

Names: Adam and Jesus

(Gen 1:26; 2:18-24; 3:9, 20-21; 5:1-2; Matt 1:20-21; Luke 1:31-33)

1. What does your name mean? Why did your parents give you your name? Names often reveal something about the person named as well as the person naming. Throughout the Bible, this is especially true, and seen at the very beginning of human history. Because the Old Testament was written in Hebrew, a good reference that could help you is BlueletterBible.org.

Then God said, "Let us make man (Hebrew: **'ādām**) in our image, according to our likeness. They will rule the fish of the sea, the birds of the sky, the livestock, the whole earth, and the creatures that crawl on the earth." (Gen 1:26, CSB)

So the Lord God called out to the man (Hebrew: **'ādām**) and said to him, "Where are you?" (Gen 3:9, CSB)

This is the document containing the family records of Adam (Hebrew: **'ādām**). On the day that God created man (Hebrew: **'ādām**), he made him in the likeness of God; he created them male and female. When they were created, he blessed them and called them mankind (Hebrew: **'ādām**). (Gen 5:1-2, CSB)

Who gave man his name?

How is the Hebrew word used as a common name? How is it used as a proper name?

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a) Take your phone out and search "Blueletterbible.org." Type into the search box "Gen 1." Scroll down until you find "Genesis 1:26." Find the word "man" within that verse. Click "tools" and scroll down past "INTERLINEAR" until you come to a table with "English" and "Strong's." This is called a lexicon.

A lexicon is a language dictionary. In our case, this dictionary shows you what Hebrew word was translated into the English for "man." Notice that Hebrew looks very different from English.

b) Scroll down the verse until you find "man." Next to it you see the Hebrew word **'ādām** and if you click the Strong's Number "H120," the lexicon / dictionary will show you lots of things like how the Hebrew word is spelled in English and how its pronounced (click "LISTEN").

Strong's Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible was made by a group supervised by Dr. James Strong. Taking 35 years to complete, it was published in 1890! It is an index for every Hebrew and Greek word used in the Bible to help a person find a specific verse that the word is used in.

c) If you scroll down a little and click "Show Strong's Info," you'll see the definition of the Hebrew word.

2. Then the Lord God said, “It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper corresponding to him.” The Lord God formed out of the ground every wild animal and every bird of the sky, and brought each to the man to see what he would call it. And whatever the man called a living creature, that was its name. The man gave names to all the livestock, to the birds of the sky, and to every wild animal; but for the man no helper was found corresponding to him. (Gen 2:18-20, CSB)

What living things did Adam name? What living things did Adam not name?

3. Take the time to understand the basics of language – this makes reading much easier in the future.

And the man said: this one, at last, is bone of my bone and flesh of my flesh; this one will be called “woman (Hebrew: **‘iššâ**),” for she was taken from man (Hebrew: **‘ādām**). This is why a man leaves his father and mother and bonds with his wife (Hebrew: **‘iššâ**), and they become one flesh. (Gen 2:23-24, CSB)

The man named his wife (Hebrew: **‘iššâ**) Eve (Hebrew: **ḥawâ**) because she was the mother of all the living. The Lord God made clothing from skins for the man and his wife (Hebrew: **‘iššâ**), and he clothed them. (Gen 3:20-21, CSB)

Does it appear that Adam names “the bone of his bone and flesh of his flesh” with two different names? What did Adam mean with the first common name?

When does Adam give his wife a proper name?

4. How did God name the Child Jesus?

But after he had considered these things, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, don’t be afraid to take Mary as your wife, because what has been conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to name him Jesus (Greek: **lēsous**), because he will save his people from their sins. (Matt 1:20-21, CSB)

Then the angel told her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. Now listen: You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus (Greek: **lēsous**). He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give him the throne of his father David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and his kingdom will have no end. (Luke 1:31-33, CSB)

What is the Greek name **lēsous** translated into English? Use BlueletterBible.org!!

What Hebrew name is the Greek **lēsous** translated from?

What does the Hebrew name mean?

Names: Adam and Jesus
Teacher Notes

(Gen 1:26; 2:18-24; 3:9, 20-21; 5:1-2; Matt 1:20-21; Luke 1:31-33)

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Help the student learn how to use this online resource so that they can develop a skill that they can use when needed. We hope to place an emphasis on the importance of understanding language! To understand the creation of Adam and Eve, it's important to understand the difference between a "common name" and "proper name."

Common name / noun = a name for a class or type of people.

Proper name = the name of a specific person.

2. Then the Lord God said, “It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper corresponding to him.” The Lord God formed out of the ground every wild animal and every bird of the sky, and brought each to the man to see what he would call it. And whatever the man called a living creature, that was its name. The man gave names to all the livestock, to the birds of the sky, and to every wild animal; but for the man no helper was found corresponding to him. (Gen 2:18-20, CSB)

What living things did Adam name? What living things did Adam not name?

In calling attention to Adam’s task of naming animals, it is hoped that the student observes that Adam is designating common names. After naming the animals, Adam follows the same pattern and names the “bone of my bone and flesh of my flesh” with a common name.

3. Take the time to understand the basics of language – this makes reading much easier in the future.

And the man said: this one, at last, is bone of my bone and flesh of my flesh; this one will be called “woman (Hebrew: ‘iṣṣâ),” for she was taken from man (Hebrew: ‘ādām). This is why a man leaves his father and mother and bonds with his wife (Hebrew: ‘iṣṣâ), and they become one flesh. (Gen 2:23-24, CSB)

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Does it appear that Adam names “the bone of his bone and flesh of his flesh” with two different names? What did Adam mean with the first common name?

Encourage the student to carefully observe the English translation. The text will provides the answer!

When does Adam give his wife a proper name?

When attempting to solve a question, a good habit is to grab a Bible and read a larger section than a snippet that someone offers you. In most cases, God’s word will easily reveal the answer - the proper name for Eve is given after their commission of sin.

4. How did God name the Child Jesus?

But after he had considered these things, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, don’t be afraid to take Mary as your wife, because what has been conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to name him Jesus (Greek: **lēsous**), because he will save his people from their sins. (Matt 1:20-21, CSB)

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What Hebrew name is the Greek **lēsous** translated from?

What does the Hebrew name mean?

God doesn't name many people of the Bible, so it is important when He does. How did God name the Child Jesus? This is a great time to use Blueletterbible.org!

- a) Take your phone out and search "Blueletterbible.org." Type into the search box "Matt 1." Scroll down until you find "Matt 1:21." Find the word "Jesus" within that verse. Click "tools" and scroll down past "INTERLINEAR" until you come to a table with "English" and "Strong's." See what the Greek name for Jesus is. Write it down - you can also listen to how the Greek name is pronounced to help you write the Greek!
- b) Scroll down the verse until you find "Jesus." Click Strong's Number "G2424" where you can learn about the name **lēsous**.
- c) Click "Root word (Etymology) H3091" which is show you the Hebrew word that the Greek **lēsous** is translated from. Write down the Hebrew word! It's very different from English!
- d) **Yehōšûa'** is the oldest name containing God's memorial name. What makes Jesus' name so important to understand is that **Yehōšûa'** means "Yahweh is help" or "Yahweh is salvation!!!"

When you understand the meaning of Jesus' name, then the verses with Jesus' name takes a deeper meaning. Here is an example:

For this reason God highly exalted him
and gave him the name
that is above every name,
so that at the name of Jesus
every knee will bow—
in heaven and on earth
and under the earth—
and every tongue will confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father. (Phil 2:9-11)

Ask the student: what do you observe about the name of Jesus? Help the student visualize this by writing on a board all that was learned today about the name of Jesus.