



“And thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.”

Matthew 1v21

# Names

Away back, during the Middle Ages, people lived in small village communities. They did not travel much and so there was no need for middle names or a surname - just a first name. As people began to increase in number, surnames then became used more widely. There are four main groups of surnames. See which category your surname falls into.



**Occupation:**  
Baker, Smith (blacksmith), Cook, or Taylor were all names derived from the work they did.

**Location:**  
Meadows, Townsend, Hill or Woods were names given to people because of where they lived.

**Description:**  
Little, Young, Stout or Strong were all names derived from what a person looked like.

**Connection:**  
Some people were named simply after their father, with names like Davidson (son of David), Jackson or Peterson. Many surnames also begin with O', Fitz, Mac or Mc; these are old Gaelic or French terms that mean “son of” or “grandson of”.

Now, whenever you turn to the Bible, you will discover that God has placed

great emphasis on the meaning of names because they, very often, reveal something of the nature of the person called by that particular name. However, over and above that, God has placed an even greater importance upon His own name and that of His only begotten Son, the Lord Jesus Christ.

Isaiah, telling us of the birth of the Saviour, said, “For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given” (Isaiah 9:6). Now, whenever a baby is born into a family, there usually is great deal of excitement about what to call the new-born child. However, whenever the Saviour was born, Mary had no problem in choosing a name for her son because she had already been instructed as to what his name would be. Matthew’s Gospel says, “and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins” (Matthew 1:21). The name JESUS simply means ‘Saviour’.

Boys and girls, if ever you are to get to heaven some day and escape the punishment that awaits you because of your sins, you must come to the Lord Jesus in repentance and seek him for forgiveness. The Bible says in Acts 4v12, “Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.” I trust that you have called upon the name of the Lord Jesus and that he is your Saviour today. ■



THERE ARE MANY NAMES IN THE BIBLE. USING THE BIBLE REFERENCES PROVIDED, FIND THE ANSWERS TO THE QUESTIONS BELOW. REARRANGE ALL THE LETTERS IN THE COLOURED BOXES TO SPELL ANOTHER IMPORTANT NAME.

Who did Obadiah meet and recognise along the way?  
1 Kings 18:7

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Who was offered half Ahasuerus' kingdom?  
Esther 7:2

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Who did according to all that his father had done?  
2 Kings 15:32-34

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What was the name of Timothy's mother?  
2 Timothy 1:5

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Who prayed and sang with Paul at midnight in prison?  
Acts 16:25

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ANSWER: