

Foreword by Mark Batterson

New York Times Bestselling Author

DICK EASTMAN

AWESOME!

EXPLORING THE NATURE

AND NAMES OF JESUS



AWESOME!

EXPLORING THE NATURE
AND NAMES OF JESUS

DICK EASTMAN



Chosen

a division of Baker Publishing Group
Minneapolis, Minnesota

Awesome! • Dick Eastman
Chosen Books, a division of Baker Publishing Group © 2021 used by permission

© 2021 by Dick Eastman

Published by Chosen Books
11400 Hampshire Avenue South
Bloomington, Minnesota 55438
www.chosenbooks.com

Chosen Books is a division of
Baker Publishing Group, Grand Rapids, Michigan

Printed in China

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means—for example, electronic, photocopy, recording—without the prior written permission of the publisher. The only exception is brief quotations in printed reviews.

Library of Congress Control Number: 2021930312

ISBN 978-0-8007-6195-0 (cloth)

ISBN 978-1-4934-3130-4 (ebook)

Scripture quotations identified AMP are from the Amplified® Bible (AMP), copyright © 2015 by The Lockman Foundation. Used by permission. www.Lockman.org

Scripture quotations identified AMPC are from the Amplified® Bible (AMPC), copyright © 1954, 1958, 1962, 1964, 1965, 1987 by The Lockman Foundation. Used by permission. www.Lockman.org

Scripture quotations identified CEV are from the Contemporary English Version © 1991, 1992, 1995 by American Bible Society. Used by permission.

Scripture quotations identified ESV are from The Holy Bible, English Standard Version® (ESV®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved. ESV Text Edition: 2016

Scripture quotations identified KJV are from the King James Version of the Bible.

Scripture quotations identified MSG are taken from *THE MESSAGE*, copyright © 1993, 2002, 2018 by Eugene H. Peterson. Used by permission of NavPress. All rights reserved. Represented by Tyndale House Publishers, Inc.

Scripture quotations identified MEV are taken from the Modern English Version. Copyright © 2014 by Military Bible Association. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Scripture quotations identified NASB are from the New American Standard Bible® (NASB), copyright © 1960, 1962, 1963, 1968, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1975, 1977, 1995 by The Lockman Foundation. Used by permission. www.Lockman.org

Scripture quotations identified NIV are from the Holy Bible, New International Reader's Version®. NIV®. Copyright © 1995, 1996, 1998, 2014 by Biblica, Inc.™ Used by permission of Zondervan. www.zondervan.com. The "NIV" and "New International Reader's Version" are trademarks registered in the United States Patent and Trademark Office by Biblica, Inc.™

Scripture quotations identified NIV are from THE HOLY BIBLE, NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION®, NIV® Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.® Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.

Scripture quotations identified NIV1984 are from THE HOLY BIBLE, NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION®, NIV® Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984 by Biblica, Inc.® Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.

Scripture quotations identified NKJV are from the New King James Version®. Copyright © 1982 by Thomas Nelson. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Scripture quotations identified NLT are taken from the Holy Bible, New Living Translation, copyright © 1996, 2004, 2015 by Tyndale House Foundation. Used by permission of Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., Carol Stream, Illinois 60188. All rights reserved.

Scripture quotations identified TPT are from The Passion Translation®. Copyright © 2017, 2018 by Passion & Fire Ministries, Inc. Used by permission. All rights reserved. ThePassionTranslation.com.

