

Luke 2:21 and Other Passages

What's So Special about the Name of Jesus?

Services: **Saturday**, 12/31/16 at 7 PM & **Sunday**, 1/1/17 at 10 AM

Church Year: Circumcision and Name of Jesus

Our Regular Schedule Resumes on January 8 & 9

Introduction: Dear friends in Jesus, *the Christ of Christmas*: **Now** we live on earth, *but heaven is our goal*. Even though we have heard about some of the many ways to heaven – such as ▶being good, ▶helping others, ▶giving money, and ▶going to church, *we are so blessed to know this precious truth from God's Word*: **Even though our sins have condemned us, Jesus' living and dying have saved us!**

This sermon includes ➡Jesus' circumcision, ➡Jesus' naming, and ➡some of Jesus other many names. As we leave 2016 behind and begin 2017, may today's focus on Jesus fill us with ▶peace, ▶assurance, ▶gratitude, and ▶purpose!

Today's text: ^{ESV} **Luke 2:21** "And at the end of eight days, when he was circumcised, he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb."

1. **Circumcision**: "...God said to Abraham... 'Every male among you shall be circumcised.... it shall be a sign of the covenant [*the unbreakable promise*] between me and you. He who is eight days old among you shall be circumcised" (Gen. 17:9-12 ESV).
 - a. If you dare, think about that sign: Males had *multiple daily reminders*, even husbands and wives had *many reminders* about the Promised

Messiah! Then the Son of God was “**born under the law**” (Gal. 4:4 ESV), so Joseph and Mary, *being faithful OT believers*, had the Babe of Bethlehem circumcised on the eighth day.

- b. Think about all the blood pointing to the cross:
The **first drop** came from the animals God killed to make the clothes for Adam and Eve (Gen. 3); **rivers of blood** came from all of the Passover lambs; and **holy blood** from Jesus’ circumcision!
- c. Some thoughts on 6, 7, and 8:
 - i. The Son of God created in 6 days (Su – Fr); Palm Sunday to Good Friday is 6 days; Jesus was on His cross for 6 hours, 9 to 3.
 - ii. As the Son of God rested from creating on day 7, so He rested in the tomb on day 7.
 - iii. As there were 8 persons on the ark, so circumcision was commanded on day 8 and Jesus rose on day 8. Now, *by God’s grace*, we are baptized into Christ, thus ✦forgiven, ✦alive, and ✦united to Him!

2. **Name:** Even though most parents wrestle with what name to give, *Joseph and Mary were in complete agreement*. Since **God the Father** had communicated to both of them (Luke 1:31; Matt. 1:21) *through an angel* to name Him **Jesus**, *His name was Jesus*, which means “**the Lord saves**” (Explanation of the Small Catechism, 120). Jesus came to save / rescue / deliver us from our sins! Christ (*Messiah in Hebrew*) is Jesus’ title, not His name; it means *the Anointed*. *When Jesus was baptized, He was anointed by the Holy Spirit to be our Savior!*

- a. The OT Joshua: His name in Hebrew is *Yeshua*. He took over for Moses, and *was used by the LORD to lead the people into the Promised Land!*
- b. The NT Joshua: *I'm talking about Jesus!* His name in Hebrew is also *Yeshua*; Hebrew is the language of the OT, while Greek is the language of the NT. Jesus in Greek is *Iesous*; He *was used by the LORD to open the way to the Ultimate Promised Land, thus to heaven!*
3. **Some Other Names**: Our Savior is referred to by many names; those names tell us who He is and what He would do / has done to greatly bless us!

- a. ^{NAS} **Isaiah 7:14** “...a virgin will be with child and bear a son, and she will call His name **Immanuel.**” // That means *God with us!* Wow, what an ♦awesome, ♦kind, and ♦loving God we have; He not only *came among us*, but He *became like us* in order to eternally save us!
- b. ^{NAS} **Isaiah 9:6** “...His name will be called **Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace.**” // Those are four *compound* names, with each including a **divine** and a **human** characteristic:

Divine

Wonderful

God

Human

Father

Prince of

Human

Counselor

Hero

Divine

Forever

Peace

- c. ^{NAS} **Luke 1:78** “Because of the tender mercy of our God... the Sunrise from on high shall visit us...” // Think about darkness; then the importance of the sunrise; here the Son of God will come like a *spiritual sunrise* to shine on those in *the darkness of eternal death* in order to give them *the gift of eternal life!*
- d. ^{NAS} **Luke 2:25** “...Simeon... was righteous and devout, looking for the consolation of Israel...” // Thus the *comfort of Israel!* They were sinners, *and for those who knew it*, they needed the Promised Messiah to save them, *comfort* them. Even now, *by God’s work through His Word*, let us *be sorry*; then let us *be comforted through Jesus!*

Conclusion: Through knowing Jesus, let us be at peace – *our sins are forgiven*; let us be sure of heaven – *Jesus’ finished work has opened the door*; let us be filled with gratitude – *our heavenly Father will supply us with all that we need*; and let us go forward in obedience to God’s Word – *confident that His ways are always best!*

Let us pray: Dear Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, help us to leave 2016 with peace and faithfully proceed through 2017 with *our eyes seeing Your Word*, *our hearts trusting Your promises*, and *our actions bringing Your glory!*

And all God’s people said: **Amen!**