

Y. E. A.

AN ANSWER TO: USING GOD'S SACRED NAME

Time and time again, ministers of other groups write and publish articles wherein they justify the non-use of the Sacred Names. I was recently sent a copy of an article, which appeared in the May/June 2001 issue of Royal Vision Magazine. This magazine is an arm of the Philadelphia Church of God. The arguments utilized against the use of the Sacred Names are standard operating procedure for these types of groups. They must and should be answered.

By Jerry Healan

The article in question is written by Mark Jenkins who writes, "Throughout history, great significance has been attached to the name of God, and rightly so."

COMMENT: This statement, of course, is quite correct. A thorough study into what the scholars and even Jewish Rabbis declare about the Sacred Name has been done by this assembly and the resulting article was written entitled "*The Scholars and Rabbis Speak Out on the Importance of Yahweh's Name.*" If you haven't received this article, then you are welcome to write and/or call us to request your free copy of it.

After composing the above mentioned article, we did another thorough Biblical research and composed another article which is entitled, "*Yahweh Speaks Out Concerning the Importance of His Name,*" which also is available "free" for the asking.

The article continues, "There is only one name by which we can be saved (Acts 4:12)."

COMMENT: Again, a very true statement.

He writes, "In the New Testament, the word name conveys authority. According to *Strong's Concordance*, the Greek word for name, *onoma*, shows *authority* and *character*. When we pray "in Jesus' name," we are actually praying by His authority. In Hebrews 1:4, the Apostle Paul writes, 'Being made so much better than the angels, as he [Christ] hath by inheritance obtained A MORE EXCELLENT NAME than they.' On page 8 of *the International Critical Commentary*, James Moffatt writes that the word name 'carries the general sense of 'rank' or 'dignity.'" Jesus Christ has a more excellent name because He is greater in rank and authority.

COMMENT: The Greek word for name is "*onoma.*" *Onoma* is defined as "a name" (literally or figuratively) (*authority, character*) [*Strong's*

Exhaustive Concordance #3686]. In other words, we could ask the question, Whose name is associated with the authority and character of baseball's **first** "home run king?" Who possessed that AUTHORITY and CHARACTER for many, many years? Was it Roger Maris? While we know that Roger Maris did hold the title as the "home run king" for a few years, the original holder of that title was none other than Babe Ruth. To bestow the name (character/authority) of Roger Maris for baseball's first and most beloved "home run king" would be deceit, and error would it not?

Whose name (character/authority) is presently associated with the office of the President of the United States? Is it Bill Clinton? There are many people who would love to have it so, but for anyone to declare that Bill Clinton presently holds the office of the President of the United States would be declaring an "untruth" (lie, deceit).

Whose name (character/authority) is associated with your banking account? Mine is Jerry Healan. If someone signed a check on my account as Harry Jelon, should that check go through? It may, only because of an error, but all I would have to do is point out that error and it would have to be corrected and the amount restored to my account. Notice that Harry Jelon isn't too far off from my name, but it still isn't my name.

Do you not begin to understand that it is important for the AUTHORITY and CHARACTER to be associated with the PROPER NAME that goes with it?

Now we ask the question, Do we understand what the Savior meant when He said, "...many shall come in My name (authority and character), saying, 'I am the Messiah;' and shall deceive many (Mt. 24:5)? Is it possible that deceit could be promulgated through a name that really isn't the true name? Isn't there one in this world called the devil and Satan who continually seeks to steal the honor and glory associated with and belonging to the Creator Yahweh and His Messiah to himself? Doesn't he do this through deceit? In order to come to realize how he accomplishes this, you



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could request our “free” article entitled, “*The Deceives of Satan.*”

The next question concerning this Scripture would be, How do you deceive someone? Well... isn't deceit the opposite of truth? Doesn't name mean authority and character? Thus if people and organizations are giving authority and character to a name that isn't the true name, then hasn't this Scripture been fulfilled?

The name of the Savior in the Hebrew is יהושע. It is shown in all Hebrew lexicons to be pronounced as Yehowshua in the Hebrew, but the English transliteration is Joshua. Now, we do understand that the original English didn't have a “J” so when we exchange the “J” with a “Y”, we get the transliterated English word Yoshua or Yahshua.

Now we have to ask another question, Which name would be the MORE EXCELLENT NAME? The name that is closer to the true name or a name that has been corrupted to the point that there is very little comparison?

PASS IT AROUND

Do you remember the games we played when we were children? (I suppose that children still play some of these games even today.) One of those games was called “Pass it around” or “Pass it down.” We would form a circle and one child would whisper a word or phrase in the ear of one of the child next to him. This word or phrase would be passed all the way around the circle until it came back to the one who originated it. By the time it got back to the point of origin it would be corrupted beyond belief.

