

Study Questions
'What's in a Name?
Sunday March 21st 2010

1). Ge 17:5 *"No longer shall your name be called Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you a father of many nations.*

a). What is significant about what is happening in this scripture?

2). Ge 32:26 *And He said, "Let Me go, for the day breaks." But he said, "I will not let You go unless You bless me!" 27 So He said to him, "What is your name?" He said, "Jacob." 28 And He said, "Your name shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel; for you have struggled with God and with men, and have prevailed."*

a). What is significant about what is happening in this scripture?

b). What do both of these scriptures teach us about God's use of names?

3). Joh 1:41 *He first found his own brother Simon, and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which is translated, the Christ). 42 And he brought him to Jesus. Now when Jesus looked at him, He said, "You are Simon the son of Jonah. You shall be called Cephas" (which is translated, A Stone).*

a). What is significant about what is happening in this scripture and is it recorded anywhere else?

- b). What do you think the name Simon Peter might teach us?
- b). Is it in any way similar to that which we saw with Abram and Jacob?
- c). Do you think that there is any importance to Simon being called the son of Jonah 5 times in the scriptures, and each time by Jesus?

4). Mt 4:17 *From that time Jesus began to preach and to say, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." 18 ¶ And Jesus, walking by the Sea of Galilee, saw two brothers, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen. 19 Then He said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men." 20 They immediately left their nets and followed Him.*

a). What are the circumstances that have led to the Lord calling Simon and Andrew to follow Him?

b). So, what does their calling have to do with?

c). What is the promise that He makes them here?

d). How much does He seem to make known to them about it at this time?

e). Is there anything here that is similar to our own experience?

5). Mt 14:28 *And Peter answered Him and said, "Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water." 29 So He said, "Come." And when Peter had come down out of the boat, he walked on the water to go to Jesus. 30 But when he saw*

that the wind was boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink he cried out, saying, "Lord, save me!" 31 And immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and caught him, and said to him, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?"

- a). What 2 facets of Simon Peter's character do we see in operation here?
- b). What was it that Peter doubted and why?
- c). What word could we use to characterize Peter's emotion here?
- d). What can we learn for ourselves in this?
- e). What scripture from Hebrews would speak directly to this situation?

6). Mt 16:17 *Jesus answered and said to him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven.*

18 "And I also say to you that you are Peter[Petros], and on this rock [Petra] I will build My church,.....21 ¶ From that time Jesus began to show to His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised the third day.22 Then Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him, saying, "Far be it from You, Lord; this shall not happen to You!" 23 But He turned and said to Peter, "Get behind Me, Satan! You are an offense to Me, for you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men."

- a). What 2 facets of Simon Peter's character do we see in operation here?

b). What word could we use to characterize the emotion Simon Peter was experiencing when he rebuked the Lord?

c). What do Simon Peter's sinking in the walking on water incident, and his rebuking of the Lord have in common?

d). What might we learn here concerning ourselves?

e). What is Jesus drawing attention to by using the words Petros and Petra in Matthew 16:18?

7). Mt 26:33 *Peter answered and said to Him, "Even if all are made to stumble because of You, I will never be made to stumble." 34 Jesus said to him, "Assuredly, I say to you that this night, before the rooster crows, you will deny Me three times." 35 Peter said to Him, "Even if I have to die with You, I will not deny You!" And so said all the disciples.*

a). What do we see again here with regards to Peter?

8). Lu 22:61 *And the Lord turned and looked at Peter. And Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how He had said to him, "Before the rooster crows, you will deny Me three times." 62 So Peter went out and wept bitterly.*

a). Peter denies knowing the Lord 3 times in this incident. How many times had he already denied the Lord through his actions this very same evening?

b). What do you think it is that Peter realizes in this moment?

9). Joh 21:15 ¶ *So when they had eaten breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of Jonah, do you love [agape] Me more than these?" He said to Him, "Yes, Lord; You know that I love [phileo] You." He said to him, "Feed [bosko] My lambs." 16 He said to him again a second time, "Simon, son of Jonah, do you love [agape] Me?" He said to Him, "Yes, Lord; You know that I love [phileo] You." He said to him, "Tend [poimaino] My sheep." 17 He said to him the third time, "Simon, son of Jonah, do you love [phileo] Me?" Peter was grieved because He said to him the third time, "Do you love [phileo] Me?" And he said to Him, "Lord, You know all things; You know that I love [phileo] You." Jesus said to him, "Feed [bosko] My sheep.*

- a). How would you explain the difference between ‘agape’ and ‘phileo’ love?
- b). What 3 questions does Jesus ask Peter?
- c). Why is Peter grieved by what Jesus asks the 3rd time?
- d). What is Peter confessing to the Lord through his repeated answer?
- e). If Jesus asked us the same question as He asks Peter, what would your response be?
- f). What seems to be Simon Peter’s pathway to agape love for his Lord?
- g). What do we know of Peter from the Book of Acts?

10). 2Pe 1:1 ¶ *Simon Peter, a bondservant and apostle of Jesus Christ,*

a). Here at the end of Peter's life how does he describe himself?

b). How does this compare with the events of the night of the Lord's betrayal?

c). What might we conclude from this?

11). Re 2:17b... *And I will give him a white stone, and on the stone a new name written which no one knows except him who receives it."*

a). What does this overcomers' promise say to you within the context of what we have studied today?