

THE SACRED NAME

Scripture Reading: Exodus 3:1-15

Memory Verse: Proverbs 30:4

The most popular translation of the Bible during the past several hundred years has been the **King James Version**, which is usually known as the **Authorized Version of 1611**. I know some people who would resist to the bitter end any deviation from the use of the **King James**; however, as you know, in recent years many different translations have appeared. There is a reason for this, and you may learn why there are so many translations by reading the preface of each version. The translator who has done the work of translation usually indicates that he feels that a new translation directly from the originals is necessary and desirable for a better understanding of the originals.

I would like to give the experts an opportunity to speak to you about the Sacred Name. We shall call upon the Bible translators and commentators to determine what their opinion is on the Sacred Name. As you may be aware, in recent years several widely known scholarly translations began to include the Sacred Name of Yahweh in their texts. These are the **Rotherham**, which has been around for almost a century; the **Anchor** translation, which is a more recent Catholic-Protestant collaboration; the **Jerusalem Bible**, which is a recent Catholic translation by the Ecole Biblique or School of the Bible in Jerusalem, Israel; and several other versions. If you were to go to a library to secure one of these editions you would find some amazing Scriptures which prove that the revealed Name of our Heavenly Father is necessary to know and use in worship.

Dr. J. Powis Smith has set down relatively the same conclusions as have Drs. Rotherham and Moffatt. *“One detail of the translation which requires explanation is the treatment of the divine name. As nearly as we can now tell, the Hebrews called their [Elohim] by the name of Yahweh, and in a shorter form, Yah, used in relatively few cases. In course, in time they came to regard this name as too sacred for utterance. They therefore substituted for it the Hebrew word for ‘Lord.’ When vowels were added to the text, the consonants of ‘Yahweh’ were given the vowels of ‘Lord.’ Somewhere in the fourteenth century CE. Christian scholars, not understanding this usage, took the vowels and consonants exactly as there were written and produced the artificial name ‘Jehovah’ which has persisted ever since. In this translation we have followed the orthodox Jewish tradition and substituted ‘the Lord’ for the name ‘Yahweh’ and the phrase ‘the Lord Yahweh.’*

In all cases where ‘Lord’ or ‘God’ represents an original ‘Yahweh’ small capitals are employed. Anyone, therefore, who desires to retain the flavor of the original text has but to read ‘Yahweh’ wherever he sees Lord or God.”

For those of you who may feel that this Sacred Name is of recent invention, I would like to present the fact that the earliest copyright book in which was found the Sacred Name Yahweh is in a **Jewish Quarterly Review** published in 1888. It has always been known among Jewish scholars, although it has not been widely taught. The Jews have always known it since it appears in the Hebrew text with which they are familiar. (Even though the Jews have read the vowels points to say “Adonai,” they have had the evidence that this is not actually the Heavenly Father’s Name, because before them appeared the four sacred letters in the text and they knew what they represented.) The pronunciation of the name Yahweh has not been continually lost as some people would have you believe, but it has been known over the centuries.

Questions:

1. When Moses was sent to Egypt, what did he ask Yahweh?
Exodus 23:13-15
2. What does the name “Yahweh” mean?

3. Are you allowed to use names other than Yahweh? Exodus 23:13
Joshua 23:7
4. Does the Creator have many names? Isaiah 42:8
5. In which name can we find salvation? Acts 4:12

Conclusion:

In these last days, when knowledge is being increased, will you reject that which is proven to be fact? Are you really anxious to learn the genuine Truth, or are you simply studying to substantiate that which you have already prejudicially concluded? I trust that you will have your heart directed to seek the Truth of Yahweh and to learn His Name, because in it and in the Name of His Son, Yahshua the Messiah, you will find eternal salvation.