So where do we get the name Jesus? Supposedly, it is transliterated from the Hebrew to the Greek to the English. But according to the Scriptures which are presented in the Greek language the name is “Ihsou/” (Iesou) or “Ihsous/” (Iesous). The Latin Vulgate presents the name as “Jesus.” Hmmmm...if we just substitute a “J” for the Latin “I” we get the name “Jesus.” So the truth of the matter would be that the name was transliterated from the Hebrew to the Greek to the Latin to the English.

So, let's compare the name that has been transliterated through the chain of languages with the name that is transliterated directly from the Hebrew (Note: we will utilize the modern day transliterated form for this experiment) Jesus : Joshua. Hasn't corruption taken place?

Now please allow me to explain something

about my past. When I was in nominal Christianity, the name Jesus was so special and so powerful to me. It was so special to the point that if my wife and I had ever had a son or sons, I would never have thought of naming my son by the name Jesus (even though there may be other societies that do so). That name belonged to one person and one person only. It belonged to the Savior. It was His personal name. However I would have had no problem naming a son Joshua. This seems to be a proclivity of the peoples of the English language. I have never met a person of an English, Scot, or Irish background named Jesus, but the name Joshua is a very popular English name. Joshua is a much closer transliteration of the Savior's name than is Jesus! Evidently, I was not alone concerning the importance I placed on that name (at least in the English speaking world).

But the simple fact of the matter is that the name of the Savior has been corrupted or changed from its original pronunciation. Another simple fact is that men delight more in corruption and darkness rather than purity and light (Jn. 3:19-21). Again, we ask the question, Which name would be the MORE EXCELLENT NAME? ? The name that is closer to the true name or a name that has been corrupted to the point that there is very little comparison?

Mark writes: God the Father's names also have great meaning that He wants each of us to understand. In fact, God wants man to take such special care with His name, that He protected it with one of His ten commandments (Exod. 20:7).”

COMMENT: We also agree with this statement. The name of the Heavenly Father is extremely important as well as the other appellatives which refer to Him. So, why write an article which seeks to downplay this importance?

THE PATRIARCHS

Mark writes, “In Exodus 6:2, God revealed His name to Moses. ‘And God spake unto Moses, and said unto him, I am the Lord.’ The Hebrew word for Lord in this case is YHWH. It actually means: ‘The One who was, and is, and is to be.’ It is this name that the followers of the ‘sacred names’ doctrine say opens the door to salvation. However, in verse 3 God states, ‘And I appeared unto Abraham, unto Isaac, and unto Jacob, by the name of God



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Almighty, but by my name Jehovah was I not known to them.’ Therefore, if the proper use of the name YHWH is required for salvation, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob – along with everyone else born in the first 2,500 years of human history – are all condemned!”

COMMENT: These people proclaim that they have a tremendous knowledge and understanding of the Scriptures. They proclaim to be great scholars and students of the Bible. Yes, whether Mark Jenkins, the author of this article in question has been to Ambassador College or not, we do know that many of the ministers of this organization including the head of it have been. Ambassador College’s motto was “The Word of God is the foundation of all knowledge.”

How is it, then, that such a frivolous statement can be made that the Patriarchs, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob didn’t know the Sacred Name? I suppose that it’s because the ministers and people involved with doing the so-called work (in WWCG) were not to be questioned even when they did make mistakes. To question, was to be placed either on parole (suspended) or disfellowshipped from the church. To be disfellowshipped from the church meant that one was cut off from the Creator and would lose his salvation. Therefore, most feared to question, and those who did weren’t allowed to continue with that group.

Well, praise Yahweh, we no longer have to fear being disfellowshipped from that group since that church isn’t even a shell of its former self when it was under the control of Herbert W. Armstrong. No, even the people of this group, the Philadelphia Church of God, are no longer a part of that particular body. And, frankly, the teaching that one had to be a member of the WWCG in order to receive salvation was a false erroneous teaching.

But a simple little study back into the book of Genesis reveals that Abraham, Isaac and Jacob did know the name Yahweh. “And Abram passed through the land unto the place of Sichem unto the plain of Moreh. (And the Canaanite was then in the land.) And Yahweh (YHWH) appeared unto Abram, and said, ‘Unto thy seed will I give this land:’ and there builded he an altar unto Yahweh (YHWH), Who appeared unto him. And he removed from thence unto a mountain on the east of Beth-el, and pitched his tent, having Beth-el on the west, and Hai on the east: and there he builded an altar unto Yahweh (YHWH), and CALLED UPON THE NAME YAHWEH (YHWH)!” Gen.

