

J U L Y 1 6 2 0 2 1



On the eighth day, when it was time to circumcise the child, He was named Jesus, the name the angel had given Him before He was conceived. Luke 2:21 (NIV)

Thought for today...

“What’s in a name?”, asks the character Juliet, from William Shakespeare’s play ‘Romeo and Juliet’.

If you are a parent, perhaps you agonised over choosing the right name for your child, or maybe the choice was a simple one because a particular name has been used in your family for generations. Although the process for naming a child may differ according to culture or belief, at the core of most ceremonies held to present the newborn to the world, lies the parents hopes that the dreams and blessings they wish to bestow on their child, will be conveyed through the name that they have chosen.



“... and you shall call His name Jesus...”

Today, many websites offer suggestions as to the meaning of given names. My name ~ Carol ~ is said to mean ‘strong’, ‘warrior’, ‘song of joy’. There are those who will say that my name accurately reflects my personality, whilst others may disagree!

1 Samuel 25:2-38 tells the story of a man named Nabal, the meaning of whose name is said to be ‘foolish’. He lived up to his name and died as a result.

In Matthew 1:20-21, prior to the birth of Jesus, we are told that an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. The angel not only gave Joseph the name that was to be given to the child that Mary was carrying, but also the reason why. **“And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.”** (NKJV). Jesus, declared as Saviour of the world even before His earthly birth.

There are many people in this world whose names are considered to carry weight and power, yet there is no name other than the name of Jesus, by which the dead are raised, blind eyes see, the sick are healed, the broken are made whole and captives are set free. At the mention of the name Jesus, chains are broken, the lost are found, sinners are redeemed and demons tremble and flee!

So many of our forerunner brothers and sisters have left us testimony, of the power that is found in the name of Jesus. Jesus said: **“And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it.”** John 14:13-14 (KJV).



Then the seventy returned with joy, saying, **“Lord, even the demons are subject to us in Your name.”** Luke 10:17 (NKJV).

Then Peter said, **“Silver and gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk.”** Acts 3:6 (NKJV).

In the mouths of those who believe, trust and follow Him, the name of Jesus is powerful. Use it!