

# Why Perpetuate the J-h Word Error?

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The sacred name of our creator is not 'Jehovah.' That word is a proven transliteration error from the 13th Century. Do you perpetuate this reasonably well know error... unknowingly?

Our creator personally revealed his sacred name to Moshe (Moses) in Hebrew. The four letters of the sacred name have come down to us as יהוה.<sup>1</sup> Most scholars agree the equivalent letters in English are YHWH.<sup>2</sup> The scriptures show that the sacred name was not revealed in any other language, nor was a different name given to anyone else.

Proper names are transliterated from one language to another, i.e., written to obtain the same sound. Other words are translated to obtain the same meaning.

Several early Greek writers of the Christian Church testify that the sacred name was pronounced 'Yahweh.'<sup>3</sup> Many authoritative biblical, archeological, linguistic and grammatical sources agree. Conformation also comes from an unexpected source.

The Governing Body of the Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society make doctrine for Jehovah's Witnesses. The doctrines are promulgated through its large publishing organization. Several of their publications acknowledge that the sacred name is "correctly pronounced YAHWEH."

To their credit, they also admit 'Jehovah' is an error in transliteration and have documented how it occurred. They espouse the J-h word error because it is "more widely known."<sup>4</sup>

Watch Tower publications elevate the admitted J-h word error to proper name status and equate it with the true sacred name Yahweh. They obscure clear thinking by adding the proper noun title 'God' to the error (i.e., Jehovah God). Witnesses commonly invoke the error. They develop a personal relationship with it and praise the attributed name of their 'god' in worship and in hymns.

They do not question the contradiction of worshiping an *error* instead of the *truth*. Neither do they find it incredibly condescending of the Governing Body, that the latter assigned a name of *their choosing*, to the creator of the universe!

You should thoughtfully ponder answers to the following questions:

Do Witnesses seemingly worship a false god called 'Jehovah'?

Do they teach their children to do the same?

Do you?

Is there a contradiction between *error* and *truth* if YOU perpetuate praise and worship of the J-h word error in worship, and in hymns?

Is the singing of hymns with the J-h word error intentional worship of a false god? Should such hymns be taught to innocent children? Is it a strange contradiction that the J-h word error is used in some Protestant worship and hymns, but *NOT* in Catholicism where the error originated?

The great gain of the Protestant Reformation was truth. Truth alone must decide if any form of the J-h word error is perpetuated. What is the truth about the J-h word error? You can obtain the following facts from sources at home, at a public library, or from the Internet:

- **The letter j, (J) is relatively modern; obviously the J-h word error could not be the ancient, sacred name, of our creator.** The ‘j’ was the last letter added to the English alphabet. It is not older than the invention of movable type, only about 500 years ago. There were two handwritten ‘i’ letters in English. One had a long descending tail and was used if it were the first letter of the first word of the first paragraph of a document. It would have protruded into a lower line if the document were set in type. Dutch printers overcame the problem by attaching a short ‘tail’ to the lower left side of the capital ‘I.’ It looked like a reversed ‘L.’ Years afterward it became the hooked J shape of today.

In contrast, there is an ancient silver amulet in the Israel Museum which contains verses of scripture in paleo-Hebrew. It was discovered during archeological excavations of a family tomb outside of Jerusalem. The contents of the tomb have been dated to 700 B.C.E. When carefully unrolled, the tiny amulet contained the blessing which Yahweh gave to Moses for Aaron and his sons to use. That blessing is found in the bible in Numbers 6:24-26. The four consonants of the sacred name in paleo-Hebrew (יהוה) are visible three times from 2700 years ago.<sup>5</sup>

A shard of pottery about 2900 to 2800 years old has been found in Israel with Paleo-Hebrew letters on it. It is clearly a receipt for “SILVER OF TARSHISH TO THE HOUSE OF YAHWEH THREE SHEKELS.” This is the temple which Solomon built.<sup>6</sup>

The Moabite Stone, which dates to 900 B.C.E, is in the Louvre in Paris, France. Carved on the stone is King Misha’s story of a battle with the Israelites. It is described less flatteringly in 2 Kings 3:21. The four letters of the sacred name in Moabite, a Semitic language with letters very close to paleo-Hebrew, are visible from 2900 years ago.

