

Our Covenant Relationships Exchanging Names

General

- Person's name represents their identity, responsibilities & authority

God's Covenant with Adam & Eve

- no scriptural reference to name change?

God's Covenant with Noah

- no scriptural reference to name change?

God's Covenant with Abraham

- Gen 17:5, "No longer will you be called Abram; your name will be Abraham, for I will make you a father of many nations."
 - What name change occurred?
 - God's name in OT was YHWH
- Gen 17:15 (God includes Abraham's wife in covenant), "As for Sarai your wife, you are no longer to call her Sarai; her name will be Sarah."
 - What name change occurred?
- Ex 3:6 (speaking to the Israelites), "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham"

God's First Covenant with Israel

- Lev 26:12 (God speaking to the Israelites, describing the covenant), "I will walk among you and be your God, and you will be my people."
 - What titles do God and the Israelites receive in this covenant?

God's Second Covenant with Israel

- Deut 26:17-18 (Moses describing covenant to Israelites), "You have declared this day that the Lord is your God and that you will walk in his ways, that you will keep his decrees, commands and laws, and that you will obey him. And the Lord has declared this day that you are his people, his treasured possession as he promised, and that you are to keep all his commands."
 - What titles do God and the Israelites receive in this covenant?
- Deut 32:6 (Song of Moses), "Is this the way you repay the Lord, O foolish and unwise people? Is he not your Father, your Creator, who made you and formed you?"

David and Jonathan's Covenant

- no scriptural reference to name change?

God's Covenant with David

- Ps 89:26-27 "He will call out to me, 'You are my Father, my God, the Rock my Savior.' I will also appoint him my firstborn, the most exalted of the kings of the earth."
 - What do the terms "Father" and "firstborn" tell us?

God's New Covenant with Christians

- Mt 8:20 (Jesus speaking), "Jesus replied, 'Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head.'"
 - What title does Jesus use to describe himself?
 - What does this term emphasize about Jesus' identity?
 - Jesus came to earth to initiate the new covenant between God and man
- Scripture applies several terms to us
 - most obvious one: Christian
 - Are you a "little Christ"?
 - Ex 20:7 (NIV), "You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God."
 - Ex 20:7 (KJV), "Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain."
 - "use" or "take" (Heb, *nasa*): lift up, take, carry
 - "name" (Heb, *sem, shem*): name, renown (fame, reputation)
 - "vain" (Heb, *shav*): (1) vanity (futility, worthlessness, no result or use); (2) nothing (empty); (3) falseness (deceit)
 - What does I mean if I say, "All my effort was in vain"?
 - What are some situations in which one person legally takes another's name?
 - If we call ourselves Christians yet refuse to fulfill our covenant responsibilities, have we not taken God's name in vain?
 - other terms
 - family, sons, heirs, brothers
 - body of Christ
 - disciples
 - servants, slaves
 - saints
 - we've had a name change; these terms apply to us only because we're in covenant with God

- Having God's name
 - represents shared identity, authority & responsibility
 - "in God's name" or "in Jesus' name": using his authority and power, as if he were doing it himself

God's New Covenant with Israel

- Jer 31:33, "I will be their God, and they will be my people."

Marriage

- Marriage covenant is excellent example of shared identity, responsibility & authority:
 - you're no longer just an individual
 - your public identity now includes spouse
 - your family & friends think of you together because your union gives you a common identity

Blessing

- As a Christian, may you faithfully share Jesus' identity and become increasingly like him.