

WHY IS GOD'S NAME MISSING FROM MOST BIBLES?

THE REASON GOD'S NAME IS MISSING FROM MOST BIBLES

“...the distinctive Hebrew name for God – usually transliterated **Jehovah**, **is in this translation represented by “LORD.”**”

– Today's English Version (preface)

There are many different reasons why God's name was removed from the Bible. I will attempt to briefly discuss them here.

First off, it was a **MISTAKE** to remove God's Name from the bible.

WHY ?

As Author of the Bible, Only God himself has the right to change or alter the Bible. God himself gave mankind a warning – in his own Word – The Bible; to NOT add to – NOR take away from his Words.

“I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds anything to them, God will add to him the plagues described in this book. And **if anyone takes words away** from this book of prophecy, God will take away from him his share in the tree of life.” (Revelation 22:18,19)(NIV)-BibleGateway

– A **MISTAKE** –

“...**the suppression of The Name (Jehovah)** has entailed upon the reader, and especially upon the hearer, **irreparable loss...** its suppression was a **MISTAKE**...”
–Rotherham, 1, Ch. IV, 22-29

“...the most common “**ERROR**” made by most translators in the last 3500 years...

is their **elimination of heaven's revealed Name of the Most High, Yahweh (Jehovah)**”
– A. B. Traina; in the Preface of the Holy Name Bible

“The substitution of the word “Lord” is *most unhappy*; for...it **in NO WAY** represents the meaning of the sacred name (**Jehovah**)...”
– The 1872 edition of Smith's Bible Dictionary

THE BASIC REASONS THAT TRANSLATORS REMOVED GOD'S NAME FROM THE BIBLE :

1. Anti-Semitic Feelings

The Jewish God of the Jewish Messiah was hated and despised by the Greeks and Romans. When Christianity became a State Religion of Rome – All attempts to blot out the Hebrew origins of Jesus were employed – and Removing God's Name from the Bible was a major attempt to obscure Jesus' Jewish heritage.

“Well, be assured that **the God that the Jews worship – is the very same God that we worship.** Their sacred writings, the Law and the Prophets, we revere and read aloud in our meetings. And because **we worship this God of the Jews,** the one thing we cannot be accused of is novelty.”

–Glimpses Issue #139 :

Why Early Christians Were So Despised;

Ken Curtis PH.D., Beth Jacobson, Diana Severance Ph.D., Ann T. Snyder and Dan Graves.

©2003 by Christian History Institute. *“The Octavius of Minicius Felix” ;*

2nd century A.D.

2. Support of Trinitarian Doctrine

When Rome voted to adopt the Trinity doctrine of the numerous Pagans in her empire – The Name of God – YHWH (translated Jehovah in English) – interfered and hindered the Newly Adopted teaching That Jesus was the Almighty God – Jehovah. Rome paid her translators to remove God's name almost Seven Thousand Times (7,000) from the Bible.

“In the first two centuries nearly all the various readings of the New Testament came into existence, the majority of them by

deliberate alteration of the text...in the interests of (the trinity) dogma...

-the Encyclopedia of Religion and Ethics; The Bible in the Church

“Codex B (Vaticanus)...**was altered** by a later hand **in more than two thousand places.** Eusebius, therefore, is not without grounds for accusing the **adherents of...the newly-risen doctrine of the trinity of falsifying the Bible...**”

-(Fraternal Visitor 1924, p. 148; translated from Monatshefte).

“The removal of the Tetragrammaton (Jehovah) from the New Testament and its replacement with the surrogates KYRIOS and THEOS **blurred the original distinction between the Lord God and the Lord Christ,** and in many passages made it impossible to determine which one was meant.

As time went on...it was often impossible to distinguish between them. Thus it may be that **the removal of the Tetragrammaton (Jehovah) contributed significantly to the later...Trinity “**

– George Howard, Bible Scholar ;
The Name of God in the New Testament,
BAR 4.1 (March 1978), pg 15

“It was they who demanded, in effect, that Christianity be “updated” by blurring or even obliterating the long-accepted distinction between the Father and the Son.”

– When Jesus Became God, by Richard E. Rubenstein, p.74

3. MONEY

Because the God of Christ – The Jewish God, Jehovah, was not popular with the world of mankind, they sought to remove him from their Bibles. Bible translators knew that for their Bibles to be purchased they would need to appeal to their readers. They also knew, that if they used God’s Divine Name Jehovah, then people would not purchase their Version and thus they would lose money.

