

Meanings of Proper Names

Explanation

Many names of Hebrew and Greek derivation have special or natural meanings. Some of the most prominent names that occur in the New Testament are given along with their meanings in chart 13-5. Although these meanings are not deeply significant (a person today whose last name is Brown or North or the like is not thought of as a color or a cardinal direction), occasionally the texts of the New Testament make word plays or symbolic uses of a person's name.

Meanings of Proper Names

ANDREW	Stout and strong man
AUGUSTUS	Increased, augmented or royal, majestic
BARABBAS	Son of a father (bar-abba)
BAR-JONA	Son of Jonah or of a dove
BARTHOLOMEW	Son of Tholmai
CAIAPHAS	Searcher, or he that seeks with diligence
ELISABETH	God is the oath of her; or the fullness of God
GABRIEL	Man of God, or strength of God
HEROD	Hero, or like a hero
JAMES	Supplanter
JESUS	The Lord will save, the Lord of salvation
JOHN	Lord of grace, or whom the Lord graciously gave
JOSEPH	He shall add
LUKE	Light of the sun, white
MARK	Indolent, lazy
MARTHA	Lady, mistress
MARY (MIRIAM)	One who is exalted of the Lord
MATTHEW	Gift of the Lord
ONESIMUS	Profitable
PETER	Rock, or rock-like
PHILEMON	Loving, friendship
PHILIP	Lover of horses
SIMON	Hearing with acceptance
STEPHEN	Crown
TABITHA	Gazelle
THOMAS	Twin
TIMOTHY	Honored of God
TITUS	Honorable