- **The J-h word is a gross error.** Watch Tower publications report that the J-h word error started about 1278 A.D. A Spanish monk of the Dominican Order, Reymundus Martini, attempted to transliterate the sacred name from Hebrew into Latin for his booklet *Pugeo fidei* (*Dagger of faith*). Apparently he used manuscripts in which the Hebrew Priests had intentionally attached the vowel points of the word ‘Adonai’ (Lord), to the letters of the sacred name (i.e., יהוה). The priests are thought to have done this initially to prevent blasphemy. The Latinized word which resulted, ‘Iehova,’ went unnoticed in Catholicism for many years. The letter ‘v’ was used for the letter ‘u’ and years later interchangeably.

In the 16th century Petrus Galatinus, a confessor to Pope X, used the form 'Iehoua' in his book *De arcanis catholicae veritatis II (Concerning secrets of the universal truth)*. Later the letter 'h' was added to the end of the word (i.e., 'Iehova(h)').<sup>7</sup> In English 'u' and 'v' became distinct, and 'w' added. Shortly after the time of printing 'j' was substituted for 'i' in certain words. Substitution of these two letters when printing early handwritten documents was common. Dr. J. B. Rotherham writes the following about the J-h word error "The pronunciation Jehovah was unknown until 1520, when it was introduced by Galatinus; but was contested by Le Mercier, J. Drusius, and L. Capellus, as against grammatical and historical propriety."<sup>8</sup>

- **The early King James Version of the bible did not contain the J-h word error.** Early Protestant translations of the bible were based on the Latin Vulgate translated by Jerome. He used several Hebrew and Greek manuscripts of various traditions. Protestant translators of the KJV were hampered by their lack of scholarship in Hebrew and unavailability of complete early manuscripts. It was during this period that translators started to substitute proper noun titles (i.e., God, Lord, etc.) for the sacred name.

Most religious bookstores will have a facsimile of the first edition of the 1611 King James Version (KJV) bible. It has the letter 'i' where 'j' is used today. The 'i' was pronounced with the sound of 'y.' The pages show Iermyah (pronounced 'Yermayah') instead of Jeremiah.<sup>9</sup> Later editions of the KJV contained the J-h word error. The wide use of the KJV is how perpetuation of the J-h word error began.

- **No letter in Hebrew transliterates into the equivalent of the English letter 'j.'** In most dictionaries, under the word 'alphabet,' there is a table which shows the Hebrew (and Greek) letter equivalent to the 'y' in English, but not 'j.'<sup>10</sup> All letters of the sacred name (יהוה) transliterate into English equivalents (YHWH). All Hebrew letters are consonants, however the equivalents of Y, H, and W<sup>11</sup> can be used as semi-vowels.
- **There is no 'j' sound in Hebrew.** French usage of the reversed L character of Dutch printers resulted in the sound and final shape of the letter 'j.' Words from French, such as judge, justice, etc., are examples of the 'j' sound.

Although other languages such as German have words spelled with 'j.' The words are pronounced as if spelled with 'y.' The name of the WWII German aircraft we call Junker is pronounced by them as 'Yunker.' The 'y' pronunciation is true of every word in bibles now spelled with 'j.' An abbreviated poetic form of the sacred name is found in Psalms 68:4. In the 1611 KJV that form of the sacred name is spelled Iah (pronounced Yah). The Hebrew appellation: 'HalleluYah' shown here correctly, means: 'Praise Yahweh'.

- **No scholarly reference supports perpetuation of the J-h word error.** Numerous scholarly references not listed here, verify there is no support for perpetuating the J-h word error. Excerpts from many of these references are quoted in literature identified on the References list which follows.

Who perpetuates the J-h word error? It is perpetuated principally through Watch Tower publications, in some KJV influenced Masonic rites, and by incorrect references.

Protestants perpetuate the error principally by purchase of bibles containing the error, supporting the placement of such bibles in hotel rooms, and by purchase of hymnals which contain the error.

**Should *anyone* perpetuate the long standing, reasonably well known J-h error in WORSHIP, in HYMNS, or by the purchase of BIBLES or HYMNALS ?** The preponderance of **EVIDENCE, PLAIN COMMON SENSE,** and at least **ONE COMMANDMENT** literally scream: **NEVER!**

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*The Memorial Name - YAHWEH*: Soft bound, 245 pages ---- Web page: [assembliesofyahweh.com](http://assembliesofyahweh.com)

*The MISTAKEN J*: Soft bound, 50 pages ---- Web page: [mail@ynca.com](mailto:mail@ynca.com)

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