

You Have a Name
Series: Between a Rock and a Hard Place
March 14, 2021
Revelation 3.1-6

- I. Contemporary use of names
 - A. Play fast and loose
 - 1. Sounds good – from when our kids were in school, certain names came in waves
 - a. Son Matthew – three Matt’s in his class at school
 - b. Another year there were a drove of Tracys
 - 2. Mother-in-law’s name
 - a. Named after her two grandmothers – told that to the doctor
 - (1) Fanny Jane
 - (2) Betty Elizabeth
 - b. She is Betty Jane
 - (1) Birth certificate: Fanny Elizabeth
 - 3. Andrew = manly
 - a. Mother was actually hoping for Anne
 - b. Had to settle for Andrew
 - B. Occasions of that in the Bible
 - 1. Deborah = bee
 - 2. Esther = myrtle
- II. In general – the Bible’s use of names is significant
 - A. Conferring status
 - 1. Genesis 2:23 (NASB95) — 23 The man said, “This is now bone of my bones, And flesh of my flesh; She shall be called Woman, Because she was taken out of Man.”
 - a. Man = ish
 - b. Woman = ishshah
 - B. Establishing authority over another in the act of naming
 - 1. Genesis 5:2 (NASB95) — 2 He created them male and female, and He blessed them and named them Man in the day when they were created.
 - a. Man = adam
 - b. Implication of authority, dominion over creation
 - 2. Adam’s naming of animals reveals evidence of authority
 - C. Recognizing an occasion
 - 1. Genesis 4:1 (NASB95) — 1 Now the man had relations with his wife Eve, and she conceived and gave birth to Cain, and she said, “I have gotten a manchild with the help of the LORD.”
 - a. Cain = gotten one
 - b. Eve’s firstborn; recognized the significance of a child to a woman who was prophesied to be the mother of all the living
 - D. Encapsulating an event or situation
 - 1. Genesis 11:9 (NASB95) — 9 Therefore its name was called Babel, because

there the LORD confused the language of the whole earth; and from there the LORD scattered them abroad over the face of the whole earth.

a. Babel = confusion

E. **Circumstantial name**

1. **Genesis 17:17** (NASB95) — 17 Then Abraham fell on his face and laughed, and said in his heart, “Will a child be born to a man one hundred years old? And will Sarah, who is ninety years old, bear a child?”
2. **Genesis 18:12** (NASB95) — 12 Sarah laughed to herself, saying, “After I have become old, shall I have pleasure, my lord being old also?”
 - a. Isaac = laughter

F. **Transformational name**

1. Abram to Abraham
 - a. Exalted father to father of a multitude
2. Jacob to Israel
 - a. Supplanter to him who strives with God
3. Simon to Peter
 - a. Hebrew-Greek to Aramaic Greek; stone to rock

G. **Predictive names**

1. **Isaiah 7:3** (NASB95) — 3 Then the LORD said to Isaiah, “Go out now to meet Ahaz, you and your son Shear-jashub, at the end of the conduit of the upper pool, on the highway to the fuller’s field...
 - a. Shear-jashub = a remnant shall return
2. **Isaiah 8:1–4** (NASB95) — 1 Then the LORD said to me, “Take for yourself a large tablet and write on it in ordinary letters: Swift is the booty, speedy is the prey. 2 “And I will take to Myself faithful witnesses for testimony, Uriah the priest and Zechariah the son of Jeberechiah.” 3 So I approached the prophetess, and she conceived and gave birth to a son. Then the LORD said to me, “Name him Maher-shalal-hash-baz; 4 for before the boy knows how to cry out ‘My father’ or ‘My mother,’ the wealth of Damascus and the spoil of Samaria will be carried away before the king of Assyria.”
 - a. Maher-shalal-hash-baz = swift is the booty, speedy is the prey

H. **Admonitory names**

1. **Mark 3:17** (NASB95) — 17 and James, the son of Zebedee, and John the brother of James (to them He gave the name Boanerges, which means, “Sons of Thunder”)...
 - a. **Luke 9:54** (NASB95) — 54 When His disciples James and John saw this, they said, “Lord, do You want us to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them?”

