

“JEHOVAH” — GOD’S PERSONAL NAME?

The Watchtower (WT) teaches JW’s that calling God by his *personal* name, which they say is “Jehovah,” is of the utmost importance. They say God’s *true* followers can be identified by their use of “Jehovah” in their prayers, congregational singing, preaching, and Bible study. JW’s are taught that God’s *true* name was *removed* from the Bible by superstitious scribes (*a claim based upon no facts whatsoever!*), but that the NWT has “faithfully” *restored* God’s name in the OT where the Hebrew consonants “YHWH” appear. In fact, even in the NT, the NW translators have inserted the name “Jehovah” at their own discretion. The WT may be justified in rendering God’s name, “Jehovah,” in its version of the OT, but not in inserting it 237 times in the NT where there’s *no evidence* at all that the NT writers used God’s name. Of the 5,000 Greek manuscripts we possess today of the NT, *not a single one* contains God’s full name. In this respect, the NWT is guilty of *adding* to God’s Word, which he strictly warns against! (*Pro 30:6; Rev 22:18-19*). By inserting “Jehovah” where it doesn’t belong in the NT, the NWT distorts Jesus’ identity by creating an *artificial distinction* between him and “Jehovah.”

Though the JW’s insist on calling God “Jehovah” in prayer, in the Lord’s Prayer Jesus tells us to address God as “Father.” He said, “You must pray, then, this way: ‘Our Father...’” (*Mat 6:9*). For Jesus, *sanctifying God’s name* had to do with *what that name stood for*, not with a certain pronunciation of it. Why didn’t he teach his disciples to pray “Our Jehovah”? Do you call your earthly father by his first name or do you call him “Dad” or “Daddy”? Jesus had a close, intimate relationship with his Father and when praying to him or speaking about him, called him “Father.” Even more intimate is the term “ABBA Father” which is akin to the word “Daddy.” It expresses the total love and trust of a child for his father. Jesus used this term (*Mark 14:36*), and Paul also said we, as Christians, could call God, “ABBA Father” (*Rom 8:15; Gal 4:6*). If we’re supposed to use the name “Jehovah” as the JW’s say, why is this instruction completely *left out* of the NT?

The WT teaches that Bibles that translate God’s name as “Lord” or “God” instead of “Jehovah” keep people from becoming “close to God” because they portray him as “remote and impersonal” (*What Does The Bible Really Teach?*, 2005, pp 195-96). But if it’s so important that people know God’s name in order to have a relationship with him, why did God chose **not** to make his name known to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob? For God said to Moses, “I am Jehovah. And I used to appear to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob as God Almighty, but as respects my name Jehovah I did not make myself known to them” (*Exo 6:2-3*). Since God was able to make a “covenant” with them and establish a close relationship *without* revealing his name, why do people today have to read a *certain pronunciation* of God’s name in their Bibles in order to know God?

The NT leaves *no doubt* about **what name** Christians should identify with and uplift at all times! They meet together **in the name of Jesus!** (*Mat 18:20; 1 Cor 5:4*) Demons are

subject to the name of Jesus! (*Luke 10:17; Acts 16:18*) Repentance and forgiveness of sins should be preached **in the name of Jesus!** (*Luke 24:47*) Salvation comes through **faith in the name of Jesus!** (*Acts 4:12; 10:43; 1 John 3:23; 5:13*) We are to pray **in the name of Jesus!** (*John 14:13-14; 16:23-24*) The Holy Spirit is sent **in the name of Jesus!** (*John 14:26*) The sick and the lame were healed **in the name of Jesus!** (*Acts 3:16; 4:7-10,30*) The apostles taught upon the basis of **the name of Jesus!** (*Acts 4:17-18; 5:28*) Christians call upon **the name of Jesus!** (*1 Cor 1:2*) Paul was to bear to the nations **the name of Jesus!** (*Acts 9:15*) Every knee shall bow and every tongue shall confess to **the name of Jesus!** (*Phil 2:10-11*) The name that is above every name is **the name of Jesus!** (*Eph 1:21*) In fact, “whatever it is that we do, whether in word or in work, do everything **in the name of the Lord Jesus!**” (*Col 3:17*)

“JEHOVAH” — GOD’S “NICKNAME”!

