**Jesus – Prince, Captain, Author (*****archēgos*)**

*Acts 3:15; 5:31; Hebrews 2:10; 12:2*

**Introduction**

1. The scripture is filled with names for our Savior, the Son of God.
2. **Each name gives us a greater understanding, thus appreciation for who He is, and what He has done, and continues to do for us.**
3. ***Archēgos*** is a Greek word found 4 times in the New Testament, translated **prince (x2), captain, and author** – all given as titles for Jesus.
4. A study of this word in its different contexts with its relation to Jesus will prove beneficial.
   1. Where do we find life, and how can we possess it?
   2. How is salvation available to us, and how do we reach it?
   3. What does it mean to live by faith, and how can we be successful in such an endeavor?
5. Archēgos
6. Etymology
   1. Compound Greek word…
   2. ***Archē*** – beginning, origin.
   3. ***Agō*** – to lead.
7. Defined
   1. “A chief leader” (Strong).
   2. “One who takes a lead in, or provides the first occasion of, anything” (Vine).
   3. “Leading, furnishing the first cause or occasion” (Thayer).
   4. NIV uses “pioneer” (*in Hebrews 2:10; 12:2*) – (a) a person or group that originates or helps open up a new line of thought or activity or a new method or technical development (b) one of the first to settle in a territory. (Webster)
8. Usage
   1. **OT:** “In the Sept. it is used of the chief of a tribe or family…the word suggests a combination of the meaning of leader with that of the source from whence a thing proceeds” (Vine).
      1. **Numbers 13:1-3** – Sending spies into the land of Canaan.
         1. “leader” and “head”
      2. **Micah 1:13** – Of “Lachish” in relation to the sin of the daughter of Zion.
         1. The town of “Lachish” contributed to the sin of “the daughter of Zion.”
         2. ***“beginning”*** – the sin of Zion could be traced to Lachish, and Lachish had a leading role in the sin. **(LEADER and SOURCE)**
   2. **NT:**
      1. **Acts 3:14-15** – Peter preaching to Jews after healing lame man.
         1. **Prince** of life.
         2. **Author, or originator of life, thus naturally can provide the way, or lead to life.**
      2. **Acts 5:31** – Peter preaching again.
         1. ***“We ought to obey God rather than men…”***
         2. Jesus – God exalted as ***“Prince”*** – authority, and leadership role. **(CHIEF LEADER)**
         3. **Preeminence of Christ** – **Colossians 1:15-18** – *He is the beginning, or first, in the sense of preeminence* – **Thus, has all authority** (Prince – chief leader, one with authority) (**Colossians 3:17)**.
      3. **Hebrews 2:10** – Of Jesus in His redemptive role.
         1. **Captain** – a leader.
         2. **Provides the way to salvation by what He did, thus, serving as the first, and leader.**
      4. **Hebrews 12:1-2** – Of Jesus as the exemplar of faith.
         1. **Author** – originator, and exemplar.
         2. **Provides the first and great example of faith exhibited throughout His life, especially on the cross.**
9. Jesus – Archēgos
10. *Prince* of Life
    1. **Acts 3:14-15** – Speaking to Jews in Solomon’s porch – similar message to that spoken on Pentecost (same speaker – Peter, John with him).
       1. **Prince of life** – *Archēgos* – originator, author of life, thus, has life within Himself.
       2. *The nature of God shows that the One who possesses life within Himself has the inherent desire to offer it to others, i.e. to share it, and the ability to do so 🡪*
       3. ***“And this is the testimony: that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life” (1 John 5:11-12).***
       4. **(v. 14)** – asked for a murderer instead of the ***“Prince of Life.”***
          1. **Luke 23:18-19** – After Pilate attempted to release Jesus to them.
          2. They refused the only One who could offer life – the PRINCE OF LIFE – **and gave life to one who did not respect the sanctity of life, but took it from others.**
    2. **Life begins, and ends with Jesus. He alone can offer life, and show us the way to it:**
       1. **Context of Peter’s statement about “the Prince of Life:”**
          1. **Acts 3:11-16** – After healing a man lame from birth (who all knew about), Peter stated that such occurred through Jesus.
          2. **Atrophied, lifeless legs** – given full strength and ability, life.
          3. **By such displays of power, Jesus is shown to be the source, and provider of life everlasting 🡪**
          4. When Jesus healed the paralytic, He gave a reason for His doing so – ***“’But that you may know that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins’ – He said to the paralytic, ‘I say to you, arise, take up your bed, and go to your house.’” (Mark 2:10-11)***
       2. **John 14:6** – Jesus is the ONLY way, truth, and LIFE.
       3. Within His essence of being the word to **reveal, offer, and show path to LIFE** – **John 1:1-5**.
       4. One who obeys the word, has the Prince of Life, thus, has life himself – ***“Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life” (John 6:68).***
11. *Captain* of Our Salvation
    1. **Hebrews 2:9-10** – The primary reason for Jesus humbling Himself lower than angels was to suffer, and taste death.
       1. **Captain of salvation** – *Archēgos* – He began, uncovered, and founded the way of salvation so that we might enter into it – i.e. be brought to glory – **and Himself blazed the trail that we might follow in His path.**
       2. **For Him to be *“perfect,”* or COMPLETE as the *Archēgos* of our salvation, it was *“fitting”* for Him to suffer 🡪**
          1. **Hebrews 2:11-18** – He became one with us by taking on ***“flesh and blood,”*** and suffering and dying on the cross.
          2. **(vv. 14-15)** – In His death, He defeated the Devil, and released those who are His brethren from fear of death.
             1. *His death seemed to be another tally for the Devil, but His resurrection proved otherwise 🡪*
             2. ***“O Death, where is your sting? O Hades, where is your victory?” (1 Corinthians 15:55).***
          3. **(vv. 17-18)** – His death accomplished such because it made ***“propitiation for the sins,”*** and allowed Him to aid those suffering and being tempted.
             1. ***“The sting of death is sin, and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.” (1 Corinthians 15:56-57).***
             2. ***“For the wages of sin is death” (Romans 6:23a)*** – Jesus appeased God’s judicial wrath through His death – **so no need for us to fear death…**
             3. ***However, to turn back to sin is to turn back to death, and Jesus’ suffering and death aids us in temptation to overcome such:***

