

# The Name Of God

By David L. Martin

יהוה

Appearing well over 6,000 times in the Tanakh (Old Testament,) and the Holiest Name above all names, God's Name is being rediscovered by thousands in our time. For although it's importance is unfathomable, it has for a large part been lost to us. And although God commands that by His Name He should be called from generation to generation, only a remnant knows to speak it. But praises be multiplied to Him, for His Spirit is reviving in His people, knowledge, love, and remembrance of His Name.

*“And Moses said unto God, Behold, when I come unto the children of Israel, and shall say unto them, The God of your fathers hath sent me unto you; and they shall say to me, What is His Name? what shall I say unto them... And God said moreover unto Moses, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel,*

The LORD (יהוה) God of your fathers,

*the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, hath sent me unto you: this is My Name for ever, and this is My Memorial unto all generations.”*

Exo 3:13-15 KJV

God's Name has been unknown to us, mostly because of our English translations. The Name of God has been changed to the title "LORD," and not transliterated. Why? I have heard that the early English Bible translators were taught by Jewish Rabbis how to read Hebrew. And the Rabbis told them not to pronounce that Name, but to translate

it as "the LORD." The Rabbis had decided many years before, that the Name of the Creator was unutterable. Twisting the meaning of the 3rd Commandment,

*“You shall not take the Name of יהוה your God in vain”  
(Exo 20:7.)*

they effectively made everyone afraid of uttering the Name of the Creator. Beyond the fact ,that in order to recite Exo 20:7 you must say God's Name twice, I find it hard to believe that God put His Name in the Scriptures well over 6,000 additional times if He had no intention of us speaking it! Despite the absurdity of the whole idea, it has continued to be tradition to this day to translate His Name as "the LORD." Whatever the reason for wiping His Name out of His own Book, it wasn't right.

But another excuse why God's Name is not transliterated, could be because it can be difficult to determine exactly how it is pronounced. So instead of trying, they just continue with tradition and use "the LORD" instead. I believe that God wants us to try and pronounce His Name. After all, it's His Name. And although I'm not absolutely, 100% certain on how to pronounce it, (I'm just 99% certain) we know that "the LORD" is not His Name. Besides, I believe that God has given us many clues to get the pronunciation very close, if not exact. One thing I am 100% certain of, the Name of the Creator is not completely lost. God will reveal His Name to those who seek it.

“His Name shall endure forever; His Name shall continue as long as the sun. And men shall be blessed in Him; All nations shall call Him blessed.”  
Psalm 72:17 NKJV

### **Why Is God's Name Important?**

But why is God's Name so important for us to use when calling upon Him? First, we have no authority to change the Scriptures. We are told in the Scriptures not to add or take away words from it. Out of all the words someone could take out of the Scriptures, the Name of God is probably the most serious. And it was done more than 6,000 times! Secondly, God told Moses that “this is My Name for ever, and this is My Memorial unto all generations.” Therefore, it is not right for us to replace His real Name with any title. Thirdly, we must call God by His real Name for the same reason that it is important for you to use other people's real names; to be personal and close. To call upon our God by His Name adds a whole new level of intimacy with Him. Fourthly, we are specifically told in the Psalms to praise the Name.

“Oh, magnify יהוה with me, And let us exalt His Name together.”  
Psalm 34:3

“Praise יהוה

Praise, O servants of יהוה

Praise the Name of יהוה”  
Psalm 113:1

“Both young men and maidens; Old men and children. Let them

praise the Name of יהוה  
For His Name alone is exalted”  
Psalm 148:12-13

Clearly, the Name of the Father is a cornerstone of worship. We are told to praise the Name over and over again in the Scriptures. There wouldn't be enough room in a book to discuss all the reasons for speaking His Name, much less this article. But let it be sufficient for now to say that God's Name is important because it is His Name.

