

Is God's Name Jehovah?



By
Charue
H. Campbell

Is God's Name Jehovah?

By

Charue H. Campbell

JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES INSIST THAT GOD'S NAME (YHWH in the ancient Hebrew manuscript copies of the Old Testament) is supposed to be pronounced "Jehovah." So persuaded are they about this, they believe they are the only church (organization) that has God's favour because they are the only ones who consistently call God by this name. Yet, Jewish and Christian scholars, who are thoroughly familiar with the Old Testament Hebrew language and how to pronounce Hebrew words, make it clear that the Hebrew word YHWH is more accurately pronounced "Yahweh" (Yaw-Way) rather than "Jehovah."

Richard Abanes, a nationally recognized authority on cults and religions, points out that:

The origin of the word Jehovah can be traced to the late Middle Ages (around the year 1500), when Jewish scribes began inserting the vowels from the Hebrew word adonai ("my Lord") into the name YHWH. The insertion resulted in the hybrid term YaHoWaH. Scribes wanted this new word to remind readers that God's name was too holy to pronounce, so they should substitute adonah for it when reading biblical passages aloud.

Then, when the term YaHoWaH was Latinised, the "Y" and "W" were changed to "J" and "V"—resulting in Jehovah. In other words, Jehovah is a mistransliteration, compounded by the fact that, while "J" has a "Y" sound in Latin, it has a very different sound in English—as in the word jam. Jehovah appears in no literature earlier than about the thirteenth century, and it began to be popularised in the sixteenth century by well-meaning but mistaken Christians. (Richard Abanes, *The Truth Behind the Da Vinci Code*, p. 19, 83)

Here is what other scholars say about the name or pronunciation "Jehovah":

The Jewish Encyclopaedia: “Jehovah” — a mispronunciation of the Hebrew YHWH the name of God. This pronunciation is grammatically impossible. The form ‘Jehovah’ is a philological impossibility.”

The New Jewish Encyclopaedia: “It is clear that the word Jehovah is an artificial composite.”

Encyclopaedia Judaica: “the true pronunciation of the tetragrammaton YHWH was never lost. The name was pronounced Yahweh. It was regularly pronounced this way at least until 586 B.C., as is clear from the Lachish Letters written shortly before this date.”

The Universal Jewish Encyclopaedia: “**Jehovah** is an erroneous pronunciation of the Tetragrammaton a four lettered name of God, made up of the Hebrew letters Yod He Vav He. The word “**Jehovah**” therefore is a misreading for which there is no warrant and which makes no sense in Hebrew”

Webster’s Collegiate Dictionary: “Jehovah” — “False reading of the Hebrew **Yahweh**.”

Encyclopaedia Americana: “Jehovah” “erroneous form of the name of the God of Israel.”

A Dictionary of the Bible by William Smith: “Whatever, therefore, be the true pronunciation of the word, there can be little doubt that it is not Jehovah.”

Encyclopaedia Britannica: “The pronunciation ‘Jehovah’ is an error resulting among Christians from combining the consonants YHWH with the vowels of **Adhonay**—The Masoretes who from the 6th to the 10th century worked to reproduce the original text of the Hebrew Bible replaced the vowels of the name YHWH with the vowel signs of Adonai or Elohim. Thus the artificial name Jehovah came into being.”

Webster’s Third New International Dictionary: “Jehovah” —“Intended as a transliteration of Hebrew YAHWEH, the vowel points of Hebrew

Adhonay (my lord) being erroneously substituted for those of YAHWEH; from the fact that in some Hebrew manuscripts the vowel points of **Adhonay** (used as a euphemism for YAHWEH) were written under the consonants YHWH of YAHWEH to indicate that **Adhonay** was to be substituted in oral reading for YAHWEH. Jehovah is a Christian transliteration of the tetragrammaton long assumed by many Christians to be the authentic reproduction of the Hebrew sacred name for God but now recognized to be a late hybrid form never used by the Jews.”

New Catholic Encyclopaedia: “**Jehovah**” —

The New Schaff-Herzog Encyclopaedia: “Jehovah” — “is an erroneous form of the divine name of the covenant God Israel.”

The Interpreter’s Dictionary of the Bible: “Jehovah” — “is an artificial form.”

Encyclopaedia International: “Jehovah” —”the vowels of one word with the consonants of the other were misread as ‘Jehovah.’”



*The
End*