

A NEW NAME

ISAIAH 62.1,2

INTRODUCTION:

1. Christendom has been denominated by a variety of religious names, but where did the name "Christian" originate?
2. Isaiah is arguably contains the most Messianic prophecies, and through inspiration he speaks of the coming of a new name.
3. This fascinating prophecy reveals a detailed account of events that would occur in the time just after the death of Christ. Consider:

I. "RIGHTEOUSNESS GOES FORTH AS BRIGHTNESS"

- A. Though it suffers God's wrath, salvation would go forth from Jerusalem. (Isa. 62.1; Mic. 4.2; Luke 24.47)
- B. The prophecy is fully realized on the day of Pentecost.
 1. The apostles were to wait in Jerusalem for the gift of the Holy Spirit promised by Christ. (Acts 1.1-8; 2.1-4)
 2. From Jerusalem, speaking to a group of devout Jews, Peter delivers the first gospel sermon. (Acts 2.36-38)

II. "GENTILES SHALL SEE YOUR RIGHTEOUSNESS"

- A. The gospel was made available exclusively to the Jews.
 1. Salvation was extended "to the Jew first" (Rom. 1.16)
 2. It was not until the Jews rejected the gospel, that it became available to the Gentiles. (Acts 13.26,27,46-48)
- B. The fulfillment of Isaiah's prophecy is realized in the conversion of Cornelius. (Acts 10,11)
 1. Peter meets with Cornelius. (Acts 10.28,34-37, 44-48)
 2. Some disciples objected. (Acts 11.1-3, 17,18)

III. "YOU SHALL BE CALLED BY A NEW NAME"

- A. The gospel was presented in Antioch. (Acts 11.19-25)
 1. **ACTS 11.21:** "And a great number believed..."
 2. As a preacher for the Gentiles, Paul was summoned to go to Antioch. (Gal. 2.7,8; Acts 11.22-25)
- B. **ACTS 11.26:** "... the disciples were first called Christian..."
 1. Appointed by God. (Isa. 62.2; Matt. 2.12; Acts 10.22)
 2. The implementation of Christianity had not reached its fulfillment until Cornelius. (Matt. 28.19; Rom. 1.16)

CONCLUSION: The enemies are real. The plan is clear.

NORTHSIDE CHURCH OF CHRIST

2424 McCarran St. ♦ North Las Vegas, NV ♦ 89030
 Phone: (702) 642-3141 Email: Pruitt@nlvchurchofchrist.com
www.nlvchurchofchrist.com

MEETING TIMES:

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS :	9:00AM	
SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP:	9:50AM	
SUNDAY EVENING WORSHIP:	6:00PM	
WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE CLASS	7:30PM	

*Worshipping
 God "in Spirit
 and truth"
 (John 4.23)*

JULY 26TH, 2009

THE HOUSEHOLD OF GOD

This is a metaphor describing the church as the family of God. "But in case I am delayed, I write so that you may know how one ought to conduct himself in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and support of the truth" (1 Tim. 3:15 see also Heb. 3:6). God is the Father of His household (Matt. 23:9) and Christ is a Son over the House of God. "But Christ was faithful as a Son over His house whose house we are..." (Heb. 3:6).

What are we talking about? God's family, the church! Those who have been obedient to the truth are God's children (Gal. 3:26-27), His household, His family, His church. God has no children outside His family; hence, those outside the church are not members of the family of God. Ephesians 2:19 says, "Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners but fellow-citizens with the saints, and of the household of God."

Think, for a moment, of the family relationship or tie. The well-ordered or close-knit family is one that has respect for the family name, they would do nothing to damage it in any way. So it is with God's children. Our life should always be in keeping with that royal family name we wear (Eph. 5:6; 1 Peter 1:14). Also think of the love that holds the family together. Love will cause us to work for a brother or sister to the uttermost and to see past the faults to the good. We are to love our brethren (1 Jno. 4:7); this love is explained to us in the thirteenth chapter of the First Corinthian letter. How sad it is to see families torn asunder; but what a sad spectacle indeed to see the household of God torn asunder with division, strife and confusion! On and on we could go with comparisons of the human family with God's spiritual family or house - the church of God.

