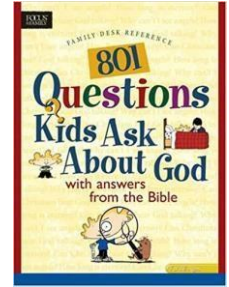




Why did Bible people give their kids such funny names?



In ancient times, especially among the Jewish people, a person's name was very special. Usually it said something about the person or about the parents' dream for their child. For example, Jedidiah means "lover of God."

Sometimes God told prophets to give their children names with special messages. Hosea named his children Lo-ruhanah and Lo-ammi. Lo-ruhamah means "not loved," and Lo-Ammi means "not my people." By giving his children these unusual names, Hosea was giving God's message to the people. But usually names from other countries and cultures sound strange to us because we're not used to them. Names may sound funny to us, but not to the people in the country. Your name would probably sound funny to the people of Israel.



Soon Gomer became pregnant again and gave birth to a daughter. And the Lord said to Hosea, "Name your daughter Lo-ruhamah—"Not loved'-for I will no longer show love to the people of Israel or forgive them. But I, the Lord their God, will show love to the people of Judah. I will personally free them from their enemies without any help from weapons or armies." After Gomer had weaned Lo-ruhamah, she again became pregnant and gave birth to a second son. And the Lord said, "Name him Lo-ammi—"Not my people'-for Israel is not my people, and I am not their God.(Hosea 1:6-9)

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