

NAME

What is in a name?

Would the majestic rose that spans out her many petals, layering them one over the other like a Victorian dress full of ruffles, smell as sweet by any other name? Could the face of the regal lily that reaches up towards the heavens be ever seen resting on lowly earth? Absolutely not, for names resonate imagery, identity, position, fame and in some cases power and authority.

21st century Christians have been given a promise by Jesus Christ, but so many underutilize the power in that promise. Calling on the authority in the name of Jesus Christ is a **CHRISTIAN'S GUIDE TO ANSWERED PRAYER**. "And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. You may ask me for anything in MY NAME, and I will do it" (John 14:13-14).

"Whatever you do in word or deed, **do all in THE NAME of the Lord JESUS**, giving thanks through Him to God the Father" (Colossians 3:17).

"To the church of God which is at Corinth, to those who have been sanctified in Christ Jesus, saints and called to be holy, together with all those everywhere **who call on THE NAME of our Lord JESUS CHRIST**—their Lord and ours: Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ" (I Corinthians 1:2-3).

The name, JESUS CHRIST, is a powerhouse for the saints. **THROUGH HIS NAME, DEMONS LISTEN AND OBEY**. "Master," said John, "we saw a man driving out demons in YOUR NAME and we tried to stop him, because he is not one of us" (Luke 9:49). The demons know the power and authority of Jesus Christ in heaven and on earth. They also know that Christ has already begun sharing his authority with the saints, so they must listen and obey. Having the authority to speak a command where subjects listen, is evidence of the power behind a NAME.

Jesus gave his twelve disciples and later the Apostle Paul authority to "drive out evil spirits and to heal every disease and sickness... Do not go to the Gentiles or enter any town of the Samaritans. Go rather to the lost sheep of Israel. As you go, preach this message: 'The kingdom of heaven is near.' **HEAL THE SICK, RAISE THE DEAD, CLEANSE THOSE WHO HAVE LEPROSY, DRIVE OUT DEMONS**" (Matthew 10:1, 5b-8).

As a side point, while Jesus told the disciples to "Go rather to the lost sheep of Israel," this was not to totally exclude the Gentiles, but rather, God has a plan and order of events. Jesus was sent only to the lost sheep of Israel—the ten tribes of Israel who were divorced/cut-off to bring them back into the covenant family. Once all the tribes of Israel—that is, all twelve tribes are back into the covenant family, the next step in God's plan will be activated—the bringing of all the nations into the covenant family. Returning to the key point, Jesus gave the disciples **his**

authority to heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, and drive out demons.

The disciples long ago called on the power and authority of Jesus Christ to heal the sick. **21ST Christians rely on doctors and medication because they lack the faith to call on the power in the name of Jesus.** “By faith in the name of Jesus, this man whom you see and know was made strong. It is **JESUS’ NAME and the faith that comes through him** that has given this complete healing to him, as you can all see” (Acts 3:16).

Through Jesus Christ, all of mankind has access to salvation. Regardless of other teachings, **ETERNAL LIFE COMES ONLY THROUGH JESUS CHRIST. THROUGH HIS NAME ONLY MANKIND IS SAVED.** “Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life; **no one comes to the Father but through Me**” (John 14:6).

“And **there is salvation in no one else**; for there is **NO OTHER NAME under heaven** that has been given among men by which we must be saved” (Acts 4:12).

The power and authority that Jesus Christ has been awarded from Almighty God is rarely understood by mankind. In addition, 21st century thinkers have reduced the existence and power of a Creator God into an idea, a theory, a puzzling conundrum. The raw power of our Creator God will be a display of awe and wonder in the near future, and then, the world will understand the significance of a NAME. The ability to name is indicative of having authority. Parents name their children. **GOD ALMIGHTY NAMED HIS CREATION.** “He determines the number of the stars; **he gives to all of them their names**” (Psalm 147:4).

“Lift up your eyes on high: Who created all these? He leads forth the starry host by number; **He calls each one by name.** Because of His great power and mighty strength, not one of them is missing” (Isaiah 40:26).