-adapted

GREAT BIBLE PROPHECIES

2 PETER 1.21

INTRODUCTION:

1. While often predictive, prophecy comes when the word of God is revealed through miraculous means.
2. One cannot read the Old Testament without being inundated with prophecies concerning the coming of a Christ and the church.
3. Great Bible Prophecies show their full realization in the person of Jesus Christ.

I. CONFIRMATION OF THE PROPHETIC WORD

- A. Prophecies concerning Christ, His church, and salvation through the gospel were a mystery. (1 Pet. 1.10-12)
 1. Through signs, wonders and inspiration, the mystery was revealed. (Luke 7.20-23; Isa. 42.6,7; Eph. 3.3-5)
 2. All Messianic prophecies were fulfilled! (Acts 3.18-24)
- B. One would be hard pressed to find a better way to verify inspiration than through prophecy. (2 Pet. 1.19)
 1. Some prophecy falsehoods. (Jer. 28.9-11,15-17)
 2. That Christ has fulfilled every prophecy proves divine inspiration. (Matt. 5.18; Acts 3.18; 2 Pet. 1.16-18)
 3. Therefore, we would *“do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place...”* (2 Pet. 1.19; Heb. 2.1-3)

II. PROPHECY IS OF NO PRIVATE INTERPRETATION

- A. **2 PETER 1.20:** *“knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation”*
 1. Not our interpretation, but the prophet’s own invention.
 2. **2 PETER 1.21:** *“for prophecy never came by the will of man, but...by the Holy Spirit.”* (cf. 1 Cor. 2.10-13)
- B. The implication of this statement must not be misunderstood.
 1. A Christian can understand the word of God without an “educated clergy” (Acts 8.30,31; Eph. 5.17; Phil. 2.12)
 2. Christians are expected to “interpret” the word of God.
 - a) The Levites *“gave the sense”* (Neh. 8.8)
 - b) But beware of misinterpretations. (2 Pet. 3.16)
- C. To understand prophecy correctly, it takes diligent study! (2 Tim. 2.15; Acts 17.11)

CONCLUSION: God now speaks to us by His Son. (Heb. 1.1,2)

INVESTIGATE THE CHURCH OF CHRIST

The church of Christ is composed of those who are being saved. It is not a denomination. When a person hears the gospel of Christ, believes it with all sincerity, soberly repents of his sins, confesses Christ as the Son of God and is baptized (immersed in water) by the authority of Christ, God forgives that person all his past sins and seals him with the Holy Spirit. Such is the person considered in the Bible as being saved and added to the Lord's church, the body of Christ. And such is the person rightly called a Christian. Please, confirm all these things in Acts 2:36-47; 1 Cor. 12:13 and Acts 11:26.

God wants you to investigate the church of Christ, the church for which Jesus shed His blood and died. Satan, the deceiver of man from the beginning has created several and various counterfeit churches many of which seem to look in some aspects to be the church of Christ. In denominationalism, Satan has tried to portray the kingdom of Christ as being divided against itself (Matt. 12:25), but the truth is that Christ is never and can never be divided (1 Cor. 1:12,13). Like a counterfeit piece of money, which any reasonable person will reject, the Lord wants you to be careful that you do not get yourself stuck in counterfeit churches which exist in every place. Some of these counterfeit churches are very old and popular, while some are fairly old or young but popular too. Therefore, be careful!

Jesus Christ or His apostles did not start any denominations. And you don't read of a Roman Catholic disciple, a Methodist disciple, a Baptist disciple, a Pentecostal disciple or any sectarian disciple in your Bible. Do you? Also, Jesus Christ did not design His church to be shredded into denominations ruled by conflicting creeds. Even His apostles rose up boldly to expose and check those who Satan was using in their time to plant the seed of denominations. Please, read with sober reflection Jno. 17:20,21; 1 Cor. 1:10-13; and Rom. 16:17,18.

Remember, when you use your measuring tape to measure an object you accept the result without questioning. Will you not accept whatever the Bible tells you in all moral and spiritual matters, even much more readily because it affects your eternal destiny? God has given all men the Bible to enable them to identify the true church of Christ, so they can be saved from being trapped in counterfeit churches which deprive men of the true hope of eternal life. Start today to investigate the church of Christ. -adapted