

Names & Titles 2021 Pt. 1

Pastor James Foley – Shared Sunday, April 11, 2021

SETTING THE STAGE PT. 1

FYI – This morning I would like to begin a new multi-part series on the names and titles of Jesus Christ...

Scripture employs an array of varying “names and titles” used in reference to Jesus. Each provides some unique insight and/or perspective into His character, nature and work. Moreover, each helps us to understand the role He should and must play in our lives (i.e., shaping how we live in and before Him).

KEY – Nothing in life is more critical than accurately understanding the nature of Christ and your place in Him...

QUOTE – “Knowing about God is crucially important for the living of our lives. As it would be cruel to an Amazonian tribesman to fly him to London, put him down without explanation of Trafalgar Square and leave him, as one who knew nothing of English or England, to fend for himself, so we are cruel to ourselves if we try to live in this world without knowing about the God whose world it is and who runs it. The world becomes a strange, made, painful place, and life in it a disappointing and unpleasant business, for those who do not know about God. Disregard the study of God, and you sentence yourself to stumble and blunder through life blindfolded, as it were, with no sense of direction and no understanding of what surrounds you. This way you can waste your life and lose your soul.” –J. I. Packer

SETTING THE STAGE PT. 2

FYI – In some ways this is not a new study. In fact, we have touched upon Jesus’ names and titles beforehand...

1) In Recent Weeks...

Only two weeks ago (i.e., Palm Sunday) we addressed the meaning of the title of “Christ” in reference to Jesus. As was made clear, “Christ” is not a last name like Foley, Lee or Barry! Rather, it is a title that identifies Jesus as the long-awaited, God-appointed Savior and King who shall preside over a global kingdom that will never perish, spoil or fade (cf. Dan. 7:9–10, 13–14).

2) In Recent Years...

In 2016, we addressed the “I Am” statements of Jesus Christ. Herein, He described “Himself” as the following...

- A)** The Bread of Life (John 6)
- B)** The Light of the World (John 8)
- C)** The Door (John 10)
- D)** The Good Shepherd (John 10)
- E)** The Resurrection and the Life (John 11)
- F)** The Way and the Truth and the Life (John 14)
- G)** The True Vine (John 15)

KEY – Previous studies are on the church website – www.NewLifeBarre.org (enjoy at your leisure)!

SETTING THE STAGE PT. 3

FYI 1 – This new series will spotlight names and/or titles I have not previously addressed from this pulpit. This morning I want to offer three unique names and/or titles that touch upon the deity of Jesus Christ. Keep in mind that this is a NON-EXHAUSTIVE study! There is so much more we could delve into...

#1 ALMIGHTY

The first title I want to explore is found in the Book of Revelation...

Revelation 1:1–8 (NIV, Emphasis Mine)

1 The revelation from Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show his servants what must soon take place. He made it known by sending his angel to his servant John, 2 who testifies to everything he saw—that is, the word of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ. 3 Blessed is the one who reads aloud the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear it and take to heart what is written in it, because the time is near.

4 John,

To the seven churches in the province of Asia:

Grace and peace to you from him who is, and who was, and who is to come, and from the seven spirits before his throne, 5 and from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth.

To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood, 6 and has made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve his God and Father—to him be glory and power for ever and ever! Amen.

7 “Look, he is coming with the clouds,” [cf. Dan. 7:13
and “every eye will see him,
even those who pierced him”];
and all peoples on earth “will mourn because of him.” [cf. Zech. 12:10]
So shall it be! Amen.

8 “I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, “who is, and who was, and who is to come, **the Almighty.**”

NOTE – To begin, it should be noted that “Almighty” is a descriptive name of God found in the OT. In fact, God is identified as “Almighty” 48 times in the OT. Moreover, “Almighty” is a primary name of God the Father throughout the Book of Revelation. Yet, Jesus uses this title in reference to Himself in the opening of this inspired work! Thus, “Almighty” is a title that is used interchangeably to describe both the Father and the Son of God (i.e., emphasizing the deity of Jesus Christ).

Q. What is the meaning of “Almighty”?

A. Matchless in authority and unlimited in power...

NOTE 1 (Matchless in Authority) – The Hebrew word for “Almighty” (i.e., sadday) comes from a root meaning “mountain”—portraying the Lord as One who is exalted far above all human dominion. Simply stated, nothing in all creation can challenge or rival His control of the universe.

NOTE 2 (Unlimited in Power – Omnipotent) – The first mention in the Bible of God being “Almighty” is found in Genesis 17. Herein, God appeared to the aged Abraham, promising that he and his wife (Sarah) would have a child named Isaac within a year’s time (i.e., ultimately becoming the father of both kings and nations). This would be accomplished through His power despite every limitation of age and nature...

Jeremiah 32:17 (Emphasis Mine)

17 “Ah, Sovereign Lord, you have made the heavens and the earth by your great power and outstretched arm. **Nothing** is too hard for you.

KEY – Ultimately, “Almighty” underscores the supremacy of Christ AND His ability to fulfill His promises, accomplishing His good purpose in the earth. In the end, nothing is beyond the scope of His authority and/or His intended will.

Q. Contemporary Application?

A1. Christ is still supreme, sovereign, unmatched and unrivaled.

A2. Christ has the capacity to faithfully execute His Word and fulfill His purpose.

#2 ALPHA AND OMEGA

The second title I want to explore is found within the same passage from the Book of Revelation...

Revelation 1:4–8 (Emphasis Mine)

4 John, To the seven churches in the province of Asia:

Grace and peace to you from him who is, and who was, and who is to come, and from the seven spirits before his throne, 5 and from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth.

