

All Scripture quotations are from the Authorized King James Version of the Bible unless otherwise indicated.

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**FIRST
Name
ONLY
Mini-Book
Part 1**

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Introduction

In the world, most people have a family name, which is used as their last name. Because people who are born into this world have parents, usually their last name is the same as their parent's last name.

This is the world's system of knowing whom their father is. Their father had parents when he was born into this world. Therefore, his children, who are born into this world go by his last name. That is the way it is in this world.

Everyone goes by their father's last name. Even when a woman gets married to a man, her last name is changed to that of her husband's last name. Why? The husband is the head of the household. She belongs to her husband as his wife. Therefore, she takes her husband's last name for her last name. It is simple. The world has a system, which works for them.

Who was Eve's father? Was Adam Eve's father? Was God Eve's father? Adam gave Eve her first name. In Genesis 3:20, it says, **“And Adam called his wife's name Eve; because she was the mother of all living.”** Was Eve a daughter of God, or was she a mate for Adam? Adam was not both male and female.

What was Eve's last name? Her first name was Eve. What was her last name? Did Eve actually have a last name?

“Get wisdom, get knowledge, get understanding” (Prov. 2:6; 9:10; Col. 1:9). What was one of the first things that Eve did? Eve listened to the serpent, and she was deceived. The serpent lied to Eve and Eve believed a lie.

Who was Adam's father? Some people have been listening to “the wrong voice” (John 10:27). They are not listening to the voice of the LORD Jesus Christ. Have they also been deceived by what men teach?

Some Christians think that God was Adam's Father. They have read in some English version of the Bible where it says in Luke 3:38, **“Which was the son of Enos, which was the son of Seth, which was the son of Adam, which was the son of God.”** In the inspired written Word of God, it does not say that Adam was the son of God.

Some Christians believe the teachings of men, more than they believe God. What some are teaching is a doctrine of men. That teaching did not come from God. Are they hearing from God, or are they hearing another voice?

In the inspired written Word of God, it does not say that Adam was “the son of God.” In Genesis 1:27, it says, **“So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.”**

When the LORD God created “mankind,” He used two main ingredients “the dust of the ground and the breath of life.” Therefore, the LORD God called that which He created “man (adam)” meaning “mankind, male and female.”

In Genesis 2:7 it says, **“And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living (chay) soul (nepesh).”** The LORD God created “man (mankind).” Man was a “created living breathing creature,” with a body formed of the dust of the ground and by the breath of the LORD God, man became “a living soul.” But man was not a son of God.

When the LORD God “created man,” He did not give man a last name. Man was **“not born**

of God.” Man was a created living creature. That is what the inspired written Word of God tells us.

The LORD God first created “mankind, male and female” beginning with one body, which He formed of the dust of the ground. The LORD God did not call that body of flesh and bones “Adam by name.”

Adam was not a physical body of flesh and bones. Adam was “a living soul” which was breathed into a body of flesh and bones by the LORD God (Gen. 2:7).

When a person is born again, the person (which is a living soul), is translated from the flesh body of “man” into a new spiritual body, which is in Christ Jesus (Rom. 8:9; 2 Cor. 5:17; Col. 1:13). Man is not a body of flesh and bones. Man is “a living soul.”

Why are Christians listening to others and following false teachings? Jesus said in John 10:27, **“My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me.”**

It was not until later in Genesis Chapter Two, that the name “Adam” is first mentioned in the Book of Genesis. Adam “who was a living soul,” was breathed into the body which the LORD God formed from the dust of the ground. All mankind was breathed into that same body that was called “man” (Jer. 1:5; Heb. 7:9,10).

Adam was the first individual “living soul” that was spoken of by the LORD God. Adam named all the living creatures in Genesis 2:19,20. After naming all the creatures that the LORD God brought to Adam, Eve’s body was formed of the flesh and bone of Adam (Gen. 2:21,22). Eve was already in “man” from Genesis 2:7. Everyone that is born of the flesh was in “man” from the day that the LORD God breathed living souls into the body of flesh and bones (1 Cor. 15:22; Heb. 7:9,10). Eve became an individual person, “a living soul,” with a flesh and bone body of her own when the LORD God formed her from a rib of Adam.

