

WHAT IS HIS

NAME?

Did you know that the Creator has a name? If asked, could you give the proper name? What name must we call upon in order to be saved?

The question is asked in the book Proverbs, “Who hath ascended up into heaven, or descended? Who hath gathered the wind in his fists? Who hath bound the waters in a garment? Who hath established all the ends of the earth? **What is his name, and what is his son’s name, if thou canst tell?**” 30:4.

Several years ago, if someone had asked me what the Heavenly Father’s name was I would have quickly responded, “Why God, of course!” I had been a member of a fairly large and well known Christian organization for several years which taught the commandments, etc. But when it came to the knowledge of the true name of the Creator, neither was it taught, nor was its importance acknowledged. The person asking me that question could have responded, “Well, that is what He is, but what is His name?” I would have been dumbfounded. The only answer I could have given would have been, “I don’t know.”

Many people don’t believe that the Creator’s name is all that important, but what does He have to say about it? “I am Yahweh: that is My name: and My glory will I not give to another, neither My praise to graven images,” Isa. 42:8.

Yahweh’s name appears about 6823 times in the Old Testament alone! Then there are the places that the original New Testament Scriptures would have had it recorded. Does that not strike you as to its importance?

THE PRONUNCIATION

Many people will say, “I don’t see the name Yahweh in any of the Scriptures.” That’s because words such as “the LORD” have been inserted in the places where the name should appear. The actual Hebrew Scriptures reveal that the Name is “יהוה” (Yod, Hey, Waw, Hey). It is usually rendered YHWH in the English.

Josephus, speaking of the High Priest as he went into the Holy of Holies on the day of Atonement to perform the appointed rituals says, “A mitre also of fine linen encompassed his head, which was tied by a blue riband, about which there was another golden crown, in which was engraven the sacred name [of God:] **it consists of four vowels.**” (*Wars of the Jews*, Book V, Chapter VI, p. 556). Rabbi Arthur Green concurs with Josephus in his book *Seek My Face, Speak My name*. Here is what he says about YHWH (יהוה [remember that Hebrew reads from right to left]), “Really they are mere vowels, **mere breath**. There is nothing hard or defined in their sound.” (p. 18).

An interesting point concerning the statement “mere breath” is that the Hebrew word for breath is “ruach” while the Greek word is “pneuma”. Both words are usually and generally translated as “SPIRIT!” Remember that Yahshua said “Elohim is spirit and they that worship Him must worship *Him* in spirit and in truth,” Jn. 4:24. Therefore the true name Yahweh (YHWH/יהוה) is spirit.

The Yod (י) would be pronounced like the English “Y”, “e” as in the word “yes.” The Hey (ה) would be pronounced like the English “A” as in “father.” The Waw (ו) would be pronounced like the “w” in the name “Matthew.” Finally the last Hey (ה) would be pronounced like the “A” in the English word “hay.” Thus we have ee-ah-oo-eh. When spoken together quickly it sounds like Yahweh or Yahueh.

THE MEMORIAL

When Yahweh commissioned Moses to deliver Israel out of the land of Egypt, Moses asked, “Behold, when I come unto the children of Israel, and shall say unto them, ‘The Elohim of your fathers hath sent me unto you;’ and they shall say to me, ‘What is His name’ what shall I say unto them?” Ex. 3:13. Yahweh

responded, "I AM THAT I AM:" and He said, "Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, 'I AM hath sent me unto you.' And Elohim said moreover unto Moses, 'Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, 'Yahweh Elohim of your fathers, the Elohim of Abraham, the Elohim of Isaac, and the Elohim of Jacob hath sent me unto you:' this is My name forever, and this is My **memorial unto all generations.**" v.v. 14-15. The Psalmist also says, "Thy name, O Yahweh, endureth forever; and **Thy memorial, O Yahweh, throughout all generations,**" Psa. 135:13.

The Hebrew word translated "memorial" comes from the root word "zakar" which means: to mark, to remember, to mention, etc. One generally cannot remember a thing unless there is some kind of ceremony established to remember, such as Memorial Day, or unless it is spoken of from time to time. When people do not memorialize, mention or speak of Yahweh's name, it becomes a thing forgotten.

NAME OF SALVATION

The prophet Joel was inspired to say, "And it shall come to pass, that **whosoever shall call on the name of Yahweh shall be delivered** for in mount Zion and in Jerusalem shall be deliverance, as Yahweh hath said, and in the remnant whom Yahweh shall call," 2:32.

The apostle Peter was inspired to repeat Joel's words to New Testament believers, "And it shall come to pass, that **whosoever shall call on the name of Yahweh shall be saved,**" Acts 2:21. The apostle Paul also wrote the same words to the Romans, "For **whosoever shall call upon the name of Yahweh shall be saved,**" Ro. 10:13.