12:6-8. (Notice that the Scriptures don’t say El Shaddai [God Almighty as Mark renders it], they say that he called on the name Yahweh.)

“And he went on his journeys from the south even to Beth-el, unto the place where his tent had been at the beginning, between Beth-el and Hai; unto the place of the altar, which he had made there at the first: and there Abram CALLED ON THE NAME YAHWEH (YHWH),” Gen. 13:3-4. (Notice that the Scriptures don’t say El Shaddai [God Almighty as Mark renders it], they say that He called on the name Yahweh.)

“Then Abram removed his tent, and came and dwelt in the plain of Mamre, which is in Hebron and built there an altar unto Yahweh (YHWH),” Gen. 13:18. (Notice that the Scriptures don’t say El Shaddai [God Almighty as Mark renders it], they say that He called on the name Yahweh.)

“After these things the word of Yahweh came unto Abram in a vision, saying, ‘Fear not, Abram: I am thy shield, and thy exceeding great reward.’ And Abram said, ‘Sovereign Yahweh (Adonai YHWH), what wilt Thou give me, seeing I go childless, and the steward of my house is this Eliezer of Damascus?’” Gen. 15:1-2. (Notice that the Scriptures don’t say El Shaddai [God Almighty as Mark renders it], they say Adonai Yahweh.)

“And He said unto him, ‘I am Yahweh (notice that He didn’t use the title El Shaddai, but rather YHWH) That brought thee out of Ur of the Chaldees, to give thee this land to inherit it. And He said ‘Sovereign Yahweh (notice that He didn’t use the title El Shaddai, but rather YHWH), whereby shall I know that I shall inherit it?’” Gen. 15:7-8.

Yahweh is addressed as Yahweh (YHWH) in Gen. 16:2, 5; 18:3, 14, 27, 30, 32; 21:33; 24:3, 7, 12, 27, 35, 40, 4248, 50, 51, 52, 56; 25:21, 22, 23; 26:25; 27:20, etc., etc.

I have presented adequate proof that the patriarchs all knew the Creator by His name Yahweh (YHWH). Therefore, the Scripture referred to (Ex. 6:2-3) should be presented as a question rather than a statement. It should read, “And Elohim spake unto Moses, and said unto him, ‘I am Yahweh; and I appeared unto Abraham, unto Isaac, and unto Jacob, in El Shaddai, but by My name Yahweh (YHWH) was I not known to them?’”

There was no such thing as a question mark in the Hebrew language. Therefore, in all places in the English version of the Hebrew Scriptures where a question mark appears, it has to be done so through a careful study of the statement made. In this case, it is obvious, with a little research into the book of Genesis, that the Patriarchs Abraham,



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Isaac, Jacob as well as many, many others knew the name Yahweh and either addressed Him by it or spoke to others about it.

EL SHADDAI (ALMIGHTY GOD)

In Gen. 17:1-8 we read, “And when Abram was ninety years old and nine, Yahweh (YHWH) appeared to Abram, and said unto him, ‘I am El Shaddai; walk before Me, and be thou perfect. And I will make My covenant between Me and thee, and will multiply thee exceedingly.’ And Abram fell on his face: and Elohim talked with him, saying, ‘As for Me, behold, My covenant is with thee, and thou shalt be a father of many nations. Neither shall thy name any more be called Abram, but thy name shall be Abraham; for a father of many nations have I made thee. And I will make thee exceeding fruitful, and I will make nations of thee, and kings shall come out of thee. And I will establish My covenant between Me and thee and thy seed after thee in their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be a Elohim unto thee, and to thy seed after thee. And I will give unto thee, and to thy seed after thee, the land wherein thou are a stranger, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession; and I will be their Elohim.”

Isn't it interesting that this is the first place where the title “El Shaddai” (translated as Almighty God in the English versions) appears in Scripture? As a matter of fact, this very title only occurs six times in the whole of the book of Genesis! Why did Yahweh utilize this title in reference to Himself?

A little more research could quite possibly give us the answer. The term “El Shaddai” in the Hebrew language is, אֱלֹהִים שָׁדַי (El) is #430 in *Strong's Exhaustive Concordance* and is defined as; “strength; as adjective, mighty; especially the Almighty (but used also of any deity).”

