

## The Greatness of Jesus Christ

We Love assigning “greatness to things: especially man-made things.

We use the word great very loosely.

Almost as a way of patting ourselves on the shoulder for a job well done, we will easily and all too quickly refer to something as being “Great”. These even become part of the names of these man-made structures:

The Great Wall of China; The Great Pyramid of Giza

However, even more than this we absolutely love to assign greatness to people.

Sports Stars; Actors; Singers

We create entire shows in order to idolise them and even call those shows Idols

We have debates for hours on end about who the greatest soccer player of all time is.

Commentators have many times posed the question: is this the greatest Barcelona team of all time?

We cannot get enough of assigning worship and praise and greatness on men and women.

We even refer to “that Great Man of God.”

Yet, somewhere in our reckoning of things, we have managed to relegate Jesus Christ to being Good rather than being Great.

Is Jesus good? Absolutely Yes! I have repeatedly uttered the words: “*God is good, all the time, and all the time, God is good,*” from this very platform. He is Good! However, I want to challenge us to rightly position Him as being Great as well as being a good God.

We already do so in our songs that we worship to on a Sunday morning,

Our God is Greater, Our God is Stronger;

How Great is our God, sing with me How Great is our God;

We love to, call your Name, It’s something, we cannot explain, that happens, when we proclaim, your Great Name, Your Great Name.

What I hope this message will do is create a culture in each of us of declaring the Greatness of Jesus.

### **Hebrews 1:1-4 (NIV)**

<sup>1</sup> In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways, <sup>2</sup> but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom also he made the universe. <sup>3</sup> The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven. <sup>4</sup> So he became as much superior to the angels as the name he has inherited is superior to theirs.

**HE is the Heir:** in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things.

### **Hebrews 2:8**

YOU HAVE PUT ALL THINGS IN SUBJECTION UNDER HIS FEET." For in subjecting all things to him, He left nothing that is not subject to him...

**The Creator:** through whom also he made the universe.

### **John 1:3**

All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being.

### **Colossians 1:16**

For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things have been created through Him and for Him.

**The Glorious One** The Son is the radiance of God's glory.

Moses: Moses hid his face, because he was afraid to look at God... **Exodus 3:6**

Gideon: When Gideon realized that it was the angel of the Lord, he exclaimed, "Ah, Sovereign Lord! I have seen the angel of the Lord face to face!" **Judges 6:22**

Habbakuk – I heard and my heart pounded, my lips quivered at the sound; decay crept into my bones, and my legs trembled. **Habakkuk 3:16**

Ezekiel: This was the appearance of the likeness of the glory of the Lord. When I saw it, I fell facedown **Ezekiel 1:27**

Job: My ears had heard of you, but now my eyes have seen you, Therefore I despise myself, and repent in dust and ashes. **Job 42:5-6**

Daniel: I, Daniel, was the only one who saw the vision; the men with me did not see it, but such terror overwhelmed them that they fled and hid themselves. So I was left alone, gazing at this great vision; I had no strength left, my face turned deathly pale and I was helpless **Daniel 10:7-8, 9:20**

John: When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. Then he placed his right hand on me and said: "Do not be afraid. I am the First and the Last. **Revelation 1:17**

### **Philippians 3:21**

who will transform the body of our humble state into conformity with the body of His glory, by the exertion of the power that He has even to subject all things to Himself.

### **2 Thessalonians 2:8**

And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will overthrow with the breath of his mouth and destroy by the splendor of his coming.

**He is God's representation:** and the exact representation of his being / nature.

### **2 Corinthians 4:4**

in whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

### **John 10:30**

I and the Father are one.

### **John 14:9**

Jesus said to him, "Have I been so long with you, and yet you have not come to know Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; how can you say, 'Show us the Father'?"

**He is the Sustainer:** sustaining all things by his powerful word.

### **Colossians 1:17**

He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together

**He is Savior and Redeemer:** he had provided purification for sins,

**The Name above every other Name:** <sup>4</sup>So he became as much superior to the angels as the name he has inherited is superior to theirs.

### **Philippians 2:9 Amplified Bible (AMP)**

<sup>9</sup>For this reason also [because He obeyed and so completely humbled Himself], God has highly exalted Him and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name,

He is greater than the greatest of any of the prophets. He is greater than anything.

## **I. HIS GREATNESS IS SEEN IN HIS RELATIONSHIP TO THE UNIVERSE**

A. HE IS THE HEIR OF ALL THINGS: Jesus is the unique Son of the living God. He is the sovereign Lord of the universe. The world belongs to Jesus Christ. He is the rightful heir of all things and we are co-heirs with Jesus.

B. HE IS THE CREATOR OF ALL THINGS: Jesus did not have His beginning at Bethlehem. He was present in the creation of the world. In fact He is the Creator. The heavens themselves declare the glory of our Lord.

C. HE UPHOLDS ALL THINGS: That is, He holds the universe together by the Word of His power. It is in Jesus that we live and move and have our being.



