

# Names & Titles 2021 Pt. 3

Pastor James Foley – Shared Sunday, April 25, 2021

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## INTRODUCTION

Thank you for joining us today! Whether you are here in person or watching via the livestream, you are most welcome. Please have a Bible at the ready and be prepared to take some notes. We have much to cover in a relatively short amount of time.

## SETTING THE STAGE

**NOTE** – We are in the midst of a series on the “names and titles” of Jesus Christ. As we have noted, Scripture employs an array of designations used in reference to Christ (i.e., each providing some unique insight into His nature and work). Moreover, each helps us to understand how we are to live in and before Him as Christians. Thus far, we have identified and examined Jesus as the...

### 1) Almighty

He is both matchless in authority and boundless in power (i.e., omnipotent).

### 2) Alpha and Omega

He is the source of creation and history—with things will culminating with His good purpose.

### 3) Amen

He is the sure and certain foundation on whom the promises of God rest (i.e., He who fulfills promises).

### 4) Immanuel

He is the “present” Lord who ensures ultimate relief, deliverance from and victory over our enemies.

### 5) Judge

He is the One to whom we shall give ultimate account—the “Righteous Evaluator” of humanity.

### 6) Bright Morning Star

He who will dispel the darkness of man’s night and herald the dawning of God’s glorious day.

**KEY** – Let us continue with the following names and titles of Christ...

## APOSTLE

Firstly, Scripture identifies Jesus as our “apostle” in the Book of Hebrews...

### **Hebrews 3:1 (NIV, Emphasis Mine)**

1 Therefore, holy brothers and sisters, who share in the heavenly calling, fix your thoughts on Jesus, whom we acknowledge as our **apostle** and high priest.

**NOTE** – We typically associate the term “apostle” with the grouping of individuals personally appointed by Jesus to uniquely represent Him and establish His Church (e.g., Peter, James, John, Paul, etc.). However, the Bible does refer to Jesus as being an “apostle” in Hebrews 3:1. In fact, this is the only place in the Bible wherein Jesus is identified in this manner. So...

### **Q. What does this mean and what is the significance of this term?**

**A.** Generally speaking, an apostle is a “sent one” who has the rights, power and authority of the sending agent.

**KEY 1** – Thus, the apostles ‘sent’ by Christ had the rights, power and authority of Christ (i.e., as His emissaries).

**KEY 2** – Thus, the Christ sent by God had the rights, power and authority of God the Father (i.e., the Emissary).

**KEY 3** – In essence, Jesus is the chief representative and divinely-appointed ambassador of God the Father. Therefore, it is best not to think of Jesus as simply “one” apostle among many. Rather, He is the preeminent apostle and the one “above” all others. In fact, no one has represented the nature and purpose of God better than Christ Jesus...

### **Hebrews 1:1–3**

1 In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways, 2 but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom also he made the universe. 3 The Son is the radiance of God’s glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word.

**QUOTE 1** – The phrase “exact representation of his being” indicates that Jesus is the “express image” of God (e.g., character, nature and being). In our day, an “image” suggests a copy of the real thing. However, this notion does not apply to the underlying Greek phrase. In the first century, this indicated the imprint of a die, such as the impression on coins. Jesus “bears the stamp” of the divine nature itself. This phrase, then, indicates an identity with God so full and complete that Jesus perfectly represents the Father.

**QUOTE 2** – “The Son is the perfect imprint, the exact representation of the nature and essence of God in time and space.” –John MacArthur

**QUOTE 3** – The Greek noun rendered “apostle” is *Apostolos*. By the first century A.D., it carried the idea of a personal representative of a dignity or ruler. In philosophy, the word came to be used with a religious connotation. Thus, an apostle was someone who spoke as authorized by a deity. In both senses Jesus is indeed the premiere apostle. He is God the Father’s personal representative [as God the Son]. Thus, everything He has taught bears the stamp of divine approval, for He as well as His statements are the Word of God.

**FYI** – This leads us to another closely-related title...

## PROPHET (I.E., "THE" PROPHET)

In Scripture Jesus is similarly identified as “the prophet” (i.e., not “a prophet” but “the Prophet”).

### John 6:14 (Post-Feeding of the 5,000, Emphasis Mine)

14 After the people saw the sign Jesus performed, they began to say, “Surely this is **the Prophet** who is to come into the world.”

**NOTE** – This title has deep OT roots—roots we must take the time to understand...

### Deuteronomy 18:18–19 (Emphasis Mine)

18 I will raise up for them a prophet **like you** from among their fellow Israelites, and I will put my words in his mouth. **He** will tell them everything I command him. 19 I myself will call to account anyone who does not listen to my words that **the prophet** speaks in my name.

**NOTE 1** – This passage is prophetic in nature, as Moses records that one day God would raise up a prophet “like unto” himself. The singular pronoun “He” in verse 18 indicates that this coming prophet would serve as the “ultimate” of all prophets throughout space and time. Christ is the fulfillment of this prophecy, operating as both the chief of all apostles and prophets (i.e., divinely ordained “messengers” of God).

