

# The Sacred Name Of Elohim

## To Speak Or Not To Speak?

Written by Kerry Alexander

There is a peculiar problem when one wishes to bring up the subject of “The Sacred Name.” It seems to be a very touchy subject among many Messianic congregations and what ever you do, don’t even think of bringing the subject up in a Jewish Synagogue! On the one hand most Jews emphatically oppose the idea that we should even speak it, or are afraid to even approach the subject. On the other hand there are people, like me, who seek His Name and desire to understand all they can about it. Still there is another group that is simply unaware of the controversy and don’t understand that the very reason they call on the Name of their Creator as “Lord” and “God” is because of the traditions of men passed down through the centuries. My question is this, if we are the children of Elohim (God), shouldn’t we be curious about His Name? When Moses saw the Almighty in the Burning Bush, he was curious!

Exodus 3; 13

*And Mosheh said to Elohim, “See, when I come to the children of Yisra’El and say to them, ‘The Elohim of your fathers has sent me to you,’ and they say to me, ‘What is His Name?’ what shall I say to them?”*

The Almighty didn’t complain to Moses about this question, He simply told Moses His Name. Did Elohim reprove Moses and say, “How dare you ask Me such a question! Don’t you know My Name is too HOLY to speak?” No! Of coarse He didn’t! In fact Elohim simply and emphatically told Moses His Name. He also stated in verse 15 of the same chapter “*This is My Name forever, and this is My remembrance to all generations.*” Moses even knew that the children of Israel were going to ask the question “*What is His Name!*” So what has happened today? Why aren’t we asking this question? Our Heavenly Father is the same today as He was yesterday, Right? Don’t you desire to know His Name? If the Almighty didn’t want us to know His Name then He would not have given it to Moses to tell the children of Israel! Our Elohim truly desires to be called by His Name! Look at what King David says in Psalms 148; 11-13

*Sovereigns of the earth and all peoples, Rulers and all judges of the earth,  
Both young men and maidens, Old men and children.  
Let them praise the Name of יהוה.*

Moses said we would be blessed if we call on the Name of our Elohim!

*“יהוה” does establish you as a set-apart people to Himself, as He has sworn to you, if you guard the commands of יהוה your Elohim and walk in His ways.  
“And all peoples of the earth shall see that the Name of יהוה is called upon you, and they shall be afraid of you.”*

Solomon said we should call on His Name whether or not we are Israelite or foreigner!

1Kings 8; 35,36 and 41,43

*“When the heavens are shut up and there is no rain because they sin against You, when they pray toward this place and confess Your Name, and turn from their sin because You afflict them, then hear in the heavens, and forgive the sin of Your servants, Your people Yisra’El – for You teach them the good way in which they should walk – and shall give rain on Your land which You have given to Your people as an inheritance.*

*“Also, concerning a foreigner, who is not of Your people Yisra’El, but has come from a far land for Your Name’s sake – since they hear of Your great Name and Your strong hand and Your outstretched arm – and he shall come and pray toward this House, hear in the heavens Your dwelling place, and do according to all for which the foreigner calls to You, so that all peoples of the earth know Your Name and fear You, as do Your people Yisra’El, and know that this House which I have built is called by Your Name.*

There are numerous verses of Scripture that support the fact that we should not be afraid to speak and praise His Name, but there simply isn’t enough room to include them all. These few scriptures should be enough evidence for us to know that we have the permission, authority and the right to call on His Name!

Why then do some people say, (especially the Jews who should know the Scripture) that we should not speak His Name when His Word clearly says we can? The answer to that question is...

## THE FEAR OF MEN

Jewish tradition teaches that common man should not utter the Sacred Name. This can be found in “The Stone Edition of the Chumash” in the commentary for Exodus 3:13 page 304 second paragraph it states *“However, יהוה-יהוה-” is more than a descriptive Name: it is a proper noun, for it is the actual Name of God, and is known as Shem HaMeforash, or the “Ineffable Name.” In respect for its great sanctity, it is not pronounced as it is written. Instead it is pronounced as Adonoy during prayer or when reading from Torah; in ordinary speech, the word Hashem [The Name] is substituted for it. That it should not be pronounced as it is spelled is derived by the Sages...*

But should the tradition of the Sages override the Word of Elohim? Yahshua says in Matthew 15; 3,7,8,9

*“Why do you also transgress the command of Elohim because of your tradition?  
“Hypocrites! Yeshayahu rightly prophesied about you, saying,*

*‘This people draw near to Me with their mouth, and respect Me with their lips, but their heart is far from Me. ‘But in vain do they worship Me, teaching as teachings the commands of men.’ ”*

Before I go any further let me state for the record, that I am not anti-Semitic. I love my Jewish brothers and have a deep respect for them and their culture. But if there is a teaching, doctrine or tradition that does not line up with the Words of Elohim, then I cast it aside just as I would a false teaching from a Christian or Messianic commentator. We must refer to the Set-apart Scriptures alone for all decisions of doctrine.

There is a liar in the spiritual realm, the “Father of Lies” also known as Satan. The real controversy surrounding The Name and whether or not to speak it starts with him. Satan’s desire is that we worship him! Satan knows how powerful the Name of The Almighty is. This is why he wants to hide and mask it with titles such as HaShem or Adonai in the Jewish realm, or in the Gentile realm he hides it with titles such as LORD or God. And the problem with only using titles is that these titles don’t tell us which lord or god the True One is. When George Harrison sings “My Sweet Lord” is he singing to the Elohim of Israel? No! Later on in the song even George clarifies who he is singing to, it is *(I even hate to say it)* Harikrishna! So if we are believers in the Almighty, shouldn’t we clarify which one we are worshipping? And not only does Satan want us to worship him, but he also wanted Yahshua to worship him as well!