### **The Variations...**

Before I get into how I think the Name is pronounced, let me state that there are different ideas on how to pronounce it, and I think that God appreciates all those who care enough to try. I know people who I love dear, who pronounce the Name a little differently than me, and I still rejoice when I hear other people sing songs that have God's Name pronounced with different variations. (For that matter, some of my earlier music pronounced God's Name as “Yahweh”.) I am 99% certain of a particular pronunciation, and I have a deep conviction that it is correct. But I would encourage you to start your own study and prayer, to settle in your mind what you believe to be the correct pronunciation.

**“There wouldn't be enough room in a book to discuss all the reasons for speaking His Name, much less this article. But let it be sufficient for now to say that God's Name is important because it is His Name.”**

# ?How?To?Pronounce?The?Name?

## Hebrew Spelling Of God's Name

יהוה

Read From Right To Left

The Name of God is spelled in Hebrew as יהוה (Hebrew Letters: Yude, Hey, Vav, Hey.) All the letters in God's Name are consonates. As a matter of fact, Biblical Hebrew contains no written vowels. It's by experience that you learn which vowel to attach to each consonate. The first letter "Yude" (to the far right) has a "Y" sound. The next letter "Hey" has a "H" sound. The next letter "Vav" has a "W" sound. (Note: in modern Hebrew it has a "V" sound, but it is believed that it originally had a "W" sound.) And the last letter "Hey", as already stated has an "H" sound. (see illustration below)

"Sing unto God, sing praises to His Name: extol Him that rideth upon the heavens by His Name JAH (YAH), and rejoice before Him."  
Psalm 68:4 KJV

Now don't be confused, YAH is not God's full Name, but His shortened Name. Just like my shortened name would be "Dave." God's shortened Name, YAH, is contained in the word "HalleluYAH." The word "HalleluYAH" means "Praise be to YAH." Below is the Hebrew spelling for the shortened Name "YAH." (see illustration below)

Y

י

H

ה

W

ו

H

ה

YAH

יה

God's Shortened Name

יהוה

God's Full Name

To see how to pronounce the first part of God's Name, we need look no further than Psalm 68:4. This is one of the only passages that the translators actually transliterated correctly with the Name of God.

Notice that these are the same first two letters of God's full Name. With this information, I believe that the first part of God's full Name is "YAH." (see next page for phonetic explanation)

## Phonetic Hebrew Explanation of "YAH"

**YA** = י

**H** = ה

Now the next piece of the puzzle is found in many Hebrew names in Scripture. I believe there to be two shortened Names of God. One of them being "YAH," the other, "YAHU." This shortened form of God's Name is found in the names of many prophets. Such as in the name of Isaiah. Isaiah's Hebrew name is pronounced "Yesha**YAHU**." This Hebrew name means "YAH Saves." The Heavenly Father's Name is also seen in Jeremiah's Hebrew name, "Yirmeh**YAHU**." Yirmeh**YAHU** means "YAH Will Rise." Elijah's Hebrew name is "Eli**YAHU**." Obadiah's Hebrew name is "Obad**YAHU**," and it means "Serving YAH." YAH's Name is even found in a well known world leader's name, Prime Minister Binyamin Netan**YAHU**, which means "Gift Of YAH." The Hebrew spelling of "YAHU" is shown below.

## Phonetic Hebrew Explanation of "YAHU"

**YA** = י

**HU** = ה

**W** = ו

**YAHU** יְהוּ

**God's Other Shortened Name**

יְהוָה

**God's Full Name**

As you can see, the three letters of "YAHU" is the same first three letters of YAH's full Name. After processing all the information above, I came to the conclusion that "YAHU" is part of the pronunciation of YAH's full Name.

The final puzzle piece is hidden in the Name of the tribe of Yeshua the Messiah. In Genesis 29:35 we read in English,

*"And she conceived again, and bare a son: and she said, Now will I praise the LORD: therefore she called his name Judah; and left bearing."  
Genesis 29:35 KJV*

A rather puzzling verse in English. What does naming the baby "Judah" have to do with praising "the LORD?" To answer this, we need to examine the Hebrew names of Judah and God. The Hebrew spelling of Judah's name and God's Name are written on the next page.

# Yehuwdah

יהודה

# YAHUW - ?

יהודה

Notice that the Hebrew spelling of "Yehuwdah" is identical to the spelling of YAH's full Name, except for the additional letter "dalet." (which is colored blue) The "dalet" is what gives the "d" sound in Yehuwdah's name. When we remove the "dalet" we are left with the spelling of the Name of God. (see illustration below)

# Yehuwdah

יהודה

# YaHuWaH

יהודה

Now let's look at Genesis 29:35 again with the real Hebrew Names.

“And she conceived again, and bare a son: and she said, Now will I praise  
**YaHuWaH**: therefore she called his name **Yehuwdah**;  
and left bearing.”  
Genesis 29:35

Ah, now we see the beautiful Hebrew poetry that was lost in translation. Did you notice how YaHuWaH and Yehuwdah rhyme? This kind of poetry is actually found throughout the Hebrew Scriptures, beautifying the writing, and in this case, making the whole sentence make sense.

## Pause And Consider...

If you have never before pronounced the Name YaHuWaH, take a moment to grasp what your lips have uttered. For the first time, you have pronounced the Almighty Creator's Name, the Name by which you are called. A very significant moment in your life! In the past we have called upon the Person of YaHuWaH, not knowing His Name. But now we can call upon our Heavenly Father in a more personal way, by using His Name. I would encourage you to enjoy calling upon your God by Name. (see Phonetic Explanation below)

## Phonetic Hebrew Explanation of "YaHuWaH"

YA = י

HU = ה

WA = ו

H = ה

## Please Study

I would again encourage you to do your own study, so that you can be confident in pronouncing God's Name. Since I have discovered the importance of using God's Name, I have trained myself to say "YaHuWaH" instead of "the LORD" when reading the Bible. It has truly been a blessing to me. The blessing has also been poured into my music, where now I use the Name of YaHuWaH in song.

## The Remembrance

At this point in time, we should all be rejoicing. Why? Because in the Psalms it is written,

"Rejoice in YaHuWaH,  
you righteous, And give thanks at the  
remembrance of  
His Holy Name."  
Psalms 97:12

We are living in a time when the righteous are beginning to *remember* His Holy Name. Therefore, this is the season to give thanks and rejoice as the Scriptures command us.

"For our heart shall rejoice in Him, be-  
cause we have trusted in  
His Holy Name"  
Psalms 33:21 KJV

This is the time to begin to reclaim our worship to include His Name, in song, dance, and the playing of instruments and timbrels. Let us restore the Name of YaHuWaH in our worship.

"Let them praise His Name in  
the dance: let them sing praises unto Him  
with the timbrel and harp."  
Psalms 149:3 KJV

“Praise **YaHuWaH**; for  
**YaHuWaH** is good:  
sing praises unto **His Name**;  
for it is pleasant.”  
Psalms 135:3

### **All Will Call Him By His Name**

Perhaps some Christians will think that this is not really important. But to show no regard or care in pronouncing God's Name, must make YaHuWaH sad, to say the least. Once His Name has been revealed to us, how can we continue to replace God's Name with a title, and reject the Name by which we are called? This apathy will not continue forever, for the Word of YaHuWaH says,

“For then will I turn to the people a  
pure language, that they may all call  
upon the Name of  
**YaHuWaH**, to serve him  
with one consent.”  
Zep 3:9

and in ZacharYAHU (Zechariah,)

“And **YaHuWaH** shall be king  
over all the earth:  
in that day shall there be one  
**YaHuWaH**,  
and **His Name** one.”  
Zec 14:9

May you be richly blessed in the Name of our  
Father, YaHuWaH, and His Son,  
Yeshua the Messiah.



“Our help is in the Name of  
**YaHuWaH**  
who made heaven and earth.”  
Psalm 124:8

“For all people walk in the  
name of his god,  
But we will walk in the  
Name of **YaHuWaH**  
our God Forever and ever.”  
Micah 4:5

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