



Acts

3:16

April 19 2018

ACTS OF THE APOSTLES

This book is a history of early Christianity, covering a period of about 30 years during which the church grew from a group of 120 people in Jerusalem into a group of thousands in Jerusalem with house churches and believers in other cities, and the message of Jesus spread despite arrest, persecution and executions, until it was preached openly in Rome.

ACTS

Chapters 1-5

the original Christian community in Jerusalem

Chapters 6-12

early missionary work in nearby cities
and the first outreach to Gentiles (by Peter)

Chapters 13-20

Paul's three missionary journeys

Chapters 21-26

Paul's arrest and defenses before trial

ACTS 3

Acts 3 describes an encounter

between Peter and John and a lame beggar.

*In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth,
rise up and walk!*

While the former cripple dances about,

Peter seizes the opportunity

on the steps leading into the Temple

to preach a sermon about Jesus,

in whose name the man has just been healed.

*By faith in the name of Jesus,
the man you see here has become strong;
and you know how lame he used to be!*

*It was the name of Jesus, and the faith that
Jesus inspired, that gave him this gift of
completeness in front of you all.*

Acts 3:16

NAMES

Names are fascinating –
an auditory key to our self recognition.

Hearing your name spoken activates unique functions
in parts of the brain associated with your sense of self
and self-referential behavior.

A typical child will recognize and respond
to his or her name by age six months

NAMES

Names are fascinating –
an auditory key to our self recognition.

You can hear someone calling your name
across a crowded and noisy room.

Your brain will react to hearing your name
even when your body is under sedation.

NAMES

When God hands out some commandments, he starts with three meant to maintain in the Israelites a reverence and holy awe of God.

1. You shall have no other gods before me.
2. You shall not make idols.
3. "You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain"

NAMES

As David collected materials for the temple he ordered the leaders in Israel to assist Solomon in building it, to create a sanctuary for Lord and a location for the ark of the covenant in a temple "built for the name of Jehovah."

NAMES

The Psalms recognize the power of names.

How excellent is your name through all the earth!

O God, save me by your name.

And we still recognize this in songs of praise.

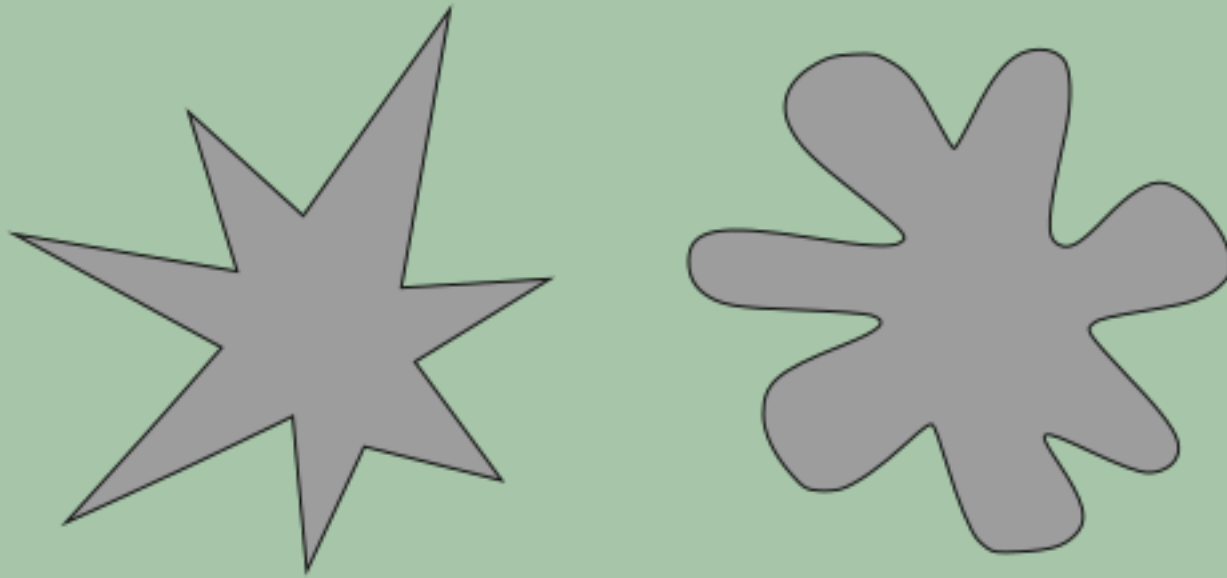
All hail the power of Jesus' name! Let angels prostrate fall.