שָׁדַי (Shaddai) is #7706 which is defined as; “from 7703; the Almighty.” Notice that it is from another Hebrew word which is #7703 in *Strong's Concordance*. #7703 is the Hebrew word שָׁדָד shadad, which is defined as, “a primitive root; properly, to be burly, i.e. (figuratively) powerful (passively, impregnable); by implication, to ravage.”

Interestingly, the very next word #7704 is the Hebrew word שָׁדַח sadeh, which is defined as, “or saday {saw-dah'-ee}; from an unused root meaning to spread out; a field (as flat).” Notice the meaning “to spread out.”

Now, let's look at another Hebrew word, which is very close to these. It is #7707 שְׂרִיאוּר Sh@dey'uwr, which is defined as “from the same as 7704 and 217; spreader of light.”

Shadey'uwr means “spreader of light.” Sadeh means “to spread out, a field (as flat).”

What did Yahweh promise Abram here in this covenant? Wasn't it to change the name Abram to Abraham? Wasn't it to cause his seed to be fruitful? Wasn't it to cause him to be a father of many nations? In other words, Yahweh, the possessor of heaven and earth, was going to cause the seed of Abraham to spread out into other nations around the world. His seed was to inherit the land of Canaan, but according to the New Covenant, he and his seed are to inherit the whole earth and power over it! Yahweh's ultimate goal is to make the seed of Abraham to be the ones who inherit rulership in the Kingdom of heaven. That's why He utilized that title when He appeared to Abram and made His promises to him and His covenant with him.

In other words, the title El Shaddai is the title that gives Yahweh power over all the earth. Yahweh then promises to bestow upon those who believe in His name (Yahweh) power to govern the whole earth. Isn't that the message of the kingdom of heaven? Those who come to the Father through His Son Yahshua will be made kings and priests over the earth.

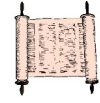
PRONUNCIATION LOST

Mark writes, “In addition, the true pronunciation of YHWH has been LOST. The Bible prophesied that this would happen: ‘I have heard what the prophets said, that prophesy lies in my name, saying, I have dreamed, I have dreamed. How long shall this be in the heart of the prophets that prophesy lies? Yes, they are prophets of the deceit of their own heart; Which think to cause my people to forget my name by their dreams which they tell every man to his neighbour, as their fathers have forgotten my name for Baal’ (Jer. 23:25-27). History shows that the Jews came to believe that it was blasphemous to use the divine name YHWH.”

COMMENT: It is true that Yahweh's people have forgotten His name for Baal. Baal was known as “the LORD.” Not only is this prophecy continuing to be fulfilled for the great overall preponderance of the people, but Mark and his group,



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the Philadelphia Church of God, and the others like them, go out of their way to fulfill this prophecy by writing articles like his which justify not turning to the true name of the Creator, which is the name of Salvation.

His argument that the pronunciation has been lost is the exact same excuse that Sunday observing Christians utilize for not embracing the seventh day Sabbath. When they get pinned down on the truth concerning the Sabbath being Yahweh's commanded day of rest, their response is, Well time has been lost. Isn't it amazing that Mark and his group have no problem identifying which day is the Sabbath since they declare that time hasn't been lost, but utilize the same lame-duck excuse to justify not embracing Yahweh's name.

Herbert W. Armstrong and the Worldwide Church of God proudly proclaimed that they had restored knowledge about the true Sabbath day, but failed to restore the knowledge concerning the true names. (Actually, the knowledge of the true Name was restored in the 1980's, but HWA & WWCG refused to proclaim it. Keep reading and you will find out what happened.)

It is also interesting that Mark can quote from Jer. 23:25-27 concerning the false prophets causing His people to forget His name, but then makes the statement, History shows that the Jews came to believe that it was blasphemous to use the divine name YHWH.

Jeremiah reveals the reason why the Jewish people will not speak the Sacred Name today, "Therefore hear ye the word of Yahweh, all Judah that dwell in the land of Egypt; Behold, I have sworn by My great name, saith Yahweh, that My name shall no more be named in the mouth of any man of Judah in all the land of Egypt, saying, 'the Sovereign Yahweh liveth'," Jer. 44:26. You see, the Jewish people have been led to trust more in the Talmud and Kabbalah than in the Word of Yahweh. The Talmud is a Babylonian work and the Kabbalah is Egyptian. This has caused them to "spiritually" go into Egypt. The result is that Yahweh has taken His name out of their mouths. Too bad Mark doesn't understand this. (The Jews also.)

Mark writes, "According to *Theology of the Old Testament*, the pronunciation of *Yahweh* that is used today is of Samaritan origin. The true pronunciation was lost because no Jew dared to speak it for fear of punishment of death."

