

Easter 2005

March 27, 2005

It is the risen Christ who we worship this day.

It is the risen Christ who comes now to redeem us

It is the risen Christ who brings us back into fellowship with the Father.

I Am Alpha and Omega

You are the beginning and the end. You have bought us with your blood. You have saved us from our sins. You rose triumphant over the grave to show your power over death and hell.

Come Lord Jesus.

12. "Behold, I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and I will give to everyone according to what he has done.

13. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End.

14. "Blessed are those who wash their robes, that they may have the right to the tree of life and may go through the gates into the city.

15. Outside are the dogs, those who practice magic arts, the sexually immoral, the murderers, the idolaters and everyone who loves and practices falsehood.

16. "I, Jesus, have sent my angel to give you this testimony for the churches.

I am the Root and the Offspring of David, and the bright Morning Star."

17. The Spirit and the bride say, "Come!" And let him who hears say, "Come!" Whoever is thirsty, let him come; and whoever wishes, let him take the free gift of the water of life.

?? John 6:48 [I am](#) that bread of life.

?? John 8:12 [I am](#) the light of the world:

?? John 8:58 Before Abraham was, [I am](#).

?? John 9:5 [I am](#) the light of the world.

?? John 14:6 [I am](#) the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

?? John 15:5 [I am](#) the vine, ye *are* the branches:

?? Revelation 1:8 [I am](#) Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty.

?? Revelation 1:17 And when I saw him, I fell at his feet as dead. And he laid his right hand upon me, saying unto me, Fear not; [I am](#) the first and the last:

?? Revelation 1:18 [I am](#) he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, [I am](#) alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death.

?? Revelation 21:6 And he said unto me, It is done. [I am](#) Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely.

?? Revelation 22:13 [I am](#) Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last.

?? Revelation 22:16 I Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches. [I am](#) the root and the offspring of David, *and* the bright and morning star.

He Is Alpha and Omega And You Can Trust Him

Jesus said, And I, If I be lifted up I will draw all men unto myself. (John 12:32)

My friend you can trust Jesus today. He is all you need. There is no one like him.

He is unparalleled and unprecedented
He is the center piece of civilization
He is the superlative of excellence
He is the sum of human greatness
He is the source of divine grace
His name is the only one able to save
His blood is the only power able to cleanse
His ear is open to the sinners call
His hand is quick to lift the fallen soul,
He is the eternal lover of us all, everyone,
and you can trust him.

He supplies mercy for the struggling soul
He sustains tempted and tried
He sympathizes with the wounded and broken
He strengthens the weak and weary
He guards and He guides the wanderer
He heals the sick and cleanses the leper
He delivers the captive & defends the helpless
And He binds up the broken hearted
He's for you
and you can trust him.

Jesus is the key to all knowledge
He's the wellspring of wisdom
He's doorway of deliverance
And He's the pathway of peace
He's the roadway of righteousness
He's the highway of holiness
He's the gateway to glory
And Yes, **You can trust him.**

Jesus is enough
He's the all Sufficient King
He's the King of the Jews
He's the King of Israel
He's the King of Righteousness
He's the King of the Ages
He's the King of Heaven
He's the King of Glory
He's the King of kings and Lord of Lords
And Yes, again, **You can trust him.**

And rejoice in this my friend.

He is a Sovereign King
There is no gauge to measure his limitless love.
There is no barrier to block his blessings outpoured.
He is enduringly strong
He is entirely supreme
He is eternally steadfast
He is immortally faithful
He is imperially powerful
He is impartially merciful
He is Jesus, God's Son, (*who died in your place*)
and you can trust him.

I wish I could more accurately describe him to you, but

He's indescribable
He's incomprehensible
He's invincible
He's irresistible
You can't out live him, and you can't live without him.
The Pharisees couldn't stand him, but they couldn't stop him.
Pilate couldn't hold him (find fault in him)
Herod couldn't kill him

Soldiers couldn't resist him

The Cross couldn't crush him

Death couldn't handle (conquer) him
The Grave the couldn't hold him

My friend he is the Alpha and Omega,
He is the First and the Last, the Beginning and the Ending,
He's the God of the future, and the God of the past.

