

Handout 1: Genesis Lesson 17

Examples in Scripture where a king changed the name of a man as a sign of his change in destiny:

1. God changed Abraham and Sarah's names to signify a change in destiny as the father of a future nation (Gen 17:5), and as the mother of kings (Gen 17:15-16).
2. God changed Jacob's name to Israel to signify his change in destiny as one who struggled against God and as the father of the nation of the twelve tribes of Israel (Gen 32:29).
3. Pharaoh changed Joseph's name to show his change in destiny from Hebrew slave to Vizier of Egypt.
4. When Pharaoh Necho returned from his northern military conquest that made him master of Syria and the Levant, he captured King Jehoahaz of Judah (609 BC). He made Eliakim son of Josiah king in his place, changing Eliakim's name to Jehoiakim to signify that Judah's king was now a vassal of Egypt (2 Chr 23:31-35).
5. The Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon conquered Jerusalem and deposed King Jehoiachin (March 16th, 597 BC). He placed Mattaniah on the throne of Judah instead, changing his name to Zedekiah, signifying that Judah's king was now a vassal of Babylon (2 Chr 24:10-17).
6. King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon made Daniel of Judah a minister of his court and changed his name to Belteshazzar (Dan 4:1-5).
7. Jesus renamed the Apostle Simon, calling him in Aramaic "Kepha," which means "Rock" (in Greek = "Petros") to signify his change in destiny from an Apostle to Jesus' chief minister, the Vicar of the Kingdom of Jesus Christ (Mt 16:18).

Significant words:

- The theme of this part of the narrative is "life" versus "death": *there there are supplies in Egypt. Go down and procure some for us there, so that we may survive (live*) and not die* (repeated three times: Gen 42:2, 43:8; 47:19).
- three days/ third day: "third day" = Genesis 34:25; 40:40; 42:18; "three days" = Genesis 40:12, 13, 16, 18, 19; 42:17. Corinthians 15:3-8: *For I delivered to you as of first importance which I also received, that Christ died for our sins and in accordance with the scriptures, that he was buried, then he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures...*
- The name "Manesseh" in Hebrew is *Menashsheh* and is connected to the Hebrew word "to forget", *nashshani*. "Ephraim" in Hebrew is the same: *Ephraim*; the Hebrew word for "fruitful" is *hiphrani* (NJB, page 69, note "g").
- The word "spies" is found seven times, as an accusation and as a denial of the accusation in Genesis 42:9, 11, 14, 16, 30, 31, and 34:
- '*asam* = guilt/punishment: Genesis 42:21: *And they said to one another, 'clearly, we are being punished for what we did to our brother...' This verse is better translated: 'We are guilty and being punished...' Dr. Waltke writes: "The Hebrew word '*asam* refers to both guilt and to its punishment. The two are inseparable" (Waltke, page 547).*
- "Money/silver" is the key word that will be mentioned twenty times from Genesis 42:25-45:22