COMMENT: No matter what the *Theology of the Old Testament* proclaims, the *Encyclopedia Judaica* says that the pronunciation hasn't been lost and that the pronunciation is Yahweh. Many, many scholars and scholastic works also uphold this pronunciation.

That being said, I personally sat in the parent church, the Worldwide Church of God for eighteen and one half years (from 1970 – 1988) having been taught many times by the man that the Philadelphia Church of God idolizes, Herbert W. Armstrong, and was there when he commissioned a study panel to explore into what the Heavenly Father's name was. I wonder why they conveniently forget this event that took place during the early 1980's? I remember that I was anticipating the results of the study panel, but it took somewhere around one year to one and half years for the study to be completed. I was sitting in services in Big Sandy, Texas when Herbert W. Armstrong declared, "The study has been completed and we have determined that the name of the Heavenly Father is Yahweh, but I prefer to call Him the Eternal."

Isn't it interesting that the one thing that this church, the Philadelphia Church of God, has forgotten concerning what Herbert W. Armstrong had studied into and declared is that the name of the Heavenly Father is Yahweh? How convenient!

Mark writes, "Some have stated that God's name should only be pronounced in the Hebrew language. These groups cannot agree, however, on the correct pronunciation of either God or Christ's Hebrew name. Some say that God the Father should be called Yahweh. Others say His name is Yahvah or Yah. Christ is called Yahshua, along with numerous other variations."

COMMENT: Mark, Mark, Mark....Names are transliterated from one language to the next. I find that I must make this point again and again and again with people like you. Have you not heard of Benjamin Netanyahu? Do you call him Benjamin or Benjamin? Instead of Netanyahu, do you utilize "Gift of Yahweh?" Whether you do or not, the fact of the matter is that the media always chooses to utilize the name Benjamin publicly when referring to him and not Benjamin. This is called "transliteration," Mark. However, the English name Benjamin is a far sight closer to the Hebrew transliteration of Benjamin than "the LORD" or "God" or "the Eternal" is to the name Yahweh and



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Joshua is a far sight closer to the Savior's name than Jesus is.

How about Francois Mitterand (now deceased)? Did you call him Frank or did you extend him the courtesy of transliterating his name from the French to the English? If you extended this honor to these men (and many, many others), why do you continue to refuse to extend the same honor to your Creator?

Again, we must direct Mark to Herbert W. Armstrong's own words, who proclaimed that the name of the Heavenly Father was Yahweh. Herbert W. Armstrong always proclaimed that when the truth comes, we must embrace it, yet, for some reason, he failed to embrace this truth. However, it is truth that must be our ultimate goal and influence, not man's own contrived devices.

THE SAVIOR'S EXAMPLE

Mark writes, "Today, some still feel that they **MUST** pronounce God's name because it is holy. But the fact is Christ Himself never used the name YHWH. If He had, the Jews would have used *that* as their reason to sentence Him to death, rather than make false accusations (Mark 14:55-59).

In fact, the pronunciation of the word is of little consequence to us. Jesus Christ set the proper example for us by using the word Father when referring to God. He instructed His disciples, 'When ye pray, say, Our Father which art in heaven' (Luke 11:2)."

COMMENT: Has Mark never read the many Scriptures that Yahshua quoted from the Old Testament? For example, "Then saith Yahshua unto him, 'Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, 'Thou shalt worship Yahweh thy Elohim, and Him only shalt thou serve';" Mt. 4:10.

We would have to ask Mark whether he believes that Yahshua came in the power of the Spirit or not and does He believe that Yahshua would misquote Scripture or delete something out of Scripture simply in order to save His life?

Didn't He come to fulfill the Scriptures? Don't the Scriptures warn, "Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall ye diminish ought from it, that ye may keep the commandments of Yahweh your Elohim which I command you," Dt. 4:2. "What thing soever I command you, observe to do it: thou shalt not add thereto, nor diminish from it," Dt. 12:32. "Every word of Eloah is pure: He is a shield unto them

that put their trust in Him. Add thou not unto His words, lest He reprove thee, and thou be found a liar," Prov. 30:5-6.

Aren't these Scriptures enough proof so that we can know that when Yahshua quoted Scriptures, He quoted them as they were written? He neither added anything to them nor diminished anything from them.

There are ample examples of Yahshua, His disciples, John the Baptist and others, who quoted from the Old Testament Scriptures and we can be guaranteed that when the name Yahweh was included in those Scriptures, the name Yahweh was pronounced. Yahshua's example was to be honest and forthright. He didn't sidestep any issues. He said what had to be said and, after all, He is the truth; He certainly wouldn't have been dishonest concerning the Scripture, their quotes, nor their application in His life.

