

We Have  
**Forgotten**  
God's Name!

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# We Have Forgotten God's Name!

by David Ford

"(Prophets) who try to make My people **forget My name** by their dreams which everyone tells his neighbor, as their fathers **forgot My name** for Baal." - Jeremiah 23:27 NKJ<sup>1</sup>

\*Note that the proper name "Baal" is NOT translated, since you can't translate proper names! If it were translated, it would read "lord." However, unlike their treatment of the proper name "Baal," modern translations ALWAYS break the rules by substituting God's proper name יהוה with the title "LORD"!

**By substituting LORD for "Yehovah," we too, have forgotten God's name for Baal (lord)!**

**Today, Christians don't even know that God has a name, while the Jews who know that His Name exists, haven't dared to speak it. This is not the way God intended.**

Pour out Your wrath on the nations that do not know You,  
And on the kingdoms that do not **call on Your name**. - Psalm 79:6

Pour out Your fury on the Gentiles, who do not know You,  
And on the families who do not **call on Your name**; - Jeremiah 10:25

**God wants His Name to be spoken – just not used incorrectly. The term "vain" implies that it is not left idle or unused!**

"You shall not take the name יהוה (Yehovah) your God in **vain**, for יהוה (Yehovah) will not hold *him* guiltless who takes His name in **vain**." - Exodus 20:7

**"Vain" 7723 שָׁוִי shav' • 1) emptiness, vanity, falsehood 1a) emptiness, nothingness, vanity 1b) emptiness of speech, lying 1c) worthlessness (of conduct)**

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1. Unless otherwise mentioned all scriptures are from the *New King James Version*.

## Ancient Israel Called Upon God's Name

The Jewish Talmud states: "It was ordained that a man should greet his friends **by mentioning the Name.**" - Berakoth 9:5 *The Mishnah*

## Boaz Greeted His Workers With the Name Yehovah

Now behold, Boaz came from Bethlehem, and said to the reapers,  
"**יְהוָה (Yehovah) be with you!**" And they answered him,  
"**יְהוָה (Yehovah) bless you!**" - Ruth 2:4

## David Called Upon Yehovah

I will take up the cup of salvation, **And call upon the name יְהוָה (Yehovah).** - Psalm 116:13

**David was only able to defeat Goliath because he knew God as Yehovah! He credited calling upon the name of Yehovah as the secret to his success!**

**I will call upon יְהוָה (Yehovah), who is worthy to be praised;**  
So shall I be saved from my enemies. - 2 Samuel 22:4

Then David said to the Philistine, "You come to me with a sword, with a spear, and with a javelin. But I come to you in the **name of יְהוָה (Yehovah)** of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. This day **יְהוָה (Yehovah)** will deliver you into my hand, and I will strike you and take your head from you." - I Samuel 17:45-46

**David said that knowing God's name was vitally important in knowing and seeking God.**

**And those who know Your name will put their trust in You;**  
For You, **יְהוָה (Yehovah)**, have not forsaken those who seek You.  
Sing praises to **יְהוָה (Yehovah)**, who dwells in Zion! - Psalm 9:10-11

\*If you don't know His name, you will not trust Him!  
\*Knowing God's name is part of seeking after God!



A Psalm of David. Give unto יהוה (Yehovah), O you mighty ones,  
Give unto יהוה (Yehovah) glory and strength.  
Give unto יהוה (Yehovah) the glory due to His name;  
Worship יהוה (Yehovah) in the beauty of holiness. - Psalm 29:1-2

\*If you don't know His name, you can't give Him the glory due to His name!

## Elijah Called Upon Yehovah

"Then you call on the name of your gods (elohiym), and I will call on the name יהוה (Yehovah); and the God (elohiym) who answers by fire, He is God (elohiym)." So all the people answered and said, "It is well spoken." - 1 Kings 18:24

## A Book of Remembrance . . . For What?

Then those who feared יהוה (Yehovah) spoke to one another, And יהוה (Yehovah) listened and heard *them*; So a book of remembrance was written before Him For those who fear יהוה (Yehovah) And who meditate on His name. - Malachi 3:16

**God's name must be very important to Him – or He wouldn't have written a special book!**

The two criteria for names to be entered into this book were:

1. They feared Yehovah
2. They meditated on His name (Yehovah)

What do you think it was that the people who feared Yehovah spoke about in the first part of the verse?

## They Spoke His Name!

The book of Malachi was written about 430 B.C.E. – **just before God's name was banned in 167 B.C.E!** **The Book of Remembrance had to have been written at this same time too!** Yehovah knew that He would not again hear His name spoken for two thousand years. How sad!

For two thousand years He has been looking at this Book of Remembrance and reflecting back on the joy He felt when people cared about Him enough to meditate on and speak out His name. God is sentimental and this must be very special to Him. Sadly, even still today, a book is all that He has!

# When Did the Mention of God's Name Become Illegal?

Apparently, it all started when the Syrian Greeks under the reign of Antiochus IV Epiphanes sought to impose their Hellenistic culture on the Jews in 167 B.C.E. This included a ban on the Jewish God and His name. After a three-year fight, the Jews under the Maccabees retook the Temple and cleansed it. However, the ban remained!

