

## THE BLESSED NAME: "JESUS"

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When God's Son came into our flesh, Mary and Joseph named Him "Jesus." He was not named this after some relative, nor was the name given only because it pleased Mary. Mary and Joseph followed God's own instruction. the angel Gabriel told Mary that this was to be His Name (Luke 1:31). Later, when Joseph planned to put Mary away secretly because of her pregnancy, the Lord spoke to him. Joseph was told that this Baby was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit, "And," said the Lord, "He shall save His people from their sins" (Matthew 1:21).

The Name "Jesus" is derived from the words "Jehovah" and "saves." it is the Name which emphasises so clearly that salvation is *wholly* of Jehovah – not of man. Jesus comes to pay *fully* for all of the sins of His people. Nothing need be added, ever.

One must note two blessed truths taught by the Lord in Matthew 1:21. First, we are told that "*He shall save.*" It is emphatic, not a merely future event. The Lord Himself told Joseph in his dream of the certainty of the salvation which Jesus should obtain.

Secondly, we are shown that this salvation is for "*His people.*" It is not that Jesus will *try* to save all men, but He will *succeed* in saving *His people*. Rather, He came *only* to save *His people*. He will pay fully for their sins alone.

Jesus, later in His ministry, was very conscious of this calling. In John 6:37 He speaks of those whom "the Father giveth Me." These are "drawn" to Him (John 6:44) and they shall come to Him and be saved. He speaks also of "His sheep" and reminds the Pharisees, "Ye are not of My sheep" (John 10:26), because it is for His sheep, He declares, that He gives His life (John 10:11,15). He prays not for the world (John 17:9) but for those given Him of the Father. These are the very ones, the only ones, He comes to save.

The Christian has great cause to celebrate the Incarnation – the coming of the Son of God into human flesh. God was carrying out in time what He had eternally determined: to save in Christ those whom He had eternally chosen (Romans 9). To God be all the glory for the salvation of His people in Christ!