**NOTE 2** – Of course, this raises a vital question...

### Q. If “the Prophet” was to be “like” Moses, what parallels exist between Moses and Christ?

- A1.** Both escaped death as a child (Ex. 2; Matt. 2:13–23)
- A2.** Both renounced a royal court (Phil. 2:5–8; Heb. 11:24–27)
- A3.** Both had compassion on God’s people (Num. 27:17; Matt. 9:36)
- A4.** Both made intercession for God’s people (Deut. 9:18; Heb. 7:25)
- A5.** Both were authenticated by miracles...

**QUOTE** – The miraculous judgments that Moses announced against Pharaoh and Egypt made it clear that he represented the Lord. Likewise, the miraculous healings and exorcisms that Jesus performed made it clear that He also represented God. Even the Jewish Sanhedrin, according to Nicodemus (one of the supreme council’s members) admitted, “Rabbi, we know that You are a teacher from God; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him” (John 3:2).

- A6.** Both were mediators of a covenant (Deut. 29:1; Heb. 8:6–7).

**KEY 2** – It is important to recognize that the person and ministry of Jesus was far superior to that of Moses...

### Hebrews 3:1–6

1 Therefore, holy brothers and sisters, who share in the heavenly calling, fix your thoughts on Jesus, whom we acknowledge as our apostle and high priest. 2 He was faithful to the one who appointed him, just as Moses was faithful in all God’s house [i.e., household]. 3 Jesus has been found worthy of greater honor than Moses, just as the builder of a house has greater honor than the house itself. 4 For every house is built by someone, but God is the builder of everything. 5 “Moses was faithful as a servant in all God’s house,” bearing witness to what would be spoken by God in the future. 6 But Christ is faithful as the Son over God’s house. And we are his house, if indeed we hold firmly to our confidence and the hope in which we glory.

**KEY 3** – Jesus presents Himself as the chief “Apostle” and “Prophet” in texts like the following:

**John 7:16**

16 . . . Jesus answered them, “My teaching is not mine, but his who sent me.”

**John 8:28b**

28 . . . “I do nothing on my own authority, but speak just as the Father taught me. 29 And he who sent me is with me. He has not left me alone, for I always do the things that are pleasing to him.”

**John 12:49–50**

49 “For I have not spoken on my own authority, but the Father who sent me has himself given me a commandment—what to say and what to speak. 50 And I know that his commandment is eternal life. What I say, therefore, I say as the Father has told me.”

**Q. How should we respond to the “preeminent” apostle and prophet of the Most High?**

**A.** Listen to Him and the message that He brings—for He is and declares the very Word of God!

**Luke 9:35 [cf. Matt. 17:5 – Mount of Transfiguration]**

“This is my [beloved] Son, whom I have chosen; listen to him.”

## ADVOCATE

**1 John 2:1 (Emphasis Mine)**

My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have an **advocate** with the Father—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. 2 He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.

**Q. What is an advocate?**

**A.** The Greek term rendered “Advocate” is *parakletos*. It is used only by John in the NT, typically in reference to the Holy Spirit (cf. John 14:16–17). However, in this verse John uses *parakletos* in a legal sense—one that was well established in the first century A.D. In this sense, a *parakletos* was a “helper in court,” namely someone who defended another person by offering evidence to support his or her innocence.

**KEY** – Using this term, John pictures Jesus as our “Helper in court of heaven; He who pleads our case.” When we sin, Jesus steps forward and pleads the efficacy of His own blood, which He offered as a sacrifice in payment for our sins. Jesus’ role as our Advocate is a present-tense ministry (i.e., along with His priesthood, etc.).

**Q. Why do we need an advocate?**

**A.** Christians need an Advocate because of the adversary, the devil, who accuses us before God (1 Pet. 5:8; Rev. 12:10). If Satan is the “prosecuting attorney” Christ is our legal advocate and “defense attorney” who helps, defends, counsels, and comforts us. He pleads our case before God day and night, providing a continuing remedy for sin in His blood.

**KEY** – The fourth and following title is closely related...

## PRIEST (HIGH PRIEST)

Let us return to Hebrews 3:1, which identifies Jesus as our High Priest...

### Hebrews 3:1 (Emphasis Mine)

1 Therefore, holy brothers and sisters, who share in the heavenly calling, fix your thoughts on Jesus, whom we acknowledge as our apostle and **high priest**.

### Q. What is a priest?

**A.** Old Testament priests served as mediators between man and God. Priests served to represent God unto the people (i.e., teachers, communicators of God’s word and will, etc. cf. Mal 2:7). They also represented the people before the Lord as a) intercessors and b) as those who offered necessary sacrifices for pardon (Lev. 4:20, 26, 31).