God’s name Jehovah/Yahowah appears in the original Hebrew text about 7000 times, but the NIV fails to mention it even once. When asked about this, **Edwin H. Palmer, Th.D., Executive Secretary for the NIV’s committee wrote :**

“Here is why we did not : You are right – that Jehovah is a distinctive name for God and ideally we should have used it. But we put 2 1/4 million dollars into this translation and a sure way of throwing that down the drain is to translate, for example, Psalm 23 as, ‘Yahweh (Jehovah) is my shepherd.’

Immediately, we would have translated for nothing.

Nobody would have used it (or purchased it). Oh, maybe you and a handful [of] others. But a Christian has to be also wise and practical. We are the victims of 350 years of the King James tradition. **It is far better to get two million to read it-that is how many have bought it to date-** and to follow the King James, than to have two thousand buy it and have **the correct translation of Yahweh(Jehovah)**
. . . It was a hard decision, and many of our translators agree with you.”

– **The Reason NIV removed Jehovah’s Name**

Edwin H. Palmer, Th.D.,

Executive Secretary for the NIV’s committee

“The situation today, where many translations... exists largely because of the amount of money to be gained...” -(The Preservation of the Bible By Faithful Churches)

–By Charles V. Turner

4. MAN MADE **“TRADITION”**

It was a tradition of the Jews to avoid using God’s name altogether. They stopped all mention of him.

No longer using God's Divine Name, they no longer used it in their prayers, even making it a sin to say his name out loud. They considered it "blasphemy" to utter the name of God, Jehovah. Many translators admit to following this "Jewish Tradition" and have thus removed Jehovah's name and replaced it with Titles such as "LORD" and "GOD" – all in capitals – to show that they have removed God's name in those places. Jesus condemned the man-made tradition of the Jews. Following their lead in this – would be directly against Jesus' Teachings on this issue.

"...Yahweh (Jehovah), is the proper personal name of the God of Israel...the term Adonai, 'My Lord' was later used as a SUBSTITUTE. The word LORD in the present version represents the **TRADITIONAL** usage."
– New American Bible (Catholic)
Introduction to the O. T., Page XI.

"In this translation **we have followed the orthodox Jewish TRADITION** and substituted 'the Lord' for the name 'Yahweh' (Jehovah)"
— Preface – 1935 Bible ; J. M. Powis Smith and Edgar J. Goodspeed

"Jesus replied, "And why do you break the command of God for the sake of your tradition? ...**Thus you nullify the word of God for the sake of your tradition.** " (Matthew 15:3,6)(NIV)-BibleGateway

5. SUPERSTITION

During the time when Israel was in slavery to Babylon, she absorbed and adopted many Babylonian customs and ideas. One of these was the "Superstition" against using the name of a God – for fear that bad things would happen to them. As the Babylonians called their Chief God – Marduk by the title "LORD" so as not to offend him, so too – the Jews adopted this idea in reference to Jehovah God.

"When the Yisraeli (Israelites) came out of Babylonian captivity, they brought along with them the Babylonian culture, and along with it Babylonian beliefs and superstitions. One of these pagan Babylonian practices or beliefs was called "ineffability." This was the **SUPERSTITION against using the name of a deity for fear** of something bad happening to them.

The idea was that if you said the name of a deity he or she would notice you. The pagan practice of ineffability was further reinforced by Greek Hellenization."
-(b.Pes. 50a) (b.Kidd. 71a).

“The avoidance of the original name of God (Yehowah) both in speech and, to a certain extent, in the Bible..... **first arose.....in Babylonia**. According to Dalman (l.c. pp. 66 et seq.),” -The Jewish Encyclopedia TETRAGRAMMATON; by Crawford Howell Toy, and Ludwig Blau

“The idea that only the priest could utter **The NAME of The HEAVENLY FATHER**, and that he was to disguise or hide it from the common people, came from the idea that the NAME was “**ineffable**” or “**unutterable**”. However this was a pagan doctrine that they adopted from the Egyptians, Babylonians, and the Greeks...”
-THE FINAL REFORMATION; KOSTER P.54, P112

Marduk was, therefore, a very important god of Babylon. In the first millennium BCE, his name was considered so holy, that it was almost never pronounced; **instead, people said and wrote *Bêl*, ‘LORD’.**

Herodotus correctly calls the supreme god of Babylon Bêl (“lord”), because his real name was not pronounced. -[Herodotus, *Histories* 1.181-2; tr. Aubrey de Sélincourt]

“The ineffability of divine names was an old idea in Egypt... the name of Osiris himself was said to be ineffable...the name Marduk of Babylon was also declared ineffable. The Greeks avoided the names of their deities and preferred to call them by the titles Kurios and Theos.”
-The Final Reformation By Dr. Koster; pp. 54 and 112

“...But at least by **the third century B.C.E.** the pronunciation of the name

YHWH (Jehovah) was avoided, and Adonai, “the Lord,” was substituted for it...”
– Encyclopedia Judaica (p. 679).

