

a rose by any other name

"a good name is to be chosen rather than great riches, loving favor rather than silver and gold." prov 22:1

what's in a name? evidently something very important, because it is important to God. Jesus was know for renaming His disciples; naming them not for what they are, but for what He sees they would be.

He renamed abram to abraham, meaning father of a multitude. He renamed sarai to sarah, meaning mother of nations. He renamed jacob (meaning supplanter), to israel (meaning having power with God). following on into the new testament, Jesus renamed simon (meaning God has heard), to peter (meaning pebble or rock). the confession that Jesus was indeed the Son of God was a pebble destined to be a rock that could crush unbelievers.

yes, a rose by any other name may smell as sweet bit not necessarily be as descriptive. let us consider doctrines that have acquired a name of their own as well; names many assert aren't in scripture, but are they descriptive anyway?

christians have adopted the name of trinity as descriptive of our triune God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit. scripture definitely indicates them as being three unique persons, but we know they are one in essence, unity and power. all were present when Jesus was anointed for His mission to earth. "when He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and

He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him. and suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, 'this is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.'" matt 3:16-17 Father, Son and Holy Spirit were all in attendance.

muslims stumble over this point of contention. their (and others) reasoning may go somewhat like this:

believer: "well, you see, there are three persons in one nature."

questioner: "tell me more."

believer: "well, there is God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit."

questioner: "ah, i see, three gods."

believer (shocked): "oh, no! only one God."

questioner: "but you said three: you called the Father God, which is one; and you called the Son God, which makes two; and you called the Holy Spirit God, which makes three."

here the dialogue form breaks down. from the believer's mouth there emerges what can only be called a soup of words, sentences that begin and do not end, words that change into something else halfway. only the Holy Spirit can open up one's understanding of this truth. it's His function in the Godhead.

in like manner many will argue the word "rapture" is not in the bible. others will argue it is in the original latin translation, but whatever word we call it by, the believing heart knows what it means. "behold, i tell you a mystery: we shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed - in a moment, in the

twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed." 1 cor 15:51-52

changed by the all powerful God from the caterpillar (flesh) we now inhabit into the magnificent butterfly (our eternal likeness of Him) which God has prepared for those who love His appearing. our long-awaited "full salvation" will be manifested.

i can't imagine any better description of that outcome than a "rapturous" moment. "it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is." 1 john 3:2

in the new jerusalem we hear that Christ will give us all a new name; a name which none shall know save Him and i. i can't even imagine what it might be, but i believe it will not be descriptive of what we shall be, but what we are - finally at last.

i would want mine to mean "worshiper of God and beholder of His beauty." "one thing i have desired of the Lord, that will i seek: that i may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to inquire in His temple." psa 27:4

our transformation will be a rose beyond what any known name can now describe. you see, we shall be like Him. i rather think it will be like looking into a mirror, but instead of our reflection coming back, it will be His. all glory to the Lamb!

