

Behold the Lord & His Name

The Master's Names in the Old & New Testaments
Val Brinkerhoff & Jake Hilton

Names are important. They can have profound meaning. This is especially true of God's name. Sadly, few understand the real meaning behind the original versions of the names of God in the Old and New Testaments. Let us begin in the Old Testament where we learn the *purpose* behind His special name.

The Lord's Old Testament Name - "Behold the Hand, Behold the Nail"

God desires us to know and understand the important meaning and purpose behind His name. This is why it is recorded 6,519 times in the Old Testament. He desires that we come to know Him personally, doing so in a one on one visit with Him where we literally behold and then feel His hands and the prints of the nails in them. It is part of a sacred ordinance we call receiving the Second Comforter. He stated:

"Look unto me in every thought; doubt not, fear not. **Behold** the wounds which pierced my side, and also **the prints of the nails in my hands and feet**; be faithful, keep my commandments, and ye shall inherit the kingdom of heaven. Amen" (D&C 6:36-37).

God's name "Yahweh" or "Yahovah" reveals His great love for us. It is an invitation to meet with Him and experience His great love first hand by way of feeling the wounds of the Atonement in His body. It was performed for us. The invitation to view physical evidence of His great love for us is evident in the four Hebrew characters of His name "YOD HEY VAV HEY." They are read right to left (below).

יהוה

HEY VAV HEY YOD

Like all languages, Hebrew has evolved over time, appearing quite different today than it did in the time of the ancient patriarchs like Abraham. God's special name was changed in modern translations of our Bible, replaced with "Adonai" by Jewish translators and then later with "the LORD" by King James translators. Three transformations of the Hebrew name for God are included below. The oldest is the simple pictograph at left.

𐤅𐤄𐤅𐤃 𐤅𐤄𐤅𐤃 יהוה

Note the first character (**YOD**) in the pictograph. It appears as an arm at a 90-degree angle, and has the meaning "arm" or "hand." The next character (**HEY**) is a standing man with his arms raised towards heaven. It means "to reveal, to look, to behold." It can also mean "to breathe," as in "God breathed the breath of life into Adam..." The third character (**VAV**, pronounced anciently with a "W" sound instead of a "V" sound) is a vertical shaft or nail. Its meaning is tied to a nail or tent peg. Nails and pegs connect, secure, or bring together. The last character is once again **HEY**, meaning to "behold."

In English, conjugation of our sentences begins with the VERB first, followed by the NOUN or subject. An example is, "I am GOING (verb) to the STORE (noun)." In Hebrew and other languages, the NOUN comes

before the VERB. The Hebrew example of this phrase would be, "To the STORE (noun) I am GOING (verb)." Thus, in Hebrew, the meaning of the pictographic name of God literally translates as, "*Hand Behold Nail Behold*." In English it would be, "**Behold the Hand, Behold the Nail**." This is the name of God. It is pronounced either "Yahweh" or "Yahovah."

When Jesus came to the people at the Temple in Bountiful in 3rd Nephi, He had all the people there, nearly 3,000 souls, come and physically experience the marks of the Atonement in his hands, feet, and side. We read in 3rd Nephi of the Book of Mormon:

"And it came to pass that the Lord spake unto them saying: Arise and come forth unto me, that ye may thrust your hands into my side, and also that ye may feel the prints of the nails in my hands and in my feet, that ye may know that I am the God of Israel, and the God of the whole earth, and have been slain for the sins of the world. And it came to pass that the multitude went forth, and thrust their hands into his side, and did feel the prints of the nails in his hands and in his feet; and this they did do, going forth one by one until they had all gone forth, and did see with their eyes and did feel with their hands, and did know of a surety and did bear record, that it was he, of whom it was written by the prophets, that should come. And when they had all gone forth and had witnessed for themselves, they did cry out with one accord, saying: Hosanna! Blessed be the name of the Most High God! And they did fall down at the feet of Jesus, and did worship him" (3 Nephi 11:13-17).

Every soul became a sure witnesses of our Lord's reality that day, beholding the temple of his body and the marks of His love for us in it. Each time we partake of the Sacrament today we are reminded that in doing so we *take the name of the Lord upon us*, the name - *HEY VAV HEY YOD*. This name on us is an invitation to come and see Him for ourselves. It is an invitation to behold the Christ, to "**behold the hand, behold the nail**."

Our Lord's New Testament Name - Salvation

The King James translation of the New Testament incorrectly gives us our Lord's name as **Jesus** the "annointed one" or **Christ**. It came from the Gentiles who tried to transliterate our Lord's name into Greek, coming up with "*ihsoun*" or "*Iesous*." When "*Iesous*" was further transliterated into Latin, it became "*Iesus*," which then carried over into English, becoming our modern day "*Jesus*" when the letter "J" was developed.

Dramatically contrasting this name is His original Hebrew name *Yeshua*, the name given our Lord at the time of His birth. He was born of Hebrew parents living in the land of the Hebrews. This name was revealed from heaven to His mother Mary. She spoke the Hebrew tongue. *Yeshua* is translated to the English *Joshua*, which means "**Yahweh is Salvation**." Newer translations of **Yahweh** not originating from the older Hebrew pictographs suggest that it is tied to the phrase "**causing to be**" or "**the Creator**," thus meaning "**the Creator is Salvation**." The great Creator of heaven and earth descended here to save us!

