

THE WONDERFUL NAME OF GOD

Notes:

All scripture is drawn from the NKJ version of the Holy Bible.

What Is His Name?

Proverbs 30:4 presents us with a significant challenge because the LORD looks us in the eye, as it were, and asks very directly whether we know His name.

Who has ascended into heaven, or descended?

Who has gathered the wind in His fists?

Who has bound the waters in a garment?

Who has established all the ends of the earth?

What is His name, and what is His Son's name, if you know?

This is a somewhat startling question because as we try to answer it we find we have a number of choices. Is His name Lord, or God, or Elohim, or Adonay, or Jehovah? Do you know what it is?

The LORD Reveals His Name to His People

When the LORD gave Moses instructions to lead the Israelites out of Egypt, Moses wanted to be sure that the masses would take him seriously. After he had received his instructions from God, he asked Him who should he say had sent him. Clearly Moses was aiming off, knowing full well that he was going to have to justify himself to the Israelite families. They would ask him, "Who gave you these instructions, Moshe?" What was he to reply – Zeus, or Thor, or Baal, or God, or something else? But see what our Heavenly Father says to Moses:

Ex 3:14-16 '14 *And God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM." And He said, "Thus you shall say to the children of Israel, 'I AM has sent me to you.'*" 15 *Moreover God said to Moses, "Thus you shall say to the children of Israel: '**The LORD God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you. This is My name forever, and this is My memorial to all generations.**'* 16 *"Go and gather the elders of Israel together, and say to them, 'The LORD God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, of Isaac, and of Jacob, appeared to me, saying*'

2) At this point we have to understand the way bible translators have handled the Word of God, and have continued to do so in the majority of translations to the present day. If you read the preface to your bible you will find the following to be so.

A tradition grew within Judaism, and is still there, that the name of God was too holy for man to speak. This is understandable because of man's propensity to blasphemy and the dire warnings contained within God's Word about profaning His name. Because of this, the doctrine of the "ineffable name" was developed, whereby euphemisms were used in the spoken word to disguise God's name. But this is a tradition of man and has no validity in scripture. However, the translators of the first bibles continued this false doctrine of the devil to hide the name of God from His people, and set the pattern for the future also. Wherever you read LORD in upper case, in the Old Testament, it deliberately disguises the name of God – YHWH (sometimes YHVH). These four letters are known as the Tetragrammaton, but this technicality is not important to the understanding.

YHWH is NOT a translation from the Hebrew, but a transliteration. The phonetic pronunciation is the same in both languages, so the sound of the word is the same. "The Lord" is not God's name, it is a title. Almighty God, King of Kings, Lord of Hosts – these are all descriptive titles. None is the name of God.

Note: From hereon I will replace "the LORD" as it appears in the scriptures with an accurate reflection of the Hebrew text.

Let us now return to the text at Ex 3:15. The true translation of this verse is, *Moreover God said to Moses, "Thus you shall say to the children of Israel: '**YHWH, God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you. This is My name forever, and this is My memorial to all generations.**'*

Moses heard God speak His name. He heard it and he was told to repeat it. Not only that, but God made it very clear that, "This is My name forever, and this is My memorial to **all generations.**" Nowhere in the whole of scripture does He rescind this, and moreover he has said that YHWH is His name to all generations as a memorial. We are to remember it, and to remember who He is and what He has done.

Moses wrote the books of the bible that deal with the chronological period prior to this revelation and a quick study will show that he has introduced YHWH into the earlier books. This makes absolute sense, but it does not imply that others before Moses were aware of God's name (although Adam and Eve may well have been). The following scripture proves this.

Ex 6:2-3 "2And God spoke to Moses and said to him: "I am YHWH. 3"I appeared to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, as God Almighty, **but by My name YHWH I was not known to them.**"

3) At this point I will replace YHWH in the scriptures that follow with the generally accepted pronunciation of those letters. In fact rabbinical scholarship offers two possibilities. The definitive pronunciation has been lost because of the false doctrine of the unspeakable name of God – the ineffable name. This doctrine distressed the Lord so much that in Jeremiah 23:27 he indicates the inevitability of His people forgetting His name for Baal.

