We believe that the origin of Scripture is divine, it is the authoritative Word of God and does not receive its authority from the Church, tradition, or any other human source. The written Word in its entirety is given by God and in seeking Him, He grants us revelation to understand the unity and internal consistency of Scripture. The Holy Spirit bears witness to the Scriptures, assuring believers of the Truth of God’s written Word.

This Study Aid had been compiled in order to assist you in understanding Scripture. To say it is complete, would be arrogance as God’s revelation is progressive. We strongly encourage you to spend time building your prayer relationship with God and spending time in His presence, learning to hear His voice.

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Investigate

Long before a baby is born, most parents think about what to call their forthcoming child. Sometimes this can lead to interesting dilemmas - and interesting names! It is always good to investigate the meaning of a name before discovering that we have called our child Serpent* - yet there are a number of fairly common English names with that meaning.

Scripture uses names to denote the nature and character of the person or event - and how God will use them at that particular time. This also applies to the multitudinous names of God and how He Himself will act at that particular time. Jesus is also known by many names and two that immediately spring to mind are: LAMB ...the Lamb that was slain... REVELATION 5:12 and EMMANUEL, Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us. MATTHEW 1:23. E.W Bullinger wrote much on the names of Jesus* and the names of God, that you may like to study further.

Mary

It has always been of great encouragement to realise that MARY - the mother of Jesus - comes from the Old Testament name MIRIAM, which means rebellious. MIRIAM derives from the word meaning bitterness. This word in turn comes from MARAH, which is a primitive root; to be or make bitter - or unpleasant; to rebel or resist; to provoke:- bitterness, change, be disobedient, disobey, grievous, provocation, provoke, provoking, be against and rebellious.

...when they came to Marah, they could not drink of the waters of Marah, for they were bitter: therefore the name of it was called Marah. And the people murmured against Moses, saying, What shall we drink? And he cried unto the Lord; and the Lord shewed him a tree, which when he had cast into the waters, the waters were made sweet: there he made for them a statute and an ordinance, and there he proved them... EXODUS 15:23-26. How wonderful it is that - from bitterness and rebellion - God can bring forth Christ and His ability to change the world - both initially and now within us.

The firstborn

In Scripture, THE FIRST-BORN REVEALS THE NATURE AND CHARACTER OF THE FATHER. The first and most obvious one being Jesus, the first-born Son of God. Jesus reveals the nature and Character of God. In Scripture, a key to learning the character of a person is to study their children, because their children are their seed. The father gives the seed and the mother conceives the seed. The nature and character of the children often reveals the nature and character of their father. To find out what is within the father we look at the children. What is within Isaac? There were two children - Esau and Jacob - born to him and Rebekah.

We know that ...the first came out red, all over like an hairy garment; and they called his name Esau. GENESIS 25:25. Esau means rough - as we often are in our state before attaining the Lord within. ...after that came his brother out, and his hand took hold on Esau's heel; and his name was called Jacob: and Isaac was threescore years old when she bare them. GENESIS 25:26. Jacob means supplanter or heel catcher. While that sounds a little harsh, we can rejoice in the fact that Jacob will supplant Esau as the first-born - thus releasing to us the blessing over Jacob rather than the curse over Esau. This is important to us on several levels*. We see this reiterated in the example of Ephraim.

Became the first-born

Ephraim - double fruitfulness - BECAME THE FIRST-BORN of Joseph. ...when Joseph saw that his father laid his right hand upon the head of Ephraim, it displeased him: and he held up his father's hand, to remove it from Ephraim's head unto Manasseh's head. And Joseph said unto his father, Not so, my father: for this is the firstborn; put thy right hand upon his head. And his father refused, and said, I know it, my son, I know it: he also shall become a people, and he also shall be great: but truly his younger brother shall be greater than he, and his seed shall become a multitude of nations. GENESIS 48:17-20.

