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Symbolic Names

and what they mean

Biblically

(2019)

Bible House of Grace contains an easy to read New and Old Testament commentary full of spiritual treasures and pearls, complete with an insightful resource guide illuminating God's love and grace.



Although I believe my aim is pure and God's will perfect this document is still the product of a human man, as to such I neither claim perfect knowledge or perfect understanding.

Symbolic Names and what they mean Biblically.

Topics.

- A name no one knows.
- Jesus is called the word of God.
- Twelve names on twelve gates of the holy city.
- A name written, King of kings and Lord of lords.
- I will write on him the name of my God.
- Those who conquered the beast and number of its name.

A NAME NO ONE KNOWS

- **Revelation 19:12:)** His eyes are like a flame of fire, and on his head are many diadems, and he has a name written that no one knows but himself.

Following are the most common names that have been suggested for the name that no one knows:

- The Word of God which will triumph in victory.
- Holiness to the LORD and Wonderful Counselor.
- King of kings and Lord of lords, and Immanuel Son of God.
- Saviour, Redeemer, and Shepherd.
- Prince of Life and Prince of Peace.

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But these cannot be right, because thousands from all generations know Jesus by these names, especially the redeemed. It is very likely the words, "no one knows his name," do not mean that no one could read the name, or know the name, but rather that no-one but himself could fully understand the fulness and depth of his love and power. He knows our names, our thoughts, intentions, and the motives of our hearts and all that we are, but we cannot fathom the height, the breadth and the depth of his love, or his sacred relationship to the Father, which only he alone could truly know the fulness of such a heavenly union. Jesus himself said:

- All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. (Matt. 11:27).

And the apostle Paul wrote:

- Who knows a person's thoughts except the spirit of that person, which is in him? So also no one comprehends the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. (1 Cor. 2:11).

The statement, "no one knows his name, but himself" does not literally mean that no one knows his name, but carries the idea that no one knows fully what his name embraces, in that we cannot fully comprehend his thoughts or perfectly know the fulness of his ways and his Spirit. In John's letters we read:

- Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. (1 John 3:2).

JESUS IS CALLED THE WORD OF GOD

- **Revelation 19:13:** He is clothed in a robe dipped in blood, and the name by which he is called is The Word of God.

Jesus is called, "The Word of God," (v13) for the following reasons, he is God's word manifest in the flesh, meaning:

- By his words he revealed his Father's will to mankind.
- By his actions he revealed God's character.
- By his miracles he revealed God's power.
- By his compassion and kindness, he revealed God's love.

The word of God: (i.e., the logos of God), denotes the higher and divine nature of the Saviour. He is the Logos of God in that he not only perfectly revealed God's will and His eternal plans, purposes and revelations, but also perfectly manifested God's love, grace and character and His miraculous power over creation (walked on water, created fish and bread to feed thousands, calmed the storm, healed many and raised the dead). Jesus while on earth perfectly revealed God's eternal plan for mankind's Salvation, the eternal future of the faithful, the earth and all who dwell on it, this, is why he is given the title, "The Word of God," and it is stated, "the Word of God became flesh."

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TWELVE NAMES ON TWELVE GATES OF THE HOLY CITY

- **Revelation 21:12:** It (the Holy City New Jerusalem) had a great, high wall, with twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels, and on the gates the names of the twelve tribes of the sons of Israel were inscribed.

The purpose of the gates of a city, are to let people in and out, being in the wall of the Holy City the New Jerusalem, signifies those within the city will be made up of people from all parts of the world. During the Old Testament era only the twelve tribes of Israel were considered God's chosen people, signifying, God's chosen of the Old Testament will dwell within the Holy City, however, in verse fourteen we read:

- The wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the twelve names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb. (Rev. 21:13-24).

The New Testament church is built upon the twelve apostles, which signifies, the citizens of the Holy City New Jerusalem, will be both the faithful of the Old Testament and the faithful of the New Testament. Strictly speaking, there is only one gate, which is the Lord Jesus Christ, for he is the only door into the sheepfold, and to salvation, and only those who have faith in him, will be permitted to dwell in it.

Ezekiel had a similar vision: he saw a city that that appears to be a future residence of the twelve tribes.

- Three gates, the gate of Reuben, the gate of Judah, and the gate of Levi, the gates of the city being named after the tribes of Israel. (Ezek. 48:31).

The exits of the city in Ezekiel's vision were as follows:

1. **Ezekiel:** on the north the following three gates: Reuben, Judah and Levi. (Ezek. 48:30-31).

Revelation: on the north the following three gates: Reuben, Judah, and Levi. (Rev. 21:13).

2. **Ezekiel:** on the east three gates, Joseph, Benjamin, and Dan. (v32).

Revelation: on the east three gates: Joseph, Benjamin, and Dan. (Rev. 21:13).

