



## Name Above All Names

*Alistair Begg , Sinclair B. Ferguson*

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Jesus Christ has been given the name above all names, the highest seat of honor, the right to reign and rule. Yet the busyness of our lives and the diversions of this world often distract us from knowing the most important person we could ever know. Perhaps we need some help to see Jesus afresh.

In this thoughtful study and worshipful reflection, two influential pastors draw on decades of pastoral experience in order to guide us through the whole sweep of Scripture and examine seven key qualities of Jesus's identity and ministry:

Jesus as the True Prophet  
Jesus as the Great High Priest  
Jesus as the Conquering King  
Jesus as the Seed of the Woman  
Jesus as the Son of Man  
Jesus as the Suffering Servant  
Jesus as the Lamb on the Throne  
*Name above All Names* helps us to see and meditate on the incomparable character of Christ--a spiritual exercise that enables us to readily respond to the exhortations of Scripture, to focus our gaze upon the King of kings, and to better understand just how *great* Jesus really is.

### Name Above All Names Details

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## From Reader Review Name Above All Names for online ebook

### Lindsay Kennedy says

[full review is available on my blog here: <http://mydigitalseminary.com/name-abo...>]

Each chapter of Name Above All Names is a rich exploration of the greatness of Christ and His work. My most significant criticism is that this book ended. I would have greatly enjoyed additional chapters, the content was so good. I have a particular interest in the titles of Christ, but anyone would benefit from the insights in this book. We all need to know and love Jesus better, and meditating on His person and work cannot leave one cold. Thank God for men like Begg and Ferguson and for books like Name Above All Names!

*Many thanks to Angie Cheatham and Crossway for providing a review copy of this book in return for a fair review.*

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### Andrew Neveils says

This book is rich in Scripture and continually reinforces each Name back to the gospel, not just Jesus Christ himself. The book is a bit clunky at times, transitioning awkwardly and suddenly at times while seemingly belaboring thoughts at other times. That said, the content is solid and rich and there are few anecdotes in here -- they just expound Scripture upon Scripture and place whole chunks of it throughout to saturate their points and create a tapestry of what others have said before: in many ways and in many words, all Scripture is about Christ in some way. They picked seven titles, albeit somewhat uncommon ones, and showed how Scripture supports these names.

If you can get through the clunkiness, this is certainly a GoodRead.

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### Brian Pate says

Excellent!! A wonderful glimpse of the glory of Christ from a biblical theological perspective.

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### Angel says

Originally posted in [angelroman.org](http://angelroman.org)

Initially I was drawn to this book because of its title. Lately I've been thinking about the bunch of books related to what Jesus does, but not about who He is, and fortunately this one got it perfect.

Alistair Begg wrote a chapter from another book called *The Scriptures Testify About Me*, and instantly became one of my favorite writers. Sinclair B. Ferguson, the other writer, is a friend of his and their collaboration is splendid, the writing is fluid and congruent, and even though the chapters are divided by different subjects, there's a connection between them.

There are only 7 'names or titles' described in this book about Jesus, there are obviously many more and there are many books about them too, but for those looking for a fresh insight about Jesus' life, then Name above All Names it's the perfect book. At the end of each chapters I realized the lack of knowledge I had about Jesus, but also I had the chance to see Him differently and recognize His importance and beauty in a different way. There were times were I was struck not only by information but by a new revelation and found myself praying and worshipping Jesus.

Name above All Names is a good chance to take a look to the basics, it doesn't matter if you just found Jesus or if you've been in Sunday morning school for years. We all must recognize the magnificence behind the name of Jesus, and Name above All Names is a good start.

I received this book for free from Crossway for this review. I was not required to write a positive review. The opinions I have expressed are my own.

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### **Phil Griffin says**

Very helpful book. Earlier sections sometimes seemed a bit light but the chapters on 'Jesus Christ the suffering servant' and 'the Lamb on the Throne' were very good. We were reminded that the broken, overwhelmed, shattered, sordid and sad need to see Christ as a suffering servant, who will love them, sympathise with them, save them and graciously and gradually transform them. Our Churches need to minister to the least and last, the lost and left out. Christians should not see God's intervention as to prevent experiencing trials. We win but the prize is the other side of suffering.

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### **David says**

A bit lightweight, but does the job it was set forth to do. Again, best recommended for group study.

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### **Roxanne says**

#### **A powerful list**

I have read so many books and devotions about the names of Jesus. Alistair Begg and Sinclair Ferguson have chosen to write about some names not often addressed in other books. Each name holds a message of power, victory and encouragement, even in the midst of suffering and difficulty.