### 1) Christ as Our Teacher

This role was evidenced in His work as the Prophet and chief apostle of God. It should be noted that the people of Jesus’ generation recognized the “teaching capacity” of Christ and marveled at Him accordingly. Consider this passage...

### Matthew 7:28–29 (Post-Sermon on the Mount, Emphasis Mine)

28 When Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were **amazed at his teaching**, 29 because he taught as one who had **authority**, and not as their teachers of the law.

### 2) Christ as Our Intercessor (i.e., One Who Calls Out to God on Our Behalf)

### Hebrews 7:25 (Emphasis Mine)

25 . . . he [Christ] is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to **intercede** for them.

### Romans 8:34 (Emphasis Mine)

34 Who then is the one who condemns? No one. Christ Jesus who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also **interceding** for us.

### 3) Christ as the One Who Offers Necessary Sacrifice

### Hebrews 9:11–13

11 But when Christ came as high priest of the good things that are now already here, he went through the greater and more perfect tabernacle that is not made with human hands, that is to say, is not a part of this creation. 12 He did not enter by means of the blood of goats and calves; but he entered the Most Holy Place once for all by his own blood, thus obtaining eternal redemption.

**FYI** – Christ was also the sacrifice...

### John 1:29 (Remarks of John the Baptist, Emphasis Mine)

29 “Look, the **Lamb of God**, who takes away the sin of the world!”

**KEY 1** – Let us address Jesus, not just as priest, but as High Priest...

**QUOTE** – “The High Priest was the chief priest of the Hebrew people. Of particular importance, it was the work of the High Priest to enter the Most Holy Place on the Day of Atonement to offer the sacrifice that brought about the cleansing (atonement) of the nation. Only the High Priest could access this immediate presence of God but once a year! Jesus, as our High Priest has returned to glory to apply the blood of His sacrifice in heavenly places, providing a means of pardon for all who trust Him.

**KEY 2** – Hebrews chapters 4–10 detail how Jesus is our ultimate High Priest and how His priesthood is far superior to the Levitical priesthood of the Old Testament. How is Christ superior to all other priests and High Priests?

**A1.** He had no need to offer sacrifices for his own sins, unlike the sons of Aaron (Heb. 7:27–28).

**A2.** They offered animal blood that could never take sin away of its own (Heb. 10:1–4). Jesus offered His own blood once for all (Heb. 9:12, 26; 10:10, 12).

**A3.** They were many for each died (Heb. 7:23). His priesthood is eternal as He lives forever (7:25).

**A4.** Their priesthood was performed in an earthly model of the real sanctuary in glory (Heb. 8:5). He performs His ministry in heaven itself, seated at the right hand of God (Heb. 10:12).

**A5.** The Levitical priesthood was of the line of Aaron. Hebrews 7 shows how Jesus is a priest after the order of an OT figure named Melchizedek. Melchizedek was both a priest and the “king of Salem” who blessed Abraham (Hebrews 7:2; Genesis 14:18). Likewise, Jesus is not just a “priest forever,” but also the king of Shalom [lit. peace]!

## **FORERUNNER**

- 1) Jesus is the chief Apostle
- 2) Jesus is the chief Prophet
- 3) Jesus is the chief Advocate
- 4) Jesus is the chief Priest/H.P.

Lastly, let us briefly consider the following passage which identifies Jesus as our “forerunner” . . .

### **Hebrews 6:16–20a (Emphasis Mine)**

16 People swear by someone greater than themselves, and the oath confirms what is said and puts an end to all argument. 17 Because God wanted to make the unchanging nature of his purpose very clear to the heirs of what was promised, he confirmed it with an oath. 18 God did this so that, by two unchangeable things in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have fled to take hold of the hope set before us may be greatly encouraged. 19 We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure. It enters the inner sanctuary behind the curtain, 20 where our **forerunner**, Jesus, has entered on our behalf . . .

**NOTE** – This term is often translated as “one who went before us.” Herein the writer of Hebrews identifies why those who have come to faith in Christ can have total confidence in ultimate salvation. Firstly, the salvation rests on both the unbreakable promise and pledge of God (v. 18). Secondly, Christ has already entered the very presence of God (i.e., paving the way for all who would follow Him) (v. 20a)!

**KEY** – As the “forerunner” (v. 20), His presence before God the Father is the guarantee that we too will one day follow Him. He has blazed the trail that we can follow in faith, assured it will lead unto life eternal. Our hope is embodied in Christ himself, who has entered into God’s Most Holy Place on our behalf.

**Q. To what degree could we trust a dead Jesus?**

**Q. Could we trust Him to secure a place in heaven if He was not there?**

## **SUMMATIONS**

As we have seen, Scripture is replete with “names and titles” regarding the person, nature and work of Christ...

**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 Him!

## **CONCLUSION**

Thank you for joining us today. If you wish to give online feel free to do so at [www.NewLifeBarre.org](http://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.”