

More Than Just A Name: Yeshua (Jesus)

This morning as we continue our series of messages titled – **More Than Just A Name** – we are going to transition from God to Jesus. And what better place to begin, than with the pronouncement of His birth. You see, the pronouncement of His birth was unique and special because it followed a Biblical context where God used special messengers to carry out His will among His people. The OT writers recorded these events sixty times with the use of the phrase, “the Angel of the Lord”. This phrase is a reference for special angels who conducted specific tasks and proclamations of God. It was these same servants we find throughout the Gospels, in connection with Jesus, especially concerning His birth, the temptations in the wilderness, His second coming and final judgement, and His resurrection. There are only three named angels in Scripture, Lucifer, Michael, and Gabriel. Michael is always depicted as a defender, while Gabriel is seen as a messenger. According to Luke’s gospel, an Angel of the Lord (Gabriel) announced to Zechariah the birth of John the Baptist who was of course the man God put in place to prepare the way for the Messiah. It was this same angel who revealed to Mary that she would bear the Son of God through the Holy Spirit. This angel also revealed, through a dream, to Joseph, the truth behind Mary’s supernatural pregnancy. **Let’s look together at Matthew 1:18-25.** As I read this, take note of the names found here which refer to the Messiah. One of the names for Jesus, is Messiah, which is a Hebrew word meaning, “the anointed one”, or “the chosen one.”

First, you see “Jesus Christ”, which is a combination of the earthly name intended for God’s Son. In the original Greek, His name was translated from the Hebrew, “*Yeshua*”, which means “The Lord is Salvation.” The Greek translation for Yeshua is “*Iēsous*.” The English spelling for this is of course, Jesus. Therefore, let it be known that Yeshua, Iēsous, and Jesus are one and the same, and should be known as “The Lord is Salvation.” Christ is His divine title and is a related term to Messiah. Some translations read it, “Jesus the Christ.” Therefore, Matthew wants us to know he is referring to “The Lord who saves is the One appointed by God.” **Acts 2:21** reminds us, “*that everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.*”

Take note of the other name given to Jesus from our text. This name was the one given to Him through the prophecy of Isaiah. Both the Hebrew and English spellings are identical. Immanuel as seen here with the “I”. The Greek spelling begins with “E” instead of the “I”. While the spellings may differ slightly, the meaning of the word and the meaning behind the word are identical in nature. This is the spiritual or symbolic name given to Jesus and carries with it a two-fold message. First, the idea of God’s presence with us goes all the way back to the garden. If you recall, God walks and talks with Adam and Eve in the garden. He was present with them. Also, we know that God was present with the Israelites throughout their eventual release from captivity in Egypt. Remember **Exodus 13:21**, “*And the Lord went before them by day in a pillar of cloud to lead them along the way, and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light, that they might travel by day and by night.*”

The first message is a reminder that God, our Creator, has always been present in the lives of His people. The second message and purpose behind calling Jesus, Immanuel, deals with salvation. Jesus, “The Lord who is Salvation” was made available to all who believe in Him. Salvation belongs to Jew and Gentile. If we are saved, then we are also promised that Jesus will forever be present in our lives. Speaking to the disciples, Jesus said, “*For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them.*” (**Matthew 18:20**) Just before He ascended and right after He delivered the great commission, He said, “*And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.*” (**Matthew 28:20b**) These are promises directly from the Savior to the believer. If you want to experience the presence of God in your life then putting your faith in Jesus is the way to do it. So, when you call upon the name of Jesus, it means so much more than just saying a name.

Can you confidently do that today? Can you call on Jesus because you know who **HE** truly is? Is He the Lord who has saved you? Perhaps, you need to confess to Him today. Perhaps you need to ask Him for forgiveness today. Perhaps you need to profess your love to Him today. Perhaps you need to simply raise your hands in praise to Him or fall on your face in worship to Him today. Perhaps, you just need to sit still and feel His presence in this place, in this moment.