Cover design by Studio Gearbox


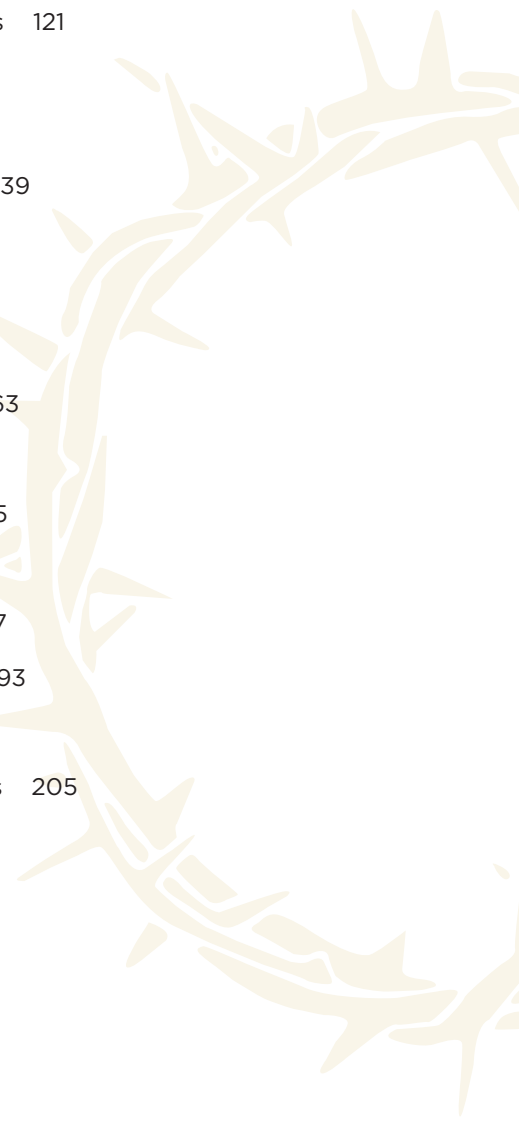
Foreword by Mark Batterson 9

Acknowledgments 11

A Call to the Heights 13

A Month in the Son 19

1. The **SUPREME** Jesus 25
2. The **AWESOME** Jesus 31
3. The **BEAUTIFUL** Jesus 37
4. The **CREATIVE** Jesus 43
5. The **HUMAN** Jesus 49
6. The **DIVINE** Jesus 55
7. The **OBEDIENT** Jesus 61
8. The **SUFFERING** Jesus 67
9. The **RESURRECTED** Jesus 73
10. The **ASCENDED** Jesus 79
11. The **HUMBLE** Jesus 85
12. The **COMPASSIONATE** Jesus 91
13. The **MERCIFUL** Jesus 97
14. The **ABIDING** Jesus 103
15. The **SPOTLESS** Jesus 109
16. The **MISSIONAL** Jesus 115

- 
- 
17. The **AUTHORITATIVE** Jesus 121
 18. The **PRAYING** Jesus 127
 19. The **FAITHFUL** Jesus 133
 20. The **MIRACULOUS** Jesus 139
 21. The **WORTHY** Jesus 145
 22. The **RIGHTEOUS** Jesus 151
 23. The **SELFLESS** Jesus 157
 24. The **VICTORIOUS** Jesus 163
 25. The **JOYFUL** Jesus 169
 26. The **RETURNING** Jesus 175
 27. The **GLORIOUS** Jesus 181
 28. The **STEADFAST** Jesus 187
 29. The **PREEMINENT** Jesus 193
 30. The **ETERNAL** Jesus 199
 31. The **INCOMPARABLE** Jesus 205

Notes 211

FOREWORD

HAVE ONLY A FEW HEROES. Dick Eastman is one of them. The first time we met, the humility and authority with which he prayed floored me. I mean that literally. I ended up on my knees in prayer!

There is an authenticity to Dick Eastman's life and leadership that is too rare these days. When I think of Dick, I am reminded of Acts 4:13: "They took note that these men had been with Jesus" (NIV). If there is a secret to Dick Eastman's intimacy with God and impact on the world, I think that's it. He spends a lot of time with Jesus! And when you do that, you become a lot like Him.

The book you are about to read, *Awesome!*, is going to stretch your faith. It is not just well written, it is well lived. There are insights into who Jesus is that can be learned only by long obedience in the same direction. I love books that share the "latest and greatest" research on a subject matter. Can I tell you what I love even more? Hard-earned truth from someone who has "been there and done that."