YHWH is generally pronounced as **Yahveh** or **Yahweh**. I am opting for the former because it is the one favoured by Hebrew scholars. This is the name Moses heard the Lord speak, and He has given us His name for all generations, which of course includes the church. Ex 3:15 "Moreover God said to Moses, "Thus you shall say to the children of Israel: '**Yahveh, God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you. This is My name forever, and this is My memorial to all generations.**'"

Now we must consider the importance of spoken names in Hebrew. Names describe what you are and what you do. We have lost this over the centuries, but that doesn't make this spiritual truth any less so. God found it necessary to change Abram's name to Abraham, meaning, "father of a multitude." He further changed Jacob's name to Israel which means "God prevails." So we see that in God's eyes, the names He gives represent all that we are. And so it is too with God's wonderful name of Yahveh.

Ex 33:17-19 "17So the LORD said to Moses, "I will also do this thing that you have spoken; for you have found grace in My sight, and I know you by name." 18And he said, "Please, show me Your glory." 19Then He said, "I will make all My goodness pass before you, and I will proclaim the name of Yahveh before you. I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion."

We see very clearly in the above scripture that when Moses asks God to show him His glory, that God associates His name with His goodness and His glory.

Is 42:8 "I am Yahveh, that is My name; And My glory I will not give to another, nor My praise to carved images."

Again we see the Lord associating His name with His glory. His name is all that He is and when we speak it out we speak all that He is. We declare into the heavens, into the skies, and into the earth all that He is and we bring Him glory in doing so. No wonder the devil perpetrated the doctrine of the unspeakable name. Every other god has a name. Muslims worship Allah. Satanists worship Satan. The prophets of Baal worshipped Baal. Every deity in every religion has a name and yet the name of the Almighty, the Creator of the heavens and the earth and all who live in them has had His name denied and hidden.

4) What About Y'shua's Instruction To Call God, "Father?" The first thing that has to be understood is that the fatherhood of God was not as great a revelation to those listening to Y'shua speak as many of us have been taught. The Fatherhood of God runs right through the Hebrew scriptures. Here are just three examples:

Ex 4:22 "Then you shall say to Pharaoh, 'Thus says Yahveh: "**Israel is My son, My firstborn.**"

Deut 14:1 "**You are the children of Yahveh** your God;"

Deut 32:6 "Do you thus deal with Yahveh, O foolish and unwise people? **Is He not your Father, who bought you? Has He not made you and established you?**"

The Jewish people have always called God "Father". Very ancient prayers going back at least to the Babylonian exile and recorded in Jewish prayer books show this clearly. I have one before me as I write which starts, "Our Father, Our King, we have sinned before You"

So, the reference to God as Father by Y'shua was not alien to the Hebrew listeners and is most certainly not addressed only to the church as part of a new dispensation. The church referring to God as "Father" is a continuation of what has gone before.

Clearly to speak to God as Father is of the utmost intimacy, but He still wants us to proclaim His name. Hebrews 13:15 declares loudly. "Therefore by Him (Y'shua) let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, **confessing His name (Yahveh).**" Some translations say, "giving thanks to His name."

We see very clearly here that Father receives our speaking His name "Yahveh" as a sacrifice of praise. Oh what joy to know that we can please Him so simply, and yet more deeply and intimately than any other words we can muster. There is no more intimate combination of words in creation than the phrases "Father Yahveh" or "Abba Yahveh".