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### **Annette says**

#### **Summary:**

Author's Alistair Begg and Sinclair B. Ferguson state in the preface that their book covers, "only seven of the many descriptions of Jesus found in the Bible, and none of those descriptions is treated exhaustively." This book should be considered, "a taste, a beginning exploration." This "beginning exploration" is directed at a wide reading audience, from a new believer to a seasoned Christian. They are in hopes that this book will be looked at as a fresh approach to knowing Jesus as, Name above All Names.

"See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we now that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure." 1 John 3:1-3 ESV.

My Thoughts:

The title of this book is what led me to want to read and review it. One of my favorite Scriptures from the Bible is from Philippians 2:1-11, especially verse nine.

"Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name." ESV.

My reasons for giving this book 5 Stars.

It is an accomplishment when two author's collaborate and write a well-written edifying book, achieving their goal in less than two hundred pages.

I feel the goals were achieved in seven chapters focusing on the character and workings of Christ Jesus. The book begins with a study in Genesis 3:15. Jesus would be the "offspring" who would overcome the world (kosmos) through His work on the cross.

The conflict that is throughout the Bible is Satan's plot to wreck havoc and destroy mankind, his top goal is to defeat God and His purposes.

The road to Emmaus, this is in Luke 24:13-35. Jesus shared with these two believer's how He was the fulfillment of Scripture.

The above reasons from three through five are key points for believer's in understanding that Jesus Christ is the fulfillment of Scripture. A new believer may not understand this, and it is important that they understand that Jesus is the fulfillment. All through the Old Testament it pointed to what Jesus had to do on the cross.

Name above All Names, whets the appetite for deeper Bible reading and study.

Chapter on Son of Man is broken down clearly for those of us who have not understood this term.

Clear concise teaching. Points are made and they're not lengthy, I feel this will be attractive to people who are not heavy reader's or don't have time for a lengthy book.

Uplifting and positive, this is a book of hope.

My favorite chapter was six, "Jesus Christ, the Suffering Servant.

Why?

Because it's personal, transparent, it pierced my heart.

"Some of us know mental anguish. Some of us even feel it to the point where we fear for our sanity, and even for our lives. Some are plagued in mind by fears and feel ourselves at times on the verge of despair and hopelessness." page 148

"Do you know that the Lord Jesus understands what it is to be overwhelmed?" page 148

"It is this theology of the cross that we find here. God grant that in seeing Christ as the Suffering Servant we will be done once and for all with the superficial triumphalism that sadly emanates from too many Christian organizations and churches. Have you ever considered the fact that on the average Sunday, pastors minister to congregations of people whose lives are marked-and often marred-by quiet desperation? Sadly, some churches, and the finance-seeking 'ministries' that sprout in abundance, have become very skilled at masking all this with promises of victory and a life beyond the reach of pain and sorrow. Masking tape to cover deep needs is always a profoundly unhelpful and unrealistic antidote for broken hearts. Using it betrays a deeply unbiblical-and indeed ultimately cruel-theology." page 155.

I'll close with a quote in the book from A.W. Tozer. Page 157.

"We want a Jesus who does all the suffering, don't we?-----We want to be saved, but we insist that Christ do all the dying. No cross for us, no dethronement, no dying. We remain king within the little kingdom of Mansoul and wear our tinsel crown with all the pride of a Caesar; but we doom ourselves to shadows and weakness and spiritual sterility."

Thank you to Crossway for my FREE review copy!

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### **Kaley Rhea says**

Loved this. In seven chapters, Begg and Ferguson explore--clearly, logically, engagingly--how all of the Bible points to Jesus, what that means, and the implications for us today. All of it infused with sweet, soul-refreshing worship. Worth a second read. And a third.

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### **David says**

Name above all Names is a delightful and helpful book on Christology. It is co-authored by Alistair Begg and Sinclair Ferguson. A small book well worth reading. The authors have a helpful discussion, one chapter each on the subject of Christ's offices as Prophet, Priest, and King. I found especially insightful their discussion "Jesus Christ, the Son of Man." For example, in the Gospels Jesus calls himself "the son of man" on fifty separate occasions. "Son of man" is always used by Jesus about himself in the Gospels. The Daniel discussion (Dan 7:9-14) is foremost.

It is an insightful and helpful book for encouraging us to know Christ and to think about him deeply. Not a long book, but wonderful for encouraging us to think great thoughts with great passion about the matchless Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. A great read!

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### **Mark A Powell says**

Begg and Ferguson plunge into seven different names the Bible assigns to Jesus, explaining why He is designated as such, and what our response must be. They trek from the first hint of the gospel in Genesis ("Seed of the Woman") to the final vision of Jesus in eternal glory ("Lamb on the Throne"). The unparalleled subject of Christ in the hands of these two long-time standard bearers is, not surprisingly, rich in insight and encouragement.

