NAME
above All
NAMES
ALISTAIR BEGG &
SINCLAIR B. FERGUSON
STUDY GUIDE
Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name.

Phil. 2:9 ESV
This study guide contains seven sessions that will help you dig deeper into the person and work of Jesus Christ with *Name above All Names*, authored by Alistair Begg and Sinclair Ferguson. Begg and Ferguson’s book highlights different ways in which the Bible portrays Christ’s identity and ministry, and this study guide can be used for personal reflection or small groups.

Each session includes four parts:

1) *Getting Started* - a quote from the book with an introductory question; 2) *Key Scriptures* - key Bible verses referenced in the chapter; 3) *Going Deeper* - questions to help you process the main ideas of the chapter and 4) *Giving Praise* - a poem, hymn, or verse that can be committed to memory and incorporated in worship. The opening words of *Name above All Names* provide a great summary of the overall message of the book and the purpose for any extended study of the same:

*Jesus Christ has been given the name above all names. The names assigned to him begin in Genesis and end in Revelation. Taken together they express the incomparable character of Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. Reflecting on them better prepares us to respond to the exhortations of Scripture, to focus our gaze upon him, and to meditate on how great he is.*

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SESSION ONE
Chapter One – Jesus Christ, the Seed of the Woman

GETTING STARTED
Being able to think long and lovingly about the Lord Jesus is a dying art. The disciplines required to reflect on him for a prolonged period of time and to be captivated by him have been relegated to a secondary place in contemporary Christian life (page 15).

What are some personal obstacles in thinking long and lovingly about Jesus? What steps can you take through the course of this study to help you recover this dying art?

KEY SCRIPTURES
“...I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.” (Genesis 3:15)

“The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil.” (1 John 3:8b)

GOING DEEPER
1. The authors asked the question - for what reason did the Son of God appear (page 20)? How would you have answered this question before reading this chapter?

2. And so these words [Gen 3:15], almost at the beginning of Genesis, give us an important insight into the message of the whole Bible. It is a library of books that traces an ages-long cosmic conflict between the two “seeds” (page 20). How do Begg and Ferguson demonstrate this theme of conflict throughout the Bible?

3. How did Jesus destroy the works of the devil in His earthly life (pages 25-28)?

4. How did Jesus destroy the works of the devil in His substitutionary death (pages 29-34)?

5. How would you summarize the good news that Jesus is the Seed of the Woman?

GIVING PRAISE
O loving wisdom of our God!
When all was sin and shame,
A Second Adam to the fight
And to the rescue came

O wisest love! That flesh and blood,
That did in Adam fail.
Should strive afresh against the foe,
Should strive and should prevail. (page 27)
“The prophetic role of Jesus is required in order to dispel our ignorance. It is revealed in Jesus himself. It is recognized in all of its fullness at the end of his earthly ministry.”
SESSION TWO
Chapter Two – Jesus Christ, the True Prophet

GETTING STARTED
G.K. Chesterton shrewdly commented that once people stop believing in the God of the Bible, they don’t believe in nothing – they begin to believe anything. This is why we need a prophet who is able to dethrone our ignorance (page 42).

What beliefs about God and the Bible are popular today – whether in the lives of individuals you know or as portrayed in the media?


KEY SCRIPTURES

“The woman said to him, ‘I know that Messiah is coming (he who is called Christ). When he comes, he will tell us all things.’ Jesus said to her, ‘I who speak to you am he.’” (John 4:25-26)

“Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son.” (Hebrews 1:1-2a)

GOING DEEPER
1. What is the reason that God sent prophets throughout biblical history, including the Lord Jesus (page 39)? Does this condition apply today?

2. Spiritual darkness is not accompanied with horror, men tremble not at their condition; nay, they like their condition well enough (page 39) – How does this quote illustrate John 3:18-19?

3. How did Begg and Ferguson demonstrate that even the Old Testament prophets anticipated a Great Prophet that would come (pages 42-44)?

4. How does Christ’s prophetic ministry continue today (pages 46-47)?

5. Some of us are good at boldness but not so good at compassion. We gravitate to all the bold verses but turn away from the gospel’s call to show genuine empathy (page 51). How should boldness and compassion go together in our lives?

6. How would you summarize the good news that Jesus is the True Prophet?

GIVING PRAISE

Rescue the perishing, care for the dying,
Snatch them in pity from sin and the grave;
Weep o’er the erring one, lift up the fallen,
Tell them of Jesus, the mighty to save. (page 51)
“But when Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things that have come, then through the greater and more perfect tent (not made with hands, that is, not of this creation) he entered once for all into the holy places, not by means of the blood of goats and calves but by means of his own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption.”