“The Hebrews considered The Name of God to be ‘ineffable’ **and substituted** in reading Adonai (**My Lord**).”-Columbia Encyclopedia Vol. 2 under the subject ‘God’

6. “JEHOVAH” IS NOT THE HEBREW WAY TO SAY GOD’S NAME

Some Bible Translators say that they have removed God’s name from the Bible – because Jehovah is not the proper way to say God’s name in Hebrew.

This reasoning is merely an excuse and not a reason at all. For if this reason was valid, then we would also have to remove Jesus name from the Bible, since the name “Jesus” is not the way that it was written or spoken in Hebrew either. Many Hebrew names are written in the Bible – which are not as they were in Hebrew and yet we do not remove them. Therefore this reasoning is truly invalid. Examples of Jewish names in the Bible which are translated

into English – much differently than their original Hebrew counterparts – are : Jesus, Jeremiah, Jonah, Joel, Jerusalem, Joshua, etc.

“... **the Committee... is, omitting the name of God (because) the word ‘Jehovah’ does not accurately represent any form of the Name ever used in Hebrew...**”

– The Preface of the Revised Standard Version

Thus, **the Hebrew “ye-ru-sha-LA-yim” became “Jerusalem”;**
“ye-ri-HO” became Jericho; and “yar-DEN” become “Jordan”.
Hebrew personal names such as “yo-NA” became “Jonah”,
“yi-SHAI” became “Jesse” and “ye-SHU-a” became “Jesus”.

Likewise “YHWH, Yahweh, or Yehowah” became “Jehovah” in english.

7. GOD DOESN'T NEED A NAME

God does not need to be distinguished from other gods.

Some translators have made this statement. Who are we to say that God doesn't need a name ? God deemed it necessary to name all the stars in the heavens, and to place his name upon people that he liked, and upon places that were important to him. His own word the Bible – emphasizes the importance of a name. The translators of the Bible did not remove Satan's name from the Bible – nor did they remove the names of numerous false gods from the Bible.

“the use of any proper name for the one and only God... is entirely inappropriate for the universal faith of the Christian Church.”

-the preface of the Revised Standard Version;

Under reasons (excuses) for the removal of God's personal name – Jehovah

“He determines the number of the stars and calls them each by name.”

(Psalms 147:4)(NIV)-BibleGateway

“Lift up your eyes on high, and see who hath created these, that bringeth out their host by number; he calleth them all by name...”

The everlasting God, Jehovah, the Creator of the ends of the earth...”

(Isaiah 40:26,28)(ASV)-BibleGateway

“A good name is more desirable than great riches; to be esteemed is better than silver or gold.”

(Proverbs 22:1)(NIV)-BibleGateway

“A good name is better than oil of much worth...”

(Ecclesiastes 7:1)(NLV)-BibleGateway

“...The Sacred Name Yahovah was revealed to man by Yahovah Himself and is not a man-given name” -(see II Apol., 10, 13; Trypho, 126, 127).

In the Bible, refusing to mention the name of a god means refusing to worship this god (Ex 23:13) and that is why Satan incited the Israelites, by means of the prophets of Baal, not to use the Name of Jehovah (Jr 23:27).

“Yahweh (Jehovah) is the name that indicates the God of the Hebrews.

Where the Philistines worshipped Dagon, the Egyptians, Amon, and the Ammonites, Milcom, the Hebrews worshipped YAHWEH (Jehovah). **The title ‘god’ (elohim) is ALSO applied to false deities in the Scriptures as well as Yahweh (Jehovah),**

hence is NOT a term by which one can be distinguished from the others.

When the voice said, ‘I am Yahweh (Jehovah),’ there was no doubt in any listener’s mind as to the identity of the speaker. He was the God of the Hebrews. So far as is known, **no other peoples called their god by this name.”**

– R&H, December 16, 1971

“In the Scriptures there is the closest possible relationship between a person and his name, the two being practically equivalent, so that to remove the name is to extinguish the person. (Num. 27:4; Deut. 7:24) To forget God’s name is to depart from Him.”

–*Zondervan Pictorial Bible Dictionary*, p. 571 (1964)

JEWISH BIBLES FAVOR THE NAME “JEHOVAH”

Non-superstitious **Jewish translators always favored the name “Jehovah” in their translations of the Bible.** On the other hand one can note that there is **NO** Jewish translation of the Bible with “Yahweh”.

