

Love Is For Ever -- Rediscovering Abba's Fantastic Truths

Please read Zechariah 14:9 and Acts 26:14-15

Hebrew, Greek, English--Does it Matter?

Scripture was written mostly in Hebrew with a little Aramaic and a little Greek. Something we tend to overlook is that Scripture was not written in English. One of our friends has an interesting theory about the Name of the Almighty. She says, Regarding the names of God, I do not believe God cares which translation of His name we use--we are limited by words but God wants us to understand the meaning of His name. The reason God's name is so important is not the pronunciation or the letters that comprise it, whether they be Greek, Hebrew, or English, but the meaning behind the name.

We respectfully disagree with the underlined part above. Indeed, the meaning behind the Name (or title) is very important. This dear friend's argument was that we should be able to call Him whatever we want regardless of the language as long as the meaning was understood to be appropriate. She went on to say, God's name teaches us about Himself. YHWH is believed to come from "to be". God said to Moses "I am who I am." It is God's affirmation that He is The God Who is Always Present.

In this, our friend has said well. We should be able to learn a lot about our chosen deity by knowing and understanding the meaning of his name. That said, let us be Bereans and find out the meaning of the Names and titles with which we have labeled our Creator. If the meaning of the names is so important then let us set our course for discovery. If there is any truth to be learned, then shouldn't we be faithful to that truth?

Hebrew

Elohim -- Enlarged from *El*, meaning *Mighty One* or *Almighty*. Seen in many names: Micha**El** (Who is like El), Isra**El** (Prince of El), Gabri**El** (Warrior of El), Yah**El** (Joel, Yah is El), etc. El is a title, an adjective even, not a name. Elohim is translated into our English versions as God, however with the ending *im*, this word is actually plural. Some say this indicates a plurality or God-head. This may not be the case: Elohim can also mean *Mighty One of oaths*, in which *oath_s* would account for the plural ending.

YHWH -- יהוה in paleo (ancient Hebrew), יהוה in modern Hebrew. The Name revealed to Moses when he asked whom he should tell the children of Israel had sent him. YHWH is translated as *I AM that/who I AM*. However a name should never be translated, it should always be transliterated. If He told Moses His Name was YHWH, then we should try to discover for ourselves how this Name (which has been buried by the traditions of men) is pronounced and phonetically honor that pronunciation. Scripture reveals the pronunciation—ask for this revealing one page study. We have found that He has only one Name, not a name in every language. If you insist on a translation, then at least call Him *I AM that I AM*, not Lord or God. Likewise, please call me Curley Headed (French) or Foot Soldier (Greek) rather than "Troy" if you prefer. (Do you see why names should never be translated? Some of you really do not want to know the origins/meanings of your names! Trust me.)

Yahushua -- This is pronounced "Yahooshua" phonetically. This name means *YHWH is salvation* or *YHWH will save*. Yahushua said He came in His Father's Name, and indeed He did. Of this name it is said, *Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved, Acts 4:12*. An OT character had this same name. Joshua, a corruption of Yahshua, was a "type" of Messiah. The type (Joshua) led the chosen nation into the promised land; the antitype (our Savior) will also lead His children into the Promised Land.

Adonai -- Means *my sovereign* or *my lord*. This word is used in place of His Name by Hebrew speaking peoples. In our English OT, Adonai is translated as *Lord*. Adonai came into the Hebrew vernacular from the Babylonian word *Adon*, (or vice versa) and means *Lord*. Both are related to the Greek word *Adonis*. In Scandinavian countries, *Adon* was later changed into the proper name "Odin", also spelled "Woden." This is the pagan deity for which the fourth day of the pagan/papal/Gregorian calendar week is named: Woden's day.

