

May the Lord Judge and Increase the Blessed One

(TS) After researching books, web sites, and interviewing people, I have discovered what my name, Daniel Joseph Bennett, means. (1st Pt.) To start with, "Daniel" in Hebrew means "The Lord is my judge," and Daniel is also the name of a famous prophet in "The Holy Bible," as well as the name of one of my uncles. (Ex.) Besides meaning "The Lord is my judge" Daniel can also be translated from Hebrew as "God judges," or "God is my judge." My mother called me Daniel because, in her words, "I like the Biblical prophet Daniel because he was a good, strong, and faithful man, who stayed with his convictions all his life, from childhood to elderly manhood, regardless of the many moral challenges he faced." Additionally, having a close relationship with her brother Daniel Frederick Larkin also helped my mother decide to pick Daniel as my first name. (2nd Pt.) In addition, "Joseph" meaning "God will increase" in Hebrew was chosen as my middle name because of my third great grandfather and because of the positive example set by Joseph, son of Jacob/Israel in "The Holy Bible." (Ex.) Starting with Joseph Smith Larkin, my third great grandfather, all the first born sons were named Joseph, except for my grandfather, whose father decided to skip the tradition. The tradition was re-started, using Joseph as a honorary middle name, beginning with my uncle, Eric Joseph Larkin, then passed onto me. More importantly, the name "Joseph" was chosen because my mother believed that giving me the name would encourage me to live up to the ideals of Joseph, son of Jacob/Israel in "The Holy Bible." She said, "Joseph was an amazing man, who was true and virtuous even in very difficult circumstances, like his brothers trying to kill him and sell him into slavery, and also being falsely accused and imprisoned." (3rd Pt.) Lastly, "Bennett" which means "blessed" was chosen as my last name because English and American tradition states to take the surname of one's father. (Ex.) The English surname "Bennett" came from the medieval form of "Benedict," which in turn came from the Latin name "Benedictus." Interestingly, the name Benedict has also been used by sixteen popes, and Saint Benedict was an Italian monk who founded the Benedictines in the 6th century. (CS) In summary, Daniel Joseph Bennett was chosen as my name to encourage me to be strong, true, and faithful like the Biblical prophets Daniel and Joseph, to honor the Bennett family surname, and when broken down by its Latin and Hebrew meanings stands for "May the Lord judge and increase the blessed one."

Works Cited

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