

# What's In A Name?

## יהוה God's Personal Name

Sunday, February 14, 2010  
Pastor Warner Smith

### Message Truth:

God revealed His personal name to Moses. God commanded Moses to have the priests place upon His people His name, יהוה. Because having God's name יהוה put on me is an avenue to my being blessed by Him, then I want His blessing. God did not command Moses to place Elohim, Adonai, El Shaddai or any of the other names by which the Hebrew people referred to Him upon the people for blessing, only יהוה. Because God is this precise in His instruction to Moses, it seems obvious that we be precise, too, when we are asking for His blessing to be upon us and when we are using His name to bless others.

### Message Text

<sup>22</sup> *The LORD said to Moses,* <sup>23</sup> *"Tell Aaron and his sons, 'This is how you are to bless the Israelites. Say to them:* <sup>24</sup> *" ' "The LORD [YHWH] bless you and keep you;* <sup>25</sup> *the LORD [YHWH] make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you;* <sup>26</sup> *the LORD [YHWH] turn his face toward you and give you peace."* <sup>27</sup> *"So they will put my name on the Israelites, and I will bless them."* Numbers 6:22-27

(Yahweh) יהוה

- The Hebrew people so feared taking God's name in vain that they would not s\_\_\_\_\_ it.

<sup>7</sup> *"You shall not take the name of the LORD [YHWH] your **God** in vain, for the LORD [YHWH] will not leave him unpunished who takes His name in vain.* Exodus 20:7 (NASB)

- So w\_\_\_\_\_ do we say יהוה if the Hebrew people wouldn't?

When we profess to know God but live a lifestyle which is at odds with His word and does not honor Him, we take His name in vain.

- יהוה would only be audibly pronounced in the Temple when the priests were b\_\_\_\_\_ the people.

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- God r\_\_\_\_\_ His personal name (יהוה) to Moses.

<sup>2</sup> *God spoke to Moses and said to him, "I am the LORD. <sup>3</sup> I appeared to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, as **God** [Elohim] **Almighty** [El Shaddai] , but by my name the LORD [YHWH] I did not make myself known to them. <sup>4</sup> I also established my covenant with them to give them the land of Canaan, the land in which they lived as sojourners.*

Exodus 6:2-4 (ESV)

- God told the Hebrews to not use His name in vain, but He n\_\_\_\_\_ told them not to use His name.

<sup>13</sup> *Moses said to **God**, "Suppose I go to the Israelites and say to them, 'The **God** of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' Then what shall I tell*

them?" <sup>14</sup> **God** said to Moses, "**I AM WHO I AM**. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: '**I AM** has sent me to you.' " <sup>15</sup> **God** also said to Moses, "Say to the Israelites, 'The **LORD**, the **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, the name by which I am to be remembered from generation to generation. Exodus 3:13-15

● The name of God is a p\_\_\_\_\_ Qere.

Since יהוה appears 6,823 times in the OT, the reader is expected to substitute the Qere (Hebrew for "to be read") for the Kethibh (Hebrew for "it is written") so they would not have their attention drawn away from the text continually.

### What about Jehovah?

● The word "Jehovah" is a mispronunciation of the Hebrew יהוה, the (ineffable) name of God arising from pronouncing the vowel pointing (the Masorites' marginal reading for "Adonai" made permanent) with the consonants (of the textual reading for "יהוה").

The reading "Jehovah" is a comparatively recent invention. Early Christian commentators who read Philo (20 B.C. - 50 A.D.) would have learned this. From whatever source they learned it, it is clear that Origen (185-254), Jerome (347-420), and Theodoret (393-457) knew and wrote that יהוה was written but not pronounced by the Jews.

The source of this mistake can be traced back to a folio written in 1518 by Peter Galatin for Pope Leo X. The folio's title is "De Arcanis Catholicæ Veritatis." During the reformation Galatin's mistake was multiplied as various Christian theologians unfamiliar with the Hebrew language quoted his work.

● J\_\_\_\_\_ referred to Himself as "I Am."

<sup>58</sup> Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, **before**

**Abraham was born, I am.**" <sup>59</sup> Therefore they picked up stones to throw at Him, but Jesus hid Himself and went out of the temple. John 8:58-59 (NASB)

● The Pharisees reacted v\_\_\_\_\_ to Jesus' saying "I Am" in conjunction to Himself.

### What does יהוה mean?

YHWH is the third person singular imperfect of the verb "to be," meaning, "He is."

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● The meaning is, "He who is self-existing, self-sufficient," or, "He who lives."

● He is the living God, as contrasted with the I\_\_\_\_\_ g\_\_\_\_\_ of the heathen, and He is the source and author of life.

If God's name is so awesome that an entire race of people ceased to say it from fear of taking it in vain, why do we so easily take it in vain through our speech and more importantly through our refusal to submit to His authority in the totality of our lives?