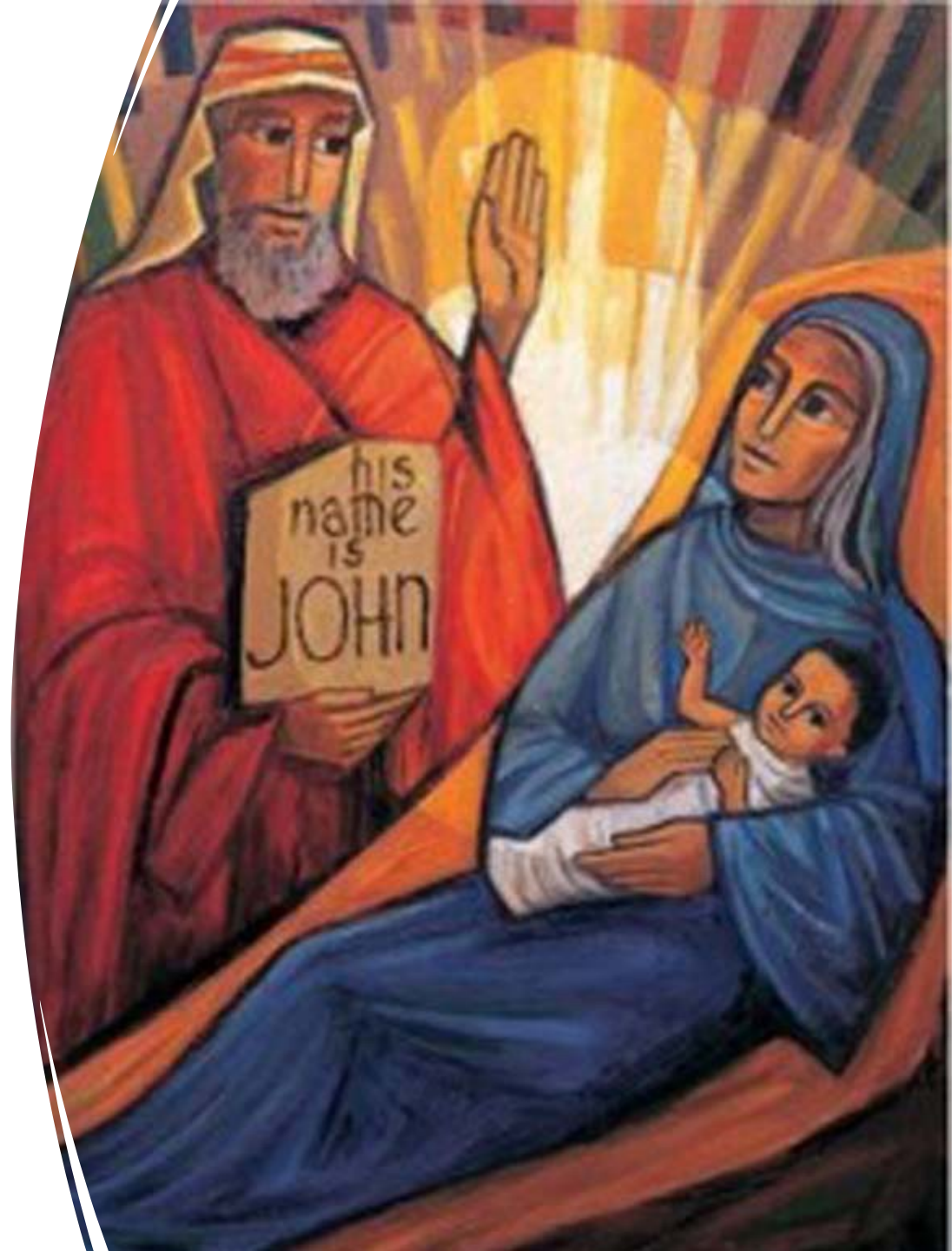


“...he shall
be called
John.” –
Luke 1:60



A close-up photograph of a person's hands holding a rectangular wooden tablet. The tablet is covered in a layer of greyish-brown clay with several lines of cuneiform script. The person is wearing a light-colored, textured garment, possibly a robe or tunic. In the background, another person wearing a purple garment is partially visible. The lighting is soft and natural, highlighting the texture of the clay and wood.

The Significance of a Name

4th Sunday of Kiahk



Introduction

The Meaning of Names

- John – “*God is gracious / compassionate*”
- Elizabeth – “*God is my oath*”
- Zacharias – “*God remembers*”

Names carry meaning

- Daniel
 - Belteshazzar – *Bel protects the king / Bel's prince*
- Hananiah
 - Shadrach – *Command of Aku (moon god)*
- Mishael
 - Meshach – *Who is like Aku?*
- Azariah
 - Abednego – *Servant of Nabu (Nego)*



St. Athanasius

- “When God the Almighty was making mankind through His own Word, He perceived that they, owing to the limitation of their nature, could not of themselves have any knowledge of their Artificer, the Incorporeal and Uncreated. He took pity on them, **therefore, and did not leave them destitute of the knowledge of Himself, lest their very existence should prove purposeless. For of what use is existence to the creature if it cannot know its Maker?** How could men be reasonable beings if they had no knowledge of the Word and Reason of the Father, through Whom they had received their being? They would be no better than the beasts, had they no knowledge save of earthly things; and why should God have made them at all, if He had not intended them to know Him?