“...or this reason I bow my knees before the Father, from whom **every family in heaven and on earth derives its NAME**” (Ephesians 3:14-15).

GOD ALMIGHTY NAMES AND RENAMES. God changed Lucifer’s name to reflect the enemy that he became: a serpent, a great dragon fuming with anger and hatred. “You were the model of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. You were in Eden, the garden of God... a guardian cherub, for so I ordained you... You were blameless in your ways from the day you were created till wickedness was found in you” (Ezekiel 28:12b-13a, 14, 15).

“How you are fallen from heaven, O **Lucifer**, son of the morning! How you are cut down to the ground, you who weakened the nations!” (Isaiah 14:12).

“And war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought with the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought, but they did not prevail, nor was a place found for them in heaven any longer. So, the **great dragon** was cast out, **that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan**, who

deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him" (Revelation 12:7-9).

God also renames people when they prove to be more than ordinary—an exceptional treasure. Abram and Sarai had their names changed to Abraham and Sarah for they proved to be loyal and faithful to God, so He made a covenant and promised that “through your descendants all the nations of the earth will be blessed—all because you have obeyed me" (Genesis 22:18).

The name of Abram and Sarai would be changed to reflect the grand stature awarded to them from God. This great honor is rarely appreciated by 21st century Judo-Christians. “And God said to Abraham, “As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her name Sarai, but **Sarah shall be her name**” (Genesis 17:15) and “No longer shall your name be called Abram, but **your name shall be Abraham**, for **I have made you the father of a multitude of nations**” (Genesis 17:5).

The story of Esau and Jacob is one of intrigue with many twists and turns. Jacob may have appeared like the trickster by impersonating his brother, but regardless, Esau sold his birthright to Jacob years earlier for a bowl of soup, mocking its value when he believed he was about to die. Esau wept bitterly when he learned that his brother had received the birthright blessing and as his hatred burned, he vowed to kill Jacob.

Still, God confirmed the birthright blessing with Jacob who described his life filled with struggles to Pharaoh as difficult (Genesis 47:9). During his difficult times, he learned to obey and trust in God, while dealing with non-God-fearing men. He was tested and his determination became evident when he wrestled well into the dawn, begging the angel of God for favor. It was during his time of trouble having just finished reconciling issues with Laban, his father-in-law and now, ahead of him were 400 men led by Esau. “In the womb he grasped his brother’s heel; as a man he struggled with God. Yes, **he wrestled with the angel and prevailed**; He wept and begged for his favor” (Hosea 12:3-4). **The angel acknowledged Jacob’s sincerity and changed his name to Israel.** (This angel was likely New Testament Jesus Christ). Jacob’s descendants will be in trouble again in the future. Those who call out to God and prevail, as Jacob did, will be saved. “Then the man said, ‘**Your name will no longer be Jacob, but Israel**, because you have struggled with God and with men, and you have prevailed’” (Genesis 32:28).

God is in the process of restoring law and order in the heavens and on earth. The city-centre of His holy land on earth, today, is trodden down and it will remain desolate of God’s ways and His truth until Christ returns and begins his rule. God vows that He will not remain silent or passive till righteousness returns to Jerusalem, God’s beloved Zion. Today, God calls this city-centre “The Forsaken City”. However, all is not lost. God has a plan to bring life back to Jerusalem and then **SHE WILL GET A NEW NAME**, one that reflects her renewed beauty with the radiance of God’s righteous glory. “You will no longer be called, "The Forsaken City," and your land will no longer be called "Desolate." Indeed, you will be called "**My Delight is in Her**" (**Hephzibah**), and your land "**Married**" (**Beulah**). For the LORD will take delight in you, and your land will be married” (Isaiah 62:4).

Hephzibah will be her new name and the land will be Beulah, the fatherland of her children, which has been turned into a desert by the heathen. The relationship between this city-centre and her children—the congregation from this city-centre mother-church, is not only separated but ripped and torn. This church is also likened to Rachel—loved by Jacob. She is representative of the structure that is comprised of many righteous, God-fearing, God-serving members. Rachel had only two sons: Joseph who pictures Christ and Benjamin who pictures the saints. She died giving birth to Benjamin. God will not rest until this structure is re-established and rises in all her radiance and the relationship between this beloved church and her congregation is rekindled and bound intimately as one—like that of a marriage.

Isaiah 62:4 is reminiscent of Revelation 21:2, 9-14, “I saw the Holy City, **the new Jerusalem**, coming down out of heaven from God, **prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband**... One of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues came and said to me, ‘Come, I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb.’ And he carried me away in the Spirit to a mountain great and high, and showed me the Holy City, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God. It shone with the glory of God, and its brilliance was like that of a very precious jewel, like a jasper, clear as crystal. It had a great, high wall with twelve gates, and with twelve angels at the gates. **On the gates were written the names of the twelve tribes of Israel**... **The wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb**”

To the church in Pergamum, Christ urges them to overcome and those who do, they will receive: hidden manna and a white stone with a **NEW NAME** written on it. “He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who conquers I will give some of the hidden manna, and I will give him a white stone, with a **new name written on the stone** that no one knows except the one who receives it” (Revelation 2:17). **The people in this group who overcome will be recognized for their sufferings as they are purified and freed from wickedness. They will receive hidden manna—spiritual knowledge that few can find.**

To the Philadelphia church, Christ urges them to hold onto their crown for **they will receive the greatest honor of all: God’s name, Christ’s new name and the name of the new Jerusalem will be written on them**. These saints will be awarded with great honor, power and authority. “The one who conquers, **I will make him a pillar in the temple of my God**. Never shall he go out of it, and I will write on him **the name of my God**, and the **name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem**, which comes down from my God out of heaven, and **my own NEW NAME**” (Revelation 3:12).

High up in the heavens, sits God Almighty on His throne with Jesus Christ sitting on His right. Yet to be revealed, is the new name of Jesus Christ. He is the Son of God who wears multiple crowns. His many crowns reflect his many achievements with more to come. **HIS NEW NAME WILL REFLECT THE FULL HEIGHT OF HIS ACHIEVEMENTS AND DEDICATION TO OUR GREAT CREATOR GOD**. “Then I saw heaven standing open, and there before me was a white horse. And its rider is called Faithful and True. With righteousness He judges and wages war. He has

eyes like blazing fire, and **many royal crowns on His head. He has a name written on Him that only He Himself knows**" (Revelation 11:12-13).

Jesus Christ is our King of kings and Lord of lords at his name, every knee will bow. "And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death—even death on a cross! Therefore, God exalted him to the highest place and **gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus is Lord, to the glory of God the Father**" (Philippians 2:8-11).

The veil has been rent, now Christians can pray directly to God using the power of the name of Jesus Christ. But, the heavens remain hidden from mankind—the sky has not yet been rolled back. 21st century Judo-Christians have forgotten that the Creator is a jealous God. He will not tolerate treason. **HIS NEW CORE GOVERNMENT WILL NOT CONTAIN THE NAMES OF THE DEFILED.** "No one could learn the song except the 144,000 who had been redeemed from the earth. **These are those who did not defile themselves with women, for they kept themselves pure.** They follow the Lamb wherever he goes. They were purchased from among men and offered as first-fruits to God and the Lamb. No lie was found in their mouths; they are blameless" (Revelation 14:3b-5). These people "did not defile themselves with women". They did not defile themselves with false religion by worshiping false gods. They remained pure in their faith and followed Christ's example in everything.

These people are 12,000 from the tribes of: Judah, Reuben, Gad, Asher, Naphtali, Manasseh, Simeon, Levi, Issachar, Zebulun, Joseph and Benjamin (Revelation 7:4-8). Two names are missing from this list: Ephraim and Dan.