## The Ban on Mentioning YHVH Began in 167 B.C.E.

On the third of Tishri the mention [of God] in bonds was abolished: for **the Grecian Government had forbidden the mention of God's name by the Israelites**, and when the Government of the Hasmoneans became strong and defeated them, they ordained that they should mention the name of God even on bonds, . . . and when the **Sages** heard of it they said, 'Tomorrow this man will pay his debt and the bond will be thrown on a dunghill', **and they stopped them**, - *The Soncino Babylonian Talmud, Rosh Hashanna 18b*

## Now, only the Priests in the Temple could Mention God's Name.

In the Temple they pronounced the Name as it was written, but in the provinces by a substituted word. - *Mishnah Sotah 7:6*

## Not only was the use of YHVH banned among the people, but harsh consequences were instituted for those who mentioned "Yehovah."

And these are they who have no share in the world to come . . . **he that pronounces the Name with its proper letters**. - *Mishnah Sanhedrin 10.1*

## The Jewish Historian Josephus alluded to the continued ban on mentioning God's Name in the first century.

Whereupon God declared to him (Moses) **his holy name**, which had never been discovered to men before; **concerning which it is not lawful for me to say any more**. - *Josephus, Antiquities of the Jews, 12.4*

## The Penalty for mentioning "Yehovah" in public was death. Y'shua narrowly averted this sentence.

Y'shua said to them, "I most positively say to you, before Abraham was born **I AM**." Then they took stones so that they could throw them at Him. But Y'shua was concealed and left the Temple. - John 8:58-59 One New Man Bible

# The Modern Ban on Pronouncing the Name of God

In 2008 the Pope had a formal letter sent to the Bishops' Conferences on "The Name of God." It notes that "in recent years the practice has crept in pronouncing the God of Israel's proper name," and that it should remain unpronounceable as an expression of reverence for the greatness of God. The following directives were commanded to be observed:<sup>2</sup>

1. In liturgical celebrations, in songs and prayers the name of God in the form of the *tetragrammaton* **YHWH is neither to be used or pronounced.**
2. For the translation of the Biblical text in modern languages the Divine *tetragrammaton* is to be rendered by the equivalent of Adonai **"Lord."**
3. When Adonai and YHWH are both present, Adonai is to be translated as "Lord," and **YHWH is to be translated as "God."**

**We have been following these confusing rules for two thousand years! To summarize:**

Translate **Yehovah** as **Lord (Adonai)** unless Adonai is directly preceeding Yehovah; in which case translate **Yehovah** as **God (elohiym).**

So Yehovah can mean Lord or God, but NEVER God's proper name! **And this is supposed to be an expression of reverence?** What about Psalm 29:2?

Give unto **יהוה (Yehovah)** the glory due to His name; - Psalm 29:2

**The devil has succeeded in nearly obliterating God's name. It is NEVER mentioned anymore. Titles have completely replaced God's Holy Name!**

**LORD** is a title – not a name!

**Elohiym** "God" is a title – not a name!

**Adonai** "Lord" is a title – not a name!

**HaShem** "The Name" is a title – not a name!

By using God's proper name we allow Him to have unhindered access to our affairs. This is the reason that Satan has deceived people into not ever mentioning **יהוה**!

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2. **The Name of God In The Liturgy – United States Conference of Catholic Bishops**  
<http://www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/the-mass/frequently-asked-questions/the-name-of-god-in-the-liturgy.cfm>

**God declared that the reason He restored the modern Hebrew language was to allow all Israel to call Him “Yehovah” – not a title!**

For then will I turn to the people a **pure language**, that they may all call upon the name יְהוָה (Yehovah), to serve him with one consent. - Zephaniah 3:9

**Y'shua will return when the Jews finally call on the name of Yehovah!**

**This will occur on Yom Kippur, the ONLY day that they dare to mention Yehovah!**

"See! Your house is left to you desolate; and assuredly, I say to you, you shall not see Me until the time (Yom Kippur) comes when you say, 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD!'" - Luke 13:35

I will bring the *one-third* through the fire, Will refine them as silver is refined, And test them as gold is tested. They will call on My name, And I will answer them. I will say, 'This is My people'; And each one will say, 'יְהוָה, God.' (Yehovah elohiym)." - Zechariah 13:9

And it shall come to pass *That* whoever calls on the name יְהוָה (Yehovah) Shall be saved.  
- Joel 2:32

## **The Purpose for the Ancient Priestly Blessing Was to Put God's Name on the People – Not a Title!**

And יְהוָה (Yehovah) spoke to Moses, saying:

"Speak to Aaron and to his sons, saying,

'In this way you will bless the children of Israel.'

Saying to them:

יְהוָה (Yehovah) will bless you and He will keep you;

יְהוָה (Yehovah) will make His face to shine upon you,

And He will be gracious to you;

יְהוָה (Yehovah) will lift His countenance to you,

And He will establish Shalom\* for you.'

**And they will put My name upon the children of Israel, and I will bless them."**

- Numbers 6:22-27 One New Man Bible \**Shalom means that no good thing is withheld*

**If we use a title (LORD) in place of Yehovah then we are not actually placing God's Name upon us!** In effect it is counterproductive! We are not really accomplishing anything! If we never use God's real name how can we be sufficiently blessed? However, when God's proper name is used, God's blessing comes automatically. There is power in His Name when it is used correctly!