It is important that Christians study their Bibles and find out what God said, rather than listen to what men have to say.

Adam was not “the son of God.” Adam was a created creature, similar to all the other created creatures mentioned in Genesis 2:19. All created creatures have a soul, which is the ability to think, reason, understand, etc.

Adam heard the voice of the LORD God, but Adam did not follow the voice of the LORD God. Adam, harkened to the voice of the woman, and disobeyed the LORD God (Gen. 3:6,17).

What happens when a born again Christian listens to the voice of another, and disobeys God? Is it any different from what Adam and Eve did?

First Name Only

If we study the Scriptures from Genesis through Revelation, we will not find any “last names” used in the inspired written Word of God. Why not?

God is a personal God. God is looking at people on a personal “one on one” basis. God wants every individual person as one of His very own Children. God wants to be God in our lives (2 Cor. 6:18).

When Jesus came preaching the gospel of the Kingdom of God, Jesus said, **“And call no man your father upon the earth: for one is your Father, which is in heaven”** (Matt. 23:9). Why did Jesus say that?

Because, when we are first born into this world, we are “born of the flesh of man,” and we have a body of flesh and bones, which makes us an earthly creature. We are earthly creatures, having a body of flesh and bones (requiring that we have air to breathe in order for our bodies of flesh and bones to continue to live). If we do not have air to breathe, our physical bodies will die, and where will we be? We are not the body of flesh and bones. We are “a living soul.”

In 1 Peter 1:23, it says, **“Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.”** When a person is truly born again, they are born of **“the incorruptible Seed, which is the Word of God.”** It is not only born “of the Word of God,” for in John 1:13, it says, **“Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.”** Therefore, we are not born again “only” of the Word of God, but also of the Holy Spirit. Jesus said in John 3:6, **“That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.”** Christians are born again of the Word of God and the Holy Spirit. Thereby, God is our true Father.

Why was Jesus called the Son of God? Mary was Jesus’ mother and God was Jesus’ Father. When the angel spoke to Mary in Luke 1:31, he said to Mary, **“And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS.”** In Luke 1:34,35, it says, **“Then said Mary unto the angel, How shall this be, seeing I know not a man?...And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God.”** Therefore, God was Jesus’ Father and Mary was Jesus’ mother.

If we go throughout the Bible, we will notice that there are no last names listed in the Bible. The last names are never mentioned. What was Enoch’s last name? What was Noah’s last name? What was Abraham’s last name? What was Moses’s last name? What was Jesus’ last name? Nowhere in the Bible are there any last names listed.

God does not use the world’s system in His Kingdom. God has His own system, which is a perfect system. God knows His Children by their first name. When we get to heaven, we will receive a new name (Rev. 2:17; 3:12).

Sometimes, the LORD God changed the first names of certain people. The LORD God changed Abram and Sarai’s names to Abraham and Sarah (Gen. 17:5,15). The LORD God changed Jacob’s name to Israel (Gen. 32:28). Moses changed Oshea, the son of Nun’s name to Joshua (Ex. 17:9).

When the LORD God gives someone a name, there is a meaning to that name. Abraham means, “Father of a great multitude.” Sarah means, “Princess.” Israel means “A prince of God.”

Joshua means “Jehovah is Salvation.” The name Jesus, is the Hebrew name Joshua, meaning “Jehovah is Salvation.”

In Exodus, 6:3, the LORD God said to Moses, **“And I appeared unto Abraham, unto Isaac, and unto Jacob, by the name of God Almighty, but by my name JEHOVAH was I not known to them.”**

There is a great importance in the names of people whom God has given them their name. There are many names in the Scriptures that God made certain they were given a first name, which had a meaning to that name. The angel Gabriel said to Mary, **“...call his name JESUS”** (Luke 1:31). Why call His name Jesus? Jesus means, “Jehovah is Salvation.” The angel said to Joseph in a dream, **“And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins”** (Matt. 1:21).