To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood, 6 and has made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve his God and Father—to him be glory and power for ever and ever! Amen.

7 “Look, he is coming with the clouds,” [cf. Dan. 7:13

and “every eye will see him,
even those who pierced him”;

and all peoples on earth “will mourn because of him.” [cf. Zech. 12:10]

So shall it be! Amen.

8 “I am **the Alpha and the Omega**,” says the Lord God, “who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty.”

NOTE – This distinctive title occurs alongside “Almighty” in Revelation 1:8. It is also found near the end of Revelation. In Revelation 21:6, God the Father, while seated on His throne, says: “I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End.” Once again, it is significant that the title is used of the Father and Son interchangeably—again emphasizing the divinity of Christ!

Q. What is the meaning of this phrase?

A1. Alpha and Omega are the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet (i.e., similar to our “A and Z”). This indicates that God is the absolute source of all creation and history, with nothing being “outside” of Him. It all began with Him AND it will all culminate with Him and His good purposes...

A2. John MacArthur includes the following note: “An alphabet is an ingenious way to store and communicate knowledge. For instance, the twenty-six letters of the English alphabet, arranged in almost endless combinations, can hold and convey all knowledge. Thus, Christ is the supreme, sovereign alphabet; there is nothing outside his knowledge, so there are no unknown factors that can sabotage” His glorious purposes or Coming.

Q. Contemporary Application?

A1. To what degree do you see Christ as your end-all-and-be-all of life and living?

A2. To what degree do you recognize that the whole of your life is to consist in Him?

Colossians 3:1–4 (Emphasis Mine)

1 Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. 2 Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. 3 For you died, and your life is now **hidden** with Christ in God. 4 When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

A3. To what degree do you understand that we are moving—inexorably—to His intended end?

Revelation 21:1–8

1 Then I saw “a new heaven and a new earth,” for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. 2 I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. 3 And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Look! God’s dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. 4 ‘He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death’ or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.”

5 He who was seated on the throne said, “I am making everything new!” Then he said, “Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.”

6 He said to me: “It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To the thirsty I will give water without cost from the spring of the water of life. 7 Those who are victorious will inherit all this, and I will be their God and they will be my children. 8 But the cowardly, the unbelieving, the vile, the murderers, the sexually immoral, those who practice magic arts, the idolaters and all liars—they will be consigned to the fiery lake of burning sulfur. This is the second death.”

#3 AMEN

The third title of Jesus Christ that I want to explore appears in the third chapter of the Book of Revelation...

Revelation 3:14–22 (Emphasis Mine)

14 “To the angel of the church in Laodicea write:

These are the words of the **Amen**, the faithful and true witness, the ruler of God’s creation. 15 I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other! 16 So, because you are lukewarm—neither hot nor cold—I am about to spit you out of my mouth. 17 You say, ‘I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing.’ But you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked. 18 I counsel you to buy from me gold refined in the fire, so you can become rich; and white clothes to wear, so you can cover your shameful nakedness; and salve to put on your eyes, so you can see.

19 Those whom I love I rebuke and discipline. So be earnest and repent. 20 Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me. 21 To the one who is victorious, I will give the right to sit with me on my throne, just as I was victorious and sat down with my Father on his throne. 22 Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches.”

NOTE 1 – While the term “Amen” occurs frequently in Scripture, only in Revelation 3:14 is a member of the Godhead (i.e., Trinity) identified as the “Amen.” What is the meaning of the term “Amen” and its usage in relation to Christ?

NOTE 2 – “Amen” stems from a Hebrew word that refers to something as being “sure, certain and true.” As the divine “Amen” Jesus is the sure, certain and true foundation on whom the promises of God rest. Moreover, being sure, certain and true, Christ will ensure that the promises of God are fulfilled. Ultimately, Christ as the “Amen” signifies His veracity (i.e., trustworthiness) and ability to execute the purpose of God. Hence the remainder of the passage...

Revelation 3:14 (Emphasis Mine)

14 To the . . . church in Laodicea write: These are the words of the Amen, the **faithful** and **true** witness . . .

NOTE 3 – In context, this title played an important role in Christ’s words to the Laodiceans. Firstly, it underscored the veracity of His assessment (i.e., He was accurately evaluating their sp. condition). Secondly, He was able to make good on His promises, having the power to bring about pardon and life eternal.

FYI – When we end prayers with “AMEN” it is an expression of our confidence in the One who is sure, certain and true. When we say “AMEN” (lit. “let it be so” and/or “so bit it”), we are petitioning the Lord to make sure, certain and true—i.e., to faithfully bring to pass—all that we ask for in concert with His will.

Q. Contemporary Application?

A1. To what degree do you look to Christ as One who is sure, certain, faithful and true?

A2. To what degree are you convinced that God in Christ is able and willing to fulfill His Word?

A3. To what degree do you take the Lord at His Word and trust in His evaluations (i.e., even of you)?

SUMMATIONS

As we have seen, Scripture is replete with “names and titles” regarding the person, nature and work of Christ. In this message we have considered seven titles that connect to the deity and/or divinity of Christ. We shall continue in the weeks to come. Ultimately...

Q. What impact do these principles have on your life and living?

Q. What impact should these principles have in your Christian experience?

A. These are questions only you can answer—yet I would encourage you to look to and know Him!

CONCLUSION

Thank you for joining us today. If you wish to give online feel free to do so at www.NewLifeBarre.org. If you wish to give in person there are offering boxes throughout the church facility. I close this service with the following blessing...

Numbers 6:24–26

24 ““The Lord bless you
and keep you;

25 the Lord make his face shine on you
and be gracious to you;

26 the Lord turn his face toward you
and give you peace.”