

Mistranslation

[Updated 7-13-19 with minor changes and additions]

It is easy to miss the mark when translating from one language to another. This awareness has us alert that an incorrect (or misleading), translation can cause a reader to take a wrong turn, ending up way off course. As God's Plan moves along, His increasing light causes the Bible to become a book where hidden things get revealed. Truths are emerging to be understood correctly. As we are hungry for truth, His Spirit leads us into more truth. We are now more rapidly identifying translation inaccuracies in order to expose the truth.

Mistranslation: God's name (in 6,828 locations, the most extensive error of all!)

This is a *deliberate* one-word mistranslation. The purposeful error is also repeated consistently (with rare exceptions) ¹, throughout the entire scriptures. This tradition has been steadfast for both Jews & Christians since about three hundred years after the resurrection. His name has been *translated* into a title or description, thus avoiding what His name really is. ² This is a diluting (a covering or occulting), of the truth. It is a down-playing of the very name that we are to exalt and to proclaim. As a result of this purposeful mistranslation to conceal His name, most of us don't even know for certain what His name really is!

The closest that religious tradition gets, is to tell us His name is "Yahwey". In contrast, Strong's No. 3068 based on the Hebrew-Aramaic word from which it was translated, shows the vowel pointings from the Hebrew-Aramaic, and thus transliterates it as "Y^eho-vah", (yah-ho-vaw)³. On the other hand, to my knowledge there is no Hebrew or Aramaic manuscript with vowel pointings to support "Yahwey." ⁴ "The Jerusalem Bible"

1. Only in Exodus 6:3, Psalm 83:18, Isaiah 12:2, 26:4.

2. Proper names, such as people & places are *NOT* supposed to be translated; instead they are to be "transliterated". When a word is transliterated, the letters of the new language are used that best represent the sounds of the letters in the original language. The goal is to have it sound the same in both languages. This basic principle is consistently violated in most translations.

3. The first of the 3 vowels is transliterated as a "raised e" or an upside down "e" because there is no exact match in English for this Hebrew vowel sound, (which is called a "shewa in Hebrew"). It has a hurried pronunciation sound similar to the "a" in "amuse." This means that "Y^eh-ho-vaw" is close to the way to pronounce His name. For keyboards lacking a "raised e" (or an "upside-down e" symbol, "Yahovah", "Yehovah", & "Y^hovah" are all acceptable ways to write God's name in English. Think of it this way: "hey" and "hay" sound nearly identical. Going forward however, my future writings will use "Yahovah," partly because His "nickname" is "Yah" as found in Psalm 68:4.

4. It would be going off on a rabbit trail here to give the interesting history of this centuries-old error.

(1971 edition), was ahead of it's time in that it opted to use the name of our Father rather than a title or description; however, they incorrectly used "Yahwey"...the wrong name! That's how deeply entrenched the tradition is. Let's do some research and see what's behind all this.

Why not transliterate His name directly? Well, originally, during the days of the Greek Empire, their rulers made an aggressive effort to have all of the cultures in their empire merge into the Greek Empire in order to minimize rebellion. But the Jews (& later the Christians too), did not want to adopt the pagan Greek culture. So there was conflict, and as a result, they were fined, imprisoned, or more typically, killed, for speaking the name of the Father. ⁵ The Roman Empire followed sternly in this horrific pattern, as did the church system. Eager to consolidate it's power, both the church system and the political realm joined forces.

This control by the clergy shifted the head (& focus), of the church from God into the hands of men, (with special titles such as popes, bishops, & pastors). The objective was to merge into harmony with the major political forces. This necessitated the uniting with their pagan cultures. To achieve this mixture, the Word was forbidden to be owned (or read), except by the religious authorities. This occulting of the truth helped enable religious authorities to replace the laws of Yahovah with the newly-invented religious laws that enabled tighter control. The church system then created translations that added verses, distorted words, and made it seem as though "we were now free from all that bondage of the laws of God". In its place however, the bondage of religious rules emerged.

Believers were then permitted to eat unclean food, as the heathen did. They were to shift the day of rest from the Sabbath to Sun-day, when the pagans took a day of rest to celebrate their sun god. Circumcision was no longer required, and holidays would shift from the Biblical ones, to the favorites of the pagans: Easter, Christmas, & Halloween, etc. These holidays were primarily to celebrate their fertility gods along with the sun god (on what was then the winter solstice), plus other demonic entities. As part of the resulting changes, the name of the Father was forbidden to be spoken for many centuries. During these years, manuscripts with the vowel pointings of the Hebrew word for the Father were destroyed by the church system so that the pronunciation would be lost, except to the clergy. The people were told that God's name was too holy to be pronounced, except on rare occasions by the religious leaders. This of course is contrary to scripture, which we shall see. ⁶

5. This also applied to those who became circumcised, kept the Sabbath, observed the Feasts, and refused to eat what the scriptures said was unclean. We have a study on circumcision, and another on dietary laws, under "Eric's Library", then "Religious Myths..." on our website. Also Bible Lesson 04 and Eric's Study No. 11 are on the Feasts. A study on the Sabbath is for another time, but is in the works.

6. This is yet another example of religious tradition making the Word of no effect through the doctrine/works/teaching of the "Nicolaitans." This teaching is the only thing that Yahshua (Jesus) states as something that he "hates", and He says so twice, (Revelation 2:6 and then 2:15). His ministry emphasized the difference between the need to obey the law of Yahovah vs. not becoming entangled with obedience to the laws (traditions), of men. For this, the religious leaders had him crucified.