*And that helps answer your second question: What did Jesus actually accomplish? During His days on earth Jesus performed the greatest deed anyone could ever accomplish: He broke down the barriers between us and God. Our greatest need was to be reconciled to God — but how could that happen, since we were separated from God because of our sins? It was only possible if God acted to save us — and that is what He did when Jesus Christ died on the cross for us.*

*I invite you to examine Jesus Christ as He is found in the pages of the New Testament. When you do, you'll discover not only who He was and what He did for us, but that He can change your life — beginning today.*

## **PASSAGE TAKEN FROM KINGDOMREADY.ORG:**

### **Humble Beginnings**

Unlike many of the most influential heroes of history, Jesus was not born to wealthy parents with a silver spoon in his mouth. He wasn't born in a hospital or even at home, but in an indoor barn or cave. In fact, the best Joseph and Mary could do for a cradle was a feeding trough (Luke 2:7). When the time came to offer the firstborn sacrifice at the temple, they could not afford the standard lamb but instead had to offer the alternative poor man's sacrifice of two turtle doves (Luke 2:24; Lev 12:8). It is one thing for someone who has every advantage—an expensive education, access to power, and every comfort—to succeed in life, but for someone born to an obscure couple, from an obscure hamlet, in an obscure province without any of the advantages money and status could provide to change the world in a mere thirty years of life—now that is impressive! Jesus' life is so significant that thousands of years later we count dates from him forward (A.D.) and from him backward (B.C.). He is the hinge, the one at whom the calendar resets, the one who changed everything.

### **Brilliant**

As Jesus grew up, he “increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and men” (Luke 2:52). He was something of a child prodigy, able to comprehend and interact with the complex theological world of first century Judaism and discourse intelligently with the teachers in the temple (Luke 2:46). Not only was he listening to them, but he was also asking them questions such that “they were amazed at his understanding and his answers” (Luke 2:47). Later on, Jesus would continue to evidence an acute knowledge of the Bible the variety of ways his contemporaries were interpreting it. He had a knack for comprehending an issue and penetrating through the surface details to the real heart of the matter. He had no difficulty going toe to toe with trained religious experts out in the country and in the big city (Luke 20:26). People marvelled at his acumen and boldness, for never had they seen anyone confront the scribes as Jesus did.

### **Authority**

Even so, his humble origins and brilliance only begin scratching the surface of Jesus' greatness. He was also a man of unprecedented authority. We can see examples of great prophets who fearlessly rebuked kings and called the people to repent, but with Jesus, a whole new level of authority surfaces. One time, he was teaching in a synagogue, and someone expectantly popped up and blurted out, “What business do we have with each other, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the holy one of God!” (Mark 1:24). This shocking interruption did not overwhelm or confuse Jesus. He confronted the man head on, rebuking him with the words, “Be quiet, and come out of him!” I can just imagine the worshippers sitting there on the edges of their seats, not sure what to think. Immediately, the man fell to the ground and began convulsing. Suddenly, a demonic shriek

sprang forth, and the unclean spirit left him. The spectators asked, “What is this? A new teaching with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him” (Mark 1:27). Jesus was a man of authority. He knew he was the Messiah, the one God destined to rule the whole world, and he didn’t shrink back from a good spiritual fight.

### **Life Coach**

Jesus was also the supreme life coach. His magisterial and imminently practical Sermon on the Mount is chockfull of simple, clear commandments to live by (Mat 5-7). It was Jesus who coined the golden rule: “...treat people the same way you want them to treat you” (Mat 7:12) and made up the story of the Good Samaritan—a story so inspiring that many hospitals have taken it as their name (Luke 10:30-36). Though we live in an age where self-improvement books proliferate, lining shelf after shelf in local bookstores, Christ has already cornered the market and still remains the most popular and relevant guru. He is backed by the countless testimonials of alcoholics, drug addicts, narcissists, adulterers, pornography addicts, and sinners of every stripe who tell story after blessed story of how God’s salvation coupled with Christ’s teachings have resulted in peace, joy, and healing.

### **Healer**

Of course, Jesus was also a prolific healer. He healed people from blindness, leprosy, fevers, demonic oppression, lameness, dropsy, deafness, epilepsy, among other maladies. Several times, he even raised someone from the dead, healing them from the most serious condition of all. Sometimes when he arrived at a town, the sick and suffering lined up outside the house, and Jesus would heal them all (Mat 8:16). My favourite healing was when he interrupted a funeral procession and told the grieving mother to stop crying. No doubt at that moment, the sheer shock of Jesus’ intrusion must have caused bewilderment among the onlookers. But, before anyone could say anything, he commanded the dead child, the only son of his widowed mother, “Young man, I say to you, arise!” (Luke 7:14). And he did! Jesus had come across a devastating human tragedy and was not content to pass by without doing something. He was not about to let this suffering take place on his watch; he got involved and reversed the effects of sickness, bringing life out of death.