If, however, we mix the older pictograph form of the Old Testament name for our Lord - *Yahweh*, with the New Testament name for Him - *Yeshua*, we get "**Behold the Hand, Behold the Nail**" is **Salvation**." Thus, *beholding the hands and feet of our Lord - and the nail prints in them, brings eternal life or salvation*. This is literally true, as the Prophet Joseph Smith told us that to receive the *promise of eternal life* - in the Second Comforter experience - is to receive **Salvation**!

The more accurate New Testament name, revealed from heaven to the mother of the our Lord in her native tongue, was given mortals on earth that all might address Him appropriately, respectfully, and accurately. He was born of the mortal Mary and conceived by way of Heavenly Father for the purpose of redeeming mankind. He is **Salvation** (one of His many name-titles in scripture). This great work is accomplished in the ordinance we call the Atonement, the marks of which are experienced by those coming into His presence. This ordinance is tied to receiving the greatest of all gifts, the gift of eternal life - Joseph Smith's definition of **salvation** (see the King Follet discourse, and D&C 84:20-24 & JST Exodus 34:1-2).

Last Thoughts - Spelling & Pronunciation

Whenever any of us have our name misspelled or mispronounced we politely correct others, as its spelling and pronunciation remain the same for all, no matter their nationality or language. Translating descriptive words as titles for others, however, like that of the Greek word *Christ* (meaning "*the anointed one*") from one language to another, makes sense, but this does not apply to one's *formal* given name, especially when that name is given from heaven. Such names should remain the same in spelling *and* in pronunciation (audible frequency) no matter the language or culture. This is because there is power in uttered, audible words (their frequency of vibration), including names. This is especially true of the name our Lord. He alone reveals His name to those He chooses. Note also that matter responds and creation unfolds when God speaks, as well as when His sacred name is spoken in appropriate ways by His servants, like those, for example, who possess and use the sealing power. Thus correct spelling and pronunciation really do matter.

Why the Changes?

Greek or Roman names in the Bible, like that of Caesar or Pilate, remain in their original, correct form. The Lord's name of *Yeshua*, however, did not remain in its original Hebrew form. It was influenced by surrounding culture and translators. The Roman Emperor Constantine had powerful control over early Christianity and the Bible we have inherited. He disliked the Jews, and in the fourth century threw out all Hebrew Holy Days to distance his version of Christianity from the Jews. He replaced the *Holy Days* with new *holidays*, taking events like our Lord's Atonement at Passover and moving it to a more convenient weekend, corrupting its original *timing* as marked in the heavens by the sun and the moon. The calendar God put in place was originally an important form of worship. Its twelve Holy Days (7 annual Holy Days, 3 Sabbaths, and 2 New Year's Days) **memorialized** our Lord's important mission of **salvation** *for us*. Passover (the day He was crucified), and Firstfruits (the day he was resurrected) were celebrated *on the days* they actually happened.

Satan inspires men to make changes in the things of God. He desired to take God's throne and overthrow all inspired things, including sacred measure, the Lord's calendar, even God's name. It was Constantine who introduced many pagan qualities into the Lord's calendar. This included *names* for weekdays in connection with the planets (*Sun-day* and *Moon-day*), and *names* for months tied to Roman Gods (January comes from the Roman god *Janus*). God's calendar featured numbered days and months in both the Bible and the Book of Mormon, thus avoiding idolatry. Constantine didn't stop with these changes. He also changed the physical locations of the Atonement and Resurrection, moving them to locations he preferred. He placed Christ's burial above the former Roman temple of Venus, for example, then built the Church of the Holy Sepulcher over this defiled, pagan site. This is north and west of Herod's Temple, whereas the original location for the Lord's great sacrifice was on the Mount of Olives, directly across from the temple. It was thus "before the Lord's face," as required by the Law He came to fulfill perfectly. (For more on the original location of the Atonement, see *Another Location for the Temple and the Atonement*, Val Brinkerhoff, www.digitalelegend.com)

In these and other changes, we see that the Roman Emperor Constantine (274-337 AD) did not embrace pure Christianity as the religion of Rome as most think. Instead, he modified it into a new form, *then* implemented it as the state religion of Rome, complete with ties to his pagan beliefs. He also maintained the title *Pontifus Maximus* as the high priest of *Sol invictus*, then minted coins during his reign with the inscription, "*SOL INVICTO COMITI*" ("*Committed to the Invincible Sun*"). This pagan solar deity revealed to him in a dream that he would conquer "in this sign." A prior Roman Emperor, Elagabalus (218-222 AD) was also a high priest in this cult - of the sun god Baal in Syria - prior to becoming a Roman Emperor. He established the *Sol Invictus Elagabal* cult in Rome. Later the Roman Emperor Aurelian (270-275 AD) made *Sol Invictus* the State religion of the Roman Empire. He established a college of high priests under the name *Pontifices Dei Solis*. Constantine belonged to this college. It later evolved into the Roman College of Cardinals of the Vatican. They elected Popes and continue to do so today.

Summary

What we learn in these and other changes is that it is in our best interest to return to original truths by removing false traditions and teachings. Scripture tells us that they are given us by fathers, priests, and kings, as well as editing scribes and translators. Our return to light should also include that of our Lord's names in the Bible. They are an invitation to come to really "*know*" Him, not just know about Him.

For other papers (some 36 of them) by Val, see www.7witnesses.com