NAME OF VERSION (JEWISH)	TONGUE	PUBLISHED IN:	DIVINE NAME RENDERED
Immanuel Tremellius	Latin	1579	Jehova
Baruch Spinoza	Latin	1670	Jehova*
Samuel Cahen	French	1836	Iehovah
Alexander Harkavy	English	1936	Jehovah**
Joseph Magil (see below)	English	1910	Jehovah
Rabbi L. Golschmidt (see below)	German	1921	Yehovah

“non-superstitious Jewish translators always favored the name Jehovah in their translations of the Bible. On the other hand one can note that there is NO Jewish translation of the Bible with

Yahweh.”

—M. Gérard GERTOUX; a Hebrew scholar, specialist of the Tetragram;
president of the Association Biblique de Recherche d’Anciens Manuscrits

THE EARLY CHRISTIANS USED THE NAME – “JEHOVAH”

“As a follower of Christ, Peter used Gods name, Jehovah.

When Peters speech was put on record the Tetragrammaton (YHWH / Jehovah) was here used
according to the practice during the first century B.C.E. and the first century C.E.”

– Paul Kahle; Studia Evangelica, edited by Kurt Aland, F. L. Cross, Jean Danielou, Harald
Riesenfeld and W. C. van Unnik, Berlin, 1959, p. 614 (See App 1C Â§1.)

“The early Christian scholars therefore easily learnt the true pronunciation.”

–The 15th edition of the Encyclopedia Britannica, volume 12, p. 995, Heading “Jehovah”

REMOVING “JEHOVAH”ALMOST SEVEN THOUSAND TIMES

“The ASV (American Standard Version) has “Jehovah” in it about 6,823 times,
just like the original Hebrew, but the NASB **removed it every time.**

This makes for some awkward situations like Psalms 110:1, “The LORD said to my lord.” “

-Jason Beduhn Northern Arizona University , Department of Humanities Arts and Religion

**Jesus’ name appears around 500 times in the Bible; whereas Jehovah’s Name appears
almost 7,000 times. Obviously Jehovah is proud of his name.**

So how does he feel about mankind removing HIS Name from the Bible ?

HOW DOES JEHOVAH FEEL ?

“Remember this, that **the enemy** hath reproached, O Jehovah, And that a foolish people
hath blasphemed thy name.” (Isaiah 74:18)(ASV)-BibleGateway

“And now this admonition is for you, **O priests.**If you do not listen, and if you do not set your
heart **to honor my name,**”says **Jehovah Almighty,** **“I will send a curse upon you,**
and I will curse your blessings.” (Malachi 2:1) (ASV)

“How long, O God, will you allow our enemies to mock you? Will you let them **dishonor your**
name forever?”(Psalm 74:10) (NLT) -BibleGateway

“And all day long my name is constantly blasphemed. Therefore my people will know my
name; therefore in that day they will know that it is I who foretold it. “(Isaiah 52:5,6) (NIV) -
BibleGateway

“Therefore, behold, **I will cause them to know,** this once will I cause them to know
my hand and my might; and they shall know **that my name is Jehovah.**”
(Jeremiah 16:21) (ASV) -BibleGateway

“And **I will sanctify my great name**, which hath been profaned among the nations, which ye have profaned in the midst of them; and **the nations shall know that I am Jehovah.**” (Ezekiel 36:23) (ASV) -BibleGateway

“And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of Jehovah shall be delivered...” (Joel 2:32)(ASV)-BibleGateway

“...**this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel: ‘In the ‘last days’..... everyone who calls on the name of the Lord (Jehovah) will be saved.’**” (Acts 2:16,17,32)(NIV)-BibleGateway

FOLLOW CHRIST’S EXAMPLE

So rather than follow the Jewish Traditions – that Jesus Condemned – We should follow Christ’s example in making his Father’s name known.

“Our Father in the heavens, let your name be sanctified.” (Matthew 6:9) – BibleGateway

Jesus used his father’s name – and told us to do the same.

In prayer to his father, Jesus said:

“O righteous Father, even though the world does not know you, I know you, and these know that you have sent me. I made known to them YOUR NAME and I will continue to make it known... “I have manifested Your name to the men whom You gave Me out of the world.” (John 17:25,26,6)(ESV)-BibleGateway

“I will praise thy name for ever and ever.. Great is Jehovah, and greatly to be praised; And his greatness is unsearchable.” (Psalm 145:2,3)(ASV)-BibleGateway

“That men may know that thou, whose name alone is **JEHOVAH**, art the most high over all the earth.” (Psalm 83:18) (King James Version) -BibleGateway