We must follow Him in His death, and what such means in our relationship with sin 🡪

**Romans 6:3-11** – We are to be dead to sin, but alive to God.

* 1. **Such a road to salvation is a road of faith, of which Jesus also serves as *Archēgos*…**

1. *Author* of Our Faith
   1. **Hebrews 12:1-2** – Having just listed many examples of faith in chapter 11, the Hebrew writer caps it off with the greatest exemplar of faith – Jesus.
      1. **Author of our faith** – *Archēgos* – provides the greatest, **thus the principal example of faith, and leads us in such.**
      2. **Finisher** – perfecter, or completer – He is greatest example of faith to the extent that there is no other that can add to it.
         1. All those who we can look to as examples are merely following that provided by Jesus.
         2. *They can offer nothing in addition to what Christ has in the example of His life.*
      3. ***“for the joy that was set before Him”*** – He had a goal in mind from the beginning of His incarnation – the salvation of our souls, and the resumption of His place in heaven.
         1. With this, He always endured through temptation and suffering.
         2. **Hebrews 4:14-16** – He never failed in faith, thus can lead us unerringly in our faith. (**Follow His example, and receive strength from His mediation.)**
   2. ***“Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls” (Matthew 11:29)*** – If we follow the *Archēgos* of our faith, we will find rest as did He.

**Conclusion**

1. Jesus is our CHIEF LEADER as He Himself is the origin, and beginner of life, salvation, and faith.
2. Life is found with Him as the source, and attained through following “the way” He set for us.
3. Salvation begins with Him as He opened up the way through His death, and blazed the trail for us to follow.
4. Faith that pleases begins with the standard of Jesus, as we look to His example, and follow Him to the end.
5. We must have Jesus at the forefront of our minds in all things at all times.