Heb. 9:11-12
SESSION THREE
Chapter Three – Jesus Christ, the Great High Priest

GETTING STARTED
Most Christians are familiar with the finished work of Christ but less so with his unfinished work. But the author of Hebrews helps us to understand that although Jesus is “seated at the right hand of God,” having finished his atoning work, he is still doing something (page 64).

What are some dangers in failing to recognize the unfinished work of Christ in the world and in the lives of believers?

KEY SCRIPTURES
“Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.” (Hebrews 4:14-16)

GOING DEEPER
1. What trials did the recipients of the Letter to the Hebrews face (pages 56-58)? Have you experienced similar trials in your own life?

2. What truths did the author of the Letter to the Hebrews highlight to encourage the believers in the midst of their trials (pages 58-60)?

3. Begg and Ferguson wrote, “Our greatest problem is God himself. For by nature, we are under his wrath – and deserve to be” (page 64). How would you restate this truth in your own words?

4. How does Jesus, as the Great High Priest, continue to lead us in worship (pages 66-75)?

5. How would you summarize the good news that Jesus is the Great High Priest?

GIVING PRAISE
Before the throne of God above
I have a strong and perfect plea.
A great high Priest whose Name is Love
Who ever lives and pleads for me.
My name is graven on His hands,
My name is written on His heart.
I know that while in Heaven He stands
No tongue can bid me thence depart. (page 75)
Jesus often spoke about the kingdom of God—it is a central theme in his message. He both preached and demonstrated that the kingdom of God had broken into the world in his coming. In his preaching he taught his disciples how to enter the kingdom and the kind of lifestyle to which this would lead. Through his miracles he gave visual, physical demonstration of the restoring and transforming power of the kingdom.”
SESSION FOUR
Chapter Four – Jesus Christ, the Conquering King

GETTING STARTED
Since Jesus is Lord and God, King and Savior, this impacts all of life...The reign of Jesus will influence my business practices. It will affect the way in which I go to work tomorrow morning. It affects my relationship as a child with my parents, or as a parent with my children, or as a husband with my wife, and so on (page 96).

Is there an area of your life where you would like to see the reign of Christ more evident – relationships with others, struggles with ongoing sin, stewarding finances, etc.? ________________________________

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KEY SCRIPTURES

“And Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it, just as it is written, ‘Fear not, daughter of Zion; behold, your king is coming, sitting on a donkey’s colt!’” (John 12:14-15)

“You shall call his name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High...and of his kingdom there will be no end.” (Luke 1:31-33)

GOING DEEPER
1. Jesus both preached and demonstrated that the kingdom of God had broken into the world in his coming (page 77). What examples did Begg and Ferguson give to demonstrate this point? ________________________________

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2. What condition does Jesus distinctly address as our king that differs from what He addresses as our prophet or our priest (pages 87-88)? ________________________________

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3. How does the kingly reign of Christ apply to the cosmos according to Colossians 1:15-17? ________________________________

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4. How does the kingly reign of Christ apply to the future according to 1 Corinthians 15:24-26? ________________________________

5. How would you summarize the good news that Jesus is the Conquering King? ________________________________

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GIVING PRAISE

Blessings abound where'er He reigns;
The prisoner leaps to lose his chains;
The weary find eternal rest,
And all the sons of want are blessed.

Where He displays His healing power,
Death and the curse are known no more:
In Him the tribes of Adam boast
More blessings than their father lost. (page 99)
There is more to Jesus’ use of the title “Son of Man” than a simple stress on his humanity in distinction from his deity. The picture of Daniel’s vision is one of unparalleled triumph, magnificence, and, indeed, glory. The Son of Man is seen coming to the throne of the Majesty on High, the Ancient of Days, and receiving authority over the whole cosmos.”
GETTING STARTED
Even though we are fallen creatures, the Bible insists that we remain the image of God. We may be deformed. We may be twisted. The mirror in which God's image was originally reflected may be shattered. But we are still human. There is some reflection of what we were meant to be (page 124).

What comes to your mind when you think of what humans were meant to be?

