

What names did Jesus call Himself by?

Do you call yourself a different name? If so, what image are you projecting to others? Jesus called Himself different names for different purposes. Grab your magnifying glass and, with careful observation, can you discern why Jesus calls Himself different names?

1. While on earth, Jesus called Himself these names. What were the names and what do you perceive? Hint: who would recognize these names (i.e. Gentiles or Jews)?

"But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins" --then He said to the paralytic, "Get up, pick up your bed and go home." (Matt 9:6; Mark 2:9-11, NASB)

Jesus said to them, "Did you never read in the Scriptures,
The stone which the builders rejected,
This became the chief cornerstone;
This came about from the Lord,
And it is marvelous in our eyes'?" (Matt 21:42; Mark 12:10; Luke 20:17, NASB)

Jesus then said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, it is not Moses who has given you the bread out of heaven, but it is My Father who gives you the true bread out of heaven. (John 6:32, NASB)

Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was born, I am." (John 8:58, NASB)

So Jesus said to them again, "Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. (John 10:7, NASB)

I am the good shepherd; the good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep. (John 10:11, NASB)

2. Most Jews thought Jesus the Messiah was a military Savior. What do you observe and conclude?

Then Jesus again spoke to them, saying, "I am the Light of the world; he who follows Me will not walk in the darkness, but will have the Light of life." (John 8:12, NASB)

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me will live even if he dies, and everyone who lives and believes in Me will never die. Do you believe this?" (John 11:25, NASB)

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me. (John 14:6, NASB)

"I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser." (John 15:1, NASB)

3. The apostle John sees the resurrected Jesus in heaven. Observe carefully the names Jesus calls Himself. These names and titles are not mentioned while Jesus is on earth. Why? What is Jesus saying? Does this affect your view of Jesus – do you see Him as a friend?

When I saw Him, I fell at His feet like a dead man. And He placed His right hand on me, saying, “Do not be afraid; I am the first and the last, (Rev 1:17, NASB)

and the living One; and I was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of death and of Hades. (Rev 1:18, NASB)

To the angel of the church in Ephesus write: The One who holds the seven stars in His right hand, the One who walks among the seven golden lampstands, says this: (Rev 2:1, NASB)

And to the angel of the church in Pergamum write: The One who has the sharp two-edged sword says this: (Rev 2:12, NASB)

And to the angel of the church in Thyatira write: The Son of God, who has eyes like a flame of fire, and His feet are like burnished bronze, says this: (Rev 2:18, NASB)

To the angel of the church in Sardis write: He who has the seven Spirits of God and the seven stars, says this: “I know your deeds, that you have a name that you are alive, but you are dead.” (Rev 3:1, NASB)

And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write: He who is holy, who is true, who has the key of David, who opens and no one will shut, and who shuts and no one opens, says this: (Rev 3:7, NASB)

To the angel of the church in Laodicea write: The Amen, the faithful and true Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God, says this: (Rev 3:14, NASB)

I, Jesus, have sent My angel to testify to you these things for the churches. I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star.” (Rev 22:16, NASB)

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Teacher Notes**

Do you call yourself a different name? If so, what image are you projecting to others? Jesus called Himself different names for different purposes. Grab your magnifying glass and, with careful observation, can you discern why Jesus calls Himself different names?

Encourage the student to realize that Jesus calls Himself different names for specific reasons.

1. While on earth, Jesus called Himself these names. What were the names and what do you perceive? Hint: who would recognize these names (i.e. Gentiles or Jews)?

"But so that you may know that the **Son of Man** has authority on earth to forgive sins" --then He said to the paralytic, "Get up, pick up your bed and go home." (Matt 9:6; Mark 2:9-11, NASB)

Only Jews familiar with the Old Testament would recognize that "Son of Man" came from Daniel 7:13 – a name that indicated that Jesus was the Messiah.

I kept looking in the night visions,
And behold, with the clouds of heaven
One like a son of man was coming,
And He came up to the Ancient of Days
And was presented before Him. (Dan 7:13, NASB)

Jesus said to them, "Did you never read in the Scriptures,
'The stone which the builders rejected,
This became the **chief cornerstone**;
This came about from the Lord,
And it is marvelous in our eyes'?" (Matt 21:42; Mark 12:10; Luke 20:17, NASB)

Only Jews familiar with the Old Testament would recognize that "Chief Cornerstone" came from Psalms 118:20-22 – a name that indicated that Jesus was the Messiah.