And we rise to speak His Name!

Again and again, Jesus, Jesus, '

He is Jesus! **And we can trust him!**

He is alive forevermore, He is at the right hand of the Father,
and He us coming again!

He is Jesus, and he is for us, and not against us,
And you can Trust him Today!

Crown Him With Many Crowns

Crown Him with Many Crowns

Crown Him with many crowns, the Lamb upon His throne.
Hark! How the heavenly anthem drowns all music but its own.
Awake, my soul, and sing of Him who died for thee,
And hail Him as thy matchless King through all eternity.

Crown Him the Lord of life, who triumphed over the grave,
And rose victorious in the strife for those He came to save.
His glories now we sing, Who died, and rose on high,
Who died eternal life to bring, and lives that death may die.

Crown Him the Lord of love, behold His hands and side,
Those wounds, yet visible above, in beauty glorified.
No angel in the sky can fully bear that sight,
But downward bends his burning eye at mysteries so bright.

Crown Him the Lord of years, the Potentate of time,
Creator of the rolling spheres, ineffably sublime.
All hail, Redeemer, hail! For Thou has died for me;
Thy praise and glory shall not fail throughout eternity.

Jesus As King

Dr. S. M. Lockridge, Dallas, Texas, quoted by Max Anders in Jesus, Knowing Our Savior, (Nashville: Thomas Nelson Publ., 1995), pp. 33-35

My king was born king. The Bible says He is the seven-way king. He is the king of the Jews. That's a racial king. He is king of Israel. That's a national king. He's a king of righteousness. He's a king of the ages. He's the king of heaven. He is the king of glory. He's the King of kings and Lord of lords. Now that's my king.

Well, I wonder if you know Him. Do you know Him? Don't try to mislead me. Do you know my king? David said, "The heavens declare the glory of God and the firmament showeth His handiwork." No far-seeing telescope can bring into visibility the coastline of His shoreless supply. No barriers can hinder Him from pouring out His blessing.

He's enduringly strong, He's entirely sincere, He's eternally steadfast. He's immortally graceful. He's imperially powerful. He's impartially merciful. That's my king. He's God's Son. He's a sinner's savior. He's the centerpiece of civilization. He stands alone in Himself. He's august. He's unique. He's unparalleled. He's unprecedented. He's supreme. He's preeminent. He's the loftiest idea in literature. He's the highest idea in philosophy. He's the fundamental truth in theology. He's the cardinal necessity of spiritual religion. That's my king.

He's the miracle of the age. He's the only one able to supply all of our needs simultaneously. He supplies strength for the weak. He's available for the tempted and the tried. He sympathizes and He saves. He guards and He guides. He heals the sick, He cleans the lepers. He forgives sinners, He discharges debtors, He delivers captives, He defends the feeble, He blesses the young, He serves the unfortunate, He regards the aged, He rewards the diligent, He beautifies the meek. Do you know Him?

Well, my king is the king of knowledge, He's the well-spring of wisdom, He's the doorway of deliverance, He's the pathway of peace, He's the roadway of righteousness, He's the highway of holiness He's the gateway of glory, He's the master of the mighty, He's the captain of the conquerors, He's the head of the heroes, He's the leader of the legislators, He's the overseer of the overcomers, He's the governor of governors, He's the prince of princes, He's the king of Kings and the Lord of Lords. That's my king. Yeah! That's my king.

