

Prophecy and Names:

Session 3: Personal Names

The Name of Persons

First names identify us in a family. Surnames or family names in Western culture are usually based on occupation or what we do. Jewish culture also declares that the names of the father were included as part of the name of the son.

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.” (Matthew 16:17)

The son and father were so connected in ancient times that Simon (or Peter) was known as *“Simon son of Jonah.”*

1. Value

The Bible reminds us that names have authority and so the naming of a child or location should be taken seriously—as the Bible says, **“For as his name is, so is he”** (1 Samuel 25:25).

“The LORD called me from the womb, from the body of my mother he named my name.” (Isaiah 49:1)

2. Design

Jesus, whose name means, “Yahweh will save,” came to earth save us!

3. Destiny

In the Matrix, the enemy always called the hero, “Mr. Anderson.” When Neo embraces his own name, he begins to walk in power and authority.

And on the eighth day they came to circumcise the child. And they would have called him Zechariah after his father, but his mother answered, “No; he shall be called John.”⁶¹ And they said to her, “None of your relatives is called by this name.” And they made signs to his father, inquiring what he wanted him to be called. And he asked for a writing tablet and wrote, “His name is John.” And they all wondered.⁶⁴ And immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue loosed, and he spoke, blessing God.” (Luke 1:59-64 ESV)

Unlike the way children are named in Western culture, biblical names are more spontaneously assigned at the time of birth. The day Rachel gave birth to her second son, *“...her soul was departing (for she was dying), she called his name Ben-oni; but his father called him Benjamin”* (Genesis 35:18).

Rachel named him “Ben-Oni” meaning “son of my sorrow,” but Jacob, the father, overruled her decision and changed it to Benjamin, which means “son of my right hand.”

- 1) **Named by an angel** (Samson, John, Jesus, etc.)
- 2) **Named by the situation based by the parent** (Reuben, Levi, Judah, Samuel, etc.)

The Names of the Sons of Jacob

Name	Meaning
Rueben	"I see a son!"
Simeon	"I heard and obeyed"
Levi	"Attached"
Judah	"Praise"
Dan	"Judge"
Naphtali	"My struggle"
Gad	"Fortunate"
Asher	"Happy"
Issachar	"Hired for wage"
Zebulun	"Glorious dwelling"
Joseph	"May He add"
Benjamin	"Son of my right hand"