I love spending time with people who know God better than I do. Why? Because it fuels my hunger for God and stretches my faith. That is this book. It will help you follow Jesus a little better, a little closer.

The apostle Paul said, "Follow me as I follow Christ." The same could be said of Dick Eastman, of this book. In the pages that follow, may

you rediscover who Jesus is all over again! At the end of the day, it's all from Him and it's all for Him. He is the all in all. When you get to the final page, I trust that your life will be more than ever submitted to His Lordship.

Mark Batterson, *New York Times* bestselling author,
The Circle Maker; lead pastor, National Community
Church, Washington, D.C.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

AM DEEPLY INDEBTED to those who helped make possible the thoughts shared in the pages of this book. I particularly thank Steven Kipp, Jordan Middlebrook and Dena Jefferson for their editorial assistance as well as their many hours researching the insights of historic Christ followers and church leaders who passionately sought to know and serve Christ with total abandonment. To Tanner Peake and Tim Middlebrook, Every Home for Christ's executive director and senior vice president respectively, I am especially grateful for their anointed leadership as my wife, Dee, and I look back at more than 32 years of leading this global ministry. God has graciously sent men like these to help lead the Every Home ministry into a glorious future to reach every home on earth with the timeless message of this book, that Jesus Christ is not only awesome, but the only way to eternal salvation. To David Bryant I offer special thanks for being such an encourager to me personally to pursue an intimacy of knowing Christ in a depth I never could have imagined when I first came to know Jesus nearly six decades ago. Finally, to the more than 8,000 global staff of Every Home for Christ in 189 worldwide offices, and the more than 100,000 monthly volunteers in the field, I joyfully honor and thank you for taking the message of Christ's love to some 350,000 homes daily. This labor of love has always been and will always be *all about Jesus!*

Dick Eastman

A CALL to the HEIGHTS

So, my dear Christian friends, companions in following this call to the heights, take a good hard look at Jesus. He's the center-piece of everything we believe.

HEBREWS 3:1 MSG

SOMEONE HAS SAID, “If you want to get in good with God, brag on His Son!” Here goes!

It all began with a question from a friend—this personal quest to explore the wonders of the nature and names of Christ.

David Bryant, author of the classic volume *Christ Is Now*, all 608 pages exalting the Person of Jesus Christ, was speaking to the staff of Every Home for Christ, the ministry I lead. I had invited David to our ministry headquarters, The Jericho Center in Colorado Springs, Colorado, to spend a day in prayer with me. Because our staff begins each day with a time of corporate prayer and worship, I asked David if he would share something from his heart that morning concerning his life's calling. Then, as a staff, we would gather around him to pray

for God's blessing on his calling. Of course, I was certain everything we would hear in those moments from David would be about Jesus!

Our Core Identity

David did not disappoint. He began by quoting Swiss professor Karl Barth, one of the most influential theologians of the last century. Barth would often challenge his students: "Show me your Christology and I'll tell you who you are!"¹ Christology, of course, is the study of the life of Christ, or the theology of the Person of Jesus Christ. Bryant paraphrased Barth's words suggesting, "What you think about God's Son is the single most important thing anyone can know about you." Bryant further explained, "In a profound sense, the core identity of any Christian must never be separated from his or her vision of Jesus Christ. That's because Christ is the core identity of Christianity itself!"

Bryant then asked our staff: "What do *you* think about God's Son?" I could almost hear the corporate minds of our staff, the majority of whom are under the age of 35, silently responding: "He's really cool," or even, "He's awesome!" Everyone in the room, of course, knew that Jesus was the reason for our ministry's existence. For one thing, it's in the very name of the ministry—Every Home for Christ. We often say our name is our mission. Everything we do is about Jesus. Our goal is to take the good news of Christ's love to every home on earth.

