

Titles of Jesus of Nazareth

Christology attempts to give language to the great mystery of Jesus, the Christ. Those who wrote the gospels hoped to honor him with names, words, and titles that speak to our faith in Jesus.

Title	Significance and References
Jesus	<i>Yeshua</i> (or Joshua) in Hebrew, it means “God saves.” (Mt 1:21, Lk 1:31)
Son of Mary	Identifies Jesus as born of woman and fully human (Mt 1:18, Lk 1:26–31)
Rabbi or Rabbouni	Jesus was a Jewish wisdom teacher, healer, and scholar of the Torah. His disciples honored him as Master. (Mk 9:5, 10:51; Jn 3:2, 20:16)
Carpenter	Jesus was a craftsman who served with his father Joseph. (Mt 13:55, Mk 6:3)
Messiah (Christ in Greek)	Christ (<i>Mashia</i> in Hebrew) means “anointed one” and is a title used for kings, prophets, and war heroes. Jesus was the Messiah who freed humanity from the bondage of slavery and from the pain and despair of sin. Over the centuries, this title honored Jesus’ divinity. (Mt 1:1, 18, 16:16; Mk 1:1, 8:29; Jn 4:25–26; Acts 2:38)
King of the Jews	Jesus was born of David’s royal line. Angels, shepherds, and the Magi adored the newborn king. Pilate mocked him with this title that he nailed to the cross of Christ. (Mt 2:2, Mk 15:2, Lk 23:38, Jn 19:19)
Son (Root) of David	Jesus is a descendant of Israel’s great King David, the fulfillment of the prophecy of Nathan who said the covenant would remain with the house of David. (2 Sm 7:11–16; Mt 1:1, 12:23; Lk 18:38; Rev 5:5)
Son of Abraham	Jesus is the descendant of Israel’s great patriarch and shares in the election of Israel and the eternal covenant. (Mt 1:1, Lk 3:34, Jn 8:58)
Son of Man <i>Bar Nasa</i>	<i>Bar Nasa</i> is Aramaic for Son of Man. Jesus and the evangelists of the gospels used this divine title to describe Jesus’ triune relationship in God. (Mt 12:8, 16:13–16; Lk 6:5)
	Jesus used this title for himself when he spoke of his mission and of his Passion to come. (Mt 8:20, 17:9, 19:28; Lk 9:22, 58; 18:8)
	The Son of Man came as the “human one” from heaven with the authority to forgive sin. (Mt 9:6, 12:32; Mk 2:10; Lk 5:24, 12:10; Jn 3:13)
	The Son of Man will be betrayed and handed over. (Mt 17:12, 22–23; 26:24)
	The Son of Man will be condemned, die, be buried, and offer his life to redeem many. (Mt 20:18–19, 28; Mk 9:31)
	The Son of Man will rise from the dead. (Mk 9:9)
Son of God	There will be signs of the coming of the Son of Man. (Mt 24:27, 37, 39, 44)
	The Son of Man will be glorified, honored before angels, and send angels to earth. (Mt 13:41, 16:27, 25:31; Lk 12:8; Jn 1:51, 12:23, 13:31)
	The Son of Man will judge the living and the dead and herald in a new age in glory. (Mt 19:28, 26:64; Lk 22:69; Jn 5:26–29)
Savior	Jesus is the Incarnation of the divine—Son of the Most High. (Mt 4:3, 14:33, 27:54; Mk 3:11; Lk 1:32; Jn 20:31)
Savior	Jesus is savior of the world; the one who releases humanity from bondage, from sin and death, a form of Messiah or Christ. (Lk 2:11, Jn 4:42)
	Israel’s deliverer; the Redeemer; the God of history and of Israel revealed in Christ (Acts 13:23)
The Lord; I am	As savior, Jesus grants forgiveness of sin. (Acts 5:31)
	Jesus Christ is Lord, the Glory of God, the manifestation of Yahweh among us. Jesus is the perfect image of true humanity and the one who calls us into eternal life. (Mt 1:23; Lk 1:66; Jn 11:25–27, 20:28–29; Acts 2:36; Col 2:9–10; Phil 2:11)
Lamb of God	Jesus is the “I am” of Yahweh; the bread of life; the light of the world; the door, the gate; the Good Shepherd; the resurrection and life; the way, the truth, and the life. (Jn 6:35; 8:12; 10:7, 11; 11:25; 14:6)
	The worthy sacrifice who frees humanity from sin, who was slain, and who takes away grief (Jn 1:29, 36; Rev 5:6; 17:14)
Word of God	Jesus is the word (<i>logos</i>) of God in the flesh. Jesus is the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and end of all creation, the pre-existent one (Jn 1:1–3; Rev 19:13, 21:6).