Your name is a light that the shadows can't deny.

Your name cannot be overcome.

NAMES

A name is an identity with associated qualities.



Which of these shapes is **bouba** and which is **kiki** ?

NAMES

One study demonstrates that people can correctly guess the name of a stranger from a list of 4 or 5 options with 30-40% accuracy.

This result has been replicated across several different countries and cultures.

One research group created a facial analysis algorithm that guesses names with 55-60% accuracy.

NAMES

Maybe we really affect the physical, psychological and emotional development of someone via his/her name.

But should that be a surprise?

That's what people have done for a long time, perpetuating "family names" through generations or naming a child after someone special.

NAMES

*Now out of the ground the Lord God had formed every beast
of the field and every bird of the heavens
and brought them to the man
to see what he would call them.*

*And whatever the man called every living creature,
that was its name.*

NAMES

*God also said to Moses,
"Say this to the people of Israel,
'The Lord, the God of your fathers,
the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac,
and the God of Jacob,
has sent me to you.'
This is my name forever,
and thus I am to be remembered
throughout all generations."*

NAMES

Even in computer programming,
we think of the name of a variable
as synonymous with the value itself.

I have noticed that students
using variable names like `n1`, `n2`, `n3a`, `n3b`
struggle to find logical errors that become apparent
with names like `sum`, `count`, `average`

AUTHORITY

To speak in someone's name means to act in their place,
with delegated authority.

"Each new Steward indeed took office with the oath 'to hold
rod and rule in the name of the king, until he shall return.' "

– J.R.R. Tolkien, *The Return of the King*

AUTHORITY

To speak in someone's name means to act in their place,
with delegated authority.

Prophets spoke in the name of God.

*"But a prophet who presumes to speak in my name
anything I have not commanded, or a prophet who
speaks in the name of other gods, is to be put to death."*

AUTHORITY

To speak in someone's name means to act in their place,
with delegated authority.

Jesus would simply say, "Get up and walk."
He acted on his own authority.

But his disciples are delegated power by the Spirit.
In one story, Peter tells a man, "Jesus Christ heals you."

THE NAME OF JESUS

In the events narrated in Acts 3,
when Peter and John are brought before the high priest,
Peter makes sure the rulers hear that
"there is no other name under heaven given among men
by which we must be saved."

And after deliberation, Peter and John are commanded
"not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus."

THE NAME OF JESUS

John said that he wrote his gospel

"that you may believe that Jesus is Messiah, the Son of God,
and that by believing you may have life in his name."

"Rise and be baptized and wash away your sins,
calling on his name."

"... you were washed, you were sanctified, you were
justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ ... "

THE NAME OF JESUS

"Therefore God exalted him to the highest place
and gave him the name that is above every name,
that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father."

YOUR NAME

Through your life, you will likely bear many titles,
labels that identify your role or function:
systems analyst, network administrator, manager,
professor, doctor, coach, software developer III,
author, owner, boss, employee, paranoid in chief,
galactice viceroy of research excellence

But titles are not names —
they say what you do, not who you are.

YOUR NAME

You were given a name at birth.

You may like it or not, but you didn't choose it.

As an adult, you might change your legal name
or go by your middle name or a variant,
but it takes a long time to hear it as your name.

YOUR NAME

But there's another name
that you have been given.

A name of power, of delegated authority.

A name that calls you to strive and achieve,
to pursue a life in the example set for you.

A name of joy and life, no matter what happens to you.

YOUR NAME

*"If you are insulted for the name of Christ,
you are blessed,
because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you.*

...

*if you suffer as a **Christian**,
do not be ashamed,
but praise God that you bear that **name**."*

*By faith in the name of Jesus,
the man you see here has become strong;
and you know how lame he used to be!*

*It was the name of Jesus, and the faith that
Jesus inspired, that gave him this gift of
completeness in front of you all.*

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NEXT WEEK

*They leave a trail
of wreckage and misery.*

Romans 3:16