But what David proposed next in his brief message that morning brought pause to most if not all in the room. It was a challenge for each to engage in an imaginary exercise. It was meant to help everyone stop and think about how well we actually knew who Jesus is—right now. That simple exercise profoundly affected me. For days afterward it was on my mind almost constantly. I had been in the crosshairs of David's

challenge. In fact, it has led to the writing of this book. Here's how it unfolded. . . .

Captivated by a Challenge

Bryant shared:

Imagine you have just been invited by the most popular radio talk show, a worldwide talk show, to answer a single question. Your response would go global. Billions will hear. You will have three minutes to speak to the entire world about Jesus. The talk show host then gives you the question and hands you the microphone. The question: “Who is Jesus Christ right now?” Your head spins for a moment. You do recall how Jesus asked a similar question of His disciples centuries ago. It’s recorded in Matthew 16:13: “Who do men say that I, the Son of Man, am?” (NKJV). Now it’s your turn to tell the whole world.

David amplified the question by suggesting the radio talk show host asks you: “How would you describe God’s Son in terms of all that He is at this present moment?” He then adds a bit of clarification to the experiment:

Keep in mind, your goal is not to tell the listeners about who Jesus was in the past during His earthly ministry; nor is it to tell about who He will be someday when He returns in His glory, but who He is right now. Further, you’re not being asked to explain what Jesus has done for you personally, as wonderful as that has been.

David further explains: “You see, this isn’t about you. Whether you or I exist is irrelevant. You’re to describe simply who Christ is as the

Person of God’s only Son, exalted at this very instant as Sovereign Lord over heaven and earth!” I knew our staff had been captivated by the challenge, as was I.

Later, after spending a better part of the day with David praying in one of the numerous prayer grottos at our ministry headquarters, The Jericho Center, I mentally went through that simple exercise. Here I was, leading a ministry sharing the Good News of Jesus with as many as 350,000 families every day, at their doorsteps, in 150 nations, and I saw myself stammering and stuttering at an imaginary microphone trying to describe who Jesus is to me, right now, for just three coherent minutes on a worldwide radio broadcast. What followed over many months was a desire to get to know the Jesus who changed my life six decades ago in a much fuller and richer way—now!

Becoming a Christ Explorer

David Bryant’s challenge soon led me into a yearlong pursuit of exploring the wonders of the nature of Christ. With scraps of folded paper in my pocket at all times throughout each day, whenever I thought of a new descriptive adjective picturing the nature or character of Christ, out came those scraps. Soon I was adding passages of Scripture that highlighted these qualities to my growing list. The scraps grew and multiplied! Jesus was taking center stage in my life. Or was it that I was moving step by step toward joining Him at center stage of His life? I am sure it is the latter.

I realized I couldn’t put everything I scribbled down to later expand and compile into a practical devotional book unless it approached the size of Tolstoy’s *War and Peace* (all 1,225 pages). So what follows is a bit of a primer. A definition of *primer* reads, “A textbook giving the first principles of any subject” (*Webster’s New World College Dictionary*).

This book is barely a beginning—which brings to mind the apostle John’s concluding words to his gospel: “And there are also many other things that Jesus did, which if they were written one by one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that would be written. Amen” (John 21:25 NKJV). That is not hyperbole. One might ask, What “other things” was John talking about? How about the stars, for example? Yes, Jesus created them. There is Scripture to prove it. And He gave them all names. I’ll speak about that in a later chapter, even describing how many millions of libraries it would take just to contain a listing of all those stars, and their names, that exist in known space. And who knows what might exist beyond known space? (Of course, I think we both know who knows!)

Enough said! Or should I say *not enough said*? Would you join me daily in exploring the wonders of the nature and names of Jesus? Let’s begin by spending a “Month in the Son” together. Just one month to begin with. Perhaps after that, this could become a monthly habit. If you need to stretch it out longer than a month at the start, that’s fine. *Bask in the Son as long as you like*. If you discover something new about Jesus not on my lists (whether it concerns Christ’s nature or His names in Scripture that I might have missed), email me your discovery at Jesus@everyhome.org.