Ba'al -- A Hebrew word meaning "Lord." The Canaanites, Phoenicians and even the Druids (the highest form of Satanist) all used this as the name of the sun deity. To the Druid, the sun deity was Gott (God), but his name was Ba'al. The word Beelzebub (Ba'al-Zebub in Hebrew) means "Lord of the Flies." The names containing Bel are references to this pagan deity, for example, Jezebel, Belshazzar, and Belial, which is another term used for Satan. So to say "The Lord is my shepherd" does not necessarily relate in any way to the Creator; it could be Satan. In the original Hebrew manuscripts, David wrote: *YHWH is my shepherd*. And indeed He is.

Greek

Theos -- In our English NT, this word is translated as God. The Greek letter *theta* Θ was originally a circle with a dot in the center, representing the sun running across the sky. The Greeks called Zeus "Theos," which is where the Spanish speaking peoples get their word for God: *Dios*. Satan's counterfeits extend to all languages.

Kurios -- This word is translated as *Lord* and occasionally as *God*. It means *supreme* (in authority) or *controller*. Strong's Concordance says that this word is used as a respectful title, but is not a name. It might also be well to note that YHWH's does not have a Greek Name.

Iesue -- Probably a poor transliteration of "Yahshua," a variation of Yahushua. As Latin became the language of the people, Iesue became Jesu, the root for our modern *Jesus*. If it's Latin, it's from Rome. If it's from Rome, then it is NOT the name of our Savior. He was born into a Hebrew family and given a Hebrew name.

English

Jesus -- "...comes from the Latin." *SDA Bible Commentary, Vol. 8, p. 584*. Ah, the link to Rome!

God -- This word comes to us from a "...Common Teutonic [German] word for personal worship, formerly applicable to super-human beings of heathen myth; on conversion of Teutonic races to Christianity, term was applied to the Supreme Being." *Encyclopedia Americana (1945 Edition)*. Teutonic Druids called the sun Gud, Gudh, Goth, Gawd or Gott. The peoples of Sweden, Finland, and other Scandanavian countries called the sun "Gott" in everyday language for centuries and have only recently changed to *Sol*, the Roman word for *sun*.

Lord -- Means *Keeper of the loaf*. "Middle English *loverd*, *lord*, from Old English *hlaford*, from *hlaif* loaf + *weard* keeper. One having power and authority over others." *Merriam-Webster Dictionary, (1974 Edition)*. Lord is a title; not a name.

Jehovah -- Do you have a good margin? Elijah's real name is Eliyahuw, see margin for **I Kings 17:1**. Obadiah's name is Obadyahuw, see margin for **I Kings 18:3**. In ancient times, one tribe (the one we call Judah) was called Yahudim (Yahodim), plural for Yahudah (Judah). They were not known as "Jews." Yahudah means "Worshipper of YHWH." After Solomon, the nation of Israel was split into 2 kingdoms. The 10 northern tribes remained Israel (Yisrael--Prince of El), the last two (Judah and Benjamin) were known as Judah.

During their captivity, the Yahudim were ridiculed by their captors. "You Yahoo's!" they may have been called. "You're a bunch of Yahoo's!" This struck dumb the Yahudim. The Babylonians were taking the Sacred Name of the Creator in vain! Then and there the Israelites resolved never to speak the Name for fear that heathens would overhear and desecrate it. Whenever they came to יהוה they said Adonai (meaning Lord) instead. Later, YHWH told Jeremiah (YermiYahu - YHWH will Rise) they *have forgotten my name for Ba'al* (Lord), **Jeremiah 23:27**. Many centuries later when vowel pointing was created, the "Jews" saddled the consonants Y-H-W-H with the vowel points for Adonai as a reminder to not actually pronounce His Name. The name *Jehovah*, which is used several times in the KJV, is the 15th century effort to pronounce this Hebrew hybrid mongrel spelling of the Name YHWH by the unsuspecting Catholic scholar, Petrus Galatinus.

Part of the covenant says, *and make no mention of the name of other gods, neither let it be heard out of thy mouth*, **Exodus 23:13**. See also **Psalms 16:4**. Do you honestly believe that it does not matter what we call the Creator?

Be a Berean!