His life is matchless. His goodness is limitless. His mercy is everlasting. His love never changes. His word is enough. His grace is sufficient. His reign is righteous. His yoke is easy and His burden is light. Well. I wish I could describe Him to you. But He's indescribable. He's indescribable. Yes. He's incomprehensible. He's invincible, He's irresistible. I'm trying to tell you, the Heavens cannot contain Him, let alone a man explain Him. You can't get Him out of your mind. You can't get Him off of your hands. You can't outlive Him, and you can't live without Him. Well. The Pharisees couldn't stand Him, but they found out they couldn't stop Him. Pilate couldn't find any fault in Him. The witnesses [at his trial] couldn't get their testimonies to agree. Herod couldn't kill Him. Death couldn't handle Him and the grave couldn't hold Him. That's my king. Yeah!

He always has been, and He always will be. I'm talking about He [who] had no predecessor and He [who] has no successor. There was nobody before Him and there will be nobody after Him. You can't impeach Him, and He's not going to resign. Praise the Lord! That's my king. Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory. Well. All the power belongs to my king. We around here talk about black power and white power and green power, but it's God's power. Thine is the power. Yeah! And the glory. We try to get prestige and honor and glory to ourselves, but the glory is all His. Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever, and ever, and ever, and ever. How long is that? And ever, and ever, and ever, and ever, and when you get through with all of the forevers, then "Amen."

Who is Jesus?

Consider the themes of the sixty-six books:

- ?? In Genesis, He is the Creator God.
- ?? In Exodus, He is the Redeemer.
- ?? In Leviticus, He is your sanctification.
- ?? In Numbers, He is your guide.
- ?? In Deuteronomy, He is your teacher.
- ?? In Joshua, He is the mighty conqueror.
- ?? In Judges, He gives victory over enemies.
- ?? In Ruth, He is your kinsman, your lover, your redeemer.
- ?? In 1 Samuel, he is the root of Jesse;
- ?? In 2 Samuel, He is the Son of David.
- ?? In 1 Kings and 2 Kings, He is King of Kings and Lord of Lords
- ?? In 1st and 2nd Chronicles, He is your intercessor and High Priest.
- ?? In Ezra, He is your temple, your house of worship.
- ?? In Nehemiah, He is your mighty wall, protecting you from your enemies.
- ?? In Esther, He stands in the gap to deliver you from your enemies.
- ?? In Job, He is the arbitrator who not only understands your struggles,—but
- ?? has the power to do something about them.
- ?? In Psalms, He is your song—and your reason to sing.
- ?? In Proverbs, He is your wisdom, helping you make sense out of life and live it successfully.
- ?? In Ecclesiastes, He is your purpose, delivering you from vanity.
- ?? In the Song of Solomon, He is your lover, your Rose of Sharon.
- ?? In Isaiah, He is the mighty counselor, the prince of peace, the everlasting father, and more. In short, He's everything you need.
- ?? In Jeremiah, He is your balm of Gilead, the soothing salve for your sin-sick soul.
- ?? In Lamentations, He is the ever-faithful one upon whom you can depend.
- ?? In Ezekiel, He is your wheel in the middle of a wheel—the one who assures that dry, dead bones will come alive again.
- ?? In Daniel, He is the ancient of days, the everlasting God who never runs out of time.
- ?? In Hosea, He is your faithful lover, always beckoning you to comeback—even when you have abandoned Him.
- ?? In Joel, He is your refuge, keeping you safe in times of trouble.
- ?? In Amos, He is the husbandman, the one you can depend on to stay by your side.
- ?? In Obadiah, He is Lord of the Kingdom.
- ?? In Jonah, He is your salvation, bringing you back within His will.
- ?? In Micah, He is judge of the nation.
- ?? In Nahum, He is the jealous God.
- ?? In Habakkuk, He is the Holy One.
- ?? In Zephaniah, He is the witness.
- ?? In Haggai, He overthrows the enemies
- ?? In Zechariah, He is Lord of Hosts.
- ?? In Matthew, He is king of the Jews.
- ?? In Mark, He is the servant.
- ?? In Luke, He is the Son of Man, feeling what you feel.
- ?? In John, He is the Son of God.
- ?? In Acts, He is Savior of the world.