But critical to our journey—before we get started I need to explain to you our two main objectives for the journey: first, to “*magnify* Christ’s nature,” and second, to “*glorify* Christ’s names.”

Dick Eastman,
Colorado Springs, Colorado

A MONTH in the SON

Magnify His Nature!

The Son is the dazzling radiance of God’s splendor, the exact expression of God’s true nature—his mirror image! He holds the universe together and expands it by the mighty power of his spoken word.

HEBREWS 1:3 TPT

To sum up the Son is not an easy thing to do! But I feel compelled to try! After Mary, the mother of Jesus, received the promise of the coming Messiah from the angel Gabriel (Luke 1:28-49), she sang: “My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior. . . . For He who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is His name” (verses 46-47, 49 NKJV). To *magnify* is “to make greater in size, status or degree.” Our English word *magnify* comes from the Latin *magnificare*: “to make much of” or “to esteem highly.”¹ A. W. Tozer said, “You can’t make God big but you can see God big!”² As together we spend a Month in the Son, our goal is to see God big through the prism of His Son.

In the pages that follow, we will explore the wonders of the nature and names of Jesus. Each day we spend during our Month in the Son, a chapter will help us explore the wonders of a foundational aspect of Christ’s nature and character. Each chapter will then be followed by a

list of names and phrases of the Lord from Scripture (for meditation, praise and prayer) that describe the wonders of all Christ is to His followers. (More about these lists of names, and how to apply them in daily prayer, will be shared in a moment.)

The primary goal in the pages ahead is both to explore and to experience the awesome wonder of Jesus Christ in new ways. *Wonder* by definition is “a person, thing, or event that causes astonishment and admiration.” Jesus is the Person who causes astonishment and admiration. Wonder is likewise “the feeling of surprise and awe aroused by something unexpected or incredible.” Jesus is full of awe-inspiring surprises and incredible blessings for His followers. He is the essence of astonishment and admiration. Quite simply, Jesus is *awesome!*

As you turn the pages that follow, may I suggest that you are not reading a book as much as embarking on a journey? I will be making that journey with you. And when we get to the end, we will discover it is just the beginning. *But first, some very important words about exploring the wonders of Christ’s names.*

Glorify His Name!

“The syllables of your name murmur like a meadow brook. No wonder everyone loves to say your name!”

SONG OF SONGS 1:3 MSG

Why do the Scriptures share so many different names or descriptive phrases of the Lord? Luis de Leon, Augustinian friar and theologian (1527-1591), offers a most interesting observation. Of course, living in sixteenth-century Spain, Leon lacked the many Bible translations and other resources we have today. Yet, from his knowledge of Scripture, he wrote: “Christ is given so many names because of his limitless greatness

and the treasury of his very rich perfections and with them the host of functions and other benefits which are born in him and spread over us. Just as they cannot be embraced by the soul's vision, so much less can a single word name them."³

As you seek to glorify the names of Christ daily, keep in mind that a simple dictionary definition of *name* reads: "a word or words by which an entity is designated and distinguished from others." The many expressions describing Christ in the chapters that follow clearly distinguish our Lord from all others. Andrew Murray, in his classic work, *With Christ in the School of Prayer*, wrote:

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. . . . 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.⁴

My Anchor in Jesus

A delight of my daily prayer times over the years is to have discovered the significance of bringing these names of the Lord into my devotional times from day to day. This began four decades ago, when I initiated a habit of keeping a daily journal. That habit continues to this day, almost fifteen thousand entries later (in multiple three-ring binders).