St. Athanasius

- But, in fact, the good God has given them a share in His own Image, that is, in our Lord Jesus Christ, and has made even themselves after the same Image and Likeness. Why? **Simply in order that through this gift of Godlikeness in themselves they may be able to perceive the Image Absolute, that is the Word Himself, and through Him to apprehend the Father; which knowledge of their Maker is for men the only really happy and blessed life.”** (St. Athanasius)

Names are Given in Covenant

- **Abram → Abraham**
(Genesis 17:5)
- How do I show God
my commitment?



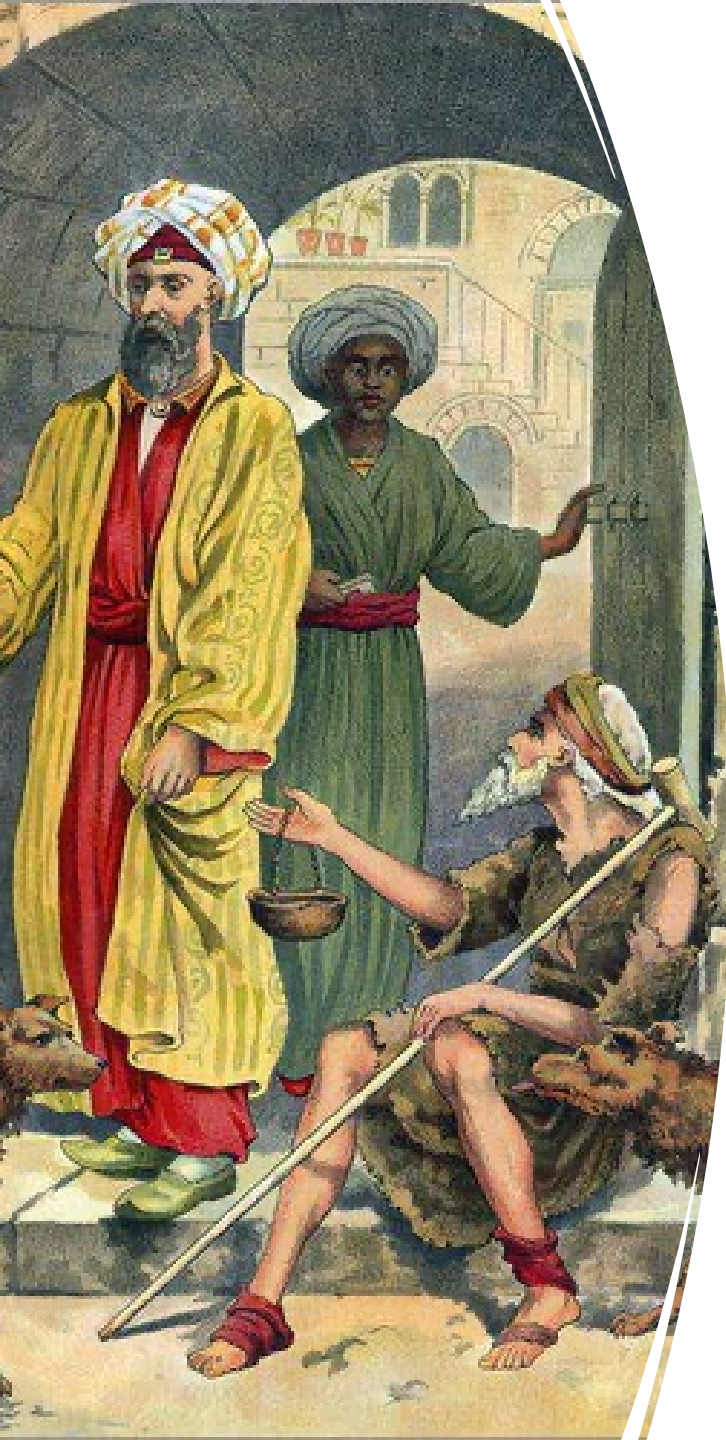
Names
Mark
Belonging
and
Ownership

He calls His own
sheep by name...

John 10:3



www.WhatWomenShouldKnow.org



Names can be Forgotten

1. Those who do evil

- “The face of the LORD is against those who do evil, to cut off the remembrance of them from the earth.” (Psalm 34:16)
- “The memory of the righteous is blessed, but the name of the wicked will rot.” (Proverbs 10:7)
- The Rich Man and Lazarus

Names can be Forgotten

2. Those who reject covenant relationship

- “Let Me alone, that I may destroy them and blot out their name from under heaven.” (Deuteronomy 9:14)

3. Those who hate God and His ways

- “Let them be blotted out of the book of the living, and not be written with the righteous.” (Psalm 69:28)

What Preserves Our Names?

1. Repentance

- “Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out.” (Acts 3:19, NKJV)

2. Fear of God

- “Then those who feared the LORD spoke to one another, and the LORD listened and heard them; so a book of remembrance was written before Him.” (Malachi 3:16)

What Preserves Our Names?

3. Faithful perseverance

- “He who overcomes shall be clothed in white garments, and I will not blot out his name from the Book of Life.” (Revelation 3:5)

4. Faithful Service

- “Rejoice because your names are written in heaven.” (Luke 10:20)

Recap

- What is the significance of a name?
 - Names carry meaning
 - Names are Given in Covenant
 - Names Mark Belonging and Ownership — and Responsibility
 - Names can be Forgotten
- What Preserves Our Names?
 - Repentance
 - Fear of God
 - Faithful perseverance
 - Faithful Service