Since one of the outstanding features of the NWT is their abundant usage of the word “Jehovah” (6,973 times in the OT and 237 in the NT!), we would like to point out that in the opening appendix of the *early* editions of the 1984 revised NWT, they plainly admitted that “Yahweh” is “**the more correct way**” to render God’s name! Here’s their original quote: “While inclining to view the pronunciation ‘Yahweh’ as **the more correct way**, we have retained the form ‘Jehovah’ because of *people’s familiarity* with it since the 14th century.”

Why then did the NWT forfeit accuracy to use the word Jehovah, which began to be used in the 14th century? Their answer is “*because of people’s familiarity with it.*” That’s another way of saying that they have upheld the traditions of man’s inventions (since the 14th century) at the expense of truth and accuracy, which they knew about. How can the NWT claim that Jehovah is the restoration of the Divine Name to its rightful place in the English text, since they openly admit “Yahweh” is “more correct”? Shouldn’t they rather have stated that knowingly they have omitted the *more correct* name for God, that is “Yahweh,” and substituted a different name which began to be used in the 14th century—Jehovah?

Bruce Metzger of Princeton (Professor of New Testament Language and Literature) who criticizes the KJV’s usage of Jehovah (*Gen 22:14; Ex 6:3; 17:15; Judges 6:24; Psalm 83:18; Isaiah 12:2; 26:4*) gives some additional information: “The form ‘Jehovah’ is of **late medieval origin**; it is a combination of the consonants of the Divine Name and the vowels attached to it by the Masoretes but belonging to an entirely different word... (1) The word ‘Jehovah’ does not accurately represent any form of the Name ever used in Hebrew. (2) The use of any proper name for the one and only God, as though there were other gods from whom the true God had to be distinguished, began to be discontinued in Judaism before the Christian era and is inappropriate for the universal faith of the Christian Church” (*New Revised Standard Version Bible, 1989, To The Reader*).

The WT openly admits to the *Catholic origin* of the name Jehovah. “By combining the vowel signs of ‘Adonai’ [LORD]

and ‘Elohim’ [GOD] with the four consonants of the Tetragrammaton [YHWH], the pronunciations ‘Yehowah’ and ‘Yehowih’ were formed. The first of these provided the basis for the Latinized form ‘Jehovah.’ The *first recorded use* of this form dates from *the 13th century*. C.E. Raymundus Martini, a Spanish monk of the Dominican Order, used it in his book *Pugeo Fidei* of the year 1270. Hebrew scholars generally favor ‘Yahweh’ as the most likely pronunciation” (*Aid to Bible Understanding, 1971, pp 884-85*).

So, what the WT is admitting for us here is that the name “Jehovah” is **a man-made concoction!** The original, ancient manuscripts of the OT were written in Hebrew—all in consonants, with no vowels. The Hebrew characters for the Divine Name are transliterated into English as YHWH. Random vowels were taken **by man** and merely inserted between these four letters from a totally different word—“**Adonai**”—thus, rendering it “**YaHoWaH**” or “Jehovah.” This word “Jehovah” is a **human fabrication!** Anyone who denies this is simply ignoring the facts! Use it all you want, but recognize it for what it is—**man-made**—and know that its origin is *not* from heaven. It is neither God’s “personal” name, nor is it “THE DIVINE NAME.”

Imagine a man moving here from Australia whose name is **Arthur Ray Bry**. And because the name “Bry” is not familiar around here, but seems odd, someone gets the notion to make a few changes so it sounds better. So he takes the initials from Mr. Bry’s first two names—“A.R.”—and places them into “Bry” like this—“**BarRY**.” Now, it sounds familiar; he likes it! “Barry!” And because he uses it often, it catches on with quick familiarity, and before you know it, people all over are referring to the Australian as “Barry!” (yet they know his name is “Bry”). And so for years Mr. Bry is “Barry” to just about everyone. How did this happen? Why did this “**nickname**” stick? because people became *familiar with it!* But does “*people’s familiarity*” make it any more “**correct**”? No! And how silly would it be for somebody to stand up one day and **officially proclaim** that “Barry” is the Australian’s **real name** and that that’s the **only proper way** to address him!

