

# ZOOM STUDY: IMPORTANT BIBLICAL WORDS

## BIBLICAL NAMES

### Introduction

Parents choose their children's names for all kinds of reasons: for their meaning, to express their hopes for their child, to in honor of family or friends, to express uniqueness, or simply because they like how a particular name sounds. Share what your name means, or why you chose the particular names of your children.

Biblical names often reflect the events/circumstances surrounding the baby's birth. Sometimes names have deeper spiritual significance, especially when God gives or changes someone's name according to a prophecy or promise.

Today we will investigate the meaning and significance of some familiar names in Scripture.

### 1.) Adam

**Genesis 2:7** The LORD God formed the man (אָדָם) from the dust of the ground (אֶרֶץ) and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being.

**Genesis 5:1-2** When God created man (אָדָם), he made him in the likeness of God. He created them male and female and blessed them. And when they were created, he called them "man" (אָדָם).

**Genesis 3:17,19** To Adam he said, "Because you listened to your wife and ate from the tree about which I commanded you, 'You must not eat of it,' Cursed is the ground because of you... By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you will return."

### 2.) Eve

**Genesis 3:20** Adam named his wife Eve (חַוָּה), because she would become the mother of all the living (חַיִּים).

### 3.) Abram / Abraham & Sarai / Sarah

**Genesis 11:27,29,30** Terah became the father of Abram (אַבְרָם – "exalted father"), Nahor and Haran. ... Abram and Nahor both married. The name of Abram's wife was Sarai... Now Sarai (שָׂרַי - "my princess") was barren; she had no children.

**Genesis 17:1-6, 15-16** When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to him and said, "I am God Almighty; walk before me and be blameless. I will confirm my covenant between me and you and will greatly increase your numbers." Abram fell facedown, and God said to him, "As for me, this is my covenant with you: You will be the father of many nations. No longer will you be called Abram; your name will be Abraham (אַבְרָהָם - "father of many"), for I have made you a father of many nations. I will make you very fruitful; I will make nations of you, and kings will come from you." [...] God also said to Abraham, "As for Sarai your wife, you are no longer to call her Sarai; her name will be Sarah (שָׂרָה - also means "princess"). I will bless her and will surely give you a son by her. I will bless her so that she will be the mother of nations; kings of peoples will come from her."

#### 4.) Isaac

**Genesis 17:17** Abraham fell facedown; he laughed (קָצַח) and said to himself, “Will a son be born to a man a hundred years old? Will Sarah bear a child at the age of ninety?”

**Genesis 18:12-13** So Sarah laughed (קָצַח) to herself as she thought, “After I am worn out and my master is old, will I now have this pleasure?” Then the LORD said to Abraham, “Why did Sarah laugh and say, ‘Will I really have a child, now that I am old?’”

**Genesis 21:1-6** Now the LORD was gracious to Sarah as he had said, and the LORD did for Sarah what he had promised. Sarah became pregnant and bore a son to Abraham in his old age, at the very time God had promised him. Abraham gave the name Isaac (יִצְחָק - “he laughs”) to the son Sarah bore him. When his son Isaac was eight days old, Abraham circumcised him, as God commanded him. Abraham was a hundred years old when his son Isaac was born to him. Sarah said, “God has brought me laughter, and everyone who hears about this will laugh with me.”

#### 5.) Jacob / Israel

**Genesis 25:25-26** The first to come out was red, and his whole body was like a hairy garment; so they named him Esau. After this, his brother came out, with his hand grasping Esau’s heel; so he was named Jacob (יַעֲקֹב - “grasps the heel”).

**Genesis 32:22-28** That night Jacob got up and took his two wives, his two maidservants and his eleven sons and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. After he had sent them across the stream, he sent over all his possessions. So Jacob was left alone, and a man wrestled with him till daybreak. When the man saw that he could not overpower him, he touched the socket of Jacob’s hip so that his hip was wrenched as he wrestled with the man. Then the man said, “Let me go, for it is daybreak.” But Jacob replied, “I will not let you go unless you bless me.” The man asked him, “What is your name?” “Jacob,” he answered. Then the man said, “Your name will no longer be Jacob, but Israel (יִשְׂרָאֵל - “he struggles with God”), because you have struggled with God and with men and have overcome.”

#### 6.) Joshua / Jesus

**Numbers 13:16** These are the names of the men Moses sent to explore the land. (Moses gave Hoshea (הוֹשֵׁעַ - “he saves”) son of Nun the name Joshua (יְהוֹשֻׁעַ - “the LORD saves).)

**Matthew 1:21** “She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus (Ἰησοῦς / יֵשׁוּעַ), because he will save his people from their sins.”

#### 7.) Samuel

**1 Samuel 1:1-2,10,19-20** There was a certain man from Ramathaim, a Zuphite from the hill country of Ephraim, whose name was Elkanah... He had two wives; one was called Hannah and the other Peninnah. Peninnah had children, but Hannah had none. [...] In bitterness of soul Hannah wept much and prayed to the LORD. [...] Elkanah lay with Hannah his wife, and the LORD remembered her. So in the course of time Hannah conceived and gave birth to a son. She named him Samuel (שְׁמוּאֵל - “God hears”), saying, “Because I asked the LORD for him.”

## 8.) Immanuel

**Isaiah 7:14** “Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin (הַעַלְוִיָּה / ἡ παρθένος) will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel (עִמָּנוּעֵל).”

**Matthew 1:22-23** All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: “The virgin (ἡ παρθένος) will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel”—which means, “God with us.”

## 9.) Simon / Peter

**Matthew 16:15-16** “Who do you say I am?” Simon Peter answered, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” Jesus replied, “Blessed are you, Simon (Κηφᾶς in Aramaic = “rock”) son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by man, but by my Father in heaven. And I tell you that you are Peter (Πέτρος - “rock”), and on this rock (πέτρα - “bedrock/rock formation”) I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.”

10.) Naming or renaming something often serves as a sign of ownership. What name has God given you? What changes has this brought about in your life?

**Matthew 28:19-20** “Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

**1 Peter 4:16** However, if you suffer as a Christian (“little Christ”), do not be ashamed, but praise God that you bear that name.

God will finally give you a new, eternal name!

**Revelation 3:12** “Him who overcomes I will make a pillar in the temple of my God. Never again will he leave it. I will write on him the name of my God and the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem, which is coming down out of heaven from my God; and I will also write on him my new name.”

**Revelation 22:4** They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads.

*Closing Prayer: Savior Jesus, we praise you for fulfilling your rescuing name on our behalf. Inspire us to live up to the names of “Christian” and “children of God” as we share your truth and love and spread your redeeming name to others to the glory of your holy name. Amen.*