Besides, doesn't Yahshua say that He declared the Father's name to His disciples? (Jn. 17:6)

Since you say that the name isn't important, Mark, how do you interpret Jn. 14:13, "And whatsoever ye shall **ask in My name**, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son?" How do you interpret Jn. 15:16, "Ye have not chosen Me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that you should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall **ask of the Father in My name**, He may give it you?" How do you interpret Jn. 16:23-24, "And in that day ye shall ask Me nothing. Verily, verily, I say unto you, **Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in My name**, He will give it you. **Hitherto have ye asked nothing in My name: ask, and ye shall receive**, that your joy may be full?" How do you interpret Eph. 5:20, "Giving thanks always for all things unto Elohim and the **Father in the name of our Sovereign Yahshua the Messiah?**"

When you pray to the Father or ask anything of Him or give thanks to Him do you just say "...in the name of your son?" Or do you say, "...by the authority of your son?" Or do you say, "...by the character of your son?" While I am not a betting man, I would bet you \$5.00 to a doughnut that you always, always, always say, "...in Jesus' name. So are you making a name important? Absolutely!

Since I am on this subject, as I have said, I sat in the Worldwide Church of God for a little over 18 years having been taught personally at times by Herbert W. Armstrong himself. When teaching from John chapter 17, he would refer time and time again to verse 11. He would read the verse, "And now I am no more in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to Thee. Holy Father,



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KEEP THROUGH THINE OWN NAME those whom Thou hast given Me, that they may be one, as we are.” Then he would make the point as to why the church was named the “CHURCH OF GOD.” He declared time and time again that the church had to have God’s name inculcated into it. He explained that this was the reason that the church wasn’t named the “Church of Christ,” etc. because it had to be kept in the name of God!

Isn’t it interesting that every group that has ever come out of the Worldwide Church of God has always had the word (whether common or proper noun) God incorporated into it? Why is that Mark? Why is it that all of you hundreds and hundreds of groups that have come out of WWCG continue to incorporate the name “God” into your group?

Since you may not be honest in your answer, as you haven’t been honest in this article, I will answer this question for you. It’s because you are making two words, two names to be extremely important and that is the name Jesus and the name God. But when challenged to turn to the true names, or at least the names that are much, much closer to the true names, you resist proclaiming that names aren’t important. This is hypocrisy, Mark and all of you Churches of God! By your own actions, you prove that the names are very important, but you resist the truth. How long will you remain to be stiff-necked? When will you cease promoting false names and appropriating the honor and glory of the Creator to false names?

NEW TESTAMENT INSPIRED IN GREEK

Mark writes, “It is also important to note that the New Testament was inspired by the Holy Spirit in Greek, not in Hebrew. This included the names of God and Christ. If God had wanted His name to be pronounced in Hebrew, He would surely have inspired His servants to write His name in Hebrew. God wants us to use the names for Him and His Son that we understand.”

COMMENT: Let’s see, Yahshua was born a Hebrew to Hebrew parents. His disciples that He chose to follow Him were Hebrews and He went primarily to the Hebrews with the message of salvation. According to Josephus and other Jewish authors, the people of the land at that time, didn’t take too kindly to any other languages than their own. Josephus even admits that he simply wasn’t fluent in the Greek tongue.

Now Paul said that the Jew came first and then the Gentile or Greek (Ro. 2:9-10). In accordance with this understanding, wouldn’t the New Testament Scriptures be written to the Jew, the Hebrew first and later to the Greek or Gentile? We do have strong evidence that such was the case and we have published one article concerning this in our Jul.-Aug. 2003 issue of the YEA Newsletter.

You may also see our article entitled, “*An Answer to Ten Reasons for Rejecting the Yahweh Doctrine*” wherein we present evidence from the FOREWARD of *The Kingdom Interlinear Translation of the Greek Scriptures*, which presents a literal word-for-word translation into English under the Greek text as set out in “The New Testament in the original Greek—The text revised by Brooke Foss Westcott D.D. and Fenton John Anthony Hort D.D.” (1948 Reprint) together with the New World Translation of the Christian Greek Scriptures, Revised Edition, —1969 C.E. This work does reveal that the true name of the Heavenly Father did appear in the earliest Greek texts, but was later expunged because of ignorance.

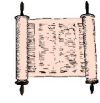
By the way, the Talmud does accuse the Savior of using the Sacred Name in order to perform His miracles.