Ephraim means the same as Ephratah - fruitfulness; Ephrath, another name for Bethlehem - from a primitive root; to bear fruit (literally or figuratively):- bear, bring forth (fruit), (be, cause to be, make) fruitful, grow, increase. Hur came from mount Ephraim ...Hur, in mount Ephraim: 1 KINGS 4:8. Hur - white linen/righteousness - was the first-born of Ephraim. These are the sons of Hur, the firstborn of Ephratah, the father of Bethlehem. 1CHRONICLES 4:4. Hur, along with Aaron, sustained Moses during the battle against the Amalekites.

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The reward of Christ within
Abraham and Isaac received the reward of Christ within and we see God change Jacob’s name and nature to Israel. Tyr name shall be called no more Jacob, but Israel: for as a prince hast thou power with God and with men, and hast prevailed. Genesis 32:28. This happened at a place called Peniel. And Jacob called the name of the place Peniel: for I have seen God face to face, and my life is preserved. And as he passed over Penuel the sun rose upon him... Genesis 32:30-31

God says that He will give us a new name ...thou shalt be called by a new name, which the mouth of the Lord shall name. Isaiah 62:2. Our names change because our nature changes. A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh. Ezekiel 36:26. When God removes Esau the Stony Heart and brings the Christ child in his place, THE CHRIST CHILD BECOMES OUR OLDER BROTHER. Instead of having our older brother as an influence for evil, our older brother becomes an influence for good. Thus, our new nature is Christ and Jacob’s new name, Israel, means to be a prince with God - because God is in him.

In that day
How do we know when the Son has come? In the natural realm when a woman marries, she often takes the name of her husband. In Scripture when the child Jesus comes - within - the name of that person changes. Abram became Abraham, Sarai became Sarah, Jacob became Israel and Jesus changed the names of some of His disciples. There is a change of name because there is a change of nature. When Jesus comes in us, we no longer fight with that man of sin because we have the gentle and righteous influence of the Lord.

Jesus said, And in that day ye shall ask me nothing. Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whosoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, he will give it you. John 16:23. IN THAT DAY refers to THE DAY THAT THE CHILD IS BORN - WITHIN US. Jesus told His disciples to ask the Father in His name - name means nature. WHEN THE CHILD IS BORN and IN THAT DAY, He said, they would ask Him - Jesus - nothing. Until that day, their only way of receiving from the Father was to ask Jesus. Before that day, He had been praying to the Father for them. The CHILD born in them was one with them - in the eyes of God.

The child in them
The child in them asks the Father in the way that Jesus had as He stood beside them. BEFORE THAT DAY, THEY COULD NOT ASK IN MY NAME - the nature and character of Jesus. They could only ask Jesus to pray for them because HE was the one who could access the Father. JESUS was the one who had the relationship with the Father and the only way they could obtain what He had without asking Him to pray for them, was to possess that LITTLE CHILD - Jesus.

How many times have we asked the Father, “In the name of Jesus” BEFORE the child was born? Jesus was not saying not to ask the Father. The only way that we can access the Father - before the child is born within us - is through Jesus, the High priest. Speaking of the last days and the outpouring of the Spirit, Scripture says ...it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved. Acts 2:21. This is not asking the Father for salvation, it is invoking the name of Jesus, because at that stage, THE CHILD has not yet been born. HE DOES NOT GIVE US HIS NAME, NATURE AND CHARACTER TO ASK IN - UNTIL THE CHILD IS BORN.

Antichrist and false prophets
Looking at Scripture regarding this will help us to understand the whole realm of antichrist and false prophets ministering in the name of the Lord. Jesus said that many people who cast out demons in His name were false prophets. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity. Matthew 7:22-23. Because the Christ child had not been born in them; they did not have His name, nature or character.

Some folk pray to the saints. This practice has its origin in Truth. The only way of getting to the Father before the Christ child was born in a person was for that person to ask Jesus to ask the Father. When the Christ is born in a person, anyone wanting to access the Father goes to that person and asks them to pray the Father on their behalf. Understanding this we can see why people called on the name of the saints to intercede for them before God. We see this in the Old Testament when the Lord told various ones to ask

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The holy ones.

