

Naming the Angel

Rabbi Judah the Patriarch said in the name of Abba Yose ben Dostai: One verse says: *He counts all of the stars and gives names to each of them* (Psalm 147:4). Another verse says: *He brings out their ranks by number and gives each one a name* (Isaiah 40:26).

This teaches that an angel's name changes—a name by which one is called now is not the name by which he will later be called. As Scripture says: *The angel of the Lord said to him [Manoach]: Why do you ask my name being that it is hidden?* (Judges 13:18)—meaning: I, myself, do not know to what my name will be changed (Genesis Rabbah 78:4).

(Midrash in Hebrew coming soon)