Yet that’s exactly what the WT is doing with—“**JeHoVaH!**” clearly an invention of man! That’s what a nickname is: “*an invented name.*” God was nicknamed *Jehovah* centuries ago! The WT has simply wrapped their whole organization around this nickname! They’ve been obsessed with it ever since 1931 when Joseph Rutherford officially named them “Jehovah’s Witnesses!” And the WT publishes great swelling words to the whole wide world that God’s *true* followers are identified by their use of this nickname—“**JeHoVaH!**”—a name fabricated from man’s imagination! They even take it into *the realm of salvation!*

SALVATION & THE NAME “JEHOVAH”?

Here’s where the WT really goes off the deep end with this *inaccurate* name for God. They exalt its usage to a **salvation issue!** “Have you been taught to use God’s name, Jehovah? If not, your salvation is in jeopardy, for ‘every-one who calls on the name of Jehovah will be saved!’—

Acts 2:21; compare Joel 2:32” (*The Watchtower, 8/15/97, p 6*). Now, that’s a statement for the record books!—not an *ounce* of truth in it or a *smidgen* of common sense!

This prophecy, Joel 2:32, is quoted by Peter in Acts 2 and also by Paul in Romans 10. In the NT, everywhere the WT has translated the Greek word for “Lord” (*Kurios*) as “Jehovah” (*237 times*), they assert dogmatically that each of these occurrences has reference, *not* to the Son, but to the Father only. But anyone who takes even a cursory look at these two NT passages, can easily see the WT’s bias and deceit in their translation, as it’s all too obvious to notice that the name “Jehovah” is *forced* upon both of them!

Let’s look first at Romans 10:13 and its context (*vv 8-17*) to see just how the apostle Paul applies this passage in Joel—“Everyone who calls on the name of Jehovah [YHWH] will get away safe” (*Joel 2:32*). I’ve inserted *Kurios* so you can easily see how Paul’s thought follows right through. For a more complete view of the context to see just **who** Paul is focused upon, begin reading at Romans 9:30.

8 “The word is near you, in your own mouth and in your own heart”; that is, the “word” of faith, which we are preaching. 9 For if you publicly declare that “word in your own mouth,” that Jesus is Lord [*Kurios*], and exercise faith in your heart that God raised him up from the dead, you will be saved. 10 For with the heart one exercises faith for righteousness, but with the mouth one makes public declaration for salvation. 11 For the Scripture says: “None that rests his faith on him will be disappointed.” 12 For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for there is the same Lord [*Kurios*] over all, who is rich to all those calling upon him. 13 For “everyone who calls on the name of Jehovah [*Kurios*] will be saved.” 14 However, how will they call on him in whom they have not put faith? How, in turn, will they put faith in him of whom they have not heard? How, in turn, will they hear without someone to preach? 15 How, in turn, will they preach unless they have been sent forth? Just as it is written: “How comely are the feet of those who declare good news of good things!” 16 Nevertheless, they did not all obey the good news. For Isaiah says: “Jehovah, who put faith in the thing heard from us?” 17 So faith follows the thing heard. In turn the thing heard is through the word about Christ.

This is a classic WT “camouflage” passage! What you are seeing here is a prime example of how far they will go in their desperate attempts to conceal Jesus’ true identity—even to the point of embarrassing themselves like this. You won’t find a clearer passage in all the Word of God! Paul is referring to “the Lord Jesus” right through—no question about it—non-stop! Anybody can see that! But the WT’s “Jesus” is just *too little* for Joel’s prophecy. So, no matter what the apostle says, or how silly it looks, they take their “Jehovah,” and **PASTE HIM** right smack dab in the middle of everything!

