

## THE POWER OF CREATION AND NAMING

**Gen 1:5** *And God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And the evening and the morning were the first day.*

**Gen 1:8** *And God called the firmament Heaven. And the evening and the morning were the second day.*

**Gen 5:2** *Male and female created he them; and blessed them, and called their name Adam, in the day when they were created.*

To name is to have lordship, authority over that which is named. It was not sufficient for God to create alone; he followed up with naming that which he created. It was through the act of naming that God *owned* his creation. Ask the Day, the Night, Heaven and Adam, among others, about their owner. They will declare God's ownership through the act of creation and naming. Hallelujah! Once again, to name is to have lordship and dominion. Now, this is important and should fill our hearts with love for our Creator: God did not name all of his creation; he purposely relinquished this great privilege because of his love for Adam. The only creation of his to whom God extended this privilege of naming was Adam.

**Gen 2:19** *And out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field, and every fowl of the air; and brought them unto Adam **to see what he would call them:** and whatsoever Adam called every living creature, that was the name thereof.*

Let me pause here and apply a wonderful insight from the above to our lives in the contemporary world. What are you calling the events, incidences, activities etc., in your life today? What name do you assign to your reality? Do you know we have the power, as the children of the Lord Jesus Christ, to name our realities and change them through naming? Jesus has made us a new creation! "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new" (2 Cor 5:17). Once we have been created anew by the Lord, we have been named and sealed by the name of the Lord Jesus Christ which was called upon us before we entered the waters of baptism. The name Jesus has lordship and dominion over us, just as God first created and named Adam, after which Adam named the animals. Please listen to me! Do not worry or feel hopeless before the circumstances of your life! Start exercising your authority through the name of Jesus in naming and hence changing your reality.

Note carefully what the scripture states, "and brought them unto Adam **to see what he would call them.**" Jesus is watching to see and hear how we respond to problems and what name we assign to these problems. Call your problem "opportunity" and "a blessing in

disguise” in Jesus’ name! Consider the giant Tyrannosaurus Rex (see image) standing in front of Adam waiting to be assigned a name. This creature weighed 4-18 tons and grew to 12,5 meters in height. It is not the size of your problem that matters, but who has the authority to name and determine its behaviour that matters!

The Dutch decided to name their colony in the USA New Amsterdam in 1626. In 1664, the English defeated the Dutch and did not waste time in renaming it New York in honor of the Duke of York, the brother of King Charles II. The Dutch regained control and immediately changed the name to New Orange for one year and three months before the English regained control in 1674 and renamed it, you guessed it, New York. The Bible is full of examples affirming this principle of ownership through naming. For instance, during the conquest of Canaan, the children of Reuben determined to change the names of the cities of the Canaanites they had conquered. Two of the cities were named Nebo and Baalmeon (the habitation of Baal). Imagine living in a city called “the habitation of Baal!”

**Num 32:37** *And the children of Reuben built Heshbon, and Elealeh, and Kirjathaim, Num 32:38 And Nebo, and Baalmeon, (their names being changed,) and Shibmah: and gave other names unto the cities which they builded.*

Elealeh means “God is ascending” while Heshbon means “stronghold.” The children of Reuben decided they were not going to live in cities named for the glory of the gods of their enemies. Their cities would be dedicated to the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob who delivered them and gave them these cities. Consider the privilege of naming a child. Thankfully, this task is not assigned to our governments. I can only imagine what names they would conjure up. I called my youngest son John because I want the blessing and memory of the Lord’s beloved Apostle John to rest upon him. Glory be to Jesus! When I took him this year to the grave of the Apostle John in Seljuk just outside of Ephesus (see photo), I reminded him that this was the man he was named for. There is power in naming our realities! Use it in the name of Jesus to change destiny! I chose my own name for all the reasons in this message. I want Jesus to have lordship and authority over my life, not a name chosen by my eldest sister that glorified another God. You name your reality in Jesus’ name! I want Apostolic blessing, memory, and fruits in my life!

Pharaoh Nechoh wanted to stamp his authority over a Jewish prince named Eliakim.

**2 Kings 23:34** *And Pharaohnechoh made Eliakim the son of Josiah king in the room of Josiah his father, and turned his name to Jehoiakim, and took Jehoahaz away: and he came to Egypt, and died there.*

Eliakim means “God raises up or sets up,” while Jehoiakim means “Jehovah raises up.” At face value, it appears as if the name change was good. However, it depends on *who* is doing the naming. Pharaoh Nechoh has nothing to do with the children of Israel. His naming never blessed Eliakim – his life ended in disaster. During his reign Nebuchadnezzar destroyed Judah and Jerusalem and took the Jews as captives to Babylon. Do not allow Pharaoh to give you a name! Reject every name, label, stereotype etc., that the world may try to stick on you. Rebuke its authority in Jesus’ name. In contrast, Jabez refused to accept the name and authority implied in his name. Jabez means sorrow, but he was determined to change this through prayer.

*1Ch 4:9 And Jabez was more honourable than his brethren: and his mother called his name Jabez, saying, Because I bare him with sorrow.*

*1Ch 4:10 And Jabez called on the God of Israel, saying, Oh that thou wouldest bless me indeed, and enlarge my coast, and that thine hand might be with me, and that thou wouldest keep me from evil, that it may not grieve me! And God granted him that which he requested.*

Christians cannot resign themselves to others naming their reality. We must name our reality in Jesus’ name. In this way, we change reality to align with the plan and purposes of God. Jacob demanded the blessing of God at Peniel, and the blessing came through a name change – Jacob to Israel, one who has power with God. “And he said, Thy name shall be called no more Jacob, but Israel: for as a prince hast thou power with God and with men, and hast prevailed” (Gen 32:28). The Devil constantly attacked Simon and determined to make him unpredictable and unstable. Jesus changed all that with a name change. “And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it” (Matt 16:18). God first creates us anew through the knowledge of his identity through Jesus Christ and the plan of salvation outlined in Acts 2:38. After that, he seals his ownership and authority over us through his name, Jesus. Next, we are expected to have dominion through the name of Jesus, just as Peter changed the reality of the lame man sitting at the Temple gate. Once the world witnesses this, they will ask the question by which the name of Jesus will be glorified.

*Act 4:7 And when they had set them in the midst, they asked, By what power, or by what name, have ye done this?*

Don’t accept the circumstances of your life, as Peter refused to accept the lame man’s circumstance in life. God wants Adam to rename and heal his creation through Jesus’ name!