# Three Who Dared to Ask God “What Is Your Name?”

## Jacob

(Jacob did not give a reason why he asked for God's name – so he got nothing more!)

Then Jacob was left alone; and a Man wrestled with him until the breaking of day. Now when He saw that He did not prevail against him, He touched the socket of his hip; and the socket of Jacob's hip was out of joint as He wrestled with him. And He said, "Let Me go, for the day breaks." But he said, "I will not let You go unless You bless me!" So He said to him, "What is your name?" He said, "Jacob." And He said, "Your name shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel; **for you have struggled with God** and with men, and have prevailed." - Genesis 32:24-28

Then Jacob asked, saying, "Tell me Your name, I pray." And He said, "**Why is it that you ask about My name?**" And He blessed him there. And Jacob called the name of the place **Peniel**: "**For I have seen God face to face**, and my life is preserved." - Genesis 32:29-30

**Peniel 6439** פְּנִיֵּאל P@niy'el from 06437 and 0410; • Penuel or Peniel = "facing God"

## Moses

(Moses gave a good reason why he was asking for God's name and he got a wonderful answer)

Then Moses said to God, "Indeed, when I come to the children of Israel and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they say to me, '**What is His name? what shall I say to them?**'" - Exodus 3:13

And God said to Moses, "אֶהְיֶה (I AM) אֲשֶׁר (Who) אֶהְיֶה (I AM)." And He said, "Thus you shall say to the children of Israel, 'אֶהְיֶה (I AM) has sent me to you.'" - Exodus 3:14

**I AM 1961** הָיָה hayah {haw-yaw} • a primitive root [compare 01933];  
1) to be, become, come to pass, exist, happen, fall out

Moreover God said to Moses, "Thus you shall say to the children of Israel: 'יְהוָה (Yehovah) 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.'" - Exodus 3:15

And God spoke to Moses and said to him: "I am יְהוָה (Yehovah). I appeared to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, as אֵל (el) שַׁדַּי (Shadday), but by My name יְהוָה (Yehovah) I was not known to them." - Exodus 6:2-3

**God 0410** אֵל 'el {ale} • shortened from 0352; 1) god, god-like one, mighty one

**Almighty 7706** שַׁדַּי Shadday {shad-dah'-ee} • from 07703; 1) almighty, most powerful



## Manoah and his wife (parents of Samson)

(Manoah gave a good reason why he asked for God's name and he too got a wonderful revelation)

Then Manoah said to the Angel of **יְהוָה (Yehovah)**, "Please let us detain You, and we will prepare a young goat for You." And the Angel of **יְהוָה (Yehovah)** said to Manoah, "Though you detain Me, I will not eat your food. But if you offer a burnt offering, you must offer it to **יְהוָה (Yehovah)**." (For Manoah did not know He was the Angel of **יְהוָה (Yehovah)**.) Then Manoah said to the Angel of **יְהוָה (Yehovah)**, "**What is Your name, that when Your words come to pass we may honor You?**" And the Angel of **יְהוָה (Yehovah)** said to him, "**Why do you ask My name, seeing it is wonderful?**" - Judges 13:17-18

For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. **And His name will be called Wonderful**, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. - Isaiah 9:6

So Manoah took the young goat with the grain offering, and offered it upon the rock to **יְהוָה (Yehovah)**. And He did a wondrous thing while Manoah and his wife looked on -- it happened as the flame went up toward heaven from the altar -- the Angel of **יְהוָה (Yehovah)** ascended in the flame of the altar! When Manoah and his wife saw this, they fell on their faces to the ground. When the Angel of **יְהוָה (Yehovah)** appeared no more to Manoah and his wife, then Manoah knew that He was the Angel of **יְהוָה (Yehovah)**. And Manoah said to his wife, "**We shall surely die, because we have seen God!**" - Judges 13:19-22

## God's Name Written in Paleo-Hebrew!

In 1979 two silver scrolls were uncovered at Ketef Hinnom which contain the oldest surviving texts of the Hebrew language (700 BCE). It took three years to unroll the scrolls without damaging them. The first word that could be deciphered was The Name YHWH written in Paleo-Hebrew. Until this time no inscriptions with the name of God had been found in Jerusalem. The scrolls contained an almost exact wording of the Priestly Blessing in Numbers 6:24-26.



𐤏𐤍𐤐𐤅 in Ancient Hebrew from a 7<sup>th</sup> Century BCE Silver Scroll

Source: <http://www.biblearchaeology.org/post/2010/01/06/The-Blessing-of-the-Silver-Scrolls.aspx>

The Jewish Scribes of the Babylonian Exile switched from the original Paleo-Hebrew alphabet to the new international language of the day which was written in Square Aramaic. This was the Syrian tongue of Ezera 4:7.

## God's Name in Ancient Hebrew and Modern Hebrew

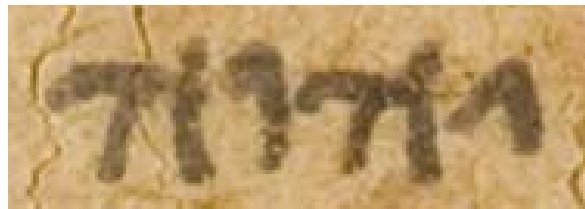
𐤏𐤍𐤐𐤅

Paleo-Hebrew 10<sup>th</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> Century B.C.E.<sup>3</sup>

יהוה

Aramaic Square Script 2<sup>nd</sup> Century B.C.E.

The Great Isaiah Scroll, one of the Dead Sea Scrolls, written around 125 BCE, uses the new Aramaic Square Script for God's Name. **Note that there are no vowels.**



יהוה in Aramaic Square Script from Isaiah 2:21, The Great Isaiah Scroll

Image Source: The Israeli Museum <http://dss.collections.imj.org.il/isaiah#2:21>

3. Paleo-Hebrew Fonts [http://www.bibleplaces.com/paleo\\_hebrew\\_fonts/](http://www.bibleplaces.com/paleo_hebrew_fonts/)

# There is Creative Power in Hebrew

**The Hebrew sages say that God created the universe using the 22 Hebrew letters!**

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. - Genesis 1:1

earth and heavens elohiym created beginning the In  
:הָאָרֶץ וְאֵת הַשָּׁמַיִם אֵת בְּרָא אֱלֹהִים בְּרֵאשִׁית WTT Genesis 1:1 <sup>4</sup>

**Notice that there is one word which is not translated! The אֵת is silent.**

The silent word אֵת is “AT” (Aleph Tav – read right to left), the first and last letters of the Hebrew alphabet. **This implies that God first created the Hebrew language and then used it to speak everything into existence!** So, if we pray in God's original language of Hebrew, it is **Powerful!**

## Four Times Y'shua Declared that He Was the Aleph Tav!

**The Greek equivalent of Aleph Tav is Alpha Omega.**

**"I am the Alpha and the Omega**, the Beginning and the End," says the Lord, "who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty." - Revelation 1:8

I was in the Spirit on the Lord's Day, and I heard behind me a loud voice, as of a trumpet, saying, **"I am the Alpha and the Omega**, the First and the Last,"  
- Revelation 1:10-11

Then He who sat on the throne said, "Behold, I make all things new." And He said to me, "Write, for these words are true and faithful." And He said to me, "It is done!  
**I am the Alpha and the Omega**, the Beginning and the End." - Revelation 21:5-6

"And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to every one according to his work. **I am the Alpha and the Omega**, the Beginning and the End, the First and the Last." - Revelation 22:12-13

If we write אֵת in Ancient Hebrew we get ✠. Notice that the ancient Tav, the last letter of the alphabet, is shaped like a cross.

**We end up with the Cross ✠!!!**

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4. Westminster Leningrad Codex translation

# What Happens When We Mention God's Proper Name in Hebrew?

## He Appears!

In every place where I cause **my name** to be **mentioned**, **I will come to you and bless you!**

- Exodus 20:24 Complete Jewish Bible

## He Protects!

The **name** יהוה (Yehovah) is a strong tower; The righteous run to it and are safe. - Proverbs 18:10

## He Promotes!

"Because he has set his love upon Me, therefore I will deliver him; **I will set him on high**, because he has known **My name**." - Psalm 91:14

## He Puts Us In His Presence!

"Holy Father, **keep through Your name** those whom You have given Me, that they may be one as We are." - John 17:11

# You Need to Use God's Name “Yehovah” to Defeat Satan!

Sadly, only one of the seven congregations mentioned in the Book of Revelation knows how to pronounce and use God's name! When you dwell in the very heart of evil you have to know about God's Name! Pergamos “height” is where Satan's Throne is located on earth.

"I know your works, and where you dwell, where Satan's throne is.  
And you hold fast to **My name**," - Revelation 2:13

In the verse above, the Greek word for “name” is talking about God's personal name!  
**“Name”** 3686 ὄνομα onoma • 1) name: univ. of proper names

## Satan doesn't know God as Yehovah and doesn't use this Name.

Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the **LORD God** (Yehovah elohiym) had made. And he said to the woman, "**Has God (elohiym) indeed said, 'You shall not eat of every tree of the garden'?**"  
. . . Then the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die.  
"For **God (elohiym)** knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like **God (elohiym)**, knowing good and evil." - Genesis 3:1-5

## Eve was defeated because she didn't know the Name Yehovah!

And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden; but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, **God (elohiym)** has said, 'You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.' " - Genesis 3:2-3

## Y'shua was Victorious Because He Knew God as Yehovah!

### The Devil came to Y'shua using the generic name for God, “elohiym.”

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.  
And when He had fasted forty days and forty nights, afterward He was hungry.  
Now when the tempter came to Him, he said, "**If You are the Son of God (elohiym), command that these stones become bread.**" - Matthew 4:1-3



## Y'shua responded by using the Name “Yehovah.”

But He answered and said, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of **God (Yehovah)**.'" - Matthew 4:4

Y'shua was referring to this scripture which uses Yehovah.

"So He humbled you, allowed you to hunger, and fed you with manna which you did not know nor did your fathers know, that He might make you know that man shall not live by bread alone; but man lives by every *word* that proceeds from the mouth of **יְהוָה (Yehovah)**."  
- Deuteronomy 8:3

## The Devil continued to use “elohiym” a second time!

Then the devil took Him up into the holy city, set Him on the pinnacle of the temple, and said to Him, "**If You are the Son of God (elohiym)**, throw Yourself down. For it is written: 'He shall give His angels charge over you,' and, 'In *their* hands they shall bear you up, Lest you dash your foot against a stone.'" (Psalm 91:11-12) - Matthew 4:5-6

## Y'shua responded a second time using the Name Yehovah!

Jesus said to him, "It is written again, 'You shall not tempt the **LORD your God (Yehovah elohiym)**.'" - Matthew 4:7

Y'shua was referring to this scripture which uses Yehovah.

"You shall not tempt **יְהוָה your God (Yehovah elohiym)** as you tempted *Him* in Massah." - Deuteronomy 6:16

## Again, for the third time, Y'shua responded by using the Name Yehovah!

Again, the devil took Him up on an exceedingly high mountain, and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. And he said to Him, "All these things I will give You if You will fall down and worship me." Then Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! For it is written, 'You shall worship the **LORD your God (Yehovah elohiym)**, and Him only you shall serve.'" - Matthew 4:8-10

Y'shua was referring to these scriptures which use Yehovah.

Do not worship any other god (el), for **יְהוָה (Yehovah)**, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God (el). - Exodus 34:14

"You shall fear יהוה **your God** (Yehovah elohiym) and serve Him, and shall take oaths in His name." - Deuteronomy 6:13

**Satan had to leave after God's Name “Yehovah” was mentioned three times!**

Then the devil left Him, and behold, angels came and ministered to Him. - Matthew 4:11

# The Trinity Is Called Yehovah

We know that the Father is the one that is most often identified as Yehovah. However, Zechariah states that when The King returns to rule on earth, He will also be called Yehovah! Additionally, a quote from Yehovah in Jeremiah is attributed as coming from the Holy Spirit in the Book of Hebrews. Yehovah seems to be a collective name for the Trinity!

In that day it shall be -- **יְהוָה (Yehovah) is one,** And His name one. - Zechariah 14:9

**This is not surprising since the generic term for God is plural!**

In the beginning **God (0430)** created the heavens and the earth. - Genesis 1:1.

**God 0430** אֱלֹהִים 'elohiym {el-o-heem'} • plural of 0433; 1) (plural) 1a) rulers, judges  
1b) divine ones 1c) angels 1d) gods

**The Father is Yehovah!**

"I will declare the decree: **יְהוָה (Yehovah)** has said to Me, 'You are My Son, Today I have begotten You.'" - Psalm 2:7

**יְהוָה (Yehovah)** said to my Lord (adown), "Sit at My right hand, Till I make Your enemies Your footstool." - Psalm 110:1 A Psalm of David.

**Y'shua is Yehovah!**

And **יְהוָה (Yehovah)** shall be King over all the earth. In that day it shall be --

**"יְהוָה (Yehovah) is one," And His name one.**

. . . And it shall come to pass *that* everyone who is left of all the nations which came against Jerusalem shall go up from year to year to worship the **King, יְהוָה (Yehovah) of hosts**, and to keep the Feast of Tabernacles. And it shall be *that* whichever of the families of the earth do not come up to Jerusalem to worship the **King, יְהוָה (Yehovah) of hosts**, on them there will be no rain. - Zechariah 14:9, 16-17

## The Holy Spirit is Yehovah!

But the **Holy Spirit** also witnesses to us; for after **He had said before**,

"This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, **says the LORD**: I will put My laws into their hearts, and in their minds I will write them," *then He adds*, "Their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more." - Hebrews 10:15-17

**"But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says יְהוָה (Yehovah):** I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. No more shall every man teach his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, 'Know יְהוָה (Yehovah),' for they all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them, **says יְהוָה (Yehovah)**. For I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more." - Jeremiah 31:33-34

# How to Pronounce God's Name

On September 11, 2001, as Nehemia Gordon was studying the ancient Hebrew manuscripts, he noticed an incidence in which there was a subtle variation in the spelling of YHVH. There was an extra vowel in the Divine name! As he was pondering this difference his phone rang with the news about one of the twin towers in New York City being damaged. Nehemiah continued studying and amazingly found a second occurrence of this same variation in the spelling of YHVH. Immediately, his phone rang again with someone stating that the second tower in New York had also been damaged! As a new wave of evil was being unleashed on the world, God appeared to be simultaneously revealing the true pronunciation of His name!<sup>5</sup>

The consonants YHVH appear 6,828 times in the Hebrew text of Scripture. However, it is the vowels that determine the proper pronunciation of the Divine name. Nehemia published an informal paper on his discovery contrasting the proper way to say YHVH with the variations that we are often told. Let's take a look at the highlights of his research and how the vowels of YHVH are actually written in the ancient manuscripts.<sup>6</sup>

## Adonai (Lord)

**It is often presented as fact that YHVH are the consonants with the vowels coming from Adonai.**

### The First Problem with Using Adonai

The practice of Qere-Ketiv was developed to remedy slight differences in the vowels of Biblical manuscripts. Qere (“what is said”) and Ketiv (“what is written”) are marginal notes instructing the reader on the most likely pronunciation of a word. The Masoretes added a small **circle** over the word in question to indicate that there was a marginal note. This way they did not alter the sacred consonantal text.

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5 Nehemia Gordon Talking About Shattering the Conspiracy of Silence with Christine Dang <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4TN1B1V2-g>; Nehemia Gordon, Open Door Series 11 – The Tower that Still Stands <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8AsckpKoC1A>

6. Nehemia Gordon, *The Pronunciation of the Name* [http://obohu.cz/attachments/article/95/Vyslovnost\\_Jmena-Nehemia\\_Gordon\\_EN.pdf](http://obohu.cz/attachments/article/95/Vyslovnost_Jmena-Nehemia_Gordon_EN.pdf)



Note the circle in the upper right-hand side of the word “servant” from Joshua 1:1 in the Aleppo Codex below.



**Qere-Ketiv circle over Ebed “servant” from Joshua 1:1 in the Aleppo Codex**

Source: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aleppo\\_Codex#/media/File:Aleppo\\_Codex\\_Joshua\\_1\\_1.jpg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aleppo_Codex#/media/File:Aleppo_Codex_Joshua_1_1.jpg)

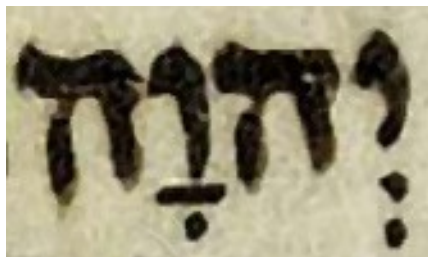
If the Masoretes actually wanted to put marginal notes telling us to read YHVH with the consonants of Adonai then there would be a circle above YHVH. However, no notes exist! **Not once in the 6,828 times do the ancient Hebrew texts tell us to use the Qere-Ketiv marginal notes to read YHVH as Adonai!**

## **The Second Problem with Using Adonai**

**YHVH is never seen written with the vowels of Adonai in ancient manuscripts! NEVER!**

The Aleppo Codex (10<sup>th</sup> century C.E.)<sup>7</sup> and the Leningrad Codex (1008 C.E.)<sup>8</sup> preserve the most accurate complete texts of the Hebrew Scriptures. They both write YHVH as YeHV<sup>sheva</sup>aH.

**YHVH is written as YeHV<sup>sheva</sup>aH – not with the vowels of Adonai which would be YaHoVaH.**



**YeHV<sup>sheva</sup>aH from Joshua 1:1 in the Aleppo Codex**

Source: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aleppo\\_Codex#/media/File:Aleppo\\_Codex\\_Joshua\\_1\\_1.jpg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aleppo_Codex#/media/File:Aleppo_Codex_Joshua_1_1.jpg)

The two dots beneath the Yod (י) are called a *sheva* (:). It sounds like “uh.” It is silent when in the

7. Aleppo Codex [https://archive.org/details/Aleppo\\_Codex](https://archive.org/details/Aleppo_Codex)

<http://www.seforimonline.org>

8. Leningrad Codex [https://archive.org/details/Leningrad\\_Codex](https://archive.org/details/Leningrad_Codex)

<http://www.seforimonline.org>

middle of a syllable. The dash and dot below the Vav (ו) is called a *kamatz*. It makes an “ah” sound. Many modern printings of Scripture have modified YHVH, sometimes using no vowels at all, and other times using the vowels of Adonai (A-O-A) to create YaHoVaH. This goes against the ancient manuscripts.

## Yah

Yah follows an ancient practice of taking the first and last letter of a word to express an abbreviation.

**So the first and last letters of YHVH produce the abbreviation “Yah.”**

Sing to God, sing praises to **His name**; Extol Him who rides on the clouds,  
By **His name** יהוה **YAH**, And rejoice before Him. - Psalm 68:4

**Yah** 3050 יהוה Yahh {yaw} • contraction for 03068, and meaning the same;  
1) Jah (Jehovah in the shortened form) 1a) the proper name of the one true God <sup>9</sup>

## Yahweh

### The First Argument Against Using Yahweh

**Yahweh** as a name for God comes from the writings of Theodoret of Cyrus, a so called Church Father who lived in the 5<sup>th</sup> Century C.E. Theodoret wrote concerning YHVH:

**“The Samaritans call it IABE while the Jews AIA.”**

The Greek AIA is pronounced “A-Yah” and is the shortened form of God's name with an appended A in front, a common practice that makes words easier to pronounce.

Theodoret says that the Samaritans pronounce YHVH as *IABE* (pronounced Ya-be). Translating this back into Hebrew we get **Yabeh**.

However, there are problems with using the Greek to precisely reconstruct Hebrew. First, the ancient Greek language did not have an H sound in the middle of words. So, we have to take away the first H in YHVH. Secondly, the Greek language did not have a W or a V sound. This drops the third letter in the Divine name. Finally, the vowels of the ancient Greek were much different than the Hebrew vowels. Biblical Hebrew has nine vowels which do not have exact corresponding vowels in the Greek.

So, whatever Theodoret heard from the Samaritans, it was impossible for him to accurately transcribe into the Greek language. Today, most scholars translate the Samaritan *IABE* as the Hebrew **Yahweh**. This is just a scholarly guess. It is only seen as important because it is wrongly assumed that the Samaritans were not yet under the ban on saying God's name.

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9. James Strong, *Strong's Concordance*, Hebrew Dictionary is used for all numbered words

It turns out that the Samaritans also called God *Yafeh*, meaning “beautiful one.” What probably happened was that the Samaritans told Theodoret that God is called *Yafeh*, “the beautiful one,” but in their corrupt pronunciation it came out **Yabe**.

## The Second Argument Against Using Yahweh

Modern scholars say that the name YHVH must be the *piel* or *hifil* form of the verb HYH (to be), which would be pronounced as **Yahweh**. This would make YHVH mean “He that causes to be.” Hebrew has seven verb conjugations, but it is rare to have a single word that uses all of them (Qal, Niphal, Piel, Pual, Hiphil, Hophal, Hithpael).

The problem with this is that the verb HYH only exists in the first (qal) and second (nifal) conjugations in Biblical Hebrew. This means that the scholarly assumption that YHVH is the third or fifth conjugation of HYH is technically impossible. **Yahweh** is a non-existent verbal form in Biblical Hebrew!

## Why do modern scholars universally identify the name YHVH as some fictitious verb that defies the rules of Hebrew grammar?

1. The non-existent *piel* or *hifil* forms would make YHVH mean “**He that causes to be.**” This fits in perfectly with theological preconceptions.
2. **Yahweh** matches what Theodoret says was the Samaritan pronunciation of the name.

Additionally, it is a rule of Biblical Hebrew that when a verb is incorporated into a name its vowels are freely modified. In fact, it is the norm for verbs to be modified in names. So the name YHVH could easily contain the root HYH without this dictating its vowels. The attempt to force a grammatical verb-form on a name goes against the rules of the Hebrew language.

**Besides being an impossible conjugation, Yahweh would be a name with an unmodified form of its verb – contrary to the norm!**

## God told Moses that the root word of His Name was HYH (to exist)!

And God said to Moses, "אֶהְיֶה (I AM) אֲשֶׁר (Who) אֶהְיֶה (I AM)." And He said, "Thus you shall say to the children of Israel, 'אֶהְיֶה (I AM) has sent me to you.' " - Exodus 3:14 <sup>10</sup>

The *Strong's Hebrew Dictionary* shows that “I AM” is the Hebrew root word HYH.

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10. Westminster Leningrad Codex translation added for select words.

**I AM** 1961 הָיָה hayah • a primitive root [compare 01933];

1) to be, become, come to pass, exist, happen, fall out

Then, in the next verse God gives His Name **which is a little different than the HYH root word**, having an HVH instead.

... 'יְהוָה' (Yehovah)<sup>11</sup> God of your fathers, ... **This is My name forever**, - Exodus 3:15

Even though YHVH is derived from HYH, and not HVH, it is interesting to note that the similar verb means essentially the same thing!

1933 הָוָה havah • a primitive root [compare 0183, 01961]; **to breathe**, to be

Perhaps the similarity of YHVH with this HVH verb is giving us a little clue:

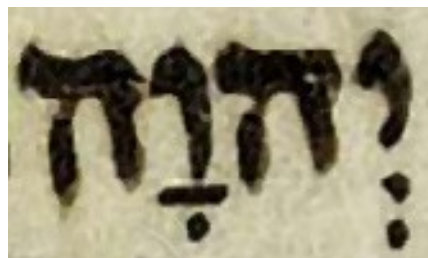
**Not only does God EXIST, but He is living and He BREATHE!**

## Is YeHVah Correct?

The actual vocalization of the name YHVH in the ancient Hebrew manuscripts is YeHVah.

The first problem with this is that the vowel following the first *he* (ה) is missing. There are two consonants in a row without a vowel in between. The Hebrew vowels are written above or beneath each consonant and consecutively follow the letter they are above/beneath.

Note that there is no vowel above or below the first H below (read right to left).



**YeHVah from Joshua 1:1 in the Aleppo Codex**

Source: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aleppo\\_Codex#/media/File:Aleppo\\_Codex\\_Joshua\\_1\\_1.jpg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aleppo_Codex#/media/File:Aleppo_Codex_Joshua_1_1.jpg)

There should be a vowel above or beneath the second letter. A fundamental rule of the Hebrew language is that a consonant in the middle of a word must be followed by either a vowel or a silent sheva (:). There are some exceptions but never with a *he* (ה) in the middle of a word. It is common for

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11. Strong's Hebrew Dictionary definition

the H to be silent at the end of a word, but never when it is in the middle.

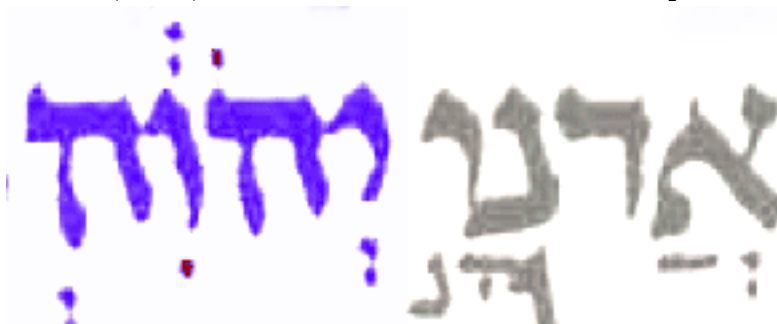
**This means that by the rules of Biblical Hebrew the first H must have some vowel!**

### **What happened to this missing vowel?**

It was medieval scribal practice to omit a word by removing its vowels. When a medieval reader came across a word with no vowels, he knew that it was not to be read. Possibly the scribes omitted the vowel on the first H of YHVH to prevent the readers from pronouncing the Divine name out loud.

In the Aleppo Codex, the most precise manuscript of the Biblical text, YHVH gets the vowels YeHoViH when it directly follows the word Adonai. The last vowel “I” seems to be a reminder to the reader to pronounce YHVH as Elohim (God). Look at the words “Adonai YHVH” below.

**Note that the normal dash and dot representing the “Ah” sound are no longer below the Vav (ו)!** They have been replaced with a single dot (in red) called a *chirik* which represents the “ee” sound. Also note another added dot (in red) above the first ה called a *cholam* representing the “oh” sound.



**Adonai YeHoViH in Judges 6:22 from the Aleppo Codex**

Image Source: <http://the-iconoclast.org/reference/yhvh.php>

**The significance of YeHoViH is that it contains a full set of vowels.** There is nothing to prevent the reader from pronouncing the name. Now, for some reason the Masoretic scribes appeared to be concerned with the reader pronouncing YeH?VaH but not at all worried about YeHoViH. They had to know that this was the wrong pronunciation of the Divine name. However, with YeH?VaH they suppressed the middle vowel because they knew it was the true way to say God's name!



**When we compare YeHVaH with YeHoViH we see that the missing vowel is most likely the “O”!**

This assumption is confirmed by the fact that fifty times in the Leningrad Codex the scribes actually forgot to suppress the “O”! Out of 6,828 occurrences, 50 times the spelling is YeHoVaH! It is significant that no other vowel besides the “O” was ever used on these fifty occasions. Note below that the Divine name has a **dot above the H** denoting the “oh” sound. Fifty times it was written just like this!



**YeHoVaH in Jeremiah 5:2 from the Leningrad Codex**  
Image Source: <http://the-iconoclast.org/reference/yhvh.php>

Was this a subtle hint from the Kariate Masoretes giving away the true pronunciation? Fifty is the number of the Jubilee, when debts are cancelled and land is restored to the original owners. It seems that they were telling us the true form of God's name when it will be restored.

## **The Divine name must be YeHoVaH!**

Another argument supporting the “O” as the missing vowel is that many Hebrew names incorporate part of the Divine name. When the Divine name appears at the beginning of a name, it is **Yeho-** (Yehoshua “YHVH saves”); when it appears at the end it is **-yahu** (Netanyahu “gift from God”).

### **Beginning**

יהו - \_\_\_\_

### **Ending**

\_\_\_\_ - יהו

Yeho-shua	Yesha-yahu	(both names mean Yehovah SAVES)
Yeho-natan	Netan-yahu	(both names mean Yehovah GIVES)
Yeho-achaz	Achaz-yahu	(both names mean Yehovah GRABS HOLD )
Yeho-chanan	Chanan-yahu	(both names mean Yehovah HAS MERCY)
Yeho-tzadak	Tzidki-yahu	(both names mean Yehovah IS RIGHTEOUS)

**In God's name יהו is at the beginning, YeHoVaH begins with the proper form Yeho!**<sup>12</sup>

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12. Nehemia Gordon, Open Door Series 11 – The Tower that Still Stands  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8AsckpKoC1A>

## The Fifty occurrences of YHVH as YeHoVaH in the Leningrad Codex B19A: <sup>13</sup>

Genesis 3:14, 9:26; Exodus 3:2, 13:3, 13:9, 13:15, 14:1, 14:8; Leviticus 25:17; Deuteronomy 31:27, 32:9, 33:12, 33:13; 1 Kings 3:5, 16:33; Jeremiah 2:37, 3:1, 3:13, 3:21, 3:22, 3:25, 4:3, 4:8, 5:2, 5:3, 5:9, 5:15, 5:18, 5:19, 5:22, 5:29, 6:9, 8:13, 30:10, 36:8; Ezekiel 44:5; Nahum 1:3; Psalms 15:1, 40:5, 47:5, 100:5, 116:5, 116:6; Proverbs 1:29; Four times with the preposition to: Exodus 13:12; Leviticus 23:34; Jeremiah 4:4; Ezekiel 46:13; One time with the preposition in: Jeremiah 3:23; And one time with the conjunction and: Genesis 18:17

### How to Say the Name

The Anglicized form “Jehovah” is close to the correct spelling. However, Hebrew does not have a J sound, and neither did the English language until the 1500s! The Divine name starts with a Hebrew Yod (י) which is pronounced like the English “Y.”

The Masoretic text has the accent at the end, on the **“vah.”** The English emphasis on the middle “ho” is incorrect.

**So the name is actually pronounced “YehoVah.”**

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13. Keith E. Johnson, *His Hallowed Name Revealed Again*, 218. <http://hishallowedname.com/>