

Names

- A. God has an interest in names.
1. He names the stars. **PSA 147:4; ISA 40:26.**
 2. His angels have distinct names. **LUK 1:19; JUDE 1:9.**
 3. His children are known by name. **EXO 33:17; JOH 10:3.**
 - a. God relates to us personally; we are not mere numbers to Him.
 - b. Our names are in heaven in the book of life. **LUK 10:20; HEB 12:23; REV 13:8.**
 - c. The Beast system is impersonal, numeric. **REV 13:15-18; 15:2.**
 - d. In gospel respects, numbers take a backseat to names. **2CO 10:12; ACT 1:15.**
 4. He gave names of meaning to people. **GEN 17:5; 32:28; MAT 1:21.**
 5. His Son has the highest name. **PHIL 2:9-11; HEB 1:4; ISA 9:6.**
- B. The Father and Christ both surnamed people. **ISA 45:4; MAR 3:16-17.**
1. surname: (v.) *trans.* To give an additional name, title, or epithet to (a person). **a.** with descriptive adj., n., or phr.
 2. surname: (n.) A name, title, or epithet added to a person's name or names, esp. one derived from his birthplace or from some quality or achievement.
 3. The Holy Spirit surnamed the church, "...the Israel of God" (**GAL 6:16**).
 4. Those who believe in and are disciples of the Son of God are surnamed Christians. **ACT 11:26; JAM 2:7.**
- C. The Apostle Paul ("little") had been formerly Saul ("desired") and went from being a preferred golden-boy among the Pharisees to being "...less than the least of all saints..." (**EPH 3:5**). The pathway to heavenly exaltation is humility. **1PE 5:5-6.**
- D. Paul commonly saluted the saints by name. **ROM 16:1-23.**
1. salute: *trans.* To accost or address with words expressive of good wishes, respect, or homage, esp. with some customary formula of that import; to greet in words.
 2. They weren't just notches in his gospel-gun, they were dear to him. **1TH 2:8; PHIL 4:1.**
 3. Among the godly, the feeling towards him was mutual. **ACT 20:36-38.**
 4. Relationships are always best where there is mutual endearment and respect. **PHIL 4:21-22.**
 5. Christ taught us to beware of vainglorious salutations and selective salutations. **MAT 5:43-48; MAR 12:38-39.**
 6. Paul taught and showed this mind of Christ in rendering tribute and honor where it was due and desiring the conversion of all men. **ROM 13:7; ACT 26:2, 25-29.**
 7. Paul was no misogynist: he commended faithful women by name. **ROM 16:1-3, 6, 13; 2TI 1:5.**
- E. An awful judgment of God is the termination of a name by the elimination of descendants or of favor. **PSA 109:13.**
1. For culminating sins, the name of God's church changed from Jew to Christian. **ISA 62:1-2; 65:14-15; ACT 11:26.**
 2. The whole church is named after Jesus Christ. **EPH 3:14-15.**
 3. Overcomers are promised that their names will not be blotted out. **REV 3:5.**
- F. Consider the blessedness of the names in **ROM 16:13; PHIL 4:3.**
1. Wouldn't it be great if the Holy Spirit wrote such promises for your name?

2. He did. All true believers may be sure their names are in the book of life. **JOH 5:24; 1JO 2:24-25.**

G. Consider the promise to the overcomer in **REV 3:12.**

1. He will become a monument of God's honor. Upon him will be written:
 - a. the name of Christ's God. **REV 14:1.**
 - b. the name of the new Jerusalem. **PSA 48:1-2; 50:2.**
 - c. Christ's new name. **REV 22:3-4.**
2. Note that the overcomer is identified with the new Jerusalem from above, not the Jerusalem of earth.
 - a. Those who only have identity with the earthly Jerusalem are not overcomers. They are in bondage. **GAL 4:21-26.**
 - b. Liberation and victory are reserved for the true Jew: the believing child of grace of any nation, not for the pseudo-Jew. **REV 3:9.**
3. Some prophetic speculators have suggested that the mark of the beast will be a UPC symbol placed upon men by a great power.
 - a. But the overcomer's natural identity is patently overwritten by the grace of the Greatest Power. **1JO 4:4.**
 - b. The overcomer bears the mark of God, Christ and heaven. No doubt as to whom he belongs, where he belongs, or what he's worth!