Jack Hayford and Dick Eastman

31 Days Meditating on the Majesty of Jesus
To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb
be praise and honor and glory and power, for ever and ever!

_Revelation 5:13, NIV_

Write your blessed name, O Lord, upon my heart,
there to remain so indelibly engraved, that no prosperity,
no adversity shall ever move me from your love.

Be to me a strong tower of defense,
a comforter in tribulation, a deliverer in distress,
a very present help in trouble, and a guide to heaven
through the many temptations and dangers of this life.

_Thomas à Kempis_
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Royalty and all it entails fascinates everyone. It surely did me, as its evidence was everywhere present when I was on a month-long trip to the British Isles a few years ago. In between my speaking engagements, there was plenty of time for my wife, Anna, and me to explore London, the back roads of the Cotswolds, the rustic lanes of Wales, and the hills of Scotland, among other stops along the way. We couldn’t avoid the prominence of royalty or regal influences wherever we traveled. It caught our attention on a daily basis because it so broadly defined the British history which surrounded us.

Britain’s one thousand years of “kingdom” existence marks the landscape there—here, a monument to a long-past victory; there, a milestone marking a decisive battle; other places, a grand gate or arch commemorating an achievement, a returning conqueror, or a royal wedding. Majesty seemed to be everywhere! And it was on one of those days—amid these scenes—that God’s Holy Spirit ignited this song’s melody and lyrics in my soul about an even greater King:

**Majesty! Worship His Majesty!**
**Unto Jesus be all glory, power, and praise.**
**Majesty! Kingdom authority**
**Flows from His Throne unto His own**
**Who His anthem raise.**
**So exalt—Lift up on high—the Name of Jesus!**
**Magnify—Come glorify Christ Jesus the King!**
**Majesty! Worship His Majesty!**
**Jesus Who died, now glorified,**
**King of all kings.**

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The sights, sounds, and surroundings we encountered brought recurring thoughts of our Savior, Jesus Christ—the regal glory of
our King. He is the timeless Victor in battle; Jesus, the Conqueror at Calvary, Who will return in even greater triumph. Jesus, Heaven’s Lover and royal Bridegroom, Who will return to be united with His redeemed at the ultimate Royal Wedding. Yes, Britain’s millennium of earthly rule is indeed but a day with Him, but it nonetheless holds promises of a future time when His Majesty, Jesus Christ, shall have His day—reigning supreme as King!

Jesus’ Kingdom and kingship is eternal. His name defines His person, His grace, His gift of Himself, His abiding love, His truly awe-inspiring character. That’s what these pages contain: an invitation to a month-long journey of focusing your thoughts and drawing your heart to explore the depths of the royal wonder found in the Name of Jesus.

*His is the one Name that is declared high and above every other name.*
*His is the one Name by which we may be saved and enter eternal life.*

There’s nobody else like Jesus. In these pages, Dick Eastman and I have provided you with an introduction to the wondrous experience that thirty-one days of meditating on the majesty of Jesus can bring. You’ll encounter hundreds of terms, titles, and themes which both the Scriptures and the saints of the ages have used to describe Jesus. When you see the exceeding beauty of His Majesty there is but one response: *Worship Him!*

When was the last time you worshipped the Lord Jesus Christ as Your Majesty?

That’s the objective of this book—to *think* on Him, then to *thank* Him. As you get to know Jesus better through these meditations, I pray that you’ll be the recipient of a wisdom wiser than this world knows, and you’ll be enriched with a wealth that can never be taken from you.

In Jesus’ Majestic Name,

*Jack W. Hayford*

President, The Foursquare Church
Chancellor, The King’s College and Seminary
Founding Pastor, The Church On The Way
Van Nuys, California
A friend asked Mrs. Albert Einstein if she understood the theory of relativity. “No, not at all,” she answered. Then she added with a chuckle, “But I understand Albert, and he can be trusted!”

It’s doubtful any phrase used in our prayers is said more frequently, or understood less, than the expression “in Jesus’ name.”

Yet our capacity to trust the Lord is clearly linked in Scripture to our knowledge of His name. The psalmist said, “Those who know your name trust in you, for you, O Lord, do not abandon those who search for you” (Psalm 9:10). “You are my King and my God. You command victories for Israel. Only by your power can we push back our enemies; only in your name can we trample our foes” (Psalm 44:4-5).

