

The Mustard Seed

Congratulations

Oct. Birthdays

Phil Marner 87 on October 1st
Ed D. Miller, 90 on October 10th
Lynn Brenneman, 94 on October 11th
Fern Bachmann, 88 on October 16th

Oct. Anniversaries

Sheldon & Miriam Nisly, 54th on October 6
Lloyd & Joyce Bender, 54th on October 12
Phil & Dorothy Marner, 67th on October 16

Why not Jedidiah?

Dawn Wyse

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Why not Jedidiah?

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My brain has nooks and crannies where thoughts get stuck. Not important thoughts, but these thoughts keep coming to my mind repeatedly. For example, one that I can't seem to let go of is the idea that everyone actually has the same favorite color. It's just that we don't see the same colors alike. For example, the color I see is green might be the same color that Curt sees as orange and Jonathan sees as purple. Don't get me wrong, I fully realize this is a useless idea, but I still have spent quite a bit of time thinking about it over the years. The random thought I have spent some time on lately is this: Why do we know King Solomon as King Solomon if God named him Jedidiah?

2 Samuel 12:24-25 states, ²⁴ **Then David comforted his wife, Bathsheba, and went in to her and lay with her, and she bore a son, and he called his name Solomon. And the Lord loved him** ²⁵ **and sent a message by Nathan the prophet. So he called his name Jedidiah, because of the Lord.**" For some reason, everytime I come across this passage it bugs me. If God gave you a name, don't you think you'd use it? Abram and Sarai, switched to Abraham and Sarah. Jacob used the name Israel. Though I must admit that scripture flipped and flopped back and forth between Jacob and Israel. Cephas had his name changed to Peter by Jesus. Peter appears to have embraced his new name. It just seems like it would be great to have been named by God until I get to the book of Hosea. God told Hosea to name one of his children No Mercy and another child Not My People. Can you imagine how difficult it would be to tell someone your name? Then how uncomfortable it would be if you were asked why your parents named you that way and had to say God told my dad that was what my name was to be. Unimaginable! But at the end of my thoughts on these names I come to the conclusion that God being God had his always perfect reason for why He chose each particular name. Either I believe God knows best or I don't really believe God is God. So I believe God knows best.

And I can kind of see the value of many of the names God gave. Hosea's children's names were used to teach the Israelites what they needed to learn. Abraham and Sarah's names showed a reason to trust the hope God promised to His people. Peter was a name he would grow into . . . becoming the rock Christ would build His church upon. Israel showed the change in heart Jacob had towards God. These names are used to reveal to us more about God and His relationships with His people. But then comes Jedidiah. . .

God named him Jedidiah because He loved him. However, Jedidiah is mentioned only once as Jedidiah and numerous times as Solomon. I wonder if this is because Solomon had divided his loyalties away from God because of his earthly love for his wives or could it be as simple as his mother, Bathsheba, wanted him to be called Solomon. I may never know the answer.

Then I wonder what name God would give me if He would give me a different one during my time on this earth. If He did, would I fully embrace that name and do my best to live up to that name in the way He intended for me to do? Then I remember that in Revelation 2 we are told that God will eventually, if we are faithfully victorious, give us a white stone with a new name that will be known only to us. That is the name I need to keep in mind as I strive to faithfully follow God's plan for my life. Wonder what my name will be . . . probably not Jedidiah . . . He already gave that name to someone. Whatever it is, it will be the perfect name for me. As always, in pursuit

LOOKING A LITTLE DEEPER

1 Corinthians 12:4-11 (ESV)

⁴ Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; ⁵ and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; ⁶ and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone. ⁷ To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. ⁸ For to one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, ⁹ to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, ¹⁰ to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the ability to distinguish between spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. ¹¹ All these are empowered by one and the same Spirit, who apportions to each one individually as he wills.

1. Ask God to show you what He desires for you to see.
2. Read the passage at least three times.
3. Use a highlighter, crayon or colored pencil to mark like words that are repeated in the passage.
4. List out what words you saw multiple times. Write the number of times beside the words.

5. Why do you think these words are repeated? Ask God why.

6. Can you see the Trinity in verses 4 to 6? John Owens suggests in his book *Communion with God* that Paul purposely did this so God's people would see the distribution of gifts and grace to the saints are from each of the Persons of the Godhead. Do you agree with John Owens? Why or why not?

7. Consider what God has shown you in His Word today. Thank Him for walking through this passage with you, showing you new things or reminding you of things He's shown you previously.