Unfortunately, both of those two tribes defiled themselves with false religion by worshiping false gods. "Jeroboam said to himself, 'The kingdom will probably go back to David's family. If the people continue going to the Temple of the Lord in Jerusalem to offer sacrifices, they will want to be ruled again by Rehoboam king of Judah. Then they will kill me and follow Rehoboam king of Judah.' King Jeroboam asked for advice. Then he made two golden calves. 'It is too long a journey for you to go to Jerusalem,' he said to the people. '**Israel, here are your gods** who brought you out of Egypt.' Jeroboam put one golden calf in the city of Bethel and the other in the city of Dan. This became a very great sin; the people went even as far as Dan to worship the calf there" (1 Kings 12:26-30). While King Jehu did much to correct the wrongs of the previous kings of Israel, he did not remove the two golden calves, which have taken various forms over the past many years. Christmas and Easter may be the 21st century form of the two golden calves today.

The tribe of Dan too, has a long unique history of worshiping false gods. Samson, a Danite judge had a history of flirting with the pagan Philistine nation. Following his story, God preserved the history of the Ephraimite Micah who retrieved his mother's stolen money and for 200 shekels, Micah's mother requested that a carved image and cast idol be made. The Danites were traveling north and conquering. They came across Micah and the idols. They took the Levite

living with Micah along with all of the idols. “They answered him [the Levite], ‘Be quiet! Don’t say a word. Come with us, and be our father and priest. **Isn’t it better that you serve a tribe and clan in Israel** as priest rather than just one man’s household? Then the priest was glad. He took the ephod, the other household gods and the carved image and went along with the people” (Judges 18:19-20). Micah chased after the Danites and when he realized that the Danites were too strong for him, he returned home (Judges 18:25-26). **“They [the Danites] continued to use the idols Micah had made, all the time the house of God was in Shiloh”** (Judges 18:31).

The worship of anyone outside of Almighty God, the Creator is treason. “You must not have any other god but me” (Exodus 20:3).

To make an idol or image is forbidden. “You shall not make for yourself an idol of any kind, or an image of anything in the heavens above, the earth below, or the waters under the earth” (Exodus 20:4).

The names of two tribes of Israel will not be found in God’s NEW core government. Ephraim and Dan defiled themselves by making idols and images and worshiping gods; these are acts of treason.

TO SPEAK A NAME IS INDICATIVE OF CONTINUED POWER AND AUTHORITY. “For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but **against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world**, against **mighty powers in this dark world**, and against **evil spirits in the heavenly places**” (Ephesians 6:12).

The heavenly rebels are being overthrown. Soon, all of them will have their power and authority taken from them. **THE NAMES OF THE ROGUE HEAVENLY RULERS, POWERS AND AUTHORITIES WILL BE ERASED FROM ON EARTH AND IN HEAVEN.** The days of the week, the months of the year and the planets will be renamed. “For I will **remove the names of the Baals** from her mouth, and they shall be **remembered by name no more**” (Hosea 2:17).

“And on that day, declares the LORD of Hosts, I will **erase the names of the idols** from the land, and **they will no longer be remembered**. I will also remove the prophets and the unclean spirit from the land” (Zechariah 13:2).

“Pay close attention to everything I have said to you. **You must not invoke the names of other gods**; they must not be heard on your lips” (Exodus 23:13).

“So, you are not to associate with these nations remaining among you. **Do not call on the names of their gods or swear by them**, and you must not serve them or bow down to them” (Joshua 23:7).

The importance of being honorable has escaped 21st century mankind, for many have become scoundrels taking high positions and leading the people into dark places. Yet, there remains a

few individuals who walk the narrow path of righteousness. They understand the magnitude of a name.

Shakespeare too, values the significance of a name. “Good name in man and woman, dear my lord, Is the immediate jewel of their souls. Who steals my purse steals trash; 'tis something, nothing; 'Twas mine, 'tis his, and has been slave to thousands; But he that filches from me my good name, Robs me of that which not enriches him, And makes me poor indeed.”

Othello Act 3, scene 3, 155–161

Your name is a jewel to be protected, so that it does not bring bitter disappointment in eternity. Seek God’s knowledge, understanding and wisdom, so that you can protect your name and upon your resurrection, you may be anointed with a NEW name.

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