

The Names of Jesus

Bible Study Monday 13th. April 2020

One modern “song” I like and often hum is:-

Jesus, Name Above All Names

Beautiful Saviour, Glorious Lord

Emmanuel, God Is With Us

Blessed Redeemer, Living Word.

So I thought we would do a study on what the bible calls Jesus and there are lots of texts to look up!!

They are; Jesus: Christ: Messiah: Son of God: Son of Man: Son of David: Lord (Sir/Master): Lamb: and the words associated with “I Am.

Some of them describe his nature, some describe his official position and some describe his work.

Jesus: see Josh. 1.1 and Matt. 1.21. Jesus is the Greek form of the Hebrew name Joshua. I don't understand the argument but scholars have put forward the idea that Joshua is derived from another Hebrew word meaning “to save”.

Christ: as Jesus is a personal name, Christ is the official name in Greek of the Hebrew “Messiah, so we will treat Christ and Messiah as one and assume it's meaning is “the anointed one”.

In the OT anointing was a visible sign of:

- a) The appointment to office – Ex 29.4-7; 1Sam.9.14-17 & 10.1
- b) A special relationship to God – 1Sam.24.5-6; 2Sam.1.14-16;
- c) The gift of the Spirit – 1Sam.16.11-13; Is. 61.1

Christ was appointed to his office from eternity but historically his anointing took place when he was conceived by the Spirit, Luk.1.35 and at his baptism Matt.3.16.

Son of God – in the OT loads of people seem to be son of God;

the whole tribe of Israel Ex.4.22 and Jer.31.9

and their kings 2Sam.7.14,

but when it comes to Jesus (who quite happily uses the term to describe himself) it has three distinct meanings;

- a) Messianic – Matt.8.29, Matt.3.17, Matt.16.16
- b) Trinitarian – Luk.10.21-22
- c) Birth – Luk.1.35 but what about Jn.1.12-13? Complicated isn't it!

Son of Man – this is Jesus’ favourite way of describing himself (over 40 times) but no one else seems to use it. John uses it as an indirect quote Jn.12.34 and Stephen uses it to describe a vision Act7.56 All we know is that Ezekiel and Daniel used the words as a description and Jesus decided to use them as a name.

Son of David – this is the opposite. Hundreds of references concerning a descendent of David who will rule for ever. And then hardly ever a mention in the NT and never by Jesus.

- a) Blind man Matt.9.27.
- b) An amazed crowd Matt.12.23
- c) The Caananite Woman matt.15.22
- d) The Palm Sunday crowds Matt.21.9 and 21.15

Lord/Sir/Master – the English word “Lord” in the OT is usually a translation of the Hebrew “Jaweh” see Josh.3.11 and Psalm 97.5 In the NT a translation of the Greek “Adonai”.

But in the NT there are hints of 3 meanings

- a) A respectful form of address – not Downton Abbey _ but see Matt.8.2 & 20.33
- b) An expression denoting ownership Matt.24.42
- c) A name equal to God – Mk.12.35-37, Luk.2.11, Jn.20.28

Lamb of God – lambs are numerous in the OT as a sacrifice acceptable to God. We discussed this in detail when we did the sacrificial aspect of the Eucharist a couple of months ago, but remember this title falls squarely into the third category above, it describes his work!

- a) John the Baptist uses the name Jn.1.29 & 1.36
- b) 1Pet.1.19 recognizes the work
- c) Revelation is full of the Lamb at the centre of heaven; Look at the first dozen verses of Rev.5 and the first dozen verses of Rev.14 and Rev.21.22-23.

I AM – we did the seven “I AM’s” , bread, light, gate, shepherd, vine, way & truth & life, resurrection in detail last year.

Colin.

Let me know if there is any subject you want me to cover and I will try to produce something.