In the New Testament, Jesus extended a certain “power of attorney” to His disciples—the authority to use His name in transacting business on His behalf. He said, “You can ask for anything in my name, and I will do it, so that the Son can bring glory to the Father” (John 14:13).

But how do we apply all this in practical terms as we endeavor to live and pray today “in Jesus’ name”? The author of Proverbs hints at an answer when he declares, “The name of the Lord is a strong fortress; the godly run to him and are safe” (Proverbs 18:10).

Living and praying in Jesus’ name means much more than merely saying a phrase at the end of a prayer. It is to begin each
new day empowered by a truth of Jesus that is found in one of His names. It is focusing on a specific characteristic embodied in that name, which ultimately helps us understand Who Jesus is.

All of us have names. The dictionary defines name as “a word or words by which an entity is designated and distinguished from others.” Nineteenth century missionary and spiritually encouraging author Andrew Murray amplifies this thought:

*What is a person’s name? It is a word or expression in which a person is represented to us. When I mention or hear a name, it brings to mind the whole man, what I know of him, and also the impression he has made on me. The name of a king includes his honor, his power, his kingdom. His name is the symbol of his power. And so each name of God embodies and represents some part of the glory of the Unseen One. The name of Christ is the expression of everything he has done and everything he is and lives to do as our Mediator.*

Every name and title you’ll read in this book applies specifically and directly to Jesus Christ. Some descriptions occur in the Old Testament as titles of God, “for in Christ lives all the fullness of God in a human body” (Colossians 2:9). The apostle Paul also wrote, “For God was in Christ, reconciling the world to himself . . .” (2 Corinthians 5:19), while Jesus’ disciple John begins his Gospel with, “The Word [Christ] was God” and “The Word [Christ/God] became human” (John 1:1, 14) and later records Jesus’ words: “Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father!” (John 14:9). The three members of the Godhead—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—are not competitive or confused. The Father in all His fullness is pleased to live in Christ, and the Holy Spirit brings Christ glory (Colossians 1:19; John 16:14).

This book contains thirty-one names or titles of Jesus, one for each day of the month. Each chapter presents a theme with a key word that sums up a specific name. You will also read prayers (both ancient and contemporary) that give you more
insight into the name you’re reading about. And at the end of each devotional, you’ll find a list of related names (which are referenced in the index) to expand your biblical knowledge of Who Jesus Christ is and what He has done personally for you.

Dick Eastman
INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT
EVERY HOME FOR CHRIST
COLORADO SPRINGS, COLORADO
No one has ever seen God. But the one and only Son is himself God and is near to the Father's heart. He has revealed God to us.

*John 1:18*
How often do you long for peace in your life?

St. Ignatius Loyola when compiling his *Spiritual Exercises* wrote: “In times of dryness and desolation we must be patient, and wait with resignation for the return of consolation, putting our trust in the goodness of God. We must animate ourselves by the thought that God is always with us, that He only allows this trial for our greater good, and that we have not necessarily lost His grace because we have lost the taste and feeling of it.”

Comfort or consolation flows from God’s divine nature. He not only possesses peace, His very nature is peace. Even in those times when we may “have lost the taste and feeling” of God’s grace, His grace still abounds.

Sometimes Satan tries to convince us that God has abandoned us. But remember that Satan (the devil) is the “father of lies” (John 8:44). God may, indeed, be silent at times, but He is always there. He feels every hurt and senses every pain we endure. If you know the Lord, you will know peace, for Jesus Christ is the Lord of Peace.
Knowing His Name

When Paul concluded his second letter to the Christians in Thessalonica he added this benediction, “Now may the Lord of peace himself give you his peace at all times and in every situation. The Lord be with you all” (2 Thessalonians 3:16).

According to Paul, there are three unique things about God’s peace: its intimacy, constancy, and supremacy.

First, notice the intimacy of this peace. The Lord Himself promises to give peace. Jesus doesn’t use an angelic messenger to deliver His promise. He does it Himself—a picture of personal intimacy.

Second, note the constancy of this peace. “The Lord . . . give you his peace at all times.” We all experience unpredictable turns in our lives that cause turmoil, strife, and distress. But Paul says that at every point God’s peace will prevail. That’s a picture of true constancy.

