



**Genesis 12:1-3 | SCRIPTURE**  
**Rikhard Hartikainen | SPEAKER**  
**Name Change | SERMON**

Throughout Scripture, name changes has been significant not only because of the meaning of the change but the meaning of names.

Names meant something. They were the primary identifier of a person.

Today, the primary identifier is a number.

There are about 5 name changes throughout Scripture and each one teaches us something about encountering God.

#### ABRAM BECOMES ABRAHAM

Genesis 12:1-3 - Abram was given a promise of God.

A promise becomes a miracle when it comes to pass. A promise not yet come to pass is still a promise.

A promise of God is like a baby in the womb. You can feel it, you can sense it, you know its there, but the baby has not yet been given birth to. It is a labor, something is coming, you can feel it, but you can't yet see it.

Once the promise is given birth to, it is now a miracle. Still the same promise, but it has now progressed and become visible. Same person, same promise, same baby, same miracle.

In Genesis 16, Sarai gives his maid to Abram for the promise to be fulfilled.

The promise of God will not be fulfilled by your own power and might. The promise of God will not be compromised.

In Genesis 17, Abram again receives a promise from God. Abram ENCOUNTERS GOD and his name is changed. His identity is changed.

His former name, Abram, was tied to his identity of a father without a legacy. Abram and Sarai, the barren. But encountering God changed their situation and their names.

Abrahams encounter brought about a change, brought about freedom, healing, restoration and redemption. But the fruit of it still tarried for a little bit.

After the encounter, a covenant was established.

# NOTES



The timeline of Abrams journey:

1. A promise from God
2. A problem blocking the promise
3. An encounter with God
4. Covenant is established
5. Promise becomes miracle

## JACOB BECOMES ISRAEL

Jacob becomes deceiver in Genesis 25:26

Jacob lives up to his name in Genesis 27

Jacob faces deception himself with Laban in Genesis 29:21-29

Jacob flees from Laban after mixing the goats and sheep in Genesis 31.

Jacob becomes Israel in Genesis 32 after wrestling with God.

Each time, the people of faith find themselves in a difficult situation, they had a problem, then came the encounter, followed by a name change and a covenant is established between God and man.

Problem - Encounter - Covenant

Abraham:

Barren - God visits him - Covenant of circumcision

Jacob:

Life of deception - God wrestles him - covenant of limp

## SAUL BECOMES PAUL

Paul was a religious man, with an unfulfilled calling. God encounters him on the road to Damascus. The Bible says, He will reveal to him how much he must suffer for Christ - a covenant of suffering (Acts 9:16)

## SIMON BECOMES PETER

Simon was pregnant with a revelation. He confesses that Jesus is the Messiah in an encounter with the Son of God and his name changes. His name changes from Simon (one who hears) to Peter (the rock).

Paul:

Unfulfilled calling - God visits him on the road to Damascus - covenant of suffering

Peter:



Struggles with carnal nature - God reveals Jesus to him as the Messiah - covenant of authority

In a generation or namelessness there is a name that is above every other name. The name of Jesus which is who we identify with.

Abraham carried a promise

Jacob carried a curse

Peter carried a revelation

Paul carried a calling

For Abrahams promise to be fulfilled, he had an encounter.

For Jacobs curse to be cancelled, he had an encounter.

For Peters revelation to be confirmed, he had an encounter.

For Pauls calling to be manifested, he had an encounter.

Abrahams covenant was one of circumcision.

Israels covenant was one of a limp.

Peters covenant was one of authority.

Pauls covenant was one of suffering.

Today:

1. You will have an encounter
2. God will change your identity.
4. A covenant will be established

Matthew 28:20 - I am with you always. Go therefore! We are delivered to deliver others, we are healed to heal others. Tonight is not only for you, it is for countless others waiting for a promise of God to be fulfilled.