Matthew 4: 8, 9, 10

*Again, the devil took Him up on a very high mountain, and showed Him all the reigns of the world, and their esteem, and said to Him, “All these I shall give You if You fall down and worship me.” Then Yahshua said to him, “Go, Satan! For it has been written, ‘You shall worship יהוה your Elohim, and Him alone you shall serve.’ ”*

You see here, Yahshua fought back with Scripture, not with the commentary of the “Sages.” This is how Yahshua gained strength and how we can gain strength in a time of weakness. He also quoted this in verse 4...

*“It has been written, ‘Man shall not live by bread alone, **but by every word that comes from the mouth of יהוה.**’ ”*

So it would only make sense that Satan would attack the Set-apart Name of our Heavenly Father in order for him to have a better chance to deceive even the “very elect.” It doesn’t matter what the “Sages” say if they speak against the Word. It says in...

Exodus 23:2

*“Do not follow a crowd to do evil, nor bear witness in a strife so as to turn aside after many, to turn aside what is right.*

Psalms 74:18,21,22,23

*Remember this: the enemy has reproached יהוה; And a foolish people has despised Your Name. Let not the crushed one (Messiah) return ashamed! Let the poor and needy praise Your Name. Arise, O Elohim, plead Your own cause, Remember how the foolish man reproaches You daily. Do not forget the voice of Your enemies, The uproar of those rising up against You increases continually.*

I know, you may be saying to yourself, “I thought the Fathers’ Name was “*The Lord*” because that is what I read in my King James Bible! It is very understandable that you would believe this. I myself believed this for many years only because this is the way it reads in most translations of the Scriptures. You see, every where in your Bible you see the word “LORD” all in capital letters it is actually supposed to be יהוה or in English YHWH. In order to see this, one needs to go back to the original Hebrew Scriptures. If you have a Hebrew Interlinear then you can see this for yourself.

Take into account that the Ancient Hebrew language was only made up of consonants. Vowel pointing was latter added by the Mazorites hundreds of years A.D. because to understand how to read Hebrew, vowels needed to be supplied. So to understand how his works, imagine your name being spelled without vowels. For example: If your name was “Harvey” then your name would look like this “HRVY”  
*(using an English equivalent letter for each Hebrew letter).*

So when you look at the name “Nehemiah” without the vowels it would look like “NHMYH.”

When you take a Hebrew word or name and render it letter for letter this is called a TRANSLITERATION.

My point is this; The Hebrew Name יהוה is transliterated letter for letter as Y-H-W-H. If you don’t believe me just ask any scholar. If this is true, then how or why did the translators of most Bible translations render it as “LORD?” Did you know that all other names of people and places were transliterated as best they could; sound for sound, but the Name that was the most important of all the Scripture they did not treat so carefully? The proper Name of our Heavenly Father was NOT transliterated, as it should have been. Rather, it was covered up and masked with TITLES, and what is worse, the English titles have pagan origins. The Name “ יהוה ” was written in the original Hebrew Scriptures 6828 times in the Old Testament alone! If the Father instructed set-apart men to write His Name in the Scripture that many times, I would say that He didn’t intend for it to be hidden!

If I were a translator of the Bible I would not want to be in danger of bringing His Name to naught, just as these translators have, and be in violation of the Third Commandment! For it says in Exodus 20; 7

*“You do not bring the Name of יהוה your Elohim to naught, for יהוה does not leave the one unpunished who brings His Name to naught.*

Deut. 4; 2

*Do not add to the Word, which I command you, and do not take away from it...*

Proverbs 30; 4-6

*Who has gone up to the heavens and come down?*

*Who has gathered the wind in His fists?*

*Who has bound the waters in a garment?*

*Who established all the ends of the earth?*

**What is His Name,**

**And what is His Son's Name, If you know it?**

*Every Word of Eloah is tried;*

*He is a shield to those taking refuge in Him.*

*Do not add to His Words,*

*Lest He reprove you, and you be found a liar.*

So you see, no one has the authority to change or to cover up the Set-apart Name of the Father. For this is taking away and adding to His Word. On the other hand the Word of Elohim gives us all the authority we need to call on His Name despite what man's tradition or doctrine claims. If the Father did not want His children to call on His Name then why does His Word ask the question "*What is His Name and what is His Son's Name, if you know it?*" Do you think that the Father knew before hand that Satan would attempt to hide His Name? Absolutely! The Father knows ALL, right? Of coarse right! Also by this question in Proverbs 30 we can see that we must endeavor to search out what the Fathers Name is.

"Lord" is not a name it is a title, "God" is not a name it is merely a title and even "Elohim" and "Adonai" are not names they also are just a titles.

In this article my goal was to allow you, my dear reader, to see from a Scriptural point of view that we have the freedom to call on the Set-apart Name of the Father, but how to pronounce it is a whole new study. There are many groups of believers that freely call on His Name, but have differing opinions on how to pronounce it. I am not in contention with any of these groups. The way I feel is at least they are trying to search out how to call on the Fathers Name instead of hiding it! In the next article I will show you some Scriptural evidence how His Name could very possibly be pronounced.

Romans 19; 13-16

*For "everyone who calls on the Name of יהוה" shall be saved."*

**How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed?**

**And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard?**

**And how shall they hear without one proclaiming?**

**And how shall they proclaim if they are not sent?**

*As it has been written,*

*"How pleasant are the feet of those who bring the Good News of peace,*

*who bring the Good News of the good!" However, not all obeyed the Good News.*

So let us who believe He has a Name, not shrink back in fear, but begin proclaiming it with the authority that we have been given! Helelu-Yah!