

THE NEW NAME

FORETOLD BY PROPHECY

Isiah 62:2: 'And the Gentiles shall see thy righteousness, and all kings thy glory: and thou shalt be called by a new name, which the mouth of the Lord shall name.'

Isiah 65:15: 'Ye shall leave your name for a curse unto my chosen: for the Lord God shall slay thee, and call his servants by another name.'

FULFILMENT IN HISTORY

Acts 11:26: 'And the disciples were called [Gk. *chrematizo*] Christians first in Antioch.'

The church began in Jerusalem and its first members were of the house of Israel. During the early days of the church, the members of it were known as Nazarenes and Galileans by their opponents, and among each other as disciples, believers, etc.

Persecution broke out in Jerusalem and resulted in events which brought the preaching of the good tidings to Antioch. Here men of Cyprus and Cyrene preached to the Gentiles, and "the hand of the Lord was with them, and a great number believed and turned unto the Lord" (Acts 13:21).

Thus the Gentiles did see the righteousness of the Lord and were joined together in the One Body with the Jews who were disciples also, and were now called by another name, a new name. For 'the disciples were called Christians first in Antioch.'

The prophet said this new name would be named by the mouth of the Lord.

The Greek word *chrematizo* is used in other passages of the New Testament in such setting as to indicate the process of divine inspiration.

Luke 2:26: 'And it was revealed [*chrematizo*] unto him by the Holy Spirit, that he should not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ.'

Acts 10:22: . . . Cornelius the centurion . . . was warned [*chrematizo*] from God by an holy angel . . ."

Peter used this God-given name when exhorting his brethren in persecution to honour it: 'If any man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God on his behalf' (1 Peter 4:16). From: 'The Young Christian'.