Have you never read the *Book of Maccabees*? Don’t you understand that there was antagonism between the Greeks and Hebrews? Didn’t the Greek kings try to stamp out the Hebrew ways? Haven’t you read about what Antiochus Epiphanes did? Didn’t he try to force the people to turn away from the worship of Yahweh to his deity Zeus? Haven’t you read the history of that area? Haven’t you read that Constantine the Great followed the example of Antiochus Epiphanes by declaring anything Hebrew to be destroyed? He is the one who presented 50 copies of the Scriptures in the Greek language to the churches in Byzantium/Constantinople. Constantine was a Roman Emperor and thus, the head of the fourth kingdom of Daniel chapter 2 and the fourth beast of Daniel chapter seven. Doesn’t this tell you something, Mark?

Did you not know that when Constantine transferred the center of power of the Roman Empire from Old Rome to New Rome (Constantinople), that he did so because it was Greek in language, culture and influence and supposedly pure, not being tainted with the Old Latin influence? You can find these facts in the *Encyclopedia Britannica*.



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ca Eleventh or Fourteenth Editions.

How do you explain Zech. 9:12-13, “Turn you to the strong hold, ye prisoners of hope: even to day do I declare that I will render double unto thee; when I have bent Judah for Me, filled the bow with Ephraim, **and raised up thy sons, O Zion, against thy sons, O Greece**, and made thee as the sword of a mighty man.” Don’t the Scriptures reveal that Zion is Yahweh’s habitation? “Sing praises to Yahweh, Which dwelleth in Zion: declare among the people His doings,” Psa. 9:11. “In Judah is Elohim known: His name is great in Israel. In Salem also is His tabernacle, and His dwelling place in Zion,” Psa. 76:1-2.

Jeremiah is inspired to write, “The word that Yahweh spake to Jeremiah the prophet, how Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon should come and smite the land of Egypt. ‘Declare ye in Egypt, and publish in Migdol, and publish in Noph and in Tapanhes: say ye, ‘Stand fast, and prepare thee; for the sword shall devour round about thee.’ Why are thy valiant men swept away? They stood not, because Yahweh did drive them. He made many to fall, yea, one fell upon another: and they said, ‘Arise, and let us go to our own people, and to the land of our nativity, from the **oppressing sword**.’” (46:13-16)

The word “oppressing” is translated from the word “yanah” in the Hebrew Scriptures. But the *LXX (Septuagint)* which you love and trust the most, renders this word as “Grecian!” The Hebrew word “yanah” is defined as, a primitive root; to rage or be violent: by implication, to suppress, to maltreat in *Strong’s Exhaustive Concordance*. Evidently the translators of the *Septuagint (LXX)* understood this sword to be a violent, raging, suppressing GRECIAN sword.

Now let’s look at a couple of other Scriptures which might give us a clue as to which is more important, the Hebrew or the Greek. The Psalmist declares, “I waited patiently for Yahweh; and He inclined unto me, and heard my cry. He brought me up also out of an horrible pit, out of the **miry** clay, and set my feet upon a rock, and established my goings,” Psa. 40:1-2.

Again the Psalmist declares, “Save me, O Elohim; for the waters are come in unto my soul. I sink in deep **mire**, where there is no standing: I am come into deep waters, where the floods overflow me,” Psa. 69:1-2.

The words “miry” and “mire” are translated from the Hebrew word “yaven” (יָבֵן). “Yaven” is #3121 in *Strong’s Exhaustive Concordance* and is defined as, from the same as 3196; properly, dregs

(as effervescing); hence, mud.

Now the preceding word from *Strong’s Concordance* is #3120. It is the Hebrew word “Yavan” (יָוָן) and is defined as, probably from the same as 3196; effervescing (i.e. hot and active); Javan, the name of a son of Joktan, and of the race (Ionians, i.e. **Greeks**) descended from him, with their territory; also of a place in Arabia.

Both of these words come from #3196, “yayin” which is defined as, from an unused root meaning to effervesce; **wine** (as fermented); by implication, **intoxication**. These words are closely related to each other, Mark. They both come from the same root. One “Yavan” is simply a proper noun while “yaven” is a common noun.

A LESSON IN HISTORY

The Roman Empire, as you know, is the fourth kingdom of Daniel chapter 2 and the fourth beast of Daniel chapter 7. It is first depicted in Daniel chapter 2 as a kingdom of iron, but feet are part of iron and part of clay. The iron would represent the peoples who originated the Roman Empire, but the clay represents Israel as the prophet declared, “But now, O Yahweh, Thou art our Father; **we are the clay**, and Thou our Potter; and we all are the work of Thy hand. Be not wroth very sore, O Yahweh, neither remember iniquity for ever: behold, see, we beseech Thee, we are all Thy People. Thy holy cities are a wilderness, Zion is a wilderness, Jerusalem a desolation,” Isa. 64:8-10.

