The Name Like No Other
Meet With God Series

The Name
Like No Other

Woodrow Kroll
Welcome

Welcome to this month’s Meet With God series. We are following last month’s grand theme of Creation with lessons this month about the Creator—Jesus. After all, as Colossians tells us, “For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him” (Col. 1:16). We’ve looked at a masterpiece. Now we’ll meet the Artist.

The biblical insights you are about to consider have been selected from the radio teaching ministry of Woodrow Kroll. You don’t have to listen to Back to the Bible to use your study booklet. But if you can listen, the study will be even more powerful.

We hope that this series will not only encourage you to read the Bible, but also to study it. On the following pages you’ll find devotional readings, questions to help you review and meditate on Scripture passages, and practical suggestions for applying the truth of the Bible to your everyday living.

Our prayer is that as you use the Meet With God series you will experience rich dividends of biblical knowledge and spiritual growth.
From the Author

Lots of people and organizations boast about being “the greatest” in some way. Teams and individual players vie for awards as the greatest in their specialty or position. Greatest is, by definition, one. The larger the group, the more significant the greatest becomes. When it comes to mankind, around the world and throughout history, Jesus Christ is the greatest of all.

I look forward to exploring with you the incomparable greatness in the names, the titles and the roles Jesus accepted when He came to earth. We will consider other worthy people whom God used to accomplish His purposes, but Jesus will prove to be greater than all of them. Together we will learn again why Jesus is uniquely worthy of our worship and obedience.

As we begin this month, I thank God that His Word is a lamp for our feet and a light for our path (Ps. 119:105). I pray that we will seek to know and live by that truth each day. Join me as we explore the grand subject of Jesus—in every way the greatest.

Woodrow Kroll
Week One

This week, think about the power and importance of names. How important is your name to you?

The Power of the Name

Key Passage: Read Hebrews 1:1-3

“...that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth” (Phil. 2:10).

Your name illustrates the power of the first birthday gift your parents gave you. All your life, no matter where you are, when you hear your name, the sound grabs your attention. Your head turns, even though the person may be calling someone else who happens to share your name. A precious phrase like “I love you” said to a group, takes on immeasurable personal value if your name is added to it.

The power in our names helps us understand and appreciate the power of Jesus’ name. But that’s only the beginning. The power of Jesus’ name awes and humbles us. The power of His name draws us. The power of Jesus’ name saves us. Acts 4:12 tells about both the uniqueness and the power of Jesus’ name, “Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”

God sent an angel to Joseph to assure...
the reluctant carpenter that Mary’s pregnancy was part of God’s plan. The angel gave Joseph the task of naming the Son of God and explained the reason why He would carry a certain name. “You shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins” (Matt. 1:21). That’s exactly what Jesus did.

Jesus, as we shall see, fulfilled many roles perfectly in His brief lifetime. He demonstrated His right to be called the world’s greatest prophet in varied and surprising ways. He was the best example among good examples. But He is our only Savior. He is not the greatest Savior, for there is no other. If we have not recognized Him as our Savior, that doesn’t mean we can find another. It only means we are not yet saved.

Jesus knows your name—do you know His?

As you read through Hebrews 1, reflect on the following questions:
1. How did God’s faithful servants in the Old Testament prepare the world for Jesus?
2. What does the phrase “God has spoken to us by His Son” mean to you personally?
3. In what ways does Jesus fit the role of prophet?
4. How many terms or word pictures does the author use to describe Jesus in the first verses of the chapter?

Apply It
If someone were to ask you today what was the last thing Jesus said to you, how would you answer?
From the Sermon on the Mount to the Golden Rule, most of us can think of things Jesus said to all of us. What will you do today that could be described as one way you are obeying Jesus’ commands?

Express It
Jesus, Your special names and titles amaze and humble me. Help me today to be faithful to Your name, for I want to be known as someone who not only follows You but also as someone who is growing to be like You.

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Week Two

This week, use every expression of excellence you hear as an opportunity to think about the excellence of Jesus.

The Savior Is Superior

Key Passage: Read Hebrews 1:4-14

God...has in these last days spoken to us by His Son (Heb. 1:1-2).

Claims of excellence call for our attention every day. News stories, sports reports and coffee-break conversations often boil down to one question: Who’s the greatest? Teams compete for first place; businesses battle for the biggest market share and advertisers whisper and shout about the superiority of their products.

