

A Lord's Day Snippet!

Biblical And Southern Studies

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1 In the Lamb's Book of Life
Will my name there appear?
Shall I walk in white raiment?
Will Jesus be near?
With the dear ones of earth
Who have pass'd on before,
Shall I dwell in that country
And sorrow no more?

Chorus:

Glory to God! His promise is dear;
I rejoice, for I know that my name's written there.

2 Unto me a new name
In His kingdom He'll give;
Of the manna that's hidden
From Him I'll receive;
And my name He'll confess
To the Father above;
Oh, then, blessed be God for
The Son of His love. [Chorus]

3 There shall nothing be hid
From the eyes of His own,
When in glory we view Him
Upon the great throne;
Then to Him shall arise
From the saved among men,
Unto Him be the glory
Forever, Amen. [Chorus]

William A. Ogden (1841-1897)

A New Name

"I will write upon him my new name."

Revelation 3:12

Those in the family of God should remember that the Name of God has been written on us: why? We are His by His choice, by His redemption, by His calling, by His keeping. We belong to God by origin. Children get their names from their father. By grace we are given the name of God and are a member of His family. The Name of God is the name by which the whole family in heaven and earth is named. The Greek word for father (*patria*) is a term referring to those who descended from the same father. This in our context refers to God in His relationship as our spiritual father. Our Father is the “Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.” It is clear that His children are those brought into this relation to God through His Son. Consequently, the word *patria* cannot include any but the subjects of new birth. The whole family in heaven does not include the angels, but those there who have already been redeemed. The rest of the family were still living on earth.

The redeemed are marked by a new name. There is the promise of a new name for in the letter to the Church in Philadelphia we find the following words, “Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: and *I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, which is new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and I will write upon him my new name*” (Rev. 3:12).

There are three names mentioned here: *First*, “the name of My God” – This is clearly a metaphor relating to both divine ownership and to what is now dedicated to God; blessed is the one who bears this name. “I looked, and, lo, a Lamb stood on the mount Sion, and with him ... (those) having his Father’s name written in their foreheads” (Rev. 14:1). Consider Exodus 28:36-38, wherein instructions were given for writing the inscription “HOLINESS TO THE LORD” on a gold plate to be mounted on the front of Aaron’s high priestly headdress and on his forehead.” Believers are a royal priesthood bearing His name on their foreheads, so to speak, as those set apart unto the Lord. In *contrast* the mark of the beast was on the forehead of those he controlled (Rev. 13:16, 17; 20:4). Isaiah states that God’s people are referred to as “Every one who is called by My name,” (Isa. 43:7).

Second, “The name of the city of My God, the New Jerusalem” – What an abode—“they ... enter in through the gates into the city” (Rev. 22:14)! Consider that in Rev. 21:2-8 the people of God are virtually identified with the city of God where they dwell (cf. Isa. 56:5; Ezek. 48:35). The Lord promises to give each of his people the name of his Father, as well as the name of the heavenly city. God’s people and his heavenly city bear the eternal name of the true and living God. The idea of naming implies ownership and protection.

Third, “And My new name” – They are given His name as a new name (Rev. 2:17). Being given a new name in Biblical tradition was most often associated with the idea of receiving a new status, function, or change in character and calling. The name “My God” indicates

ownership; the name of “the city of My God” (New Jerusalem) indicates destination; “My new name” indicates changed character.

The Father’s name was written on their foreheads. “And I looked, and, lo, a Lamb stood on the mount Sion, and with him an hundred forty and four thousand, having his Father’s name written in their foreheads,” (Rev. 14:1). The Father’s name written on their foreheads proves that they belong to Him (Rev. 7:2-4). What a contrast is Revelation 13:11-18.

The culmination of this name is written on their foreheads. In heaven “there shall be no more curse: but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; and his servants shall serve him: And they shall see his face; and his name shall be in their foreheads” (Rev. 22:3-4). As a result of the fall of man came a curse which by grace will be lifted and thus there will be “no more curse.” Why? Christ has redeemed us from the curse (Gal. 3:10, 13). All that marked the earth and creation known as a curse is forever removed from the new earth as well as the new heaven. The eternal rule of God the Father and the Lamb of God shall insure the purity of the place, and all the inhabitants of heaven shall serve the Lord. Seeing the Redeemer face to face is evidence of admission into His peaceful presence. To see is to know the Lord (2 Cor. 4:6; 1 Cor. 13:12; 2 Cor. 3:18; Rom. 8:29; 1 John 3:2) and the saints are marked as property of the Lord for His name is on their foreheads. We are the Lord’s property at great cost to Him.

During the First World War Sir Harry Lauder lost his only son. On a visit to the States a man told him a very touching story. He was told that in American towns any household that had given a son to the War was entitled to place a star on the windowpane. The storyteller said that a few nights before he was walking down an avenue accompanied by his little boy. The lad became quite interested in the lighted windows of the houses, and clapped his hands when he saw the star. As they passed house after house, he would say, “Oh, look, daddy, there’s another house that has given a son to the war! And there’s another! There’s one with two stars! And look, there’s a house with no star at all!” They finally came to the end of the houses and through the gap could be seen the evening star shining brightly in the sky. The little boy caught his breath, “Oh, look, Daddy,” he cried, “God must have given His son, for He has got a Star in His window.” Sir, Harry Lauder when he heard of the lad’s reply said, “God has indeed!” God gave His Son to bring many sons to glory. God loved so much that He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believes in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life. To God be the glory great things He hath done!