Several months into developing this journaling habit, I began noticing in my daily Bible readings numerous descriptive phrases describing our Lord—the promised Messiah. I began compiling a list of these

names and phrases that I would refer to often in my daily times of prayer. Soon thereafter, another habit emerged—that of writing into my journal one of those names or phrases daily, claiming that specific expression (and what it conveyed) as my anchor in Jesus for that day. Over ensuing years, and using a typical “through-the-Bible annual reading guide,” I have read and prayed through various translations of Scripture, which significantly expanded my list. I would frequently notice the nuanced ways various translators would describe the wonders of our Lord’s names. Before long, I organized the list alphabetically and ultimately compiled it in a 31-day format. Also of note, although numerous expressions on the daily lists in this book come from the Old Testament, keep in mind that God was “in Christ” (2 Corinthians 5:19) and that any reference to “the Lord” in the Old Testament also refers to Christ. Paul made it clear that all the “fullness” of the Godhead dwells bodily in Christ (Colossians 2:9).

The day-by-day listing that follows, consisting of 868 names or expressions describing our Lord, is the result. Because they are presented in a 31-day format (with a daily list following each chapter in this book and its specific theme), you can select some or all of that day’s list as fuel for prayer, praise and meditation. To merely read through an entire list prayerfully for a particular day, pausing to highlight one or two names you specifically claim as significant for that day’s challenges, is easily done in five minutes or less. If you see a specific name that has special meaning for you that day, you might circle it and write the date beside it. And if you do this monthly, you won’t come back to that day’s list for another 31 days. By then it will be like starting afresh if you decide to make this a continuing habit.

I suggest doing this in your daily quiet times of prayer for at least several months just to see how such a habit might impact your prayer life. To me, this is worth sacrificing some of your usual television watching,

social networking or other Twitter-consuming moments that too often occupy significant portions of our days. Wise is the statement I heard recently: “Facebook proves that Christians in America have plenty of time to spend in prayer.” And as you meditate on the nature of Christ and the wonders of His names, consider adding your own characteristics, thoughts or qualities about Jesus to your personal list as they come to mind. Ask yourself the question, “Who is Jesus to me this very day?” Let me know what you discover afresh by emailing me at Jesus@everyhome.org.

Going Deeper

At the conclusion of each of the 31 main chapter themes on the nature of Christ that follow, I suggest four practical steps to go deeper in your pursuit of these qualities, including ways to apply the names of Jesus listed for each day:

1. **Explore:** To *explore* means “to look into closely; examine or search carefully; investigate.” In your daily quiet times, meditate on that specific day’s primary theme describing Jesus. Specifically, meditate on one or more of the passages of Scripture in that chapter.
2. **Experience:** To *experience* involves any “activity that includes training and knowledge, skill, or practice resulting from such activity.” Pray specifically for a personal revelation of how each day’s quality of Christ relates to your life, family or others in your sphere of influence. Take this theme into your day. You may wish to write down one of the Scriptures in this lesson to memorize throughout the day.

3. **Express:** To *express* is “to put into words; to picture; to give expression to one’s feelings or imagination.” During your daily quiet times, consider investing five to ten minutes to journal your thoughts as they relate to that day’s theme. This will provide you a source to return to daily to record your impressions as you spend your Month in the Son. This could well begin a habit that lasts a lifetime. And think about this—it’s all about Jesus!
4. **Exalt:** To *exalt* means “to praise; glorify; extol—to raise on high; elevate, lift up.” Devote a portion of your daily prayer encounter to verbally glorify the Lord. You can pray, praise, meditate or even sing through each day’s list rather easily, and even in just a few minutes of time. And as suggested earlier, keep a pen nearby and circle any specific name you wish to claim that day, even noting the date by that name. Remember, Jesus told His disciples to “ask anything in my name” and He would respond (John 14:13-14).

Day 1

THE SUPREME JESUS

Exploring the Wonders of Christ's Supremacy

Christ is to the souls of men what the sun is to the world. He is the center and source of all spiritual light, warmth, life, health, growth, beauty, and fertility. . . . Like the sun, He is free to all. All may look at Him, and drink health out of His light.

J. C. RYLE

S O THIS IS JESUS!