There are many times when a person is identified by whom their father was in the natural, using their father’s first name, and then using the name of the city where they lived to identify the person, that was being spoken of. In 1 Samuel 17:12, it says, **“Now David was the son of that Ephrathite of Bethlehemjudah, whose name was Jesse; and he had eight sons: and the man went among men for an old man in the days of Saul.”** In 1 Samuel 17:55, King Saul asked, **“whose son is this youth?”** In 1 Samuel 17:58, David answered, **“I am the son of thy servant Jesse the Bethlehemite.”**

When Jesus came preaching the Gospel of the Kingdom, He was called **“Jesus of Nazareth.”** Why? There were many people in the area by the name of Jesus. But, the demons knew who Jesus was, whereas the people did not know unless they were told which Jesus they were speaking of. The Jesus that was being spoken of at that time was **“Jesus of Nazareth.”**

In the gospels, there was a woman called Mary Magdalene. Why was she not just simply called Mary? There were at least four Mary’s in the Gospels that followed Jesus. Therefore, one was called Mary Magdalene, because she was of the town of Magdala in Palestine. Why was Judas Iscariot called Judas Iscariot? There could have been others by the name of Judas. Judas Iscariot was from the town of “Kerioth; Iscariotes (Keriothite) (Hebrew).”

Why was Saul, now called Paul, called “Saul of Tarsus?” There was no doubt many others in the area by the name of Saul. Saul was from the city of Tarsus in Greece.

Once I was truly born again, the LORD used people “who spoke by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit” to speak to me. Of those who had never met me or never knew me, the LORD had them call me by my first name. Never, did the LORD ever call me by my last name. Never did the LORD ever call me by any other name than “Merle.”

Those whom the LORD used to speak to me “by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit,” who never knew me before they spoke to me, they would say something like, *“Is there anyone here by the name of Merle?”* They did not know me in the natural. Only the LORD knew me. And the LORD had them call me “by my first name.”

God is a personal God. God wants to have a personal relationship and fellowship with everyone who will accept Him as their LORD and God.

God does not want us to serve any other god. In Exodus 20:3, God spoke and said, **“Thou shalt have no other gods before me.”** God was speaking to all of the Children of Israel that the LORD God brought out of Egypt. To each and every one of them, God said, **“Thou shalt have no other gods before me.”**

God wanted to speak to each one individually, Himself. But the people did not want to hear the voice of God speaking to them. In Exodus 20:19, it says, **“And they said unto Moses, Speak thou with us, and we will hear: but let not God speak with us, lest we die.”** God wants to be a God to those whom He has chosen. But, the people did not want to hear His voice speaking to them.

In 1 Samuel 8:4-7, it says, **“Then all the elders of Israel gathered themselves together, and came to Samuel unto Ramah...And said unto him, Behold, thou art old, and thy sons walk not in thy ways: now make us a king to judge us like all the nations...But the thing displeased Samuel, when they said, Give us a king to judge us. And Samuel prayed unto the LORD...And the LORD said unto Samuel, Hearken unto the voice of the people in all that they say unto thee: for they have not rejected thee, but they have rejected me, that I should not reign over them.”** These were not rejecting Samuel. They did not want God to reign over them.

God is Love (1 John 4:8). God loves those whom He created in His own likeness and image. God wants to have a “one on one” relationship and fellowship with those whom He loves. But, many Christians do not want to spend time with God on a “one to one” basis.

Why was Oshea’s name changed to Joshua? Because Joshua was the one that led the Children of Israel into the promised land. But, not all that came out of Egypt entered into the promised land. Only those who were under twenty-years old entered, except for Joshua and Caleb. Why didn’t the others enter the promised land? They did not want to hear the voice of the LORD God and they would not obey the LORD, when He wanted them to enter the promised land (Ex. 20:19; Num. 14:22,23).

Those who are born again Christians should desire to spend time with the LORD God daily, and hear His voice as He speaks to them, and obey Him in what He asks them to do.