This is the gate of the Lord;
The righteous will enter through it.
I will give thanks to You, for You have answered me,
And You have become my salvation.
A stone which the builders rejected
Has become the chief cornerstone. (Ps 118:20-22, NASB)

Jesus then said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, it is not Moses who has given you the bread out of heaven, but it is My Father who gives you the **true bread out of heaven**. (John 6:32, NASB)

Only Jews familiar with the Exodus, Moses, and manna, would recognize that the "True Bread Out of Heaven" was a reference that Jesus was the Messiah.

Then the Lord said to Moses, "Behold, I will rain bread from heaven for you; and the people shall go out and gather a day's portion every day, so that I may test them, whether or not they will walk in My instruction. On the sixth day, when they prepare what they bring in, it will be twice as much as they gather daily." So Moses and Aaron said to all

the sons of Israel, "At evening you will know that the Lord has brought you out of the land of Egypt; and in the morning you will see the glory of the Lord, for He hears your grumblings against the Lord; and what are we, that you grumble against us?" (Ex 16:4-7, NASB)

Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was born, **I am.**" (John 8:58, NASB)

Only Jews familiar with the Old Testament would recognize who Abraham was and the name "I AM" which indicated that Jesus was of God.

Then Moses said to God, "Behold, I am going to the sons of Israel, and I will say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you.' Now they may say to me, 'What is His name?' What shall I say to them?" And God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM"; and He said, "This is what you shall say to the sons of Israel: 'I AM has sent me to you.'" God furthermore said to Moses, "This is what you shall say to the sons of Israel: 'The Lord, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you.' This is My name forever, and this is the name for all generations to use to call upon Me. (Ex 3:13-15, NASB)

So Jesus said to them again, "Truly, truly, I say to you, I am **the door of the sheep.** (John 10:7, NASB)

I am the **good shepherd**; the good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep. (John 10:11, NASB)

Only Jews familiar with the Old Testament would recognize that "sheep" was a reference to Believers – "Door of the Sheep" and "Good Shepherd" referred to Jesus as the Messiah.

2. Most Jews thought Jesus the Messiah was a military Savior. What do you observe and conclude?

Then Jesus again spoke to them, saying, "I am the **Light of the world**; he who follows Me will not walk in the darkness, but will have the Light of life." (John 8:12, NASB)

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"I am the **true vine**, and My Father is the vinedresser." (John 15:1, NASB)

Ask the student: what did Jesus' name mean again?

Jesus calls Himself names that indicate His purpose on earth. This can be more easily seen by recalling what Simeon says when the Holy Spirit reveals that the infant Jesus was the prophesized Messiah:

And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. And he came in the Spirit into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to carry out for Him the custom of the Law, then he took Him into his arms, and blessed God, and said,
"Now Lord, You are releasing Your bond-servant to depart in peace,
According to Your word;
For my eyes have seen Your salvation,
Which You have prepared in the presence of all peoples,

A Light of revelation to the Gentiles,
And the glory of Your people Israel." (Luke 2:26-32 NASB)
Simeon spoke of Old Testament Messianic prophecies:
"In the sight of all nations, the salvation of our God" (Isa 52:10; Ps 98:2-3)
"Light to the nations" (Isa 42:6-7; 49:6)

3. The apostle John sees the resurrected Jesus in heaven. Observe carefully the names Jesus calls Himself. These names and titles are not mentioned while Jesus is on earth. Why? What is Jesus saying? Does this affect your view of Jesus – do you see Him as a friend?

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Ask the student: circle or underline the names and titles you observe that Jesus uses of Himself. What do those names and titles signify?

Jesus depicts Himself as sovereign King!

Ask the student: how does this affect your view and relationship with Jesus Christ?

Ask the student: did Jesus arbitrarily call Himself all these different names to project a certain image of Himself?

The one who rejects Me and does not accept My teachings has one who judges him: the word which I spoke. That will judge him on the last day. For I did not speak on My own, but the Father Himself who sent Me has given Me a commandment as to what to say and what to speak. (John 12:48-49, NASB)