I. **Theophoric names**

1. Indicate a relation to God
 - a. Present high paternal aspirations
2. Ezekiel = may God strengthen; God strengthens
3. Isaiah = may the Lord save; the Lord saves
4. Sometimes those names aren’t lived up to expectations

- a. Zedekiah = Jehovah is righteous
 - (1) One of the more wicked kings of Judah
- III. The way the Bible uses the word “name” is significant
 - A. **Metonymy** – literary device; use of the name of an attribute of a thing in place of the thing as a whole
 - 1. Jerusalem is used for the whole of Judah
 - 2. **Hebrews 1:8** (NASB95) — 8 But of the Son He says, “YOUR THRONE, O GOD, IS FOREVER AND EVER, AND THE RIGHTEOUS SCEPTER IS THE SCEPTER OF HIS KINGDOM.
 - 3. Throne is used for the whole person of the Son
 - B. **Under the authority of**; according to the will of
 - 1. Pray in the name of Jesus
 - 2. Bless in the name of God
 - 3. Curse in the name of God
- IV. **Name in Revelation**
 - A. **Name of God**
 - 1. **Revelation 2:13** (NASB95) — 13 ‘I know where you dwell, where Satan’s throne is; and you hold fast My name...
 - B. **New name promised** to overcomers
 - 1. **Revelation 2:17** (NASB95) — 17 ‘He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, to him I will give some of the hidden manna, and I will give him a white stone, and a new name written on the stone which no one knows but he who receives it.’
 - 2. **Revelation 3:12** (NASB95) — 12 ‘He who overcomes, I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and he will not go out from it anymore; 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 out of heaven from My God, and My new name.
 - a. Overcomers receive: God’s name; name of city of God; new name of Jesus
 - C. **Character** or nature of various beings, personalities
 - 1. **Revelation 6:8** (NASB95) — 8 I looked, and behold, an ashen horse; and he who sat on it had the name Death; and Hades was following with him. Authority was given to them over a fourth of the earth, to kill with sword and with famine and with pestilence and by the wild beasts of the earth.
 - 2. **Revelation 8:11** (NASB95) — 11 The name of the star is called Wormwood; and a third of the waters became wormwood, and many men died from the waters, because they were made bitter.
 - 3. **Revelation 9:11** (NASB95) — 11 They have as king over them, the angel of the abyss; his name in Hebrew is Abaddon, and in the Greek he has the name Apollyon.
 - a. Apollyon = destruction, destroyer
 - D. Used to identify the **Destiny** of some
 - 1. **Revelation 13:8** (NASB95) — 8 All who dwell on the earth will worship him, everyone whose name has not been written from the foundation of the

world in the book of life of the Lamb who has been slain.

E. **Symbolic identifiers**

1. **Revelation 13:17** (NASB95) — 17 and he provides that no one will be able to buy or to sell, except the one who has the mark, either the name of the beast or the number of his name.

F. **Secret names**

1. **Revelation 19:12** (NASB95) — 12 His eyes are a flame of fire, and on His head are many diadems; and He has a name written on Him which no one knows except Himself.

G. **Revealed names of Jesus**

1. **Revelation 19:16** (NASB95) — 16 And on His robe and on His thigh He has a name written, “KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.”

V. In **Sardis**, the use of name is important

- A. **Revelation 3:1–6** (NASB95) — 1 “To the angel of the church in Sardis write: He who has the seven Spirits of God and the seven stars, says this: ‘I know your deeds, that you have **a name** that you are alive, but you are dead. 2 ‘Wake up, and strengthen the things that remain, which were about to die; for I have not found your deeds completed in the sight of My God. 3 ‘So remember what you have received and heard; and keep it, and repent. Therefore if you do not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what hour I will come to you. 4 ‘But you have a few people in Sardis who have not soiled their garments; and they will walk with Me in white, for they are worthy. 5 ‘He who overcomes will thus be clothed in white garments; and I will not erase **his name** from the book of life, and I will confess **his name** before My Father and before His angels. 6 ‘He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.’”