This practice did get out of hand but we can see that they understood the underlying Truth. It was so natural for the disciples in the time of Jesus to ask Him to ask the Father. Those who had not come to that place of receiving the Christ child - and we know that it is quite a journey to reach that place - understood the distinction. Those in whom He had been born were the sanctified ones - the holy ones. People went to them and petitioned them and we know that there are good Scriptural grounds for this.

When the church lost the Revelation of the Truth of the Word - about the Christ being born - they raised these saints on to pedestals. This established a tradition of asking the saints. We can see why people call on the name of Mary. She had the Christ child in her, as would the others who walked with Jesus. People sold their lands and brought the proceeds to the apostles' feet because they knew that those apostles had the Christ in them and that they could petition the Father for them.

Seven women

Old Testament Scripture speaks of that day the Christ child is born. It says, in that day seven women shall take hold of one man, saying, We will eat our own bread, and wear our own apparel: only let us be called by thy name, to take away our reproach. Isaiah 4:1. We know that seven means - attaining spiritual perfection. The reproach they wanted removed was that of being barren - without children. The one man who could take that reproach away by giving them the seed for children, is Christ - in one who bears the Christ child.

We find a key to this where Scripture speaks of Rachel who was barren...conceived, and bare a son; and said, God hath taken away my reproach. And she called his name Joseph; and said, The Lord shall add to me another son... Genesis 30:24. Joseph is a picture of us being born of the Spirit - not the flesh; and the other son is the Christ who is a life-giving spirit. The two live together. Rachel's sister, Leah - speaking of the flesh - was able to birth many children, but Rachel was barren.

The priest

The priest is the intermediary between God and man. Jesus - when He walked with His disciples - had been their priest. Even when a person becomes the intermediary between God and man, it is Christ in that person - not the physical person - who is the mediator. As people begin to understand this and to understand their barrenness, the day will come when they will say to us, “Let us be covered by your covering.” In other words, let us receive of the seed of Christ that is in your loins. In that day shall the branch of the Lord be beautiful and glorious, and the fruit of the earth shall be excellent and comely for them that are escaped of Israel. Isaiah 4:2. The branch of the Lord be beautiful and glorious... because those women receive of their children as the branch extends forth.

The day is nearing when those who have the Christ child in them will be that one man. Others who understand these dynamics and find that they are barren will take hold of that one man saying... only let us be called by thy name... Isaiah 41. The name that we have - when the Christ child is within us is the name - the nature and character - of Jesus. They will want to be called by His name to take away their reproach.

Rightly dividing the word

With regard to false prophets, we know that people have used and are using the name of Jesus. We have all done it in our ignorance, when in fact we never had the authority to do so. The only time that we ought 'use His name' is when His nature and character are in us. That is why Scripture says, Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord... Psalm 118:26, Matthew 21:9& 23:39, Mark 11:9, Luke 13:35. That person comes in the nature and character of God.

Once again, this study is by no means exhaustive. Our hope is that it will grant some understanding and encourage you to choose to study further. Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. 2 Timothy 2:15.

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The name of Jesus* For further reading about the names of God and or the works of Bullinger
http://www.markfoster.net/rn/companion_bible_appendices.pdf

This is important to us on several levels*. So the last shall be first, and the first last: for many be called, but few chosen. Matthew 20:16. Simply put, Jacob the lastborn - physically - replaces Esau and then as Jacob continues and is found faithful, he receives a new name/nature Jacob spiritually becomes Israel. These shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them: for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings: and they that are with him are called, and chosen, and faithful. Revelation 17:14. In all things, God grants us free choice. There is nothing elitist in being the CHosen... we do our own choosing. Many are CALLED, but it is our choice to answer or follow. The path of discipleship is difficult and as we choose/struggle to continually obey we become the CHosen.

Then, we see further that we must become FAITHFUL. To be FAITHFUL we need to have the One who is ...called Faithful and True... Revelation 19:11, dwelling within us.