

Mistranslation

[Updated 8-24-19 with minor changes and major 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, rather than being *transliterated*, was *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!

Why not transliterate His name directly?

Well, originally, during the days of the Greek Empire, the Greek 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, tortured or killed, for speaking the name of the Father. ³ 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.

1. The only exceptions are in Exodus 6:3, Psalm 83:18, & Isaiah 12:2, 26:4.

2. Proper names (such as names of 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 was consistently violated in nearly all English translations.

3. 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 it is in the works.

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 do two things. One was to merge the believers into the pagan culture; the other was that in replacing the laws of Yahovah with the newly-invented religious laws of pagan mixture, the religious leaders could gain tighter control over the people. The church system then created translations that added verses, removed words, 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 along with submission to the ruling religious elite. The Nicolaitan spirit took dominion.

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, Halloween, & the Winter Solstice (December 25th at that time...Christmas), etc. These holidays were primarily to celebrate their fertility gods along with the sun god, plus other demonic entities. As part of the resulting changes, the name of the Father was forbidden to be spoken for many centuries. Much later, the 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. ⁴

What a startling discovery it was for me on this mistranslation of God’s name! I felt compelled to read & research several books by different authors on the subject. ⁵ 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.

4. 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 His Father vs. not becoming entangled with obedience to the laws (traditions), of men. For this, the religious leaders had him crucified.

5. 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.

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. ⁶ Scribes were told what His name was once every 7-years, but forbidden to say it. Scripture translations (both Jewish & Christian), substituted "Lord", "God", "Lord God", "the Name" 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. ⁷

Any place in an English translation Bible where we see "the LORD" or "GOD" or "ADONAI" in all capitals, it is a substitute for His name. Even "The Complete Jewish Study Bible" (otherwise one of several favorite translations), has fallen into that trap, using "ADONAI". The recent Tree of Life Bible repeats this same error even though both translations claim to focus on the Hebrew origins. This shows us how deeply entrenched this religious tradition is.

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!

His "nickname" first...

We begin with what is beyond controversy. He has a never-was-banned "nickname/poetic name." It is Strong's #3050 in Hebrew as יהוה and is transliterated as "Yah." It is found in **Psalm 68:4** in the King James Version, which translated it as "Jah," so it was close. ⁸

6. 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 His Spirit within.

7. Here are four 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 without the vowel pointings. Also, YHVY would be acceptable, 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. "The Aleph-Tau Cephher" does fully transliterate and includes the Apocropha too.

8. The Hebrew letter Yod is transliterated as "Y," or as "i" when a vowel sign is needed. In the 1611 KJV the yods were all translated as "i," but due to the fancy lettering style, when the "i" began a word, it was elongated below the line. By 1634 it was classified as a new letter, the letter "J", previously unknown to the English alphabet. There is no letter "J" in Hebrew or Greek. So "Jah" should be "Yah."

It is also found in the Hebrew in about two dozen places in Psalms as “Hallelu Yah,” meaning “Praise Yah.” So now we don’t feel quite so bad...we’ve praised His name every time we sang “Hallelujah!”

Beyond that it is found in about another two dozen places, but in the KJV it was transliterated only once, just in **Psalm 68:4**. In all of the other places it is mistranslated as “the LORD” or “GOD.” The “**תנ** Cephher” Bible does get it right however, as do a few others.⁹

Now that we know God’s “nickname,” what is His full 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. So really YHVY is a bit misleading. Without the vowel pointings, it would more accurately be Y_H_V_H. Two of the three vowel points however, are consistently found in both of the oldest Hebrew manuscripts.¹⁰ The scribes were told to not write the missing 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 scribes either slipped or intentionally put in all three vowel points! There are 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. Recent discoveries of ancient Hebrew manuscripts have revealed more than 1700 occurrences of all same vowel pointings.

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

9. Some translations that correctly transliterate all (nearly 50), instances as “Yah” are: “The Aleph-Tau Cephher,” “The Scriptures,” “The Complete Jewish Study Bible,” “Rotherman’s Emphasized Bible,” & “The Concordant Literal Version of the Old Testament,” plus I suspect that there might be a few others...but not very many.

10. The Aleppo Codex, about 1,000 years old is the oldest Hebrew manuscript copy 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.

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

You mean His name is not “Yahwey”?!

The closest that religious tradition gets, is to tell us His name is “Yahwey”. *There is no Hebrew or Aramaic manuscript of the scriptures with vowel pointings to support “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)¹⁴. “The Jerusalem Bible” (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, and further reinforced going down the mistaken path.

