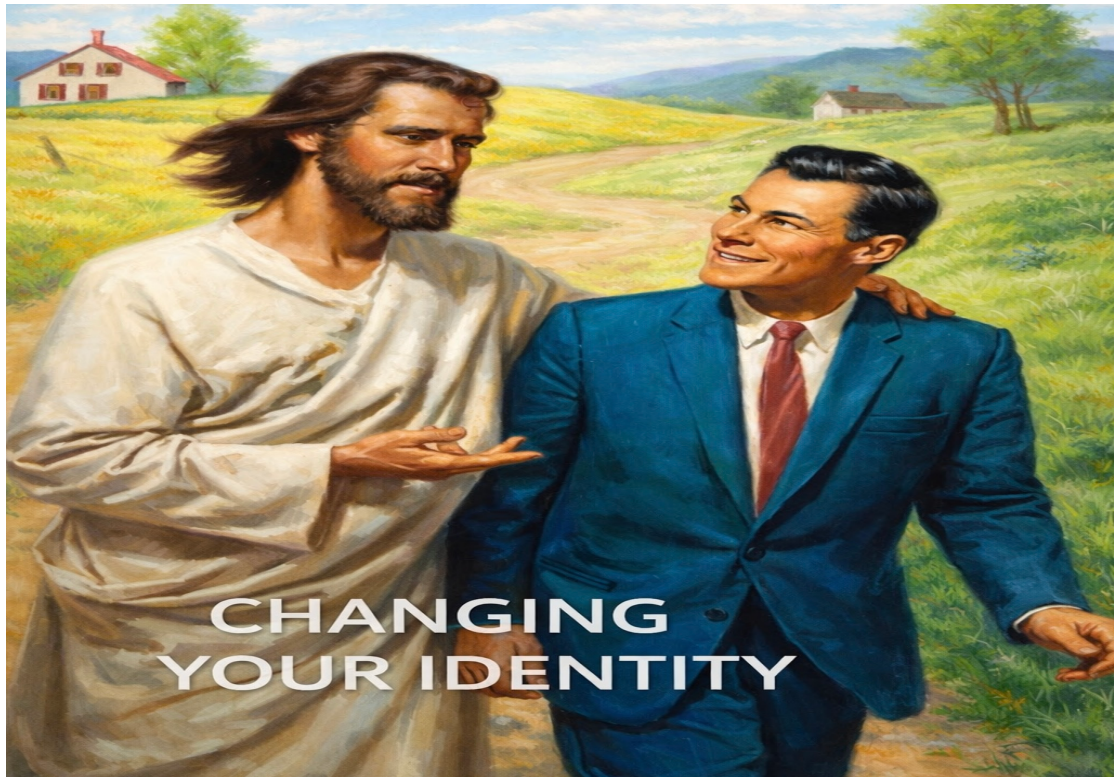


THE MEANING OF NAMES, THIER CHANGE AND FINAL VICTORY



INTRODUCTION: “If my people, **which are called by my name**, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.”(2 Chronicles 7:14)

In the world filled with all kinds of sins, where almost everyone is striving for supremacy, who would even be willing to accept **the fact that true greatness is, being**

called by the name of the Lord through repentance, humility and a turn away from sin rather trying to make a name for oneself? If people **naturally want to be associated with men of power**, why are they not willing to associate with the one who sustains the universe with His mighty power?. This clearly shows that men mostly labor for power and recognition for selfish reasons, to feed their carnal nature - something which can't be condoned in the presence of the Almighty God. In this study we shall endeavor to discuss the significance of names and what to do about them. Let's begin by looking at

The Name Of God.

The names of God commonly known among Christians are not actually His Proper Names but titles. They describe what He is rather than Who He is (that is, His identity). He is called "**our Maker**"(Ps 95:6) because He made everything in the beginning. He's also called "**the Saviour**"(Isa 45:15), the "**Redeemer**"(Jer 50:34), and "**Our Father**"(Matt 6:9), for that's what He is. **The names or titles of God, you see,**

carry a meaning. They describe His very attributes.

But since these same names are used or applied to idols and false gods by many with out the mainstream Christianity, **it's imperative to know the Proper Name of God**, rather than just His titles, for only by doing so can we rightly “Call upon His name”(Ps 105:1), and declare it unto our brethren (see Ps 22:22)

Says He, “**Therefore My people shall know My name...**”(Isa 52:6). And what is His Personal Name? We read,

“And Moses said unto God, Behold, when I come unto the children of Israel, and shall say unto them, **The God of your fathers hath sent me unto you**; and they shall say to me, **What is his name?** what shall I say unto them? And God said unto Moses, **I AM THAT I AM**: and he said, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I AM hath sent me unto you. And God said moreover unto Moses, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, **The LORD God of your fathers**, the God of Abraham,

the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, hath sent me unto you: **this is my name for ever, and this is my memorial unto all generations.**”(Exodus 3:13-15).

“I AM THAT I AM” is God’s own statement that **He just exists, no beginning or ending** (compare with Ps 90:2, Rev 21:6) and that the “**LORD**”(Yahweh)” is His name, His personal name forever. This same truth is confirmed by the psalmist when he wrote, “That they may know that You, **whose name alone is the LORD**, Are the Most High over all the earth.”(Ps 83:18)

The name **YHWH** (Translated, Yahweh, Jehovah or LORD) is the name whose pronunciation isn’t known up to this day. The Israelites never even attempted to say it except when in good standing with God.

The Lesson to get from this is that None are allowed to properly say the Personal Name of God, no, no more than you can try to call your parents by their personal names and still claim to be respectful. Thus, unless otherwise , **God can only be addressed by His titles and not by His**

Personal Name. “Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain”(Exod 20:7) **“holy and reverend is his name.”**(Ps 111:9)

“And the four beasts had each of them six wings about him; and they were full of eyes within: and they rest not day and night, saying, **Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty**, which was, and is, and is to come.”(Revelation 4:8)

Is it not interesting to notice that God has been described in the Bible as “Love” and not as “Love, love, love” or as “Good” and not as “Good, good, good” but that He’s essentially **“Holy, holy, holy”**? Holiness, you see, is the foundation of every attribute of God, the very reason he hates sin so much. And since it’s the **“Lord God Almighty”** who’s **“Holy, holy, holy”**, then who can dare say this name without reverence? Writes the Servant of God:

“I saw that God’s holy name should be used with

reverence and awe. The words **God Almighty** are coupled together and used by some in prayer in a careless, thoughtless manner, which is displeasing to Him. Such have no realizing sense of God or the truth, or they would not speak so irreverently of the great and dreadful God, who is soon to judge them in the last day. Said the angel, **‘Couple them not together; for fearful is His name.’** Those who realize the greatness and majesty of God, **will take His name on their lips with holy awe.** He dwelleth in light unapproachable; no man can see Him and live. I saw that these things will have to be understood and corrected before the church can prosper. “(CCh 252.2)

The context of this passage shows that the statement **“Couple them not together”** Simply means **“Do not roll holy names off the tongue without awe.”**

He calls us to reform in this area, and learn to address Him by His titles especially in prayer, for this is what Christ taught: **“After this manner**

therefore pray ye: Our Father...”(Matthew 6:9)

The Pre-Flood Names.

God called the first human being “**Adam**”(Gen 5:2) **because he was the first man or human being (Eve is also called Adam in a broad sense)**. He called His Wife’s name Eve “**because she was the mother of all living**”(Gen 3:20). Adam and Eve named their first two sons “**Cain**”(which means “acquired” or “possessed”) And “**Abel**”(which means “breath”), because their experience and history were to be exactly like that. (Gen 4:1.2).

Cain was self sufficient, needed not God’s instructions, for he “**possessed**”, as it were, everything already as His name suggested. Abel’s life was cut short, quickly passed away like the air, the breath as His name suggested. So it was that Cain “**was of that wicked one, and slew his brother. And wherefore slew he him? Because**

his own works were evil, and his brother's righteous.”(1 John 3:12)

Lamech, the first polygamist had two wives named “Adah”(From a Hebrew root meaning “ornament,” “adornment,” or “beauty” Can also carry the sense of “to pass by” or “to deck oneself”) and “Zillah”(From a Hebrew root meaning “shade,” “shadow,” reflecting concealment or being good at deception), because they were exactly like that(Gen 4:19, compare with Gen 6:1,2). **Names you see carry a meaning and they usually reflect one’s identity, one’s characteristics.** The name of Enoch’s son Methuselah (Gen 5:21) literally means **“When he dies, it shall be sent”, for he was a sign to that wicked generation that when he died (at the age of 969 - Gen 5:27) the flood was to come.**

Abraham, Sarah and Jacob

“Neither shall thy name any more be called

Abram, but thy name shall be Abraham; for a father of many nations have I made thee.”(Genesis 17:5)

The Name Abram means “**exalted father**”, but since God was **shifting His direction and giving him a new identity**, so His name was also changed to Abraham “**the father of a multitude**”.

“And God said unto Abraham, **As for Sarai thy wife, thou shalt not call her name Sarai, but Sarah shall her name be**”(Gen 17:15). Entering upon the new phase of life according to God’s plan, His wife’s name was also changed from “Sarai” - the princess - **to “Sarah”- the mother of many nations, the noblewoman**. This is true because the nations were to be blessed through her son Isaac, the promised one (Heb 11:11,12,17-19)

About Jacob we read, “And he said, Let me go, for the day breaketh. And he said, **I will not let thee go, except thou bless me**. And he said unto him, **What is thy name? And he said, Jacob. 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. And Jacob asked him, and said, Tell me, I pray thee, thy name. And he said, Wherefore is it that thou dost ask after my name? And he blessed him there. **And Jacob called the name of the place Peniel: for I have seen God face to face, and my life is preserved.”**(Gen 32:26-30)

Having deceived His father previously, Jacob was indeed “a deceiver”(Gen 27:6-46), but **His encounter with God brought about a change not only for His character but for His name too. He fought with God and prevailed, so His new name was “Israel”,** the name which His children carried upon their shoulder throughout the centuries to the time of Christ. Samuel, too, was named so “**Because**”, narrates Hannah His mother, “**I have asked him of the LORD**”(Samuel 1:20)

Jesus the Christ.

“And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.”(Matthew 1:21).

The Name Jesus, you see, means **“Yahweh saves”**. He is also the Messiah, the Christ, **“the Anointed one”**. The name Jesus surpasses every other name because it describes what He is, **“the hope of Glory”**. All miracles and wonders can be performed through His name. **“Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.”(Acts 4:12)**

To believe in the Name of Jesus for salvation is, therefore, **to trust who He is and what He has done**. It is thus that **“whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved”((Rom 10:13).** It’s not about merely mentioning His name, we must trust Him and follow Him. He says **“Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall**

enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.”(Matthew 7:21)

And what about John the Baptist? The Word says, “Now Elisabeth's full time came that she should be delivered; and **she brought forth a son**. And **her neighbours and her cousins heard how the Lord had shewed great mercy upon her**; and they rejoiced with her. And it came to pass, that on the eighth day they came to circumcise the child; **and they called him Zacharias, after the name of his father**. And his mother answered and said, **Not so; but he shall be called John**. And they said unto her, **There is none of thy kindred that is called by this name**. And they made signs to his father, how he would have him called. And he asked for a writing table, and wrote, saying, **His name is John**. And they marvelled all.”(Luke 1:57-63)

Notice how the neighbors and cousins wanted to discard the name “John”(which means “**Jehovah is**

a gracious giver”) just because no one had supposedly been called by that name before.

How many times do parents and the society **try to impose names that carry no good meaning on their children simply because the great grand parents were called by those?** This isn't an attack on any names. But it should be remembered that Achan brought trouble upon Israel (Joshua 7) because that's what His name meant, **“trouble”** or **“hardship”**. The name Jezebel means **“unchaste”** for that's what she was (stubborn, cruel and uncontrollable) and thus perished.

You must recall that those whose names were changed by God also had their ways changed to start living for Him alone. **We are mostly given names that are rooted in tradition and carry no significant or positive meaning.**

Some are given the names of the false gods and of witchcraft. For example, the name Diana has its

roots in the ancient Roman goddess just as the name Regina implies queenly authority. Some are given names associated with trouble and suffering, like “Mabvuto” or “Masiye”. Usually these names are given based on the circumstances at the time of birth, nevertheless there’s no clear positivity in them. If parents are well informed, they should give to their children names that are positively meaningful. They should ask the Lord, “What shall we name this child you’ve given us?”

It’s true though that the one who has been named “Stone” **doesn’t necessarily become a stone or hardhearted**. The same is true for other names whether good or bad. Does the meaning of the name automatically imply the person’s actual characteristics?

The Lord says “**..I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me; And shewing**

mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments.”(Exodus 20:5,6).

Notice that no generational curses or any evil falls upon the descendants of any forefathers **unless the children themselves decided to walk away from the path of duty.** This implies that a bad name doesn't automatically point to a bad person and vice versa. You see, **we may not manage to change our names in this life , but we can change our character.** Yes, Mr “graveyard” or Mrs “Faithless” can live like Jesus.

Then, too, having names like Goodness, Faith, Mercy, Moses, Abraham, Sarah e.t.c doesn't make one a Christian, no, no more than being born in the car factory can make one a car. In fact the opposite is true for the most part. The counsel from the Father of Lights to our parents is that when they give Biblical names to their children, **they should also learn to give them Bible studies.** Let not your children perish under your watch care, dear parents.

Those whose names carry no positive meaning, will surely be saved **if** they trust in the name of Jesus, otherwise there's no salvation for them. Similarly Those who have good, Biblical names will surely be saved **if** they trust in the name of Jesus, otherwise there's no salvation for them. Essentially **it is character, not appearance or name, that makes up a man.** “**For as he thinks in his heart, so is he**”(Proverbs 23:7, see also 1 Samuel 16:7)

Proud Nicknames and Flattering Titles.

While it makes sense to change one's name if it carries no positive meaning, others go into extremes by giving themselves **proud nicknames and flattering titles**. Do you see that this is done for self praise and recognition? The spirit that drives people in this direction is the spirit that doesn't want people to be called **only by the name of the Lord**

as **“Christians”** and that we shouldn’t **“boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ”**(Galatians 6:14).

Pride (in its simplest sense) is an exaggerated sense of self-importance that places self above God and others. Flattery means excessive or insincere praise given to someone in order to please them, gain favor, or manipulate them, rather than to speak the truth.

Job wrote, **“Let me not, I pray you, accept any man's person, neither let me give flattering titles unto man. For I know not to give flattering titles; in so doing my maker would soon take me away.”**(Job 32:21,22)

“A man that flattereth his neighbour spreadeth a net for his feet.”(Proverbs 29:5)

The names and titles you give to yourself will show whether you just want people to think highly of yourself. **“I am Diamond” “I am the Greatest**

Philosopher” “The Only One” “The Major”. And it’s sad to realize that even the so called men of called indulge in this foolish behavior.

And remember, too, that as you try to flatter others by giving them titles like “Your Excellence” or anything showing no humility toward God and others, you’re simply killing them, spreading a net for their feet, to destroy them. **God alone is to be pleased, not men** (Gal 1:10).

Group Names Change.

When the house of Israel and the house of Judah rebelled against God, they were prophetically given a new name that befitted their condition: “And she conceived again, and bare a daughter. **And God said unto him, Call her name Loruhamah: for I will no more have mercy upon the house of Israel;** but I will utterly take them away. But I will have mercy upon the house of Judah, and will save them

by the LORD their God, and will not save them by bow, nor by sword, nor by battle, by horses, nor by horsemen. **Now when she had weaned Loruhamah, she conceived, and bare a son. Then said God, Call his name Loammi: for ye are not my people, and I will not be your God.”**(Hosea 2:6-9)

The seven churches (of Revelation 2-3), too, have significant names describing the condition of God’s people at different times. For example the name “**Philadelphia**”(Rev 3:7) of the sixth church means “**brotherly love**” for that’s how God’s people lived at that time.

Similarly, the name “**Loadicea**”(Rev 3:14) for the seventh and last church not only signify “**people declaring judgment**” but also that the same people entrusted with the judgement message are “**lukewarm**”. They are “**neither cold nor hot**”. It being the last church of the seven to finish the gospel, and yet be the most destitute of all the seven,

the Seventh Day Adventist Church is therefore in a very dangerous position, the only church of the seven that receives no commendation from Jesus.

Of this Church Christ says, **“I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth. Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked: I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see.”**(Rev 3:15-18)

Her spiritual pride has blinded her from seeing her degraded condition. And unless she repents, God will spue her out of His Mouth.

But since Christ said, **“And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.”**(Matthew 24:14), and since John also **“...saw another angel come down from heaven, having great power; and the earth was lightened with his glory. And he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird.”** And also **“..heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues. For her sins have reached unto heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities.”**(Rev 18:1,2,4,5), then it’s very obvious that the gospel message will be completed and the multitudes will be gathered from Babylon in the Loud cry.

But that work is not going to be completed by the

Loadicean Church, for she has **“sadly failed to meet the expectations of her redeemer”** and she’s **“daily being converted to the world”**(COL 315)

But since she’s the last church, and that God is not going to form another, then the logical conclusion is that **she must go through a thorough revival and reformation to move from her current state to another glorious state that will accomplish the gospel work.** Indeed **“...the days of purification of the church are hastening on apace.** God will have a people **pure and true.** In the mighty sifting soon to take place we shall be better able to **measure the strength of Israel.** The signs reveal that the time is near when the Lord will manifest that His fan is in His hand, **and He will thoroughly purge His floor.”**(5T 79.4)

When this **thorough cleansing** has been accomplished, then it is that, **“Clad in the armor of Christ ’ s righteousness, the church is to enter upon her final conflict.** ‘Fair as the moon, clear as

the sun, and terrible as an army with banners' (Song of Solomon 6:10), **she is to go forth into all the world, conquering and to conquer.**"(PK 725.2)

This great transformation, you see, **will require not only a change in the character but in the name of the church too.**

The Gospel Prophet writes, "For Zion's sake will I not hold my peace, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, **until the righteousness thereof go forth as brightness, and the salvation thereof as a lamp that burneth.** And the Gentiles shall see thy righteousness, and all kings thy glory: and **thou shalt be called by a new name, which the mouth of the LORD shall name.** Thou shalt also be a crown of glory in the hand of the LORD, and a royal diadem in the hand of thy God. Thou shalt no more be termed Forsaken; **neither shall thy land any more be termed Desolate: but thou shalt be called Hephzibah, and thy land Beulah: for the LORD delighteth in thee, and thy land**

shall be married.”(Isaiah 62:1-4)

God, you see, is not going to rest or keep quite **until righteousness and the light of Salvation goes forth from the Church to the world**. When this happens, the gentiles (those in Babylon) will see this light of salvation (the loud cry message) and come out of the false systems of worship (Rev 18:4, Isa 66:19-20). This **new glorious phase of the church**, you notice, **will have its new name from the Lord**.

