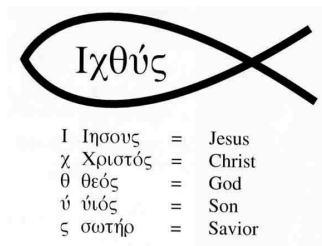


23rd Psalm-Sign of the Fish

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Most everyone has seen this sign on the bumper of some car in front of them. Do you know what it means? It is an early Christian symbol and sometimes the sign would contain Greek letters and look like this image.



In English, this Greek word inside the fish is written *ichthus* pronounced ick-thōs and in Greek means fish.

As you can see in the image above, the Greek letters form an acrostic.

Do you know about acrostics? An acrostic is a special type of writing where you use the first letters of a word or a phrase to create a new word or phrase. It's like a puzzle or a game with words. Each letter

stands for something that you want to remember or express.

Acrostic Example

If we take the word *Cat* as an acrostic, we could create a sentence like this:

C - Cuddly

A - Adorable

T - Tiger-like

In this acrostic, each letter represents a different quality or characteristic of a cat. It helps us remember and describe what cats are like.

So, an acrostic is a fun way to play with words by using the first letters to create a meaningful message or express different ideas. It can be used to remember things, describe something, or simply have fun with words.

Each letter of the word inside the fish stands for a Greek word.

This Greek word then shows its meaning in English.

But the early Christians were not playing around when they made the sign of the fish. It's a symbol of Christianity or made the Greek word for fish means *Jesus Christ, Son of God, Savior*.

In Christianity, it is often used as a symbol to represent Jesus Christ. Here's more detail about the acrostic:

I - Stands for *Iesous*, the Greek word which means Jesus. It reminds us that Jesus is the Son of God and the central figure in Christianity.

X - Stands for *Christos*, which means Christ. It signifies that Jesus is the anointed one, the chosen Messiah.

T - Stands for *Theou*, which means God's. It reminds us that Jesus is the Son of God and part of the divine nature.

U - Stands for *Huios*, which means Son. It emphasizes that Jesus is the Son of God and has a special relationship with God.

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S - Stands for *Soter*, which means Savior. It represents Jesus as the one who came to save humanity and bring us closer to God. It can also stand for *Soteria*, which means Salvation. It symbolizes the idea that through Jesus, we can find eternal life and be saved from sin.

Put it together, it means *Jesus Christ, the Son of God, Savior*. Pretty cool, I think.

So, when you see the word **ΙΧΘΥΣ** or **ιχθυς** and the fish symbol, it will remind us of Jesus and his role as the *Son of God, the Messiah, and the Savior* who brings salvation to all who believe in him.