Finally, consider the supremacy of this peace. “The Lord . . . give you peace in every situation.” This is no ordinary peace; it is “peace supreme.” For every troubling situation we may encounter, our Creator provides His own unique “measure of peace” for that specific circumstance.

2 Corinthians 1:3 says, “All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is our merciful Father and the source of all comfort.” Mercy and comfort are not merely promised, they are insured in and through the One who offers them from His endless supply. Think of it this way: There will never be a shortage of either mercy or comfort; there will never be a restriction. God has the monopoly on them both!

Living His Name

The Greek word for peace, eireney, implies unity or wholeness. When that sense of inner unity is broken, it is “unpeaceful.” But in three different ways, Christ, our Lord of Peace, restores brokenness with His breath of wholeness.

First, Jesus breathes calm into troubled situations. Consider the unforgettable words Christ spoke

God not only possesses peace,
His very nature is peace.
to a raging storm: “Silence! Be still!” (Mark 4:39). His authority over creation was magnificently displayed, to the awe and wonder of His frightened disciples.

“Who is this man?” they asked each other. “Even the wind and waves obey him!” (Mark 4:41). Not only was there immediate calm, there was a lasting tranquility.

Second, Jesus breathes unity into troubled situations. “Our friendship with God was restored by the death of his Son,” Paul tells us (Romans 5:10). In Jesus’ name we have been joined to God’s heart. We not only have a Savior who calms the storms of life, but in Christ we have an anchor of hope that secures us in a safe harbor (Hebrews 6:19).

Finally, Jesus breathes reconciliation into troubled situations. Paul wrote, “For Christ himself has brought peace to us” (Ephesians 2:14). The grace we have received from God can change our attitude toward others. The Lord of Peace works in and through us to bring reconciliation in difficult situations. Ephesians 2:14-17 details Jesus Christ’s pivotal role in breaking down the wall of hostility—whether it be a wall of racism, religious dissension, or cultural differences. We are not only called to love one another in Jesus’ name, but we are given a resource for reconciliation through prayer.

**Praying His Name**

When we pray in Jesus’ name, the Lord of Peace, we bring His peace and comfort into each potentially trouble-filled situation. It doesn’t guarantee that things will change the way we want them to. God’s specific purpose for bringing difficulty into our lives may be to make us long for more of Jesus, our Lord of Peace. Our prayers not only flood our spirits with peace, but more important, the prayers summon the presence of Christ, Who is our Peace, to fill us.

As you call upon the Lord of Peace, you are accessing God’s divine rest. You can pray expectantly as reflected in the poet Christina Rossetti’s nineteenth-century prayer:

_O Lord, Jesus Christ, who art as the shadow of a great rock in a weary land, who beholdest Thy weak creatures weary of labor, weary of pleasure, weary of hope deferred, weary of self; in thine abundant compassion, and fellow feeling with us, and unutterable tenderness, bring us, we pray Thee, unto Thy rest._
Today’s Prayer

Help, Lord! My world today seems like Galilee at tempest time. I feel very small—my boat is paper-thin and the waves are steel scissors. Today I understand the disciples cry: “Master—don’t You care that we’re sinking?” Forgive my fears, my faithlessness. I come to You believing: You, Lord Jesus Christ, are the Lord of Peace. I turn to You and away from the storm. I look to You and away from fear. Today I step into the resources of Your name—Prince of Peace. In Your almighty name I welcome calmness, wholeness, and harmony. Praise Your name, Lord Jesus. Amen.

MY PERSONAL MEDITATIONS

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MORE NAMES FOR JESUS

Check the index beginning on page 162 for these additional names for Jesus that suggest the Lord of Peace: Bringer of Peace; God of Love and Peace; Great Shepherd of the Sheep; Jehovah-Shalom: The Lord Is Peace; Prince of Peace; True Place of Rest.
Is God the first person you go to when you need counsel?