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### **Becky says**

I really enjoyed Name Above All Names by Alistair Begg and Sinclair B. Ferguson. Noting that "being able to think long and lovingly about the Lord Jesus is a dying art," they've written this book to inspire or encourage readers to consider Jesus more. The book is divided into seven chapters. Each chapter focuses on a name of Jesus; together these chapters illustrate: how Jesus Christ is the Seed of the Woman, how Jesus Christ is the True Prophet, how Jesus Christ is the Great High Priest, how Jesus Christ is the Conquering King, how Jesus Christ is the Son of Man, how Jesus Christ is the Suffering Servant, how Jesus Christ is the Lamb on the Throne. Each chapter is rich in Scripture. The two make a very good argument that Jesus can be

found in both the Old Testament and the New Testament. I love how they use the Old Testament, how they focus on how Christ has fulfilled OT prophecies. I think I learned the most from chapter one, "Jesus Christ, the Seed of Woman."

[Genesis 3:15] And so these words, almost at the beginning of Genesis, give us an important insight into the whole message of the Bible. It is a library of books that traces an ages-long cosmic conflict between the two "seeds." (20)

In fact, the apocalyptic vision of Revelation 12 is almost like a movie version of Genesis 3:15. We are invited to watch, in dramatic, high-definition, Technicolor with special effects, the prophesied ongoing conflict between the seed of the woman and the seed of the Serpent and its final outcome. This is the underlying plotline of the whole of Bible. It appears in embryo in the very next chapter of the book of Genesis. One brother (Cain) is in conflict with another brother (Abel) because the latter's sacrifice was acceptable to God. Jealousy and murder result as the seed of the Serpent (Cain), seeks to destroy the seed of the woman (Abel). The same plotline makes its way through the tower of Babel as man seeks to build his kingdom over against God's. But in sovereign power God pulls down that kingdom and destroys its unity. This is also the story of Egypt against Israel. It is the story of Goliath against David. It is the story of Babylon against Jerusalem, of Nebuchadnezzar against Daniel. It is the story of Satan against Jesus, and of Pontius Pilate and Herod seeking to destroy the Savior. It is the story that runs through the Gospels and beyond. The Jews seek to destroy Jesus during his ministry: "You are of your father the devil," he says. It is the story of how the enmity then turns on the Christian church. Thus the story of the ages is beginning to unfold here already in Genesis 3:15. (22-3)

I also found the chapters on Jesus as prophet, priest, and king very helpful! I'd often heard that Jesus is prophet, priest, and king. But hearing it and understanding it aren't the same thing! Some of these titles or names are very familiar, but being familiar doesn't mean we understand everything we need to know, or know all there is to know.

I would definitely recommend this one!

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## **Michael Boling says**

Jesus, name above all names, Beautiful Savior, glorious Lord. Emmanuel, God is with us. Blessed Redeemer, Living word. These lyrics to a well known old hymn reflect just a few of the many names attributed to Jesus throughout Scripture. Given that names have meaning, it is truly vital to understand what those names given to Jesus mean and what they say about Jesus in order to glean a deeper comprehension of our Lord. Noted pastors and authors Alistair Begg and Sinclair Ferguson, in their latest book, Name Above All Names, interact with seven key descriptions of Christ that when understood more clearly, form a solid foundation for the believer to better grasp Jesus.

At the very outset of the book, Begg and Sinclair rightly note "Being able to think long and lovingly about the Lord Jesus is a dying art. The disciplines required to reflect on him for a prolonged period of time and to be captivated by him have been relegated to a secondary place in contemporary Christian life." To have a Christ-centered approach to life, one must first understand who this person we worship is and why he is worthy of such worship. One such approach to addressing the lack of thought about who Jesus is can be found in concentrating on the name of Jesus. After all, Scripture says "at the name of Jesus, every knee will bow and every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father." (Phil. 2:10)

Begg and Sinclair begin with a study of Jesus as the seed of the woman, a description arguably either highly

overlooked by most believers or highly misunderstood. The conflict between the seed of the woman and the seed of the Serpent is one which will take place in one degree or another until Christ returns. With that said, the battle between the seed of the woman, Jesus Christ and the Serpent was won at the cross with a resounding victory by Christ over the Serpent. Genesis 3:15 is described as the Protevangelium, better known as the first mention of the gospel. Begg and Sinclair do a marvelous job of contrasting the First Adam with the Second Adam using the title of seed of the woman as a springboard to note how this description plays itself out to the end of Revelation. I especially appreciated the motif of Jesus as the gardener, a concept that ties nicely into the discussion of that which was lost in the garden and that which will be regained when Christ, the seed of the woman, returns in glory.

