

JESUS

Jesus, Yeshua, common name for Jewish boys of time, means "God saves" in Hebrew. Jesus' very name reflects his identity and his mission as saviour of the world. It is through Jesus, and Jesus alone, that we are saved from our sins, which is why God "gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth (Phil 2:9 – 10)

In the sixth month, the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the house of David, and the virgin's name was Mary. And coming to her, he said, "Hail, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was greatly troubled at what was said and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High, ¹¹ and the Lord God will give him the throne of David his father, and he will rule over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

CHRIST

Christ is not Jesus' last name – it is a formal title that is used over 400 times in New Testament. Christ is Greek translation for the Hebrew word for messiah, which means anointed one. To be anointed in the religious sense is to have oil placed on you in preparation for a special mission. In the Old Testament, kings and sometimes prophets were anointed in God's name. Jesus the Christ means Jesus, the anointed one sent by God to be the saviour of the world.

Now Jesus and his disciples set out for the villages of Caesarea Philippi. Along the way he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that I am?" They said in reply, "John the Baptist, others Elijah, still others one of the prophets." And he asked them, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter said to him in reply, "You are the Messiah."

SON OF GOD

Son of God; title signifies special and eternal relationship with God. When applied to Jesus in the New Testament, it takes on additional meaning. We are all children of God but Jesus has a unique relationship with God the Father. Jesus is only, true, eternal Son of the Father and he is part of the Trinity, God himself.

It happened in those days that Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized in the Jordan by John. On coming up out of the water he saw the heavens being torn open and the Spirit, like a dove, descending upon him. ⁶ And a voice came from the heavens, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased."

LORD

Lord – title of respect in Jesus' time. Also Lord is the Greek word they used instead of Yahweh, the Hebrew name often used for God in the Old Testament. Yahweh was considered too sacred to be pronounced out loud, so the Jews came to use the word Lord instead. When we call Jesus Lord, we recognize his divinity and acknowledge that he alone is worthy of our worship and our complete obedience.

Thomas, called Didymus, one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples said to him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger into the nailmarks and put my hand into his side, I will not believe." Now a week later his disciples were again inside and Thomas was with them. Jesus came, although the doors were locked, and stood in their midst and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands, and bring your hand and put it into my side, and do not be unbelieving, but believe." Thomas answered and said to him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you come to believe because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed