

# *The Name Of God*

By David L. Martin

יהוה

Appearing 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 declares 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 and love 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 "LORD." (This was done for fear of using God's Name in vain.) Well, it has continued to be tradition to this day to translate His Name as "LORD."

But another reason why God's Name is not translated correctly, could be because it is difficult to determine exactly how it is pronounced. So instead of trying, they just continue with tradition and use "LORD" instead. I believe that God wants us to try and pronounce His Name. After all, it's His Name. And although we're not *absolutely* certain how to pronounce it, **we know** that "LORD" is not His Name. Besides, I believe that God has given us enough clues to get the pronunciation very close, if not exact.

But why is God's Name so important for us to use when calling upon Him? For the same reason that it is important for you to know human names, and because it is mandated by Scripture. Here are only a few of those verses,

"Praise יהוה

Praise, O servants of יהוה

Praise the Name of יהוה"

Psalm 113:1

"Our help is in the Name of יהוה  
who made heaven and earth."  
Psalm 124:8

"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

Before I get into how I think the Name is pronounced, let me state that I'm not dogmatic about my opinion on pronunciation. 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 it does not bother me to sing other people's songs that have God's Name pronounced with different variations. So I would encourage you to start your own study and prayer, to settle in your mind what you believe to be the correct pronunciation.

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The Name of God is spelled in Hebrew as יהוה (**Hebrew Letters: Yud, Hey, Vav, Hey.**) I believe that from examining other Hebrew words that contain these letters, we can determine the Name's pronunciation.

Because Hebrew is read from right to left, the first two letters are

יה

**Hey | Yud**

I believe this group of letter's pronunciation is easy to determine, for these two letters are used as an abbreviation for God's Name many times in Scripture. For instance, the word "Hallelu**Jah**" is actually a Hebrew word. "Hallelu" means "praise be to" and the last part "**Jah**" is God's abbreviated Name, and is spelled exactly like the first part of His full Name. So I believe that the first part of God's Name is pronounced "Yah" (*Also See: Psa 68:4*)

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## Hey | Vav

The last part of God's Name is also spelled in Eve's Hebrew name. Eve's Hebrew name is pronounced "Haw**ah**" (Note: In modern Hebrew, her name is pronounced "Hav**ah**" but it is believed that in Biblical times that the Hebrew letter vav was pronounced with a "w" sound.) The two letters that are pronounced as "**wah**" in her name are the exact same last letters of God's Name. Therefore, I believe that the last part of God's Name is pronounced "**wah.**"

## Yah -?- wah

Now there is a Hebrew sound that connects the "Yah" and "wah" segments of God's Name. I believe the answer can be found in the pronunciation of Isaiah's Hebrew name. Isaiah's Hebrew name is spelled below

ישעייהו

Notice that the last three letters (which are underlined) are the same first three letters in God's Name. (shown below)

יהודה

Isaiah's Hebrew name is pronounced "Yeshay**ahu**" The "yahu" part is pronounced from those three letters. Therefore, I believe that God's Name is pronounced "**Yahuwah**" (**Yah-who-wah**) Further evidence for this can be seen in the naming of Yehuda (Judah.)

"And she conceived again and bore a son, and said, "Now I will praise the LORD."  
Therefore she called his name Judah. Then she stopped bearing."  
Gen 29:35 NKJV

In English, this doesn't really make any sense to us. How does praising God have anything to do with the name "Judah?" Well, this passage makes more sense when we use Judah's Hebrew name, and God's Name.

"And she conceived again and bore a son, and said, "Now I will praise Yahuwah (Ya-who-wah)." Therefore she called his name Yehuda (Ye-who-da). Then she stopped bearing."  
Gen 29:35

Now we see the beautiful poetry in the Hebrew language, and another confirmation that Ya-who-wah is the correct pronunciation.

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.

Perhaps many 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. 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 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

"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

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

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