

THE NAME ABOVE EVERY NAME (PHIL 2:9-11)

Shakespeare tells us that there is nothing in a name. He said “if a rose were called by any other name it would smell just as sweet”. But he is wrong.

Names do mean something. We can see it in the Bible. When you hear the name Moses, you think of the great leader of Israel. David brings to mind the Shepherd Boy who wrote Psalm 23, Solomon makes us think of the man of wisdom, John Wesley founder of the Methodist Movement, Charles Spurgeon the great London preacher. Names do mean something. (Prov 22:1) “A good name is rather to be chosen than great riches.”

The world knows as well. Herodotus was a [Greek historian](#) who lived in the [5th century BC](#) and is regarded as the "*Father of [History](#)*" in Western culture. He was the first historian to collect his materials systematically, test their accuracy to a certain extent, and arrange them in a well constructed and vivid narrative. He is almost exclusively known for writing [The Histories](#), a record of his 'inquiries' (or ἱστορίαι, a [word](#) that passed into Latin and took on its modern connotation of *history*) into the origins of the [Greco-Persian Wars](#) which occurred in 490 and 480-479 BC — especially since he includes a narrative account of that period, which would otherwise be poorly documented, and many long digressions concerning the various places and peoples he encountered during wide-ranging travels.

So here is an interesting little world: history, inquiry. To visit in the sense of seeking to know someone, Gal. 1:18. And secular history is filled with names: Nebuchadnezzar, Xerxes and Artaxerxes, Cyrus, Shalmanezzar, Alexander the Great. Caesar Augustus, Nero, Domitian.

Bible names: Primus, Secundus, Tertius, Quartus. Tryphena and Tryphosa. Names appear, and some we still know. But most we do not.

Our world today is filled with names. But someday, the people who bear those names will be gone, and who will remember? Someone will visit a cemetery, or read a genealogy, or check a weblink and ask, “Who was that Bob Young anyway?” Or equally or more likely, no one will think or ask or care.

The name of Jesus is different. After centuries, it remains. This name has been spoken by almost every tongue, every race. It has been called upon by troubled saints; it has been whispered in the hour of death. [*Jesus “O how sweet the name”; Jesus “Every day the same”; Jesus “Let all saints proclaim”; Jesus “May all men be saved”*]

In Scripture, He is known by many names. He is called:

- Alpha & Omega
- Ancient of Days
- Author and Finisher of our Faith
- Branch of Righteousness
- Bread of Life
- Fairest of Ten Thousand
- Faithful and True
- Good Shepherd
- Hope of Glory
- King of Glory

- Lamb of God
- Lily of the valley
- Man of Sorrows
- Our Passover
- Prince of Peace
- Rose of Sharon
- Savior of the World
- Sun of Righteousness
- The Resurrection and the Life
- The Way, the Truth, the Life
- The Unspeakable Gift
- But from the lips of an angel, "His shall be called Jesus"

Notice some things about His name Jesus.

1) His name is a saving name. Before His birth, an angel told Joseph, (Matt 1:21), "Thou shall call His name Jesus, for He shall save His people from their sins".

He was a Teacher, Preacher, Healer but also the Savior. Ask the woman at the well, or ask Zacchaeus. (Acts 4:12) "Neither is there salvation in any other, for there is none other name under heaven given among men whereby we must be saved."

He has saved many of us and others. Through the centuries, thousands have come to know Him as Savior--men and women of low degree, sinners on their way to hell; men like a Certain English bartender who cared little for any man and more for their money; was saved, came to America preaching and saw over 70,000 come to Christ. His name: George Whitefield. We, drawn to the Lamb of God, repented of our sins and put our trust in Him as we were baptized.

Now we have the assurance that we are the Children of God. Satan may tempt us telling us we are not, yet we can say, (I John 1:7), "The blood of Jesus Christ, God's son cleanses us from all sin". What cleansing, what peace, was blessed hope fills our souls.

(2) His name is a comforting name.

*Jesus told His disciples, (John 14:27), "Let not your heart be troubled neither be afraid".

- a. comfort in times of trouble—walking the roads of tears, sadness, troubles, He never leaves us.
- b. comfort in death, we feel His touch upon hearts that are broken.
- c. when no one remembers your name, Jesus will remember. Names written in book of life.

4) His name is and will be an Exalted name; (Phil 2:9)

*I hear people mention great names like Alexander the Great, Caesar, Napoleon, but none matches Jesus' name in Glory, Greatness, and Majesty.

5) His name is an eternal name.

When Jesus comes again--His face brighter than the sun, His hand holding the Scepter of Power and Dominion--every knee, every tongue will declare: "All hail the Power of Jesus' name. Let angels prostrate fall, bring forth the Royal diadem, and crown Him Lord of all".