B. **Background**

1. Known in ancient times for its wealth
 - a. Located on a trade route
 - b. Known for its once-luxurious clothing trade
 - c. Gold from nearby river added to its wealth
2. Located as a fortress-citadel, nearly impossible to impregnate
 - a. Above the Hermus valley
 - b. Surrounded by cliffs and loose rock
3. Conquered twice under cover of darkness when it was poorly defended!
 - a. Taken by surprise
4. By the 1st Century, it was a fraction of its earlier importance
 - a. City resting on its laurels
 - b. City having trouble learning from its previous mistakes

C. **Name as reputation**

1. **Revelation 3:1–3** (NASB95) — 1 “To the angel of the church in Sardis write: He who has the seven Spirits of God and the seven stars, says this: ‘I know your deeds, that you have **a name** that you are alive, but you are dead. 2 ‘Wake up, and strengthen the things that remain, which were about to die; for I have not found your deeds completed in the sight of My God. 3 ‘So remember what you have received and heard; and keep it, and repent.

Therefore if you do not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what hour I will come to you.”

2. Name as alive, though dead
 - a. History
 - (1) Most movements of the Christian church
 - (2) Presbyterian
 - (3) Methodist
 - (4) Lutheran
 - b. Known for doctrinal distinctives, great missionary movements, standing for truth
 - c. Living in the past
 3. Fundamental issue is spiritual life
 - a. Nominal Christians
 - (1) Acting like Christians
 - (2) Playing church
 - b. No real transformation
 4. Will stand before Christ and claim entrance because they belong to a group
 - a. Or even have the name Christian
 - (1) Cf America is a “Christian nation”
 5. Fundamental need is conversion
 - a. Need to be awakened
 - (1) Repentance is involved
 - b. May be something left on which to build
 - c. Gerstner: Every time the Lord’s supper is celebrated, the gospel is communicated
 6. Deeds need to be completed
 - a. Doesn’t do any good to act the part and come up short
 - (1) He who endures to the end will be saved (Matthew 24.13)
 7. Warning – Jesus will come like a thief
 - a. This city should know what that’s like
 - b. They’ve been taken by surprise
 - c. They will be awakened one way or the other
- D. **Names of those who are faithful**
1. **Revelation 3:4** (NASB95) — 4 ‘But you have **a few people** in Sardis who have not soiled their garments; and they will walk with Me in white, for they are worthy.’
 2. A few people = lit, a few names
 3. Haven’t soiled garments
 - a. Clothed with righteousness
 - b. Christ is our righteousness
 - c. Justified by faith in Christ
 4. Will walk with Christ
 - a. Are worthy!
 - b. Astonishing statement
 - (1) Only Christ is worthy

- c. **Philippians 3:7–11** (NASB95) — 7 But whatever things were gain to me, those things I have counted as loss for the sake of Christ. 8 More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish so that I may gain Christ, 9 and may be found in Him, **not having a righteousness of my own derived from the Law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which comes from God on the basis of faith**, 10 that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death; 11 in order that I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.

E. **Blessings for the faithful names**

1. **Revelation 3:5** (NASB95) — 5 ‘He who overcomes will thus be clothed in white garments; and **I will not erase his name** from the book of life, and **I will confess his name** before My Father and before His angels.’
2. Will not erase his name
 - a. Assurance of salvation
 - b. Cf depression that comes from to a church that is dead
3. Jesus will confess his name before the Father and angels
 - a. Cf **Matthew 7:21–23** (NASB95) — 21 “Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven will enter. 22 “Many will say to Me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?’ 23 “And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; DEPART FROM ME, YOU WHO PRACTICE LAWLESSNESS.’”

VI. **Application**

- A. Do you have a name?
 1. A reputation?
 2. TVC?
 - a. Real and genuine?
 - b. Living through past
- B. Or are you one of the names?
 1. Who haven’t soiled your garments
 2. Who will walk in white with Christ
 3. Clothed with the righteousness of Christ
 4. In the book of life for all eternity
 5. Whom Christ will confess before the Father
- C. Revelation 3:6 (NASB95) — 6 ‘He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.’