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KEY SCRIPTURES
“...with the clouds of heaven there came one like a son of man, and he came to the Ancient of Days and was presented before him. And to him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom.” (Daniel 7:13-14a)

“And he began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes and be killed, and after three days rise again.” (Mark 8:31)

GOING DEEPER
1. On what basis can we say that “the Son of Man” was Jesus’ favorite self-designation (page 103)?

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2. What are the three elements to Daniel’s vision of the son of man (pages 104-111)?

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3. How did Jesus establish his kingdom as the Son of Man (pages 116-121)?

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4. How did Jesus purchase his kingdom as the Son of Man (pages 121-127)?

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5. How will Jesus consummate his kingdom as the Son of Man (pages 128-131)?

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6. How would you summarize the good news that Jesus is the Son of Man?

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GIVING PRAISE
There was no other good enough
To pay the price of sin;
He only could unlock the gate
Of heaven and let us in. (page 127)
“Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all. . . . Yet it was the will of the Lord to crush him; he has put him to grief; when his soul makes an offering for sin, he shall see his offspring; he shall prolong his days; the will of the Lord shall prosper in his hand. Out of the anguish of his soul he shall see and be satisfied; by his knowledge shall the righteous one, my servant, make many to be accounted righteous, and he shall bear their iniquities. — Isa. 53:4–6, 10–11
Getting Started

The New Testament contains no physical description of Jesus. Despite the books you may have had in childhood with pictures of Jesus, you know they were an attempt on the part of artists to come up with a way of portraying him – usually in a very traditional Western way. But those pictures are not derived from any information we are given in the Bible (page 137).

Why do you think the New Testament authors never provided a detailed, physical description of Jesus?

Key Scriptures

“He was despised and rejected by men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief; as one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not...but he was wounded for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities.” (Isaiah 53:3-5)

“Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me. Nevertheless, not my will, but yours, be done.’ And there appeared to him an angel from heaven strengthening him. And being in agony he prayed more earnestly; and his sweat became like great drops of blood.” (Luke 22:42-44)

Going Deeper

1. It all seems such a mess – a horrendous mess: Jesus, the faithful Servant, is about to be crucified between two criminals on a garbage heap outside the city walls of Jerusalem – betrayed, denied, deserted, spat upon, flogged, demeaned (pages 139-140). How is it possible for the purpose of God to be at the heart of all this mess?

2. How did Jesus show compassion and commitment in His sufferings (pages 140-147)?

3. What does it mean to have a theologia cruces - a theology of the cross (pages 154-156)?

4. How would you summarize the good news that Jesus is the Suffering Servant?

Giving Praise

Here is love, vast as the ocean,
Loving kindness as the flood,
When the Prince of Life, our Ransom,
Shed for us His precious blood.
Who His love will not remember?
Who can cease to sing His praise?
He can never be forgotten,
Throughout Heav’n’s eternal days. (pages 152-153)
...the Bible is a book all about Jesus

In the Old Testament Jesus is predicted.
In the Gospels Jesus is revealed.
In the Acts of the Apostles Jesus is preached.
In the Letters Jesus is explained.
In the book of Revelation Jesus is expected.”
SESSION SEVEN
Chapter Seven – Jesus Christ, the Lamb on the Throne

GETTING STARTED
Our lives are set against the backdrop of a world in turmoil: economic gloom, human deprivation, a world at war on multiple fronts, and rampant immorality. We waken in the morning to a steady dose of news that could drive us to despair. And it never stops... For all the security systems we have, personally and nationally, insecurity abounds in our modern society (page 163).

How do you maintain your faith in God’s governance over the world at times when rebellion against God seems rampant?

KEY SCRIPTURES
“The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him and said, ‘Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.’” (John 1:29)

“I saw the Lamb standing...and they sang a new song, saying, “Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation.”’ (Revelation 5:6-14)

GOING DEEPER
1. The Bible leaves us in no doubt about our origin or our end. Despite the clarity with which the Bible speaks, vast numbers of men and women have been deceived by the Evil One (page 159). How does the world answer the questions about life’s origin, purpose, and end?

2. What is the situation of the believers that John addresses in Revelation (pages 160-163)?

3. What are the two great titles of the Triumphant One and what do they mean (pages 167-173)?

4. What is the scope of Christ’s work of redemption according to Revelation 5 (pages 175-177)?

5. How would you summarize the good news that Jesus is the Lamb on the Throne?

GIVING PRAISE
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. (page 169)
is the Bible teaching ministry of Alistair Begg and is committed to teaching the Bible with clarity and relevance so that unbelievers will be converted, believers will be established, and local churches will be strengthened.