We begin at the conclusion. And the conclusion is really just the beginning. As we begin our journey in exploring the wonders of the nature and names of Jesus, there is nothing more central to our quest than recognizing and pursuing the supremacy of Jesus Christ. He is first and foremost the *Supreme Jesus*. I suggest the beginning is the conclusion because, in the end, one can say nothing more than that Christ is fully, categorically and emphatically *supreme*. He is supreme from the outset, He will be supreme through every aspect of our journey, and He will be supreme in the end. And of course, there really is no end! Eternity is forever, and Christ is eternally supreme!

In our quest to know Christ more intimately, as together we spend a Month in the Son, we will quickly realize there is no theme we might

address concerning Christ's nature, character or essence that is not cause for adding the qualifier *supreme*.

Further, to amplify these qualities, we will explore, pray and praise our way through the many names and phrases that describe our Lord in Scripture—all 868 that I have catalogued over the years from multiple Bible translations during my prayer times. And the summary of it all is the unimaginable, incredible, indescribable, incomprehensible supremacy of Christ. As John R. W. Stott wisely wrote: “The riches of Christ are unsearchable. . . . Like the earth, they are too vast to explore, like the sea, too deep to fathom. They are untraceable, inexhaustible, ilimitable, inscrutable and incalculable. What is certain about the wealth Christ has and gives is that we shall never come to an end of it.”¹ But that won't stop us from pursuing Him! Oh, dear friend, there is so much more!

The Centerpiece of Everything

What exactly do we mean by “supreme”? *Supreme* simply means “most excellent; highest in rank, power and authority; utmost; ultimate; superior.” Synonyms for *supreme* abound, and each aptly applies to the *Supreme Jesus*. Some include paramount, matchless, unrivaled, unparalleled, unsurpassed, unequaled, unexcelled, dominant, indomitable, omnipresent, preeminent, unsurpassable, flawless, incomparable, exceptional, invaluable, and magnanimous.

The writer to the Hebrew believers uniquely highlighted Christ's supremacy in declaring:

So, my dear Christian friends . . . take a good hard look at Jesus. He's the centerpiece of everything we believe, faithful in everything God gave him to do. Moses was also faithful, but Jesus goes far

more honor. . . . Moses did a good job in God's house, but it was all servant work, getting things ready for what was to come. Christ as [God's] Son is in charge of the house.

HEBREWS 3:1-6 MSG

To refer to Christ as the “centerpiece of everything” is to speak of His supremacy. In writing to the Ephesian believers, Paul admonishes: “So now you Gentiles are no longer strangers and foreigners. . . . You are members of God's family. Together, we are his house, built on the foundation of apostles and the prophets. And the cornerstone is Christ Jesus himself” (Ephesians 2:19-20 NLT).

Here Paul clearly states that the *cornerstone* is Christ Himself. A key definition of *cornerstone* reads: “The basic, essential, or most important part; the foundation.” A cornerstone for a new building typically represents a stone that forms part of the corner of a building, especially a foundation stone, usually inscribed with the date and other details of the placing of the stone. Most often a cornerstone is placed in a building during a ceremony that marks the building's beginning. This adds to our definition of the supremacy of Christ. He is not only the beginning of the building; He is the building itself.

Supreme over All!

The supremacy of Christ cannot be overstated. It is, as I have suggested, the beginning and the conclusion, and everything in between. It is the reality of all realities! Dietrich Bonhoeffer, most remembered for his definitive book *The Cost of Discipleship*, wrote: “In Jesus Christ the reality of God entered into the reality of this world. . . . Henceforth one can speak neither of God nor of the world without speaking of Jesus Christ.”²

Perhaps Scripture's most significant insights on the supremacy of Christ are found in this passage from the apostle Paul's letter to the Colossian believers:

Christ is the visible image of the invisible God. He existed before anything was created and is *supreme over all creation*, for through him God created everything in the heavenly realms and on earth. He made the things we can see and the things we can't see—such as thrones, kingdoms, rulers, and authorities in the unseen world. . . . He is the beginning, supreme over all who rise from the dead. So he is first in everything.

