

AND YOU SHALL GIVE HIM THE NAME JESUS

By Abri Brancken

24 Dec 2017

Do you think a name is important? Why was Jesus' name Jesus? Why did "heaven" insist that the Messiah be called Yeshua (Jesus).

Luke 1:30-33

And the angel said to her, Have no fear, Mary, for you have God's approval. And see, you will give birth to a son, and his name will be Jesus. He will be great, and will be named the Son of the Most High: and the Lord God will give him the kingdom of David, his father: He will have rule over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.

Matthew 1:20:21

But after he had pondered these things, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the One conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you shall give Him the name Jesus, because He will save His people from their sins."

NAME DEFINITION

Encarta Dictionary says: - " A name is what somebody or something is called. Something someone is distinguished from other people or things." A name is a sound that distinguish one from the another.

What is a name? Is it simply a distinguishing sound?

NAMES HAVE LITTLE MEANING IN THE WEST

For us a name has little meaning, value. People page through baby books and choose a name that sounds nice.

THE BIBLICAL IMPORTANCE OF A NAME

Biblically, a name is not merely a conglomeration of letters or sounds put together as a convenient way to refer to someone. A name is:

- A description of the person's personality.
- It may reveal a person's future.
- Name reveals character, calling, purpose.
- The name of a thing, is the thing.
- A person's name is often reflected in his actions.
- Analyze a person's character by it.

Illustration: A friend of mine from the Middle East said they asked for someone's name to get to understand their character.

NAMES IN THE BIBLE AND THEIR MEANING

- John (Yochanan) means "YHVH is Gracious"
- David (David) means "Beloved" (God said David is a man after my own heart)
- Melchisedek means "King of righteousness"
- Moses (Moshe) means "Drawing out". From water and he drew IL out of Egypt.

GOD'S NAME IN PEOPLE'S NAMES

Many Bible characters had God's name incorporated with theirs. God sometimes added His name showing God is involved in his life. This is called Theophoric reference.

The two names of God included most often was Yahveh (YHVH) (Ya) and Elohim (El).

EXAMPLES OF THEOPHORIC REFERENCES IN THE BIBLE

- Jeremiah (Ya) meaning "YHVH will Rise". Ya is added to his name
 - Ezekiel - "Elohim will strengthen" (EL will strengthen him)
 - Yoel (Joel) - "YHVH is Elohim" (The Lord is God)
 - Emmanuel - "Elohim with us" (Iem, anu, Elohim)
 - Elijah (Eliacho) - "YHVH is God"
 - Elisha - "Elohim is salvation"
 - Samuel (Smu'El) means "God hears or God heard"
 - Zacharia - "YA remembered"
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- We call on God's Name because it is who He is.
 - Whoever call upon the Name (character, nature, being, qualities, purpose) of the LORD will be saved.

MEANING OF YESHUA'S NAME (JESUS)

Yeshua means "Salvation" or "the Lord Saves" in Hebrew. Yahveh Saves. Yahveh means "self Existent or eternal" one. The One who need nothing and no one to exist, but is the source of all life that exist. The One who is eternal, unending.

Yahveh determined a way in which to deal with the sins of man, to save man. We were and we still are unable to save ourselves from the power, effect and result of sin. That is why someone greater than ourselves had to come to save us. The "Self Existent and Eternal One" became like one of us to save us.

Ezekiel 34 speaks about God coming to earth to be our Shepherd.

Is 7:14

Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.

Immanuel means "God with us".

There is no other way or deity that can save us because the Self Existent, All Powerful and Eternal One created and provided a way for our salvation. Jesus said of Himself, "I AM the way and the truth and the life."

Acts 4:12

Salvation exists in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved."

CONCLUSION

When you call on the name of Jesus, you are calling on the only way that God designed for salvation. The path to eternal life. The door through which we go in. The birth of Jesus is all about saving us and we should always remember that during Christmas time. Jesus' birth was a rescue mission and a restorative mission, restoring our relationship with God.

A name is important! Call on His Name today!