Paul explicitly states: (1) that Jesus is Lord, (2) that the Lord Jesus richly blesses all who call upon him, and (3) that these truths refer back to Joel 2:32 where the Divine Name “YHWH” is found in the Hebrew, and Paul applies it to Jesus! His clarity of thought, follow through,

and use of language are all unmistakable. There's only one name that fits in Romans 10:13—the name of Jesus! The NT leaves no room for debate about this! "Jesus" is the name of salvation! I know the WT directs us to another name—a hybrid name, their favorite pet-name "Jehovah"—that no one ever heard of till the year 1270! But the voice of the apostles all point us in another direction!—to the majesty and glory of "the name of Jesus!"—Peter stood up and declared: "There is no salvation in anyone else, for there is **not another name** under heaven...by which we must get saved!" (Acts 4:10-12).

The WT is calling upon us to shut down our sense of reason! This passage (vv8-17) has **nine** direct references to Jesus. Yet on the 6th reference, the WT underhandedly slips their "Jehovah" into the text, completely breaking Paul's "train" of thought, leaving it looking like this—

Jesus-Jesus-Jesus-Jesus-Jesus-JEHOVAH-Jesus-Jesus-Jesus

That's a strange looking train indeed! A train that cannot possibly fit into Paul's thinking. He uses an unbreakable chain of **key words** throughout this passage that will allow for no such WT intrusion! Words like: **him, word, faith, heard, preach, saved, call**. This is no loose passage; it's bound tightly together by phrases, expressions, and words that just keep coming back, they keep reoccurring, verse after verse after verse. There's no question about the **one and only person** Paul has on his mind throughout this entire discourse—the **Lord himself, even Jesus!**

The reason JW's don't see how the WT has obviously warped this passage is because they don't read the Bible like this—verse by verse—or they would certainly see it. JW's see what the WT wants them to see. All their "Bible study" is nothing but a WT guided tour through the Bible, with a verse here (and a WT comment), and a verse over there (and a WT comment), and so on. Otherwise, Romans 10 would be as clear as crystal! In verse 9, we have "Jesus is Lord [Kurios]." Then in verse 12, we have "those calling upon" "the same Lord [Kurios]." And the very next verse says, "everyone who calls on the name of Kurios will be saved" (v13). Are you telling me that there are "intelligent" people arguing about who *this Kurios* is? I can't believe it! This is kindergarten! 2+2! A-B-C! Now you see what a bold the WT has upon the minds of its followers. They can twist the Scriptures like this into a literal "pretzel" and no one in the organization sees a problem! The Kurios of verses 9, 12 & 13 without question refer to "Jesus," but if the WT wants to, it can turn the Kurios of verse 13 into a **totally different being**—the WT's "Jehovah!"—and no one seems to mind! JW's have no idea how the WT controls them!

But the NW translators, unbeknownst to them, have actually solved this problem for us! They've given us the key that unlocks the whole thing!—a 3-letter word! "For!" It's got verses 12 & 13 stuck together like cement! Because of this BIG/little word, the person spoken of in verse 13 **has to be** the very same person of verse 12! There's no way around it! This word "for" is used like "because." Notice how it reads from verse 11:

¹¹For [because] the Scripture says: "None that rests his faith on him will be disappointed." ¹²For [because] there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for [because] there is the same Lord over all, who is rich to all those calling upon him. ¹³For [because] "everyone who calls on the name of _____ will be saved."

There's nothing that could possibly fill in this blank but "the Lord!" Sentence structure, correct grammar, and common sense demand it! Each phrase beginning with the word "for" is tied to the previous phrase, and also further enlarges upon it. The "for" (because) of verse 13 ties what is about to be said with what was just said in verse 12.

Verse 12 speaks of "the Lord" and those calling upon him. Verse 13 speaks of "_____ " and those calling upon him. Verse 12 speaks of "Kurios" and those calling upon him. Verse 13 speaks of "Kurios" and those calling upon him.