3. **Ezekiel:** on the south three gates, Simeon, Issachar, and Zebulun. (Ezek. 48:33).

Revelation: on the south three gates: Simeon, Issachar, and Zebulun. (Rev. 21:13).

4. **Ezekiel:** on the west side, three gates, Gad, Asher, and Naphtali. (Ezek. 48:34).

Revelation: on the west three gates: Gad, Asher, and Naphtali. (Rev. 21:13).

Whether John had the city of Ezekiel in his mind or not, collectively these gates denote the gathering of the faithful who will come from east, west, north, and south, and sit down in the Kingdom of God. The New Jerusalem is the eternal residence of the children of God from the Old and New Testament eras, which is indicated by the names of the twelve tribes being inscribed on twelve gates:

- **Revelation 21:12:** It had a great, high wall, with twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels, and on the gates the names of the twelve tribes of the sons of Israel were inscribed

And the twelve foundations, having the twelve names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb inscribed on the wall:

- **Revelation 21:14:** The wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the twelve names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.

A NAME WRITTEN, KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS

- **Revelation 19:16:** On his robe and on his thigh he has a name written, King of kings and Lord of lords.

In ancient times the custom of inscribing the name or rank of distinguished individuals descriptive of their character on their garments, so that they might be readily recognized, was not an uncommon practise. Having his name written on his robe is an allusion to the custom of persons of note and eminence having their names interwoven in their garments, which was sometimes done in letters of gold. The thigh, being the strong part of the body symbolizes strength and power, but the symbolism does not stop here, it also symbolises, Christ's humanity and his divine and heavenly nature as the Son of God, since he came, after the flesh, being an ancestor of David through the Virgin Mary, and was conceived by the supernatural creative power of God's Spirit. Therefore, having the name King of kings and Lord of Lords written on his thigh symbolises his dominion over all those born again from above, by the life changing power of the Holy Spirit and over all born of the flesh, which means, he is King over all mankind.

In the context of this vision the robe may be seen to be the cloak of a military captain that carries a sharp sword on his thigh whose cloak has blown back in the breeze to reveal the name, "King of kings and Lord of lords," on his thigh as he victoriously leads his mighty army to victory. In ancient times, it was usual for great kings, emperors and dignitaries in eastern countries to have magnificent titles inscribed on, or stitched into their garments. The name, "King of kings, and Lord of lords," written on Christ's thigh, signifies that he has authority and dominion over all monarchs, emperors, princes, and kingdoms of the earth, and over all who during his glorious millennial reign attempt to rebel against his rule and, vainly attempt to acquire and establish the title for themselves.

The name King of kings and Lord of lords, signifies the following:

- The victory of Christ's government and glory, over all rebellion, defiance, and opposition.
- Christ the Saviour being King over the faithful by love, and subduing his enemies by his word, authority, and power.
- Christ defending, protecting, and keeping his people for salvation.
- Christ being the true supreme universal King and authority over all people and nations upon the earth.
- Christ's sovereign dominion, his judgments, his government, and his Kingly office is clearly manifested to all dwelling on earth.

The name, "King of kings and Lord of lords," is also mentioned in the following verses:

- They will make war on the Lamb, and the Lamb will conquer them, for he is Lord of lords and King of kings, and those with him are called and chosen and faithful." (Rev. 17:14).

And the apostle Paul wrote:

- Keep the commandment unstained and free from reproach until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁵which he will display at the proper time—he who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords, ¹⁶who alone has immortality, who dwells in unapproachable light, whom no one has ever seen or can see. To him be honor and eternal dominion. Amen. 1 Tim. 6:13-16

I WILL WRITE ON HIM THE NAME OF MY GOD

- **Revelation 3:12:** The one who conquers, I will make him a pillar in the temple of my God. Never shall he go out of it, 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 from my God out of heaven, and my own new name.

In ancient times, it was common for the names and cities of victorious conquerors and generals who triumphed in battle and of prominent kings and eminent nobles and persons that were honoured and memorialised to be inscribed upon the temples of their deities, or upon memorial stones and placed in or near the temple of their deities. They did this to signify that they were under the protection of the deity. A great number of these inscriptions have been brought from Grecian cities of Europe and Asia, and some from islands in the neighbourhood of Patmos. The expression, "I will write upon him the name of my God," carries the following ideas:

1. Jesus is so overwhelming thrilled with the faith and character of the overcoming believer that he wants to give them the highest honor, which is to give them his Father's name.

