

December 8, 2019  
**THE WONDER OF CHRISTMAS - Part 2**  
**“The Wonder of a Name”**

**Names matter.**

**The Gospels of Matthew and Luke each begin their stories about Jesus, starting not as a great leader and prophet but as a helpless baby.**

*(leave answers under “Matthew” and “Luke” columns blank)*

<b>Gospel</b>	<b>Matthew</b>	<b>Luke</b>
<b>Point of View</b>	Joseph	Mary
<b>Background</b>	Jew	Gentile
<b>Audience</b>	Jewish	All
<b>Ancestry traced back to</b>	Abraham	Adam
<b>Emphasizes</b>	Old Testament Scriptures	Low in social order
<b>Child’s Name</b>	Jesus	Jesus

**Luke 1:30-31** (NLT): “<sup>30</sup>Don’t be afraid, Mary,’ the angel told her, ‘for you have found favor with God! <sup>31</sup>You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus.”

**Matthew 1:20-21** (NLT): “<sup>20</sup>...an angel of the Lord appeared to [Joseph] in a dream. ‘Joseph, son of David,’ the angel said, ‘do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife. For the child within her was conceived by the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup>And she will have a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.”

**For the Jews, names held great meaning, saying something about their identity and even purpose.**

**Hoshea = Salvation → Joshua (Yehoshua = Hoshea + Yahweh) = the Lord is Salvation**

**Numbers 13:16** (ESV): “...Moses called Hoshea the son of Nun Joshua.”

**After Moses death, Joshua led the Hebrews out of the wilderness into the Promised Land.**

**Joshua (Hebrew) → Jesus (Greek) = the Lord is Salvation = Emmanuel (Hebrew - God with us)**

The One who is called “the Lord is salvation” is not *just* human but our *Emmanuel*, “God with us,” God in the flesh, to lead His people out of a life of futility and death into the land of the living.

The Promised Land that Jesus came to usher in is the **Kingdom** of God, which is eternal.

### Our Greatest Need

If our greatest need had been information,  
God would have sent us an educator.  
If our greatest need had been technology,  
God would have sent us a scientist.  
If our greatest need had been money,  
God would have sent us an economist.  
If our greatest need had been pleasure,  
God would have sent us an entertainer.  
But our greatest need was forgiveness,  
so God sent us a Savior. (anonymous)

**Luke 2:10-11** (ESV): “<sup>10</sup>And the angel said to [the shepherds], ‘Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. <sup>11</sup>For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.’”

**Our problem isn’t a lack of information or technology or money or pleasure but the reality and destructiveness of sin in our lives – we need a Savior!**

**Romans 3:23** (ESV): “for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God”

**All have sinned, but the angel tells us God sent Jesus, whose name, “the Lord is salvation,” is the message, to be the Savior to *all* people.**

**Jesus:** “<sup>16</sup>For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. <sup>17</sup>For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.” (John 3:16-17 ESV)

**When we admit and confess our sins to God, and seek His forgiveness, won for us by Jesus’ sacrifice on the cross, where he paid the price for our sins, we become Christians.**

**John 1:9-13** (ESV): “<sup>9</sup>The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. <sup>10</sup>He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. <sup>11</sup>He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. <sup>12</sup>But to

all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, <sup>13</sup>who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.”

**Philippians 2:9-11** (NLT): “<sup>9</sup>...God elevated [Christ Jesus] to the place of highest honor and gave him the name above all other names, <sup>10</sup>that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, <sup>11</sup>and every tongue declare that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”

**Next Week - The Wonder of a Manger**

Get the *Life Journal* Bible Reading Plan at [gateway-community.org/Find-it](http://gateway-community.org/Find-it)

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