### **Approachable**

Having the ability to heal the sick, raise the dead, and command demons to leave did not go to Jesus’ head. Although he had immense authority, he was not arrogant. He did not insulate himself from the unwashed masses by layers of go-betweens to buffer him. In fact, Jesus searched out the lowly and preached to them. He commonly went to the no-name villages and taught the poor farmers and fishermen. He was called “a friend of tax-collectors and sinners” (Mat 11:19). Jesus’ holiness was not fragile, as if he could be tainted by merely brushing up against sin. He possessed a robust righteousness such that he could spend time with the unrighteous without falling into temptation. He reached out to the prostitute and the leper, the outcasts of society, to bring them healing and restoration.

### **Sociable**

In addition, Jesus loved going to dinner parties. From the wedding of Cana (John 2:1-11) to the reception Levi threw for him with his tax-collecting buddies (Luke 5:29-32) to the dinner at Simon the Pharisee’s house (Luke 7:36-50), Jesus frequently spent time with people around a table. So often did Jesus accept invitations that his critics called him a “glutton and a drunkard” (Luke 7:34). Of course, he was neither an overeater nor drunk, but he was someone who enjoyed life. Although he did fast on occasion, he wasn’t an ascetic who constantly invented ways to punish himself as if the simple

pleasures of life were inherently evil. No, Jesus was the kind of person who would come over for dinner.

### **Courageous**

Jesus was also incredibly courageous. Throughout his life, in many heated situations he never wimped out or backed down. In fact, several times his listeners picked up stones and nearly pelted him to death. When he was arrested and stood face to face with the most powerful Jewish leader of the time—Caiaphas—he didn't flinch. When the high priest directly asked him if he was the Messiah, Jesus replied, "You have said it yourself; nevertheless I tell you, hereafter you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of power, and coming on the clouds of heaven" (Mat 26:64). When the religious leaders handed him over to Pilate seeking the death penalty, Jesus did not equivocate for a moment. At one point, the Roman governor shouted, "You do not speak to me? Do you not know that I have authority to release you, and I have authority to crucify you?" Jesus retorted, "You would have no authority over me, unless it had been given you from above" (John 19:10-11). No one talked to Pilate like this—no one except Jesus.

### **Human**

But even if he had the courage of a lion, he was a real human being who had parents, brothers, sisters, and friends. He so blended in that Judas had to signal who he was with a kiss (Mark 14:44). One of the most chilling moments when Jesus' humanity was so apparent came when he prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane. The time had drawn near for his arrest, and he fell on his face, earnestly entreating his God, "My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; yet not as I will, but as you will" (Mat 26:39). This he did three times with such agony that he was sweating profusely (Luke 22:44). Like any man, he didn't want to be falsely accused; he didn't want to be spat upon; he didn't want to be ridiculed; he didn't want to be beaten; and he certainly didn't want to die.

### **Compassionate**

However, Christ's own impulse for self-preservation was trumped by his willingness to yield to God in total obedience. What he would go through would benefit others, a whole lot of others. Even before the crucifixion—the supreme example of Jesus caring for others—he had constantly reached out in compassion. For example, when the crowds had continued with him for several days, Jesus felt for them. He knew they were hungry, and that if he sent them away, some of the weaker ones may faint on the way (Mark 8:1-2). This was the motive for multiplying the loaves and the fish. His healings were motivated by sympathy as was his whole ministry. So, when it came to dying for the sins of the world, Jesus kept right on loving, serving, and caring. He did not suffer and die for his own sins, for he was sinless. Rather, he cared for us—those who would one day respond in faith—so much that he willingly volunteered to pay the ultimate price to rescue us from this present evil age, sin, and the wrath of God (Gal 1:4; 1 Pet 2:24; Rom 5:9). When he finally breathed his last, he died not with bitterness and resentment poisoning his heart but with love and trust (1 Pet 2:21-23).

### **Absolute Trust**

In order to go through with God's plan of redemption, Jesus had to have absolute trust and faith in God. Although we are all so used to the idea that Jesus died for our sins, it could not have been easy for him in the moment. He had so many opportunities to abort the plan. He could have run away in the Garden of Gethsemane before the soldiers arrived; he could have denied that he was the Messiah when the high priest asked; he could have done a miracle for Herod so that he would rescue him; he could have worked with Pilate and disputed his accusations; he could have come off the cross when

the spectators, the soldiers, and the criminal next to him dared him to. But he didn't. He stayed on that cross and committed himself to God, come what may. He held firmly to God's promise to raise him from the dead on the third day (Mat 16:21; 17:23; 20:19). He was a man of incredible faith.

### **Still Alive**

I have one last reason to share as to why Jesus is great: he is alive. Jesus is not dead. After God raised him from the dead, he exalted him to his right hand in heaven. Today, Christ continues to baptize in the spirit (Mark 1:8; Acts 2:33), advocate as the high priest (Heb 2:18; 4:15), bring healing (Acts 9:34), and lead his church as the head (Col 1:18; Eph 4:16). He always lives to make intercession for us (Heb 7:25). Not only that, but Jesus will return one day to resurrect the people of God and establish God's Kingdom on earth (1 Cor 15:21-28). As God's representative, he will labor to make right everything wrong with the world. He will establish an age of peace, wholeness, regeneration, fellowship with God, joy, immortality, and love. I long for this day. Maranatha—come, Lord Jesus! (1 Cor 16:22; Rev 22:20).