In each phrase of verses 11-13, Paul has reference to the universal offer of the gospel to all persons everywhere, Jew and Gentile, with none excluded! Notice his all-inclusive wording: "none" (v11), "no distinction," "the same Lord," "all" (v12), and "everyone" (v13). There is no break in his thought pattern at all! Everyone everywhere is invited to call upon the name of "the same Lord" who is "over all!" This passage is tightly knit-together. But the WT comes along and "breaks" it! They break it by bringing into it a totally foreign character! They contradict it and corrupt it by interjecting a completely different "Lord"—the "Jehovah" of the WT—when Paul makes it abundantly clear that he is speaking about "THE SAME LORD" who is "over all!" And he identifies this One—"JESUS IS LORD!" (Kurios! v9).

A simple exercise to further clarify the identity of Kurios in Romans 10:13 is to look at other passages which speak of "calling upon the name of the Lord [Kurios]."

- **1 CORINTHIANS 1:2**—"...with all who everywhere are calling upon the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ..."
- **ACTS 9:14**—Ananias said to Jesus about Saul of Tarsus, "...And here he has authority from the chief priests to put in bonds all those calling upon your name."
- **ACTS 22:16**—Ananias said to this same Saul, "...wash your sins away by your calling upon his name."
- **ACTS 9:20-21**—"...immediately in the synagogues he [Saul] began to preach Jesus..." but the people said, "Is this not the man that ravaged those in Jerusalem who call upon this name...?"
- **2 TIMOTHY 2:22**—"...along with those who call upon the Lord out of a clean heart." The NWT references Acts 9:14 right to this verse; so this "Lord" must be Jesus!

The same apostle whose "sins were washed away" by his "calling upon the name of the Lord Jesus," who later wrote to the Corinthians about "calling upon the name of our Lord Jesus," and also wrote to Timothy about "calling upon the Lord Jesus out of a clean heart"—this very same apostle wrote to the Romans, and said, "everyone who calls on the name of _____ will be saved." Like I said—2+2! A-B-C! It's as clear as the noonday sun! But not to JW's! Their minds have been taken captive by the WT to the point that they simply will not and cannot see the glory of the Lord Jesus, even when it's set forth so clearly right

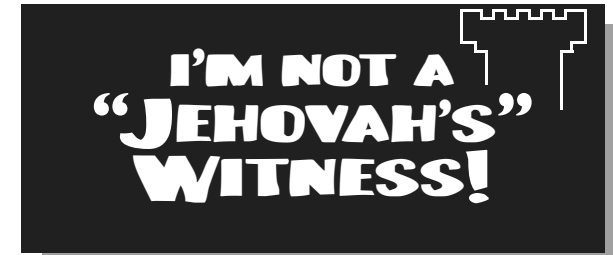
before their eyes! The WT's "spell" is no small thing! The hold it has on them—none can break but One. And that's the real shame; the very One they deny—the Lord Jesus—is their only hope of deliverance! "You do not want to come to me that you may have life" (John 5:39-40). They keep coming to their "Jehovah," calling upon their "Jehovah," and all the while Jesus bids them to come unto him! (Matt 11:28). "If anyone is thirsty," he said, "let him come to me and drink" (John 7:37). Not to the WT's "Jehovah!" That's a dry well! Springs of living water are found in Jesus! "If you had known the free gift of God, and who it is that says to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water" (John 4:10). But they refuse to call on the name of Jesus, and find "life by means of his name!" (John 20:31).

Joel's prophecy is also quoted by Peter. Remember the WT quote earlier—"Have you been taught to use God's name, Jehovah? If not, your salvation is in jeopardy, for 'everyone who calls on the name of Jehovah will be saved'! Acts 2:21; compare Joel 2:32" (The Watchtower, 8/15/97, p 6). Like I said, that's one for the record books!—not an ounce of truth in it or a smidgen of common sense! The name "Jehovah" was not even known (made-up!) till 1,300 years later! Remember the WT said it was pieced together as "YaHoWaH" and first published by that Spanish monk as "Jehovah" in the 13th century! So, according to the WT, for 13 centuries, everybody's "salvation was in jeopardy"—even Peter's!—because no one had "been taught to use God's [nickname!], Jehovah!" Now, that's brilliant! If you want to follow an organization like that, help yourself. But as the song goes, "I'd Rather Have Jesus!"

