

## God Changes Names – June 28, 2023

Names. We change them. Jeanne. So does God.

1/2 – **Abram**. God makes a covenant with Him/ changes name.

**Gen. 17:1-6** - “When Abram was 99 years old, the Lord appeared to him and said, “I am God Almighty, walk before me faithfully and be blameless. Then I will make my covenant between me and you and will greatly increase your numbers. Abram fell facedown, and God said to him, “As for me, this is my covenant with you: You will be the father of many nations. No longer will you be called Abram; your name will be **Abraham**, for I have made you a father of many nations. I will make you very fruitful; I will make nations of you, and kings will come from you.”

- Name change at **99**... God never **gives up** on us. It’s **never too late!**
  - **Note** – God had already made the covenant, at age **75**, left Harran.
  - **Gen. 12:1-3** – “The Lord had said to Abram, ‘Go from your country, your people and your father’s household to the land I will show you. *I will make you into a great nation, & I will bless you; I will make your name great, & you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; & all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.*”
- **Gen. 15** – Abram questions this... no kids. [God] took him outside and said, “*Look up at the sky and count the stars—if indeed you can count them.*” Then he said to him, “*So shall your offspring be.*” **15:6** – “*Abram believed the Lord, and he credited it to him as righteousness.*”  
**Doubt** came again. . . Hagar & Ishmael, 99
- God changed his name b/c Abram didn’t have **right mindset**.
- He didn’t see himself as **Abraham**... father of many. {exalted father}
  - **God also changed wife’s name** – **Gen. 17:15-16** – “God also said to Abraham, “As for Sarai your wife, you are no longer to call her **Sarai**; her name will be **Sarah**. I will bless her & will surely give you a son by her. I will bless her so that she will be the mother of nations; kings of peoples will come from her.”
- **God doesn’t give up**. Bad choices don’t stop His plan... get on board!
  - **God changed his name not b/c of who Abram was, but of whom Abraham would become.** **God knows who they could be.** Not too late!

3 - When **Jacob** returned from Paddan Aram, “God appeared to him *again*, & blessed him. God said to him, “Your name is Jacob, but *you will no longer be called Jacob*; your name will be Israel. So he named him Israel.” **Gen. 35:9-10**

- **Jacob** came from womb holding his bro’s heel. Manipulator, deceiver... ran from **Esau**... ran from **Laban**. God worked on him. Matured him.
- The name change **signified** Jacob was becoming a **different** man.
  - o This is 2<sup>nd</sup> time his name was changed.
  - o **Gen. 32:22-32** tells of 1<sup>st</sup> time.

“A man came and fought with Jacob until just before daybreak. 25 When the man saw that he could not win, he struck Jacob on the hip and threw it out of joint. 26 They kept on wrestling until the man said, “Let go of me! It's almost daylight.” “You can't go until you bless me,” Jacob replied. 27 Then the man asked, “What is your name?” “Jacob,” he answered. 28 The man said, “From now on, your name will no longer be Jacob. You will be called Israel, because you have wrestled with God and with men, and you have won.”

- Many of us have wrestled w/God, too. We doubt. Question Him.
- We fight a belief that God loves us, we’re special, we’ve got destiny.
  - o **God doesn’t give up on us.** Make mistakes... **God makes us new.**
  - o **We can’t become who we’re meant to be ‘til we embrace the new**
    - God gives **2d chances & new beginnings.**

Not Saul/Paul. [Acts 13:9](#) “Saul, who was also called Paul” - Hebrew/Greek (P)

4 – **Simon Peter**. f/k/a “Simon Bar-Jonah,” means “Simon, son of Jonah”

- **John 1:42** – “Then Andrew brought Simon to meet Jesus. Looking intently at Simon, Jesus said, “Your name is Simon, son of John—but you will be called Cephas” (which means “Peter”).”
- **Matt. 15:15-18** - “But what about you?” he asked. “Who do you say I am?” 16 Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.” 17 Jesus replied, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by flesh and blood, but by my Father in heaven. 18 And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.”
- **But Peter** didn’t always act like Peter. He sometimes was Simon:

- **Luke 2:31-32** – “Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift each of you like wheat. But I have prayed for you, Simon, that your faith will not fail. And when you have turned back, strengthen your brothers.”
- **John 21:15** - When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.” He said to him, “Feed my lambs.”
- Peter was who would become, Simon was who he was . . . inconsistent.

We’re inconsistent, too. . . but God calls to us “Feed my lambs.” Mission.

- “Simon” – you’re acting like your old self. Peter – you’re new person!
- You don’t have to be who you’ve been.
- “Peter” – is God reminding Him - you have a calling. Destiny. Become.

But **God knows who we are becoming.** God knows our name.

Those who believe in Jesus, fight the good fight - we get a new name.

**Rev. 2:17** – *“To everyone who is victorious I will give some of the manna that has been hidden away in heaven. And I will give to each one a white stone, and on the stone will be engraved a new name that no one understands except the one who receives it.”*

**You** may have **called** yourself outcast/ God calls you beloved child.

Ugly/ beautiful. Stupid/ Wise Alone/ Family. Nobody wants / Mine  
Prisoner/ Free. Weak/ Strong. Adulterer/ Faithful Sinner/ Saint.

God is the great “**I Am.**” **The “I Am” tells me who I Am.** . . . not people.

- No longer greedy, proud, selfish, liar, gossip, druggie, drunk, adulterer
  - o No longer are we called a sinner. We’re called righteous.
  - o We’re holy, beloved, precious in His sight.

**Song of the week – “New Name Written Down in Glory” – Charity Gayle**

Not meeting in person – July 5 “Summer at the Sea”