

No other name by which we must be saved

“Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under Heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved.” (Acts 4:12)

God the Father and God the Son were in the business of forgiving sins before Jesus was ever given his “name which above all names.” This name was not given to Jesus until after His resurrection. (see Philippians 2:9). The title, “Adonai,” which was given to Jesus after His resurrection, means “Lord.” “Adonai” was the word the Hebrews substituted for God. It means “the sovereign one.” That title was not given to Jesus until after he shed his mortal body and reunited with his “higher nature,” or what some refer to as his “higher consciousness,” the “Christ Consciousness.” The name which is above all names refers to both God the Father and Jesus Christ. God the Father and God the Son are indeed one and the same.

So, did Jesus only become God after his resurrection from the dead? According to Philippians 2:1-11, He was fully God both before and after his resurrection. His higher nature was always fully God, but it wasn't until after the resurrection that this become known to the world, and then, only to a select few. Eventually, He will be recognized as “Lord” (Adonai) by everyone. This end result is not a single event, in my opinion. It should be regarded as a gradual “awakening” of mankind to this truth. Our salvation from sin and death is not an instantaneous event but an ages-long process.

Jesus was both God the Father and God the Son. Interestingly, as children of God, we are also divine, in the same manner as Jesus. Because there is only one God the Father and only one God the Son, we must at some level be “one” with God and “one” with God's Son. However, as was the case of Jesus during his incarnation, our “sonship” and “deity” are not visible or fully experienced. This won't happen until we are raised from the dead. Our divine attributes are currently hidden while we dwell in our fleshly bodies.

The Apostle Paul taught that we are God's children (See Acts 17:28). Although we are technically already God's children, there is a sense in which our “adoption” has not yet occurred. According to Romans 8:14-15, when we receive the Holy Spirit we are “adopted” into God's family. “For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. 15 For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!”

Before our earthly incarnation we were fully divine and fully aware of it. Like Jesus, we gave up certain aspects of our divine nature when we incarnated. We lost the memory of who we really are. As we identify with Jesus Christ in a death and resurrection like his, and allow his Holy Spirit to enliven our human spirits, we are able to at least to partially experience our divinity during our earthly walk, but of course more fully after the death of our physical bodies. As Christians (ie. followers of Christ) we are indwelt with the Spirit of Christ who enlivens our human spirit and increases our spiritual “awareness.”

When we bow to the name of Jesus, the name which is above all names, we are not literally bowing to a human being named Jesus. Instead, we are bowing to Jesus' higher nature, the Lord

of the universe, which that name represents. There will be many in heaven who have never heard of the earthly name of Jesus, but who are bowing to the spiritual being that this name represents.

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