2. When a person writes their name on their possessions it not only declares to all that they belong to them, but also shows that they greatly value them. Likewise, for Jesus to write God's name upon the redeemed, not only expresses how greatly he values and loves them, but also declares to all, that they belong to his heavenly Fathers family.
3. It signifies Jesus complete love toward them and God's complete acceptance of them. There is only one way possible by which a spirit can possess another spirit, and by which one person can possess another, and by which we can all fully possess and belong to God and God can fully possess and belong to us, and that way is by love. It is by God's love that the overcomer surrenders themselves to Him, and it is by this love that they desire and are motivated to obey.
4. It may be an allusion to the pure golden plate that had the words, "Holy to the LORD," engraved upon it that the high priest wore on his forehead when he stood before the LORD. It is certainly true that the resurrected redeemed counted worthy will be Holy to the LORD and established as His perfect heavenly royal priesthood.
 - **Exodus 28:36-38:** You shall make a plate of pure gold and engrave on it, like the engraving of a signet, 'Holy to the LORD.' ³⁷And you shall fasten it on the turban by a cord of blue. It shall be on the front of the turban. ³⁸It shall be on Aaron's forehead, and Aaron shall bear any guilt from the holy things that the people of Israel consecrate as their holy gifts. It shall regularly be on his forehead, that they may be accepted before the LORD.

In chapter twenty-two it is written:

- They (God's resurrected servants) will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. (Rev. 22:4).

Jerusalem was the place where God's temple was built, and where the worship of God was celebrated and because of this it came to symbolise the church which is the dwelling-place of God on earth. At the moment, the church is made up of mortal, sinful members saved by faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and God's grace. In contrast to this the New Jerusalem (or New Church) will be made up of immortal perfect members made perfect in every way.

When the name of God, the name the new Jerusalem and Jesus new name is written on the overcomer it will signify that they belong to the Eternal Heavenly City, and the City belongs to them. Today we would say they are given the key to the city, meaning they have complete access to all that is within the city. At this present time, the citizenship of the faithful is now hidden, but when they enter through the gates into the Heavenly City their citizenship will be clearly visible for all to see. This was the city that Abraham looked for, spoken of in the following verses:

- **Hebrews 11:9-10:** By faith he (Abraham) went to live in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise. ¹⁰For he was looking forward to the city that has foundations, whose designer and builder is God. (Heb. 11:9-10).
- **Revelation 22:14:** Blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they may have the right to the tree of life and that they may enter the city by the gates.

The idea of having the name of the City of God written on the overcomer, may indicate that wherever the resurrected, immortal faithful go in all earthly and heavenly worlds they will be clearly recognized as people belonging to the Holy City New Jerusalem and as those who have all the royal rights to enjoy its privileges. We cannot know what the name of

God, the name the new Jerusalem, and Jesus new name will be until that glorious day when our mortal bodies put on immortality and we are free of every kind of indwelling sin, and made utterly clean and pure. Until then only our Saviour knows what this new name will be. We may make some good suggestions, but no matter how good they maybe, they remain speculations. However, what we can know for sure is that the receiving of these names signifies that we will be completely bonded by love to God forever. The last stamping of these three inscriptions, (i.e., the name of God, the new name of Christ and the name of the City) being stamped upon the overcomer, is the final perfecting and seal of the Christian's faith and life. It will stand as a declaration to all who look upon them that they are the exalted eternal sons and daughters of God.

Jesus said:

- Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. (John 12:25).

If we yield ourselves to God and depart from being our own masters, we will reach that glorious eternal state when we will be wholly God's and His name will be stamped on us in such a manner that every eye that looks upon those who are stamped (whoever they may be), shall know whose they are, who they belong to, and who they serve.

THOSE WHO CONQUERED THE BEAST AND NUMBER OF ITS NAME

- **Revelation 15:2:** And I saw what appeared to be a sea of glass mingled with fire—and also those who had conquered the beast and its image and the number of its name, standing beside the sea of glass with harps of God in their hands.

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The words, "those who had conquered the number of his name," carries the idea, they had got victory over all attempts of the antichristian beast nations to influence them to their antichristian worldly system, or to fix upon them some type of mysterious number, mark, symbol, or identification, which in some way expresses their identity, and identifies those who accept it as belonging to the beast nations empire, dominion, and system. The primary idea is, that in the latter days of the antichristian beast nations when every effort is made to seduce the inhabitants of the earth to conform to their ungodly system and laws the faithful will remain unmoved and continue to adhere to the Lord Jesus Christ and the Gospel, it carries the following three ideas:

1. They do not give their heart and mind over to the supremacy and authority, of the antichristian beast nations
2. They do not embrace their antichristian laws and doctrines.
3. They do not allow themselves to be considered followers of the antichristian beast nations in any form or shape.

As the founder of Bible House of Grace, I would like to thank the many Christian scholars, commentators and theologians who have gone before me, and the many today, who have freely made available their works to enhance the knowledge of the Bible to all people worldwide. It is only with the help of these faithful writers that much of Bible House of Grace exists as it does today.