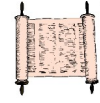
Historically, the Romans founded the city of Rome which eventually became the Roman Empire. Later Israel, the clay, was inculcated into the empire. This began under the hand of the famous Roman General and dictator Julius Caesar who warred against the Celts, Gauls and Goths, defeated most of them and brought them into the empire. Historically, some of the Celts and Goths defeated the Romans and sacked the city of Rome in the latter stages of the empire, but they, themselves generally remained in its environs and became a part of the empire.

Then Daniel shows that the toes became part of iron and part “miry” clay (chapter 2, verse 41). Of course, the Romans had inculcated Greece into the empire also, but Constantine is the one who moved the center of the empire from Old Rome to New Rome (Constantinople) declaring the eastern part to be Greek. So now we have the western half Latin (iron) and the eastern half Greek (miry clay).

Now I know that the word for “miry” in Dan. 2 is “tiyn” not “yaven”. But the word utilized is Ar-



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amaic, not Hebrew. Even though they are sister languages and many words are the same, other words for the same thing are different. We can demonstrate this even in the English language. We speak English and so do the people of England. But we use the word “truck” for a truck. They use the word “lorry” for the same vehicle. We call the piece of metal that raises over the motor a “hood,” but I believe that the English call it a “lid.”

The history lesson is that Rome was originally founded by the Romans (iron). It later became infused with descendants of Israel and was thus Roman (iron) and Israelite (clay). Still later, it became infused with the Greek culture and was part iron (Roman) and miry clay (Greek).

According to a very careful study of the Scriptures, the claim that the New Testament Scriptures were originally inspired in the Greek is false. A careful study of secular history along with a comparison of Biblical history also supports your claim to be false.

Mark, there is one in this world who has an agenda and that agenda is to exalt and honor himself. In doing this, he must remove you (and everyone) from truth and the true Savior so that you will extend that honor to him. He is very subtle and seeks to deceive you. He will even take the Scriptures, remove the true names of the Father and Son from them and appropriate them to himself and his messiah.

You have been deceived to give the honor of the Scriptures to another rather than the true Messiah. If it doesn't matter whether we utilize the name of the Father and Son in Hebrew or Greek, then please answer this question. In the book of Acts chapter 26 Paul is recounting the time when the Savior appeared to Him. Remember that Paul declares that the Savior spoke to Him in the Hebrew tongue. When Paul asked Him who He was, what answer do we read in the English Scriptures available to us in today's world? “He said, ‘I am Jesus Whom thou persecutest,’ Acts 26:15 (KJV).

Since you have declared that Jesus is a derivative of the Greek, why is the Greek derivation utilized here? Why isn't His name directly transliterated from the Hebrew since that is the language that He spoke? Why don't we read the modern day transliteration Joshua here? If there is no agenda to take away the true names, then wouldn't we see the names Jesus and Joshua interspersed throughout the Scriptures? When Hebrew was spoken the name would be rendered as Joshua and when Greek was spoken or written the name Jesus would be OK. Right? If such were the case, then I wouldn't believe that there is a hidden agenda.

Again, I must ask, if the Scriptures that we have available to us today are translated from the Greek, even the Old Testament being translated from the Greek *Septuagint* (*LXX*), then why is the son of Nun still referred to as Joshua? Why did they transliterate the same name in the Old Testament to the closer form of Joshua and the New Testament as Jesus? I do have the *Septuagint* on my computer and they render the name of the son of Nun as Iesous just as in the New Testament Greek but it is transliterated as Joshua in the English. Is this a good question? Am I being fair?

CALLING HIM FATHER

Mark writes, “Jesus Christ set the proper example for us by using the word **FATHER** when referring to God. He instructed His disciples, ‘When ye pray, say, Our Father which art in heaven.’ (Luke 11:2)...We have seen that “God” is a family name. When we pray, it is to **OUR FATHER** in heaven, according to the instruction of our Savior.”

COMMENT: Didn't we just read in the book of Isaiah where that prophet addressed Yahweh as Father? (Isa. 64:8-10) But in Isaiah chapter 63 he also declared, “Doubtless Thou art our **FATHER**, though Abraham be ignorant of us, and Israel acknowledge us not: Thou, O **YAHWEH**, art our **FATHER**, our Redeemer; Thy name is from everlasting,” (v. 16).

Even Moses wrote, “