How much does God desire to spend time with those who are His Children in “the New Birth?” Look at what God did in the New Birth. Jesus said, **“No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him...”** (John 5:44). We did not choose God. God chose us in Christ Jesus from the foundation of the world (Eph. 1:4,5). God chose those who are truly born again.

When we received Jesus as LORD into our lives, God the Father, and the Son, took up their residence within our new created spirit. We became one with God in the Spirit. God dwells in us and we dwell in God (Col. 1:1-3).

In John 17:20,21, Jesus prayed to the Father. Jesus said, **“Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word...That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me.”** God answered Jesus’ prayer when we received Jesus “as LORD” of our life.

Born again Christians are one with God (the Father and the Son). God came down from heaven to dwell in each and everyone who receives Jesus Christ “as their LORD.” (Get the Mini-Book, “Is Jesus LORD?” written by Merle E. Koepke)

God is Love. How much more could God do to show us His love for us, than by living in us, “in our spirit?” For those of us who love God, the Father and the Son sent the Holy Spirit to be our helper, guide, comforter, leader, and teacher (when we were baptized in the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in tongues).

The Holy Spirit is our teacher, teaching us all things pertaining to God and His desires for

us. In 1 John 2:27 it says, **“But the anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in him.”** God wants to teach us all truth, which is no lie, by the anointing of the Holy Spirit within us.

How much more could God do for us, without going against our will? God is willing to do everything within His power, that we might know Him and believe Him and do His will here on earth.

God has given us “His Word, His Son, His Holy Spirit,” that we might know Him as our Father. Jesus said, **“And call no man your father upon the earth: for one is your Father, which is in heaven”** (Matt. 23:9). Why would Jesus tell us to not call any man our father? Because, we do not belong to anyone but God. God is our “Father” in the realm of the Spirit. We are not in the flesh of Adam, but in the Spirit of Christ (Rom. 8:9). In 2 Corinthians 5:17 it says, **“Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.”** We are a new creation of mankind in the Spirit of Christ. If we are truly born again of the Word of God and the Holy Spirit, then we are no longer of this world (John 17:16).

The old man of the flesh must die, so that we can live after the new man in the Spirit. There should be a major change in our lives when we go from Adam in the flesh to Christ in the Spirit (Rom. 8:9). When we know who our true Father is, we can live in the Spirit and no longer walk after the flesh (Rom. 8:1-31; Gal. 5:16,17,25; Col. 3:1-4).

Is there a difference between the flesh and the Spirit? Is there a difference between those who are truly born again of the Word of God and the Holy Spirit and those who are born of the flesh? If we are truly born again of the Word of God and the Holy Spirit there should be evidence of a new birth.

Our lives, as born again Christians, is a new beginning of a new life in Christ Jesus. When we become a new creature in Christ Jesus, we should no longer be like we were before we were born again. A new birth is a new beginning of a new life, which is in the spiritual realm, not in the natural realm. Therefore, our lives must be different from what they were before we were born again.

A good example of this change is in that of a caterpillar and a butterfly. When the egg of a butterfly hatches it becomes a caterpillar. A caterpillar has many legs and moves about and lives by what he eats. A caterpillar is limited by his ability to crawl upon his legs. He cannot fly like the butterfly that laid the egg that began his birth into this world. The caterpillar does not have wings.

When a caterpillar goes through a process of change from a caterpillar to a butterfly, its whole physical being is changed. It no longer has multitudes of legs. But it does have wings. Now it can fly (which it could not do while it was still a caterpillar).

Now, the caterpillar is “a new creature.” It is no longer a caterpillar, but it has become a butterfly.

What would happen to that butterfly if it continued to try to live like a caterpillar? If it refused to fly and change the way it lived before it became a butterfly, what would happen? Truly, beyond all doubt, it would die. A butterfly cannot continue to live like a caterpillar. Neither can a born again Christian continue to live like people who are not born again.

Those who are not born again live after the flesh. They are like a caterpillar, crawling around, living off the world and the things of the world. They love the world and the things that are in the world (1 John 2:15-17).

