

A Lord's Day Snippet!

Biblical And Southern Studies

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1 There is no name so sweet on earth,
no name so sweet in heaven,
the name before his wondrous birth
to Christ the Savior given.

Refrain:

We love to sing around our King,
and hail him blessed Jesus;
for there's no word ear ever heard
so dear, so sweet as "Jesus."

2 And when he hung upon the tree,
they wrote this name above him;
that all might see the reason we
forevermore must love him. [Refrain]

3 So now, upon his Father's throne,
almighty to release us
from sin and pains, he gladly reigns,
the Prince and Savior Jesus. [Refrain]

4 To Jesus ev'ry knee shall bow,
and ev'ry tongue confess him,
and we unite with saints in light,
our only Lord to bless him. [Refrain]

5 O Jesus, by that matchless name,
your grace shall fail us never;
today as yesterday the same,
you art the same forever. [Refrain]

George W. Bethune (1805-1862)

The Saving Name

"Thou shalt call his name JESUS."

Matthew 1:21; Luke 1:31

The Lord mandated the name of His eternal Son whom He sent into this world. This mandate was confirmed by the angel. *First*, Mary was to be unafraid as the one highly favored of the Lord among women. She had been espoused to Joseph of the house of

David, but before they came together, the angel said to her, "Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God. And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS." Then JESUS was described, "He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end." Mary in her virginity and unsurety asked of the angel, "How shall this be, seeing I know not a man?" The angel answered her, "The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God." *Second*, Joseph was told after Mary's conception what he was required to do by the Lord in regards to Mary and the male child conceived by the Holy Spirit. Then he received this directive from the Lord, "Thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins." What happened? Did Joseph rebel against God's administration? No, he was in compliance with God! "Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, behold, the virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us." What was Joseph's reaction? "Joseph being raised from sleep did as the angel of the Lord had bidden him, and took unto him his wife: And knew here not till she had brought forth her firstborn son; and he called his name JESUS."

There were nearby shepherds keeping their flocks during the night when JESUS was born, "And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord." They were then given directions on how to identify this, Saviour; He would be wearing swaddling clothes and lying in a manger. "Suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men." When the angels left them, they set out to Bethlehem to discover the baby Saviour. They quickly found Him and told what had just happened. Then the shepherds returned to their flocks from "glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them?" "And when eight days were accomplished for the circumcising of the child, his name was called JESUS, which was so named of the angel before he was conceived in the womb." Mary and Joseph were in one accord in naming the Christ child JESUS in conformity with the eternal God's requirement.

Truly there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved. God highly exalted Him and gave Him a name which is above all others, that at the name of JESUS every knee should bow, of things in heaven, of earth, and under the earth. Every tongue must eventually confess Him to the glory of God the Father.

The virgin birth affirmed the deity of JESUS, and the sinless humanity of JESUS. The meaning of the name JESUS was disclosed, “He shall save His people from their sins.” What a glorious assertion. He came to seek and save His people who were lost. He does not put them in a save-able state awaiting their verification of His salvation, He actually saves them. Paul told Timothy that JESUS came to save sinners for His name means “He shall save His people from their sins.” His salvation is effectual and not ineffectual. John recorded of JESUS “those that Thou gavest Me I have kept, and none of them is lost.” JESUS’ name stands for the certainty of the salvation of His people! “It is most true that Jesus saves His people from their sins—earth knows it, hell howls at it, and heaven chants it; time has seen it, and eternity shall reveal it” [Spurgeon].

C. H. Spurgeon explained that since the Father knew His Son perfectly when He required Him to be named JESUS; this was the most divinely appropriate name, “Rest assured, therefore, that it is *the best name* that He could bear. God would not have given Him a name of secondary value, or about which there would be a trace of dishonor. The name is the highest, brightest, and noblest of names; it is the glory of our Lord to be a Saviour.... JESUS is *the most appropriate name* that our Lord could receive. Of this we are quite certain, for the Father knew all about Him, and could name Him well. He knows much more about the Lord Christ than all saints and angels put together, for ‘No man knoweth the Son but the Father.’ ... Since infinite wisdom has selected it, we may be sure that it is *a name which must be true*, and must be verified by facts of no mean order. When we plead the name of JESUS before God, we bring Him back His own word, and appeal to Him by His own act and deed. Is not the name of JESUS to be viewed with reverential delight by each one of us, when we recollect whence it came.”