The descriptions of Christ as Prophet, Priest, and King are perhaps a little better understood by most believers, however, Begg and Sinclair dig into each description with attention being paid to the most familiar title of Jesus, that of the Christ. The very title of Christ means “anointed one” and Begg and Sinclair rightly note the three offices in Scripture that “were anointed for the service of God: the prophet, the priest, and the king. “ One very interesting element of the three chapters on Christ as prophet, priest, and king is the need for Christ to be a prophet on our behalf. Begg and Sinclair note what they call the four “R’s” of why we needed Jesus to come as a prophet: 1) Our fallen condition **requires** us to have Jesus as our prophet; 2) Hebrews 1:1-2 notes God has spoken His word to us through Jesus, thus noting the **revelatory** role of Jesus’ prophetic ministry; 3) “Ultimately Jesus must be **recognized**, not merely as a messenger of revelation from God but as the very source of that revelation”; and 4) The ministry of Christ will be **realized** in the life of the believer through the preaching of the Word of God.

As Begg and Sinclair aptly state, the office of prophet cannot be understood apart from the other offices of priest and king. Those wanting to read what Scripture says about Christ as our Priest need only look to the book of Hebrews for a lengthy exposition of that topic. There is a tremendous overview of this topic provided by Begg and Sinclair and their notation that we can be encouraged by Jesus being our great high priest is centered on the reality that 1) we do have a great high priest, 2) we have a real salvation allowing us to draw near to God, 3) we have a perfect high priest who does not need to offer sacrifices for his own sin, 4) unlike the shadows that were the OT priests, Christ is the better priest, 5) Christ offered himself as the perfect and final sacrifice, and 6) we can approach the throne room of God and God Himself through Christ being our intercessor and mediator. What a glorious thing to understand and Begg and Sinclair provide the reader with excellent commentary on this amazing aspect of Christ’s title as priest.

Christ as the Conquering King relates back to Genesis 3:15 where it was declared he would crush the enemy. The event of the Triumphal Entry is discussed in great detail by Begg and Sinclair as they connect the context of that event to the title of Christ as King. Christ riding that donkey into Jerusalem hearkens back to a number of OT prophecies that declared to the people of Israel their king would be coming. Of course, many missed the fact Jesus was the Messiah, the King from the line of David promised to them of old. Understanding Jesus as King has great ramifications in the life of the believer. Begg and Sinclair refer to the Shorter Westminster Catechism, Question 24 which rightly asks “How doth Christ execute the office [ministry] of a king?” The response is given as “In subduing us to himself, in ruling and defending us, and in restraining and conquering all his and our enemies.” It is this concept of ruling and subduing us to himself that Begg and Sinclair explore with great insight and detail. They declare “since Jesus is Lord and God, King and Savior, this impacts all of life.” That is a concept we all need to have a better grasp of and by reading the chapter on Christ as King, the reader will be well equipped to better understanding just how Jesus as Lord should impact their relationship with their King.

Perhaps the most often used description of Jesus is the Son of Man, something Jesus calls himself over fifty times in the gospels. A term used that much certainly deserves a great deal of attention and Begg and Sinclair address this subject rather saliently. The title Son of Man is rooted in Daniel 7 so any possibility of understanding what that title means must first take place by studying the prophecy found in Daniel 7. Begg

and Sinclair walk the reader through Daniel's prophecy aptly discussing what phrases such as "Ancient of Days" and "Son of Man" meant and how they relate to one another. They also compare and contrast how the title son of man is used in relation to other individuals such as Ezekiel noting the differences between a mere man as "Son of Man" and Jesus bearing that title. This naturally leads into the discussion of Jesus as the last Adam, which again hearkens back to the opening pages of Scripture where God promises He will send the seed of the woman to crush the Serpent and to redeem that which was lost. One can quickly begin to see how these various titles intersect one another and build upon each other, something Begg and Sinclair note often.

Name Above All Names is a valuable exposition of seven of the many titles attributed to Jesus throughout Scripture. The titles selected by Begg and Sinclair arguably are ones which all believers should spend a great deal of time studying and understanding. In doing so, they will gain a greater appreciation for the person and work of Jesus and they will grow in their relationship with the One who is the True Prophet, Great High Priest, Conquering King, Seed of the Woman, Son of Man, Suffering Servant, and the Lamb on the Throne. When we understand these titles, we can then sing with great vigor the lines of the hymn mentioned at the outset of this review:

"Jesus, name above all names, Beautiful Savior, glorious Lord. Emmanuel, God is with us. Blessed Redeemer, Living word."

I received this for free from Crossway Books for this review. I was not required to write a positive review. The opinions I have expressed are my own. I am disclosing this in accordance with the Federal Trade Commission's 16 CFR, Part 255 : "Guides Concerning the Use of Endorsements and Testimonials in Advertising."

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### **Faith says**

This is a book to be savored just a little bit at a time so that you can absorb all that is being said. I rarely read more than a few pages at a time but each page made an impact on me.

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### **Candy Shepard says**

Dry and sometimes hard to stick with, but this book is packed with biblical knowledge! I'm learning so much! I feel like I'm in college again.

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