What a startling discovery it was behind this mistranslation of God's name when I first saw it! I felt compelled to read & research several books by different authors on the subject.⁷ I wanted to be sure to see the truth in the big picture. It is important to accurately sort truth from fiction regarding such a glaring mistranslation. Let's continue on to see what I uncovered in order to better understand the big picture.

Once the intensity of the persecution had passed, then the religious leaders (again both Jewish & Christian), did not want to relinquish the control of being the only ones who knew how to pronounce His name. They continued to maintain that God's name was "too holy" to pronounce, except of course by the highest religious leaders.⁸ Scribes were told what His name was once every 7-years, but forbidden to say it. Scripture translations substituted "Lord", "God", "Lord God", or "Adonai" (which is the Hebrew word for "Lord"), in place of the Father's name. This religious tradition continues today, with nearly every English Bible translation repeating the error.⁹

Any place in an English translation Bible where we see "the LORD" or "GOD" or "ADONAI" in all capitols, it is a substitute for His name. Even "The Complete Jewish Study Bible" (otherwise one of my very favorite translations), has fallen into that trap, using "ADONAI". Yet we are to proclaim His name, (**Psalm 22:22**). His name is to be known throughout the earth, (**2Chronicles 6:32,33**). The Lord's Prayer in **Matthew 6:9** teaches us that His name is so special that it is set-apart from all other names. And we are even to worship Him using His name, (**Psalm 99:3**). We are so thankful that there is a promise that in time His name would be revealed once again, no longer forgotten, no longer to be taken in vain (**Exodus 20:7**), and no longer to be profaned (from **Ezekiel 39:7 & Zephaniah 3:9**). Now is that time!

7. Some of which are: "His Hallowed Name Revealed Again" by Keith E. Johnson.

"The Chronological Gospels" by Michael Rood, especially page 29 in the large print edition. His older book, "The Pagan-Christian Connection Exposed" is nearly as accurate, (see his summary on page 76).

"Names" by Todd D. Bennett, and also "His Name is One" by Jeff A. Benner.

Plus "Aramaic English New Testament" by Andrew Gabriel Roth footnotes & appendices.

8. Note the Nicolaitan spirit once again! It is a constant effort to keep the people focused on their church leaders & under their covering rather than encouraging a personal hearing-obeying walk with Yahovah.

9. Here are three that don't mistranslate: "The Chronological Gospels by Michael Rood is "right-on," (but is limited to the books of the Gospels, Acts & Revelation). "The Aramaic English New Testament" uses YHWY for God's name, which is an acceptable transliteration of the Hebrew (as would be YHVY, since the Hebrew consonant for "V" is also used as "W" for some Hebrew cultures). "The Aramaic English New Testament" however does not have any vowel pointings to indicate it's pronunciation, (and does not include the Old Covenant). "The Scriptures" translation has God's name in Hebrew letters wherever it exists, leaving it up to the reader to transliterate. Again there are no vowel pointings, but it does include both the Old & New (Renewed) Covenants. Hooray!

So in summary, just what is His name?! In Hebrew it is the 4-consonant word transliterated as “YHVH” (or arguably YHWH), but in most ancient Hebrew manuscripts “YHVY” is missing the three vowel pointing sounds between the four letters. Two of the three vowel points however, are consistently found in both of the oldest Hebrew manuscripts.¹⁰ It seems that the scribes were told to not write the middle vowel pointing, so that no one besides the religious leaders would know how to pronounce His name. But thankfully, there are 50 places where the scribe either slipped or intentionally put in all three vowel points! There are also several places in the Aleppo Codex with all three vowel points, and they are all identical to the ones in the Leningrad Codex. It is likely that Strong’s Hebrew-Aramaic Dictionary is tied to these sources, since it too is right on.

So His name is “Y’hovah”, with the first vowel sound somewhat like the “a” in “amuse.”¹¹ For this reason, it can be transliterated as “Yahovah”, “Yehovah”, or “Y’hovah” since they are all nearly the same in sound. The last of the three syllables is to be emphasized.¹²

It is interesting to know that there are 23 places in the scriptures where an abbreviated form of YHVY is given as “YH”, or “Yah”. And there are 26 times where it is with “Hallelu”, as “Hallehu Yah”, which means “Praise Yah!” So now we don’t feel quite so bad...we’ve praised His name every time we sang “Hallelujah!”

Increased knowledge & understanding requires increased change, (which is usually not easy at first). In new writings I will tend to use “Yahovah”, rather than “Lord” or “God”¹³

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10. The Aleppo Codex, about 1,000 years old is the oldest Hebrew manuscript of the Old Covenant, the “gold standard”, but incomplete. The Leningrad Codex was written about 100 years later, and is the oldest complete Hebrew manuscript of the Old Covenant; and it is in mint condition! Both were written by Masorites, who were the first to add the vowel pointings so that the correct pronunciation of the original language words would not be lost. These divinely survived the destruction by the political & religious leaders. Facsimiles are readily available today.

11. From “Basics of Biblical Hebrew,” 2nd edition, by Gary Pratico & Miles Van Pelt, on page 13.

12. A CD comes with Keith Johnson’s paperback book (see footnote No. 7) where one can hear His name.

13. Of course in the English language “Lord” is a generic title of honor used for many people but also used to address false gods. It also has a close association with the false god, Ba’al. “God” is generic as well, since it is also used by pagans to address their false gods. Yahovah is His name. And doesn’t it seem silly to sing, “We lift up Your name...” and not worship Him using His name? Likewise, do we really praise His holy name when we say that we do, yet not mention it?