When it came to mathematics and languages at Cambridge University, Henry Martyn was brilliant. In 1806, Martyn left for India as chaplain for the East India Company with the goal of translating the New Testament into Hindi. During the next six years of his life (before an untimely death at thirty-one), Martyn completed that God-directed assignment, then did the same with a Persian New Testament before undertaking a revision of an Arabic New Testament. Yet as talented as Martyn was, he experienced times of deep frustration with the projects. At those moments, Henry Martyn cried out to the Lord for insight. With simplicity and candor Martyn prayed:

Lord, I am blind and helpless, stupid and ignorant.
Cause me to hear; Cause me to know;
Teach me to do; Lead me.1

As Martyn pored over the Scriptures, he noticed that a considerable number of biblical prayers were not requests for material blessings but for spiritual insight. The psalmist, for example, repeatedly prayed “Show me,” “Lead me,” “Teach me,” “Direct me,” “Instruct me,” and “Guide me.” The apostle Paul also was not hesitant to include similar reminders in his personal prayers. To the Colossians he wrote, “So we have not stopped praying for you since we first heard about you. We ask God to give you complete knowledge of his will and to give you spiritual wisdom and understanding” (Colossians 1:9).

Both the apostle Paul and Henry Martyn had discovered a vital secret: Praying in Jesus’ name means receiving counsel and insight at the highest level, for Jesus Christ is our Wonderful Counselor!
Knowing His Name
Have you ever listened to Handel’s Messiah? One of the most joyous songs contains a list of prophetic names describing the future Messiah, Jesus Christ, as proclaimed by Isaiah. One of those names is Wonderful Counselor (Isaiah 9:6). Isaiah is foretelling of the One Who will be the ultimate answer to Israel’s every problem. At the time of the prophecy, the kingdom of Judah was in desperate need of a ruler who would be able to provide “wise counsel” for mounting troubling situations.

We all find ourselves on occasion facing problems that defy solutions. But in Jesus’ name, our Wonderful Counselor, we can find help.

Franz Delitzsch, a Hebrew scholar, notes how the seventy translators of the Septuagint (the Greek translation of the Old Testament from the Hebrew) joined the two words Wonderful Counselor in their translation, literally describing Christ as the “One counseling wonderful things.” An alternative translation renders it “a wonder of a counselor.”

Essentially, Christ embodies both a wonder-working essence (that is, a person filled with wonders, a person “wonderful” in His own right) and the counsel of heavenly origin which, when combined, bring divine insight into human difficulties.

The Hebrew words translated secret (kjv) and wonderful (nkjv) are taken from the Hebrew word pehleh meaning “a marvel, a miracle, or a wonderful thing.” The niv translates it as “beyond understanding” (Judges 13:18) and “an amazing thing” (Judges 13:19). Interestingly, pehleh’s primary root pawlaw, which means “great, marvelous, or wonderful,” has a fundamental meaning of “to separate or distinguish.” Obviously the idea of these words is that this title of the coming Messiah, Wonderful, is indicative of the fact that He stands out far over and above and separate from every other source of ability or counsel. There is none comparable!

And when this expression

Because Christ sees all there is to see,
His counsel is exactly what we need.
Day 2 (INSIGHT)

Wonderful is combined with the term Counselor (from the Hebrew word yawats meaning “to advise, resolve, or guide”), we have an exciting concept of One who gives amazing advice “beyond understanding”; One whose advice is wonder!

Living His Name
Living in Jesus’ name, our Wonderful Counselor, is facing each day anticipating an inexhaustible supply of His advice from a supernatural vantage point. Because Christ sees all there is to see, His counsel, instruction, teaching, and direction are exactly what we need to navigate every circumstance.

When someone receives Christ as his or her Savior, that person is usually told that Jesus has come into his or her heart to dwell personally. Christ embodies divine insight, so as He speaks from where He lives (the hearts of believers), we must learn to listen “within” for His advice and counsel. If what we hear in our hearts is really of God, we can rest assured that His Word (Hebrews 4:12) along with the wise counsel of Spirit-led advisors (Proverbs 20:18; 15:22) will confirm it.

Praying His Name
The hymn writer Charles C. Converse wrote, “O what peace we often forfeit, O what needless pain we bear, all because we do not carry everything to God in prayer.”

Insight for today is but a prayer away if you’ll just learn to listen. Too many of us are like Joshua who, after seeking insight from God prior to his triumph at Jericho (Joshua 5:13-15) failed to go directly to God before what became his defeat at Ai (Joshua 7:2-5).

As we spend quality time alone with God, He will show us the day through His eyes. After all, Jesus didn’t just say “pray.” He said, “Watch and pray” (Matthew 26:41).