In Jesus’ day, people often discussed the reputation of God’s prophets. They argued over which one was the greatest and why. Was it Moses, who led the people out of Egypt and gave them the God-inspired Book of the Law? Was it Samuel, the prophet who anointed the first two kings of Israel? Was it Elijah or Elisha? What about the heroic prophets like Isaiah, Jeremiah and Ezekiel? And there were others who had dedicated fan clubs: Daniel, Joel and Zechariah. Who was the greatest? Would there ever be someone greater?

Remember It

Answer the following questions on the passage you read this week. See answers below.

1. Even Jesus’ _________ is superior to that of the angels.

2. God said that Jesus’ ___________ will last forever.

3. The heavens and the earth will never perish.

   True/False

4. None of the angels were ever given the privilege of sitting at the right hand of God.

   True/False

5. According to this passage, one of the purposes of angels is to:

   a. deliver messages from God.
   b. fight the forces of evil.
   c. serve and minister to those who will inherit salvation.
   d. protect the people on earth.

   5. c. (Heb. 1:14)

   4. True (Heb. 4:13)

   3. False (Heb. 1:10-11)

   2. True (Heb. 1:13)

   1. False (Heb. 1:13)

   Answers:

   1. name (Heb. 1:4)
   2. throne (Heb. 1:8)
   3. False (Heb. 1:10-11)
   4. True (Heb. 4:13)
   5. c. (Heb. 1:14)
There was always that Someone who was greatest, and in God’s perfect timing, He came to earth. The power and character of God that were only mirrored in the lives of the prophets, Jesus exercised to perfection. He not only fulfilled the clues from the prophets, He fit the exact description they gave of the Savior. Jesus went beyond their greatest expectations.

So, why didn’t people like us readily accept Jesus when He came? Because they, like us, settled for lower expectations. They wanted a human-sized hero, leader and king. They wanted “greater,” not “greatest.” They wanted to tell the Savior what to do rather than submit to the work the Savior needed to do in them. When God Himself showed up, it was easier to reject Him than to change their low expectations.

As you read through Hebrews 1:4-14, reflect on the following questions:

1. How do you tell the difference between a claim of excellence and a proof of excellence?
2. In what ways does a group of outstanding individuals like the prophets highlight the qualities of one with superior qualities like Jesus?
3. How does God show that Jesus is greatest in these verses?
4. What examples can you think of from the Gospels of ways Jesus exceeded people’s expectations?

Apply It

At a crucial point in His ministry Jesus asked the disciples, “Who do men say that I, the Son of Man, am?” (Matt. 16:13). His followers basically answered, “People are trying to figure out if You’re one of the greatest.” Then Jesus said, “But who do you say that I am?” (v.15). Peter blurted out the equivalent of, “Lord, You are the greatest, the Son of the living God!” How would you have answered that question?

________________

________________

________________

Think about the ways that Jesus is the greatest in your life and then tell someone what you’ve been thinking.

Express It

Lord Jesus, You are the greatest. Guide me as I explore all the other ways I have yet to discover that confirm the truth of Your greatness. Thank You for the privilege of knowing You.
Week Three

This week, keep an eye out for angels, but remember that Jesus rules them.

Even Angels Aren’t His Equals

Key Passage: Read Hebrews 2

But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, for the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, that He, by the grace of God, might taste death for everyone (Heb. 2:9).

Angels can travel “under cover.” The writer of Hebrews uses this fact to encourage us to “entertain strangers, for by so doing some have unwittingly entertained angels” (Heb. 13:1). When angels show up in their natural form, however, their appearance is impressive. In fact, when angels appear openly in Scripture, their first words are often, “Fear not!” Visits from angels, even in dreams, left unforgettable memories.

As impressive as angels may be, when it comes to comparisons with Jesus, angelic glory doesn’t even come close. Jesus set aside His glory (Phil. 2:5-8), but He did not cease to be the Lord. He emptied Himself of glory but not of greatness. Angels announced His birth. Angels ministered to Him in the wilderness at the beginning of His ministry and in the garden on the final night. They stood ready for His call when the mob came to arrest...
Jesus, but instead they had to stand by with the rest of creation as God the Son hung on the cross.

In spite of everything that angels can do, they couldn’t die for us. They could not provide a solution to our sin problem any more than we could. The answer for sin had to come from God. He sent His angels to do many tasks, but He sent His Son to save us.

What a wonderful future we can anticipate in Christ! We will join the angelic host in praising the Lord. Their worship has a certain pure quality, for they have never had to be rescued from sin. Our eternal worship will have a strong component of thanksgiving, for unlike the angels, we know what it’s like to have a Savior.

As you read Hebrews 2, reflect on the following questions:

1. What do you find most impressive about angels?
2. Why did the writer not only compare Jesus with other great people, but also with angels?
3. According to this chapter, in what ways are angels limited?
4. How does this chapter highlight the greatness of Jesus?