I recently had a letter from a twelve-year old boy who had heard me teaching this on Revelation Television.

v He writes: - *"I used Abba Yahveh in my prayer before I went to bed and the presence of God came upon me. It REALLY works."* (His emphasis)

v Another woman sent me an email: *"When you were showing us how to seek His face and be in his presence by saying Yahveh hallelujah, it was very powerful. I was ironing this afternoon watching the repeat and I physically dropped the iron and started praising and speaking in tongues, just like that."*

v Another woman writes from Scotland: - *"I was privileged to learn His name about ten years ago and the intimacy I feel when I speak to Yahweh using His Name is much deeper than anything I felt before."*

v A further person phoned me to say that a number of years ago she had been asking God His name. He said He would tell her. A few nights later when lying in bed she heard a voice like loud thunder. It spoke the name "Yahveh." She went to see if her children had heard it, but they were asleep. She went outside to see if anybody had been startled by the thunder, but all was quiet. God had been faithful to reveal His name and it has since totally changed her prayer life.

How intimate praising Yahveh is! Psalm 103 says, *"Bless Yahveh O my soul and all that is within me bless His holy name."* And Isaiah 61:3 encourages us to put on the garment of praise. We wear our clothes intimately close, so praising God with His name is an intimate act whereby He wraps Himself around us as a garment. The Lord says, *"Draw close to Me that I might draw close to you."* How better can we do that than offering the sacrifice of praise by confessing His name, for Yahveh inhabits the praises of His people (Ps 22:3)?

Our wonderful God, Yahveh, has invited us to call upon His name, to use it for His glory and praise. What an amazing honour. Using His name will lead to greater intimacy than you have ever experienced before. Try it and see.

The Hebrew word **Halleluyah** (often shown in English as Alleluia) means Praise be to God. Yah is the poetic shortened form of Yahveh. Just saying or singing Halleluyah must release raptures into the heavens.

Look at Revelation 19: 1-6 for the ultimate Halleluyah chorus! 'After these things I heard a loud voice of a great multitude in heaven, saying, "**Alleluia!** Salvation and glory and honour and power belong to the Lord our God! 2 "For true and righteous are His judgements, because He has judged the great harlot who corrupted the earth with her fornication; and He has avenged on her the blood of His servants shed by her." 3 Again they said, "**Alleluia!** Her smoke rises up forever and ever!" 4 And the twenty-four elders and the four living creatures fell down and worshiped God who sat on the throne, saying, "Amen! **Alleluia!**" 5 Then a voice came from the throne, saying, "Praise our God, all you His servants and those who fear Him, both small and great!"

6) And I heard, as it were, the voice of a great multitude, as the sound of many waters and as the sound of mighty thunderings, saying, "**Alleluia!** For the Lord God Omnipotent reigns!"

Jesus or Y'shua?

Proverbs 30:4 asks us not only whether we know the name of God, but also the name of His Son. Is it Jesus or Y'shua?

The following text is quoted directly from a paper written by Dr Daniel Botkin: "The English form *Jesus* is derived from the New Testament Greek name *Ihsouß* pronounced "Yesous." According to Strong's, *Yesous* (see Strong's #2424) is "of Hebrew origin" and can be traced back to Joshua's Hebrew name, *Yehoshua* (Strong's #3091). But how do we get the Greek *Yesous* from the Hebrew *Yehoshua*? Someone armed with nothing more than a Strong's Concordance may have difficulty answering that question. Someone who reads the Bible in Hebrew, though, knows that the name *Joshua* sometimes appears in its shortened form, *Y'shua* in Neh. 8:17 it is apparent even in English: "Jeshua the son of Nun." (The letter "J" was pronounced like "Y" in Old English.) Strong does not tell the reader that the Greek *Yesous* is actually transliterated from this shortened Hebrew form, *Y'shua*, and not directly from the longer form *Yehoshua*. The process from "Yehoshua" to "Jesus" looks like this:

Hebrew *Yehoshua* becomes Hebrew *Y'shua*

Hebrew *Y'shua* transliterated becomes Greek *Yesous*

Greek *Yesous* transliterated again becomes English *Jesus*

There is no "sh" sound in Greek, which accounts for the middle "s" sound in *Yesous*. The "s" at the end of the Greek name is a grammatical necessity, to make the word declinable.

In Nehemiah. 8:17, Joshua's name is 100% identical to the name which today's Messianic Jews use for the Messiah, *Y'shua*. Strong's confirms this pronunciation, and tells us that there were ten Israelites in the Bible who bore this name (#3442). Therefore the shortening of *Yehoshua* to *Y'shua* predates the Christian era by at least 500 years, and cannot be the result of a Jewish conspiracy to hide the Saviour's true name. To claim that the shortened form *Y'shua* is the result of a Jewish conspiracy is to ignore the facts of history and the facts of the Hebrew Scriptures. The form *Y'shua* existed for several hundred years before the Messiah was even born. Even in the pre-Christian Septuagint, we see the Greek form *IHSOUS* (*Yesous*) in the title of the Book of Joshua. (This is also proof that *Yesous* has no connection to the pagan god Zeus as has been suggested by some.)"

End of quote

There is no doubt that on earth Jesus was known as Y'shua Ben Yoseph (son of Joseph; and His mother's name was Miriam, not Mary). This is how everyone would have known Him. Y'shua is His name, and it is the name that Yahveh told Joseph to call Him.

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We have seen that there is nothing sinister about the name Jesus derived as it has been via a Greek route, although it would appear to be a man-made name. Culturally and religiously we are used to calling our Lord "Jesus". This is the way He has been revealed to us through the Greek scriptures, but He was first revealed to us through the Hebrew in all but His earthly name. We cannot deny that He is Jewish and His name is Y'shua.

The choice of address to our Lord and Saviour must be that of the worshipper alone. Y'shua, when spoken aloud, means "God's salvation." Does Jesus mean the same? Perhaps it does by usage. What must be obvious is that there was no concept of a God who saves in the Greek culture. I invite you each to seek the Lord and to ask Him what He would like you to call Him.

Avoid the Name "Jehovah."

An 11th Century RC priest introduced this name for God, which came into common usage in the 16th century. Originally the word was Yehovah, before the letter "J" became a part of the English alphabet. Yehovah was derived from the Tetragrammaton, YHWH with the vowels taken from Elohim and Adonay.

Jehovah is listed in most concordances, dictionaries and encyclopaedias. It appears in many bibles and was widely used by hymn writers and authors. None of this makes it authentic. There are three important points to note: 1) The name is man-made. It has no biblical authority or history and is refuted as authentic by all rabbinical and Hebrew scholarship. 2) It is a mixture of names and is therefore likely to be an abomination to God. As early as Gen. 1:4 He divides light from darkness. Throughout scripture He separates good from bad, clean from unclean, type from type and kind from kind. 3) It is the sound of the name that matters more than the spelling. For example in English, Anne can also be spelt Ann with no loss of sound. The hearer won't know which way the name is spelt simply by hearing it. Whichever way Anne is spelt, the sound means "full of grace". Combine Anne with Marie however, as in Annemarie, and now it means "bitter grace" – a very different thing.

In Hebrew the sound Yehovah says, "God of mischief, calamity and disaster." The Hebrew word rendered in English "Howa" and pronounced "Hovah" is the word that appears in Isaiah 47:11 as "mischief" (see Strong's #1943).

8) If you have used this name, as many Christians have, just repent and ask forgiveness. Ask Father Yahveh to cleanse you of any demonic defilement associated with using the name because it is almost certainly the name of a demon, and then move on with God. Don't concern yourself that you haven't been talking to Him, because He listens to your heart. The demonic powers cannot hear your heart, but would have heard your voice and may have taken advantage of it, for what is the name of the god of the Jehovah Witnesses?

In Conclusion

Our God has a wonderful name and He has invited us to use it. By speaking out His name we bring Him a sacrifice of praise and declare all that He is into the heavens and into the earth. He wants real intimacy with each one of His children and He has offered a way through the blood of His Son Y'shua that we might call Him "Abba Yahveh." His name has been hidden for four thousand years by the traditions of men, and by the wiles of the evil one. We can now speak to those who say we all worship the same God and say, "The name of our God is Yahveh. What is yours called?" Glory to His wonderful name. Amen

Supplied by John Campbell
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