can fix it and make it work correctly. When we say Jesus is Lord, we're saying He is God. And because God made you, He knows best how your life should work.

Jesus is Christ the Lord. Will you let Him rule your life? Will you give Jesus a gift this year for Christmas? Will you give Him authority over all of you?

May you crown Him as Lord of your life.





### Finnsquel

Behold a virgin shall be with child and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel (Matthew 1:23 KJV).

The beginning moments of a baby's life are a mystery. At first, new life happens secretly, silently, in the darkness of a mother's womb. Then weeks later the discovery is made the truth of a new life already existing becomes known often accompanied by great joy.

Only once was this normal human process changed. And because this conception defied the laws of nature, we call it a miracle. Incomprehensibly, the baby was not conceived between a man and a woman, but in a woman alone. And not in a married woman, but a



maiden, a girl perhaps as young as thirteen or fourteen.

Many of us know the story, but stop for a minute. Shake off the familiarity. Let yourself be awed by the multitude of wonders that surround this exceptional birth. It was seven hundred or so years before Jesus' birth when Isaiah first spoke of the Lord who was to come. We send out birth announcements after the arrival, but God declared this birth centuries ahead of time. And His announcement, like ours, included the baby's name: Emmanuel.

"God with us" is the meaning of Emmanuel. With you. With me. Not a God who is wandering the galaxies somewhere, but here, present, living, with us. This was a stunning announcement. It still is. For anyone who hears the story and believes, life is altered. No one has ever been born like this.

Do you know Him? Will you welcome Him, Emmanuel, the miracle of Christmas? Will you sing, "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" as a prayer from your heart?

What a mystery! God is with us!





### WONDERFUL COUNSELOR

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace (Isaiah 9:6).

Wonderful means to be full of wonder. Our natural response to something awe-inspiring, or wonderful, is to be speechless and barely able to move.

When our children were young we took them to the Grand Canyon. We blindfolded them and then carefully led them to the rim. When they took off their blindfolds all they could say was "Wow!" Beyond that, they were without words, rooted to the ground, eyes wide with wonder at the sight of something so majestic.



Jesus is full of wonder, and He is our Counselor. He is able to make wise plans, to give unequalled advice, and to lead us in perfect safety along the often rocky path of life. This Child who was given is our Wonderful Counselor.

Have you ever been perplexed? Unsure of which alternative is best when making a decision? Have you been discouraged over a relationship with a friend or a sibling? Jesus is our Wonderful Counselor, and His advice can always be trusted. His guidance is unparalleled.

"Your Father knows what you need before you ask him. Pray then," Jesus said (Matthew 6:8 9). This is another wonder: He knows what we need before we ask! And because He is God, He knows before we are even aware of our needs. "And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:19).

Is Jesus wonderful to you, the majestic One who is your Counselor? The One whose grandeur makes the Grand Canyon look like nothing more than a hole in the ground?

This name alone makes Him worthy of worship. "O come, let us adore Him!"





# Mighty

And his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace (Isaiah 9:6).

Mighty God . . . Among the hundreds of names for Jesus, this is one of only four spoken by the prophet Isaiah when he made the pronouncement of the birth of Jesus. The Israelites understood "mighty," for they had experienced the great power of the Lord when He parted the Red Sea with just "the breath of his nostrils" (Exodus 15).

Without the modifier "mighty," some might think that Jesus was less than God. However, words are very important; "every word of God proves true" (Proverbs 30:5). "Mighty God" is a significant name given to this infant lying on a bed of hay. Human eyes saw just a baby, but God



left no doubt as to His true nature.

Did you know that nothing is impossible with God (see Luke 1:37)? The angel Gabriel told Mary this to reassure her when he appeared to her with the news of her pregnancy. More powerful than His creation, Mighty God is not bound by the forces of nature. He can part the Red Sea or conceive with one invisible cell an infant who would be Jesus. And He wants you to know His power, too. Nothing is too hard for God (see Jeremiah 32:17).

But we don't always feel that way, do we? We cry inwardly, saying, "I can't do this" or "There is no way out," just like the Israelites did when staring at a vast body of water that blocked their escape. Can you believe that Jesus is your Mighty God? That He can provide a way of escape for you, too? That He can help you through a crisis?

Christmas is portrayed as a time of joy, but it isn't always so. Hard times happen even at Christmas; sometimes they feel worse on holidays. Do you know the song "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"? It isn't a Christmas song, but singing it could remind you what is true about Jesus, our Mighty God.

(Everlasting Father coming in a future set)





And his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end (Isaiah 9:6–7).

Peace without end is the longing of every human heart, but it cannot be found on earth. No king has ever lived, even the most benevolent, who has ruled with perfect peace. All kings are human, flawed, and prone to error. But Jesus is named Prince of Peace. This name brings the great promise of a life without conflict. Only One who is divine, who is sinless, can rule with perfection. His name is Jesus.

While we wait for His government on earth, we can still experience the peace Jesus offers: "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid" (John 14:27). Later He added, "In me you may have peace"

(John 16:33). He knew He was leaving and that His followers would feel abandoned and afraid, so Jesus promised them the assurance of much-needed peace.

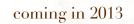
It is both remarkable and comforting that Jesus can dwell within our frail humanity by His Spirit. Even in our faults and failures, He can produce miraculous peace. Does He live within your heart? If He does, then no matter how difficult your circumstances, He can and will give peace that passes all understanding if you will ask.

One of the most loved hymns of the church, "It Is Well With My Soul," was written by Horatio Spafford just months after all four of his daughters drowned when their ship sank in the Atlantic Ocean. His wife was saved when a plank of wood floated beneath her unconscious body, keeping her from drowning. Unimaginable grief must have overwhelmed Mr. Spafford.

On the journey to meet his wife, he wrote these words near the place where the ship sank: "When peace like a river attendeth my way,/When sorrows like sea billows roll/...Thou has taught me to say,/ It is well... with my soul." How was that possible? Without the Prince of Peace it is not. Only in Jesus can we say, "It is well with my soul."

May you know His peace this Christmas and forever.





# HIS Royal NAMES



coming in 2014

HIS Eternal NAMES

## GOD'S Amazing LOYE

Christmas is the story of God's love. He came to us through His Son, even though our sin had separated us from Him. Christ lived a flawless and sinless life, and then offered Himself as a sacrifice for our sin. Because of that gift you can be forgiven and welcomed into His family forever. Will you accept His offer of salvation by asking Him to forgive your sins and trusting Him by faith to be your Savior? If so, here is a suggested prayer:

Lord Jesus, I need You. Thank You for dying on the cross for my sins. I receive You as my Savior and Lord. Thank You for forgiving my sins and giving me eternal life. Make me the kind of person You want me to be.



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