Our enemy Satan wants to defeat us by tempting us at every turn—especially targeting the most vulnerable areas of our life. Whom will we meet? Where will we go? What plans do we have? Is temptation waiting in some future hidden moment? Christ will warn us if we stay close to Him. While we are “keeping our eyes on Jesus” (Hebrews 12:2), He will be looking out for us (John 10:28).
Today's Prayer

Someone has said, Lord, “It’s a jungle out there.” He was talking about this world You created in beauty and perfection, but which has degenerated so much—dragged down when we as humankind sinned. Dear Lord, this jungle is my address. I’m not blaming You for the animal-like behavior of people who prey on each other. Nor am I complaining about the confusing situations which prevent a clear view ahead. I simply come to pray. I’m so thankful for You, Jesus, My Wonderful Counselor, Who gives insight, wisdom, perspective, and knowledge beyond my own. Today as I face daily demands, I proceed in Your name, depending upon You to help me know what to do and how to do it. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

My Personal Meditations


More Names for Jesus

Check the index beginning on page 162 for these additional names for Jesus that suggest a Wonderful Counselor: Good Teacher; Great Light; Teacher and Lord; Wisdom of God; Word of Life.
Introduction

Day 1: The Lord of Peace

Day 2: Wonderful Counselor

Day 3: The Bright Morning Star

Day 4: A Foundation Stone
2. Ibid., 64.

Day 5: A Refiner and Purifier
2. Ibid., 305.
4. Ibid., 18.
Names of Jesus

All That Matters (Colossians 3:11)
Almighty One (Revelation 1:8)
Ancient One (Daniel 7:13-14)
Assurance of Glory (Colossians 1:27)
Author of Life (Acts 3:15)
Beginning (Colossians 1:18)
Blessed and Only Almighty God (1 Timothy 6:15)
Branch of the Lord (Isaiah 4:2)
Bread of God (John 6:33)
Bread of Life (John 6:35)
Bringer of Peace (Ephesians 2:14)

Champion Who Initiates and Perfects Our Faith (Hebrews 12:2)
Chosen One (Luke 23:35)
Christ Who Is Your Life (Colossians 3:4)
Coming One (Hebrews 10:37)
Cornerstone (1 Peter 2:6)
Creator of All the Earth (Isaiah 40:28)
Creator of Everything (Colossians 1:16)

Desirable in Every Way (Song of Songs 5:16)
Devouring Fire (Hebrews 12:29)

Eternal Life (1 John 5:20)
Exact Likeness of God (2 Corinthians 4:4)

Faithful and True (Revelation 19:11)
Faithful and True Witness (Revelation 3:14)
Faithful God (Deuteronomy 32:4; Psalm 31:5)
Flame (Isaiah 10:17)  
Fortress (Psalm 18:2)  
Fountain of Living Water (Jeremiah 17:13-14)  
Gift God Has for You (John 4:10)  
Giver of Victory (2 Samuel 22:51)  
Glorious Crown (Isaiah 28:5)  
Glory of Your People Israel (Luke 2:32)  
God of Compassion and Mercy (Psalm 86:15)  
God of All Comfort (2 Corinthians 1:3)  
God of Love and Peace (2 Corinthians 13:11)  
God Who Gives Me Life (Psalm 42:8)  
God’s Gracious Gift (Romans 5:15)  
Good Teacher (Mark 10:17)  
Grain Offering (Leviticus 2:1-10)  
Great King above All Gods (Psalm 95:3)  
Great Light (Isaiah 9:2)  
Great Mystery of Our Faith (1 Timothy 3:16)  
Great Shepherd of the Sheep (Hebrews 13:20)  

He [Christ] Who Fills All Things (Ephesians 1:23)  
Head of Every Man (1 Corinthians 11:3)  
Head over All Things (Ephesians 1:22)  
Holy (Isaiah 6:3)  
Holy and Awe-Inspiring (Psalm 111:9)  
Holy One (Isaiah 57:15)  
Holy Sacrifice (John 17:19)  
Hope of My Heart (Psalm 42:11)  

I Am (John 8:58)  
Immanuel: God Is with Us (Matthew 1:23)  

Jehovah-Elohim: The Eternal Creator (Genesis 2:4-25)  
Jehovah-Elyon: The Lord Most High (Psalm 7:17)  
Jehovah-Hosenu: The Lord Our Maker (Psalm 95:6)  
Jehovah-Jireh: The Lord Will Provide (Genesis 22:8-14)  
Jehovah-Mekaddishkem: The Lord Who Makes You Holy (Leviticus 20:8)