Apply It

The impressiveness of angels reminds us how easily we are impressed by lesser things and overlook the greatest. Think of an area of life in which you’re probably guilty of “wishing for an angel’s help when you’ve already got Christ’s power.” Is it your marriage? Family? Work? Financial problems?

Describe that area out loud in prayer and hear yourself turn that specific issue over to Jesus.

Express It

Lord, I admit that I’m sometimes more easily impressed by the bright, shiny and unusual rather than being faithful to Your awesome, but sometimes less-than-obvious greatness. Help me develop that faith described in Hebrews 11:6.
This week think about the ways you use the name Jesus.

Something About That Name

Key Passage: Read Hebrews 11

“...there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved” (Acts 4:12).

There has never been, nor will there ever be a name like the name Jesus. And yet, as we are reminded in Hebrews 11, the men and women of faith recorded in the Old Testament never had the opportunity of knowing the person who bears Jesus’ name, this side of eternity. But, if they didn’t know Him personally, then what was the basis of their faith? Their faith was based on God’s promise, guaranteed by God’s character. They had to face decisions, disappointments, delays and death believing that the God who had already shown Himself faithful would be faithful to complete His saving plan.

Compared to the Old Testament saints, we don’t have a better faith. We have a better-informed faith. We have the privilege of knowing Jesus’ name. We’ve been given the power to pray in Jesus’ name (John 14:13-14). The saints of old had to base their confidence on the part of the story they knew while we get to base our confidence on the rest of the story. They had the promise of God’s answer; we see...

Remember It

Answer the following questions on the passage you read this week. See answers below.

1. Even though the people mentioned in this chapter did not receive the things promised to them, they lived by faith and trusted God.
   True/False

2. Without _______, it is impossible to please God.

3. _________ did not experience death, but was taken by God.

4. Abraham believed God would raise Isaac from the dead when Abraham offered him as a sacrifice.
   True/False

5. The people mentioned in this chapter were __________ for their faith.
   a. imprisoned
   b. tortured
   c. put to death
   d. all of the above

   ANSWERS:
   1. True (Heb. 11:13,39)
   2. faith (Heb. 11:6)
   3. Enoch (Heb. 11:5)
   4. True (Heb. 11:17-19)
   5. d. (Heb. 11:35-37)
how the promise was fulfilled in a name—Jesus.

No, we don’t have better faith; we have fewer excuses. They lived by the power of promises; we live by the power of His person. Colossians 3:17 says, “And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.” Our daily lives must be just as full of faith as those listed in Hebrews 11. They looked forward to what God would do; we look back to what God did through Jesus. One of the obvious marks of this kind of living is joyful thanksgiving!

Yes, there’s something about that name—Jesus. We will never exhaust the wonders of it.

As you read Hebrews 11, reflect on the following questions:

1. Which of these men and women of faith would you most like to meet for a conversation? Why?

2. Although Jesus’ name isn’t mentioned in this chapter, where do you find Him present?

3. How would you describe the quality of your faith?

4. What aspect of faithful living does this chapter suggest to you as one way you can live out your faith in Jesus more deliberately?

Apply It

Colossians 3:17 tells us to live for Jesus in every “word or deed.” Decide on at least one specific conversation you will have or an action you will do today out of obedience to this command. Write it below.

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

Express It

Lord, the faith of those men and women in the Old Testament humbles me. I’m ashamed by my lack of faith at times, when You have given me such great and precious promises. Thank You for even entrusting me with Your name, Jesus. I want to live by faith; help me with my times of unfaithfulness.

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Woodrow Kroll’s speaking, writing and radio ministries have clearly proclaimed the Gospel of Jesus Christ for more than 30 years. He serves as President of the international ministry Back to the Bible and is heard daily on the nationally-syndicated radio broadcasts *Back to the Bible* and *The Bible Minute*.

His numerous books include *The I Am God, When God Doesn’t Answer, Empowered to Pray* and *7 Secrets to Spiritual Success*.

Get to know the greatest of them all.

Lots of people and organizations boast about being “the greatest” in some way. “We’re number one” is a common mantra for sports teams. But around the world and throughout history, there is only One who can truly lay claim to the title of “greatest”—Jesus Christ.

By exploring the book of Hebrews, we discover the incomparable greatness in the names, the titles and the roles Jesus accepted when He came to earth. We will consider other worthy people whom God used to accomplish His purposes, but Jesus will prove to be greater than all of them. Together we will learn again why Jesus is uniquely worthy of our worship and obedience.

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