Who is this Kurios in Peter's quote of Joel in Acts 2:21? "Everyone who calls on the name of _____ will be saved." The best interpreter of Peter is Peter! All we need to do is turn one page over to Acts 4:12 and hear Peter preaching about Jesus! and listen for the two words above—"name" and "saved"—because Peter is not the least bit shy about making this gospel truth well known! He says: (1) "There is no salvation in anyone else!" (2) "There is not another name under heaven...by which we must get saved!" Peter has just thrown the WT's "Jehovah" on the junk pile! That's a helpless god! a figment right out of the minds of Charles Russell and "Judge" Rutherford! Their faithful followers all these years—all "praying to a god that cannot save!" (Isaiah 45:20). The JW story is a sad tale.

"There is no salvation" in the WT's "Jehovah!" because "There is not another name" but JESUS! Peter cannot make it any plainer! He's declaring the solemn truth that Joel's prophecy of calling upon the name of YHWH is realized in JESUS! All who call on that name will be saved! □

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I am a "witness," but I'm not a "Jehovah's" Witness! I'm a witness just like every witness in the New Testament! (NT)—a witness of that name "above every name" (Eph 1:21)—JESUS! That's right! "Jesus' Witness!" Let's talk about this, and use only the New World Translation (NWT). Isn't it true that the last words of a friend are those you would treasure the most? On the Mount of Olives, these are Jesus' last words to his disciples: "YOU WILL BE WITNESSES OF ME" (Acts 1:8). That's what it is to "believe in Jesus!"—to know him, to love him, to follow him, and to honor those last words—to be a witness of him!

"We are witnesses," Peter said, of Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection (Acts 3:15; 4:33). In fact, he said, even the Holy Spirit is a "witness" of Jesus! Listen to him: "We are witnesses of these matters, and so is the holy spirit" (Acts 5:32). Jesus said the same: "The spirit...will bear witness about me"; he then said, "and you, in turn, are to bear witness"—"about me!" (John 15:26-27). In fact, "all the prophets" are "witnesses" of Jesus! Peter said, "To him all the prophets bear witness, that everyone putting faith in him gets forgiveness of sins through his name" (Acts 10:43). Make no mistake about it—a true Christian is a "Jesus" witness! Followers of Jesus, Paul said, are "his witnesses!" (Acts 13:31); not "Jehovah's" witnesses, but "his witnesses!"

What message did Saul of Tarsus preach as soon as he was converted? "Jesus!" (Acts 9:20). What message did the Ethiopian eunuch need to hear? "Jesus!" (Acts 8:35), and Cornelius? "Jesus!" (Acts 10:42-43), and the Philippian jailor? "Jesus!" (Acts 16:31). At Ephesus Apollos preached "Jesus!" (Acts 18:25), and at Achaia "Jesus!" (Acts 18:28). At Thessalonica Paul preached "Jesus!" (Acts 17:3), and at Athens "Jesus!" (Acts 17:18), and at Corinth "Jesus!" (Acts 18:5), to whom he declared, "We preach Christ!" (1 Cor 1:23), and even went so far as to say, he didn't want to "know anything among them except Jesus Christ!" (1 Cor 2:2).

This is one of the most prominent truths displayed in all the NT—that Christians are Jesus people! They talk about Jesus, preach about Jesus, and sing about Jesus! They're "Christians!" "YOU WILL BE WITNESSES OF ME!" People are labeled after the one they follow. The early Jehovah's Witnesses (JW's) were called "Russellites." Why? because they followed Charles Russell. If early NT believers were followers of "Jehovah," "proclaiming Jehovah's kingdom," they would not have been called "Christians" (Acts 11:26), but "Jehovabians!" or "Jehovabites!" or "Jehovah's Witnesses!" but not "Christians!" That name is reserved for Jesus people!