That's three important witnesses who stress the importance of calling on Yahweh's name for salvation. Have you ever been told that you must call upon the name Yahweh for salvation? I seriously doubt it. But you are being told now.

THE CONSPIRACY

One might ask, "If the name is so important, then why didn't the Bible translators introduce it instead of other words and appellatives? Believe it or not, there are those who hate Yahweh's glorious name. There are those who hate the light and the truth. They will do all in their power to dispose of Yahweh's name. Scripture even points out that there is a conspiracy against Yahweh's name. You can read of this conspiracy in the book of Jer. 11:9-21 and Ez. 22.

The conspiracy was to turn the people away from Yahweh's true name to that of Baal (Jer. 23, esp. v. 27). The point is that the Baal of the Canaanites was the Bel of Babylon. One of Babylon's chief deities was Gad (pronounced like God). He was the deity of fortune. Isa. 65:11 speaks of this abomination. Is it a coincidence that the book of Revelation speaks of a continuing Babylonian system up until the last days while one of their chief deities was Gad/God? Has anything changed?

SCHOLARLY WORKS

Many of the scholars and their works proclaim the importance and greatness of Yahweh's name. Here are some excerpts from some of those works.

"Yahweh, the proper name of the God of Israel...The pronunciation Jehovah was unknown until 1520, when it was introduced by Galatinus; but it was contested by Le Mercier, J. Drusius, and L. Capellus, as against grammatical and historical propriety." (*The New Brown-Driver-Briggs-Gesenius Hebrew-Eng-lish Lexicon*, pp. 217-218).

"The most common DN in Israelite PNs was Yahweh (Jehovah is an anglicized, hybrid form of this....The incorrect hybrid, 'Jehovah,' arose from Christian misunderstanding in the late Middle Ages." (*Harper's Bible Dictionary*, pp. 682, 685).

"The name of God holds an important key to understanding the doctrine of God and the doctrine of revelation. The name of God is a personal disclosure and reveals His relationship with His people. His name is known only because He chooses to make it known...The truth of God's character is focused in His name. The divine name reveals God's power, authority, and holiness. This accounts for Israel's great reverence of God's name...God's name is His promise to dwell with His people...The covenant name of God was "Yahweh." (*Holman Bible Dictionary*, pp. 1004-1005).

"In form the divine name Yahweh is either a simple indicative or a causative indicative of the verb 'to be',

meaning 'he is (alive, present, active)' or 'he brings into being'....The 'name' of God lies at the heart of progressive revelation. But though the name does not confer 'power' in any magical sense (*cf.* Acts 19:13ff.) the knowledge of the name brings people into a wholly new relationship with God. They are his intimates, for this is the significance of 'knowing my name' (*cf.* Ex. 33:12, 18-19; Jn. 17:6)...God's presence among his people is secured by 'making his name dwell' among them." (J. D. Douglas' *New Bible Dictionary*).

"Yahweh is the only truly personal name of God in Israel's faith; the others are titular or descriptive expressions. References to 'the name' or 'in the name' of God indicate this name...The English form 'Jehovah' arose by a latinized combination of the four consonants (YHWH) with the vowel points that the Masoretes used to show that they meant the reader to say 'Adonai' when reading the tetragrammaton." (The *International Standard Bible Encyclopedia*, p.p. 506-507.

THE CALLING

Yahshua (see our Mini Bible Study on the name of the Savior) prayed unto the Father, "Holy Father, keep through **Thine own name** those whom Thou hast given Me that they may be one, as We are," Jn. 17:11. We are to ask of the Father in Yahshua's name, "Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and *that* your fruit should remain: that **whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in My name**, He may give it you," Jn. 15:16.

It is revealed that Gentiles are to be called out of this world for Yahweh's name, "James answered, saying, Men *and* brethren, hearken unto me: Simeon hath declared how Yahweh at the first did visit the Gentiles, **to take out of them a people for His name**. And to this agree the words of the prophets; as it is written, After this I will return, and will build again the tabernacle of David, which is fallen down; and I will build again the ruins thereof, and I will set it up: That the residue of men might seek after Yahweh, and all the Gentiles, **upon whom My name** is called, saith Yahweh, Who doeth all these things," Acts 15:13-17.

Paul writes, "Now I say that Yahshua Messiah was a minister of the circumcision for the truth of Yahweh, to confirm the promises made unto the fathers: and that the Gentiles might glorify Yahweh for His mercy; as it is written, 'For this cause I will confess to Thee among the Gentiles, and sing unto Thy name'." Ro. 15:8-9.

This is quoted from Psa. 18:49 which literally means that He would confess His name to the Gentiles. Is salvation important to you? If so then shouldn't the name of the greatest Being in existence be important to you? You must call on His name to be saved! Let's begin NOW!!!

יהוה/אֱלֹהִים/YHWH - *Modern Hebrew, ancient Hebrew and modern English renderings of Yahweh's Name.*

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