How can you tell the difference between a caterpillar and a butterfly? You can tell by how they live. The caterpillar crawls around upon its legs. It cannot fly. A caterpillar mostly lives off what is attached to the ground.

A butterfly flies in the heavens where the fowl of the air fly (Gen. 1:20). A butterfly usually travels in the daytime when there is light, usually not in the darkness of nighttime. A butterfly feeds mostly upon nectar from flowers. A butterfly is useful to plants by carrying pollen from one plant to another. Butterflies are productive and not destructive.

How can you tell a Christian from someone who is not truly born again? Born again Christians should be like the butterfly, living in the heavenly realm, by the Word of God, which created all things (John 1:1-3). Christians should be productive, not destructive. Christians should have the attitude of Jesus Christ, not that of the Scribes, Pharisees, and Sadducees. Christians should love one another and help one another, with more concern for each other than for themselves. A Christian should no longer love the world or the things that are in the world. In 1 John 2:15 it says, **“Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.”**

Those who are not born again, love the world and the things of the world. Many people who say they are born again Christians, still live like the world lives. They do the same things the world does, the same way the world does things. We could say that they look like those of the world. They talk like those of the world. They act like those of the world. Therefore, they live like they are still of this world, not truly born again.

Why Does God Call Christians By Their First Name?

In Ephesians 1:3-5 it says, **“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ...According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love...Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will.”**

In Jeremiah 1:5, it says, **“Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, and I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations.”**

In John 15:16, Jesus said, **“Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you.”**

In Luke 10:20, Jesus said to some of His disciples, **“Notwithstanding in this rejoice not, that the spirits are subject unto you; but rather rejoice, because your names are written in heaven.”**

God knew those who are born again in Christ Jesus even before Adam was created. God knows everything from the beginning of time until the end of time.

God knew us before we were born into this world. Therefore, God knew us before we were born again into the body of Christ, which is called the Church (Col. 1:18).

God knew us by our first name, because God had chosen us in Christ Jesus from the foundation of the world (Eph. 1:3-6). God knew us before we were conceived in our mother’s womb (Jer. 1:5). God always knew us by our first name.

What about those who are living in the world today? Do they know God on a “first name basis?” Are they truly born again, with their names written in heaven? Is their name written in the Lambs Book of Life?

Is God their true Father? Do they know God as their Father? Jesus said in Matthew 18:3, **“Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven.”**

What does Jesus mean by **“as little children?”** How many little children trust in everyone else for what they have need of, and not in their father? Do little children go from day to day and never stop to talk to their father. Do little children ignore their father and listen to everyone else they come into contact with?

Jesus said in Matthew 6:25, **“Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment?”** Then in Matthew 6:31,32, Jesus said, **“Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed?... (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things.”**

Christians who are truly born again should be trusting in God their Father in every area of their lives. Christians need to be talking to God every day. Christians need to be taught by God, every day. If God is our Father, then why aren’t Christians spending time with God?

If we are Christians and we are not spending hours every day, hearing from God, studying

the Scriptures, and praying in the Spirit, I would strongly suggest that we make some major changes in the way we are living.

I talked with a person who thought that she was a born again Christian. But, things were not working out in her life. We told her that she needed to recommit her life to Jesus, and make JESUS LORD in her life. She agreed and she asked Jesus to come into her life and be LORD in her life. When she did that, she looked at the person with me and said, "*You look different.*"

Why did the person with me look different to her after she prayed and asked Jesus to come into her life and be her LORD? It is simple. She actually received Jesus Christ as LORD. Not just as Savior, but as LORD. That is when people experience a New Birth (John 3:3). That is when their names are written in heaven. That is when God receives them as His Children. That is when God becomes their true Father.

If anyone has been deceived by the teachings of men, they need to do what the Scripture says. They need to become truly born again (John 3:7).

I have talked to many who say they are Christians. When I ask them, "*How much time do they spend alone with God in His Word and in prayer?*" Most of the time their answer is "less than one-half hour a day." Is that how much they love God?

For more information on this subject, get all of the parts to this series of Mini-Books. For other help, you can also go to our Web sites on the Internet and download as many free books as you desire. Go to:

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