“But ye are they that forsake the **LORD**, that forget my holy mountain, that prepare a table for that troop, and that furnish the drink offering unto that number. Therefore will **I number you to the sword, and ye shall all bow down to the slaughter:** because when I called, ye did not answer; when I spake, ye did not hear; but did evil before mine eyes, and did choose that wherein I delighted not. Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD, **Behold, my servants shall eat, but ye shall be hungry: behold, my servants shall drink, but ye shall be thirsty:**

behold, my servants shall rejoice, but ye shall be ashamed: Behold, my servants shall sing for joy of heart, but ye shall cry for sorrow of heart, and shall howl for vexation of spirit. And **ye shall leave your name for a curse unto my chosen: for the Lord GOD shall slay thee, and call his servants by another name:**”(Isaiah 65:11-15)

How the Lord is going to bring about this transformation is clearly explained here. **Those who forsake the Lord (Adventists who are not serious, who flatter themselves that they are God's people) are to be numbered to the sword, the slaughter during the purification of the church.**

Says Inspiration, “**Many, I saw, were flattering themselves that they were good Christians, who have not a single ray of light from Jesus. They know not what it is to be renewed by the grace of God. They have no living experience for themselves in the things of God. And I saw that the Lord was whetting His sword in heaven to cut them down.**

Oh, that every lukewarm professor could realize the clean work that God is about to make among His professed people!.”(1T 189.2)

And when the “servants”, even “**the servants of Our God**”(Rev 7:3,4), the sealed ones, shall match on rejoicing, **these unfaithful Christians in the Loadicean church shall be ashamed.** And upto this time of purification, they are both called **the Loadicean Church**, the church that is hypocritical, but the Lord says that when these unfaithful members are numbered to the slaughter (slain - Isa 65:12,15, read Ezk 9), **this denominational name ends, for the character of the church changes.** The church that remains with “pure and true” servants will **then be called by another name, befitting her condition during the final outpouring of the latter rain of Pentecostal power.** Thus, by this purified Church, **the Lord’s name** will be sounded throughout the world to bring about the end(Matthew 24:14)

“For he will finish the work, and cut it short in righteousness: because a short work will the Lord make upon the earth.”(Rom 9:28)

Then, and only then, can we expect Christ to appear and fetch his own.

Meeting the Lord, Receiving the New Name.

“Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. **I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.**”(John 14:1-3)

Christ has promised that He will surely come again for His people. At the time of His coming, we read,

“And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war. His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; **and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself.**”(Rev 19:12)

Notice that after His work as our High Priest, Christ will enter the new phase of His work (see Dan 7:14). So by the time He comes to fetch his own, **He bears a new name which no man knows except Himself.** This is confirmed further by the Revelator,

“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)

This new name of Jesus is logically describing one of his characteristics or work at that time, and the fact that no man will know that name except Christ Himself shows that **this particular characteristic or phase of His work can't be given to someone else.** It will be His alone.

Now to the overcomer, Christ says,

“To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the hidden manna, **and will give him a white stone, and in the stone a new name written,** which no man knoweth saving he that receiveth it.”(Rev 2:17)

When the saints of all the ages are gathered at Jesus' feet, **and the time is no more; When they literally stand face to face with Jesus and see eternity in it's beauty, then it is that each one of them shall be given a New Name, the name that will befit their state of victory of every trial and**

temptation. Though the devil brought temptations upon them, yet “they **overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.**”(Rev 12:11)

And the statement “**no man knoweth saving he that receiveth it**” shows that since this new name will correspond with **each saint’s victory or character which can’t be shared**, so the new name can only belong or known to its owner. Character, you see, isn’t transferrable. None are saved in groups.

“And 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.** And there shall be no night there; and they need no candle, neither light of the sun; **for the Lord God giveth them light: and they shall reign for ever and ever.**”(Rev 22:3-5)

Thus shall they be eternally saved. And the name of God (that is His Character) shall ever be in their foreheads, their minds. As kings and queens, they shall ever reign with the Lord.

Now is our time to understand that to live like Jesus is all that matters. **“It is a solemn thing to die, but a far more solemn thing to live. Every thought and word and deed of our lives will meet us again. What we make of ourselves in probationary time, that we must remain to all eternity. Death brings dissolution to the body, but makes no change in the character. The coming of Christ does not change our characters; it only fixes them forever beyond all change.”**(LDE 236.2)

Our duty, therefore, is to make sure that our names (our identity) are retained in the book of life, for only those whose names shall be left in the book of life shall be delivered(Daniel 12:1). None other will.

May the Lord Help His People.

WhatsApp: +260764198019