COLOSSIANS 1:15-18 NLT, *emphasis added*

Especially make note of Paul's use of the word *everything*. *Everything* means just that—*every thing!* *Everything* is defined as being “all that exists; all that relates to the subject; and all that is important.” As someone wisely said, “All means all and that's all ‘all’ means!”

Charles Spurgeon was arguably one of the greatest pulpit orators of all time. He was known for saying he would take any text from the Bible and proceed immediately to the cross. Highlighting his convictions on the supremacy of Christ, Spurgeon once told his congregation, “I sometimes wonder that you do not get tired of my preaching, because I do nothing but hammer away on this one nail. With me it is, year after year, ‘None but Jesus!’”³

And that will basically be the theme of our journey together as we enjoy our Month in the Son! Jesus is everything! He is supreme! He is extraordinary. He is incomparable! When our journey is completed, may our heads spin in wonder, reverence and delight as one word comes to mind: *Awesome!*

A PRAYER FOR TODAY

Jesus, my supreme Lord and God, I humbly bow before You today. I recognize Your ultimate supremacy over all things in heaven and all things on earth. God, I know that in Your fullness You chose to live as Christ. Through Him, You reconciled everything to Yourself—including me! Your Son, indeed, is the centerpiece of everything: everything we believe, everything we long for, everything we live for. Search my heart today, oh Lord. I want You to reign supreme in my life just as You reign over all creation. May every part of my life be wholly submitted to Your supremacy. In Your supreme name I pray, Amen.

Encountering the Supreme Jesus:

A PRACTICAL APPLICATION

Remember—these four steps, as explained more fully on pages 23–24 in the introduction, are suggested to help you apply this quality of Christ to your own life.

1. **EXPLORE:** Take time to meditate on this quality of Christ. Use Scriptures in this chapter to get started.
2. **EXPERIENCE:** Turn your meditation into prayer that this quality might impact your life today. Pray the above prayer to begin.
3. **EXPRESS:** During your quiet time, take a moment to journal your thoughts, even if briefly.
4. **EXALT:** Pray, praise or even spontaneously sing your way through today's list of the names of Jesus. It only requires a few minutes.

GLORIFY HIS NAME

Those who know your *name* trust in you, for you,
LORD, have never forsaken those who seek you.

PSALM 9:10 NIV, *emphasis added*

A to Z Revelation 1:8 MSG

Adonai-Jehovah (Sovereign Lord)

Genesis 15:2, 8 NLT

Advocate, An 1 John 2:1 NKJV

Alive Forevermore Revelation 1:18 NKJV

All and in All Colossians 3:11 NKJV

All I Want in Heaven Psalm 73:25 MSG

All I Want on Earth Psalm 73:25 MSG

All That Matters Colossians 3:11 NLT

Almighty One, The Revelation 1:8 NLT

Alpha and Omega Revelation 1:8 NIV

Altogether Lovely

Song of Solomon 5:16 NKJV

Always and Ever Sovereign

Psalm 102:12 MSG

Amazing Counselor Isaiah 9:6 MSG

Ancient of Days, The Daniel 7:13 NKJV

Angel of His Presence, The

Isaiah 63:9 NKJV

Anointed Leader, The Daniel 9:25 MSG

Anointed One 1 Timothy 2:5 TPT

**Apostle and High Priest of Our
Confession, The** Hebrews 3:1 NKJV

Arm of the Lord Isaiah 51:9 NKJV

Armed and Battle-Ready

Psalm 24:8 MSG

As Rivers of Water in a Dry Place

Isaiah 32:2 NKJV

Assurance of Glory Colossians 1:27 NLT

Astonishing Gift 2 Corinthians 9:15 TPT

Atoning Sacrifice for our Sins

1 John 2:2 NIV

Attorney Job 16:19 MSG

**Author and Finisher of Our Faith,
The** Hebrews 12:2 NKJV

Author of Eternal Salvation, The

Hebrews 5:9 NKJV

Author of Life, The Acts 3:15 NLT