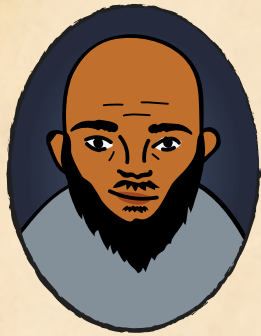


What's In A Name?



Abraham

"Father of Many"

Abram

"High Father"

Sarai

"Princess"

In the case of Abraham and Sarah, their names signified a greater purpose and fulfillment of the promise of offspring and an honorable future lineage.



Sarah

"Mother of Nations"

Jacob

"Supplanter"



Israel

"He Who Has the Power of God"

God redeems and refines us. In Jacob's story, we see a young man who cheated and stole his brother's birthright and blessing, and yet God redeemed Jacob. He wrestled with God, and his name was changed from signifying his sins and old identity as a trickster, to this new identity as a man who struggled with humans and God, yet overcame. He was redeemed and renamed Israel, henceforth known as having the power of God.

Similarly, Simon was blessed with the name Peter, or "rock," because he was the first to declare Jesus as Messiah, son of the living God. Peter's declaration was the rock, or foundation, on which God would build his church. Identity as Christ's beloved reveals to us who God intended for us to be when he created us.

Simon

"God Has Heard"



Peter

"Rock"