- ?? In Romans, He is the righteousness of God.
- ?? In I Corinthians, He is the rock that followed Israel.
- ?? In II Corinthians, He the triumphant one, giving victory.
- ?? In Galatians, He is your liberty; He sets you free.
- ?? In Ephesians, He is head of the Church.
- ?? In Philippians, He is your joy.
- ?? In Colossians, He is your completeness.
- ?? In I Thessalonians, He is your hope.
- ?? In I Timothy, He is your faith.
- ?? In II Timothy, He is your stability.
- ?? In Philemon, He is your benefactor.
- ?? In Hebrews, He is your perfection.
- ?? In James, He is the power behind your faith.
- ?? In I Peter, He is your example.
- ?? In II Peter, He is your purity.
- ?? In I John, He is your life.
- ?? In II John, He is your pattern.
- ?? In III John, He is your motivation.
- ?? In Jude, He is the foundation of your faith.
- ?? In the Revelation, He is your coming King.

"He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together." (Colossians 1:17)

Source unknown

Publius Lentulus

Publius Lentulus is a fictitious person, said to have been Governor of Judea before Pontius, and to have written the following letter to the Roman Senate: "Lentulus, the Governor of the Jerusalemites to the Roman Senate and People, greetings. There has appeared in our times, and there still lives, a man of great power (virtue), called Jesus Christ. The people call him prophet of truth; his disciples, son of God. He raises the dead, and heals infirmities. He is a man of medium size (*statura procerus, mediocris et spectabilis*); he has a venerable aspect, and his beholders can both fear and love him. His hair is of the colour of the ripe hazel-nut, straight down to the ears, but below the ears wavy and curled, with a bluish and bright reflection, flowing over his shoulders. It is parted in two on the top of the head, after the pattern of the Nazarenes. His brow is smooth and very cheerful with a face without wrinkle or spot, embellished by a slightly reddish complexion. His nose and mouth are faultless. His beard is abundant, of the colour of his hair, not long, but divided at the chin. His aspect is simple and mature, his eyes are changeable and bright. He is terrible in his reprimands, sweet and amiable in his admonitions, cheerful without loss of gravity. He was never known to laugh, but often to weep. His stature is straight, his hands and arms beautiful to behold. His conversation is grave, infrequent, and modest. He is the most beautiful among the children of men."

Different manuscripts vary from the foregoing text in several details:

Dobschutz ("*Christusbilder*", Leipzig, 1899) enumerates the manuscripts and gives an "apparatus criticus". The letter was first printed in the "Life of Christ" by Ludolph the Carthusian (Cologne, 1474), and in the "Introduction to the works of St. Anselm" (Nuremberg, 1491). But it is neither the work of St. Anselm nor of Ludolph. According to the manuscript of Jena, a certain Giacomo Colonna found the letter in 1421 in an ancient Roman document sent to Rome from Constantinople. It must be of Greek origin, and translated into Latin during the thirteenth or fourteenth century, though it received its present form at the hands of humanist of the fifteenth or sixteenth century.

The description agrees with the so-called Abgar picture of our Lord; it also agrees with the portrait of Jesus Christ drawn by Nicephorus, St. John Damascene, and the Book of Painters (of Mt. Athos). Munter ("*Die Sinnbilder und Kunstvorstellungen der alten Christen*", Altona 1825, p. 9) believes he can trace the letter down to the time of Diocletian; but this is not generally admitted.

The letter of Lentulus is certainly apocryphal: there never was a Governor of Jerusalem; no Procurator of Judea is known to have been called Lentulus, a Roman governor would not have addressed the Senate, but the emperor, a Roman writer would not have employed the expressions, "prophet of truth", "sons of men", "Jesus Christ". The former two are Hebrew idioms, the third is taken from the New Testament. The letter, therefore, shows us a description of our Lord such as Christian piety conceived him.