The error of “Yahwey” caught on easily for another reason. The name of God in Hebrew is יהוה and the four consonants transliterate as YHVH (or equally YHWH).¹⁵ Without realizing that vowel sounds are between the letters, we might sound this out as “Yahwey.”

So what is the origin of the tradition of “Yahwey”? It traces back to Theodoret of Cyrus, a 5th century Christian author who didn’t know Hebrew and was writing in Greek.¹⁶ Theodoret was basing this on a second-hand Samaritan tradition. What Theodoret actually said was that the Samaritans called the Creator “IABE.” With their accent, it sounded just like the Hebrew word “Yafeh,” which means “the beautiful one.” We know that the Hebrew letter for “y” was transliterated as “i” when a vowel sound was needed. So “IABE” may actually be a somewhat-off transliteration of “YAFEH,” which again, means

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?

14. 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”). In Hebrew, the shewa has a hurried pronunciation sound similar to the “a” in “amuse.” So why wasn’t a “raised a” or an upside down “a” used instead? I don’t know for sure, but suspect it has something to do with what was easiest to do in the print shop initially. This means that “Y’h-ho-vaw” is close to the way to pronounce His name. For keyboards lacking a “raised e” (or an “upside-down e” symbol, “Yahovah,” “Y’hovah,” and even “Yehovah” are all acceptable ways to write God’s name in English in the sense that “hey” and “hay” sound nearly identicle. Going forward however, my future writings will use “Yahovah,” not only because the shewa is closer to an “a” than an “e”, but also because His “nickname” is clearly transliterated as “Yah,” as found in Psalm 68:4, (& for yet a third reason, explained at the end.

15. Keep in mind that Hebrew reads from right to left, so the 1st letter on the right transliterates as “Y.”

16. From “Shattering the Conspiracy of Silence” by Nehemiah Gordon, page 69, copyright 2012.

“the beautiful one.”¹⁷

In summary, His name is “Yahovah,” and his “nickname” is “Yah.”

As further confirmation, we look to the meaning of the individual Hebrew letters, since each letter has a word picture. Yah is written in Hebrew as the letters Yod-Hey. The Hebrew letter Yod means “strong (right) hand/arm.” The Hebrew letter Hey means “Spirit.” Together they form Yah, meaning “the strong (right) hand of the Spirit.”

Yahovah in Hebrew is spelled Yod-Hey-Vav-Hey. The Hebrew letter Vav means “nail, peg, to add, to secure.” Together, the letters present a combined word-picture of “the strong (right) hand of Spirit adds/secures His Spirit.” The bigger message here is that He adds His Spirit into man. The Spirit comes forth in the natural creation realm. This is the New Jerusalem Bride coming “down” from the heavenly spiritual dimension to rule in His Spirit upon the earth. It is all about marriage. It is all in His Name, Yahovah.

Yes! Yahovah sent His son by His Spirit, to atone for man, to rise by Spirit, to send His Spirit into man! When Moses asked God what His name was, God said “Yahovah,” and then added to be sure to teach it to be remembered for all generations.¹⁸ Praise Yah!

This review may be copied/distributed (in print or electronically), when not for sale or profit.

Eric & Mary Elizabeth Ellis
PO Box 400
Easton, ME 04740
ericandmaryellis@gmail.com
www.bibleconcepts.com

17. From “His Hallowed Name Revealed Again” by Keith E. Johnson, page 137, 2nd edition, 2010. There is however another theory, a bit shocking. The Samaritans at that time primarily worshipped Jupiter. They had a statue of Jupiter central to their temple worship. In addition they secondarily worshipped Yahovah. Their “nickname” for Jupiter was “Jove.” That’s where the expression “...by Jove” comes from. But there was no letter “J”, and the Hebrew letter “b” is sometimes pronounced as “v,” so “IABE” might really have been their reference to Jupiter. To make it even more complicated, another Hebrew letter can be pronounced as either “v” or as “w.” This means that IABE might have sounded very similar to “Yahwey.” This was explained by Nehemiah Gordon at a presentation for Michael Rood, later put out as a DVD. Either way, apart from religious tradition, there is no Hebrew scriptural support for “Yahwey.”

18. In Exodus 3:13 Moses asks God for His Name. In verse 14 God explains who He is, before saying in verse 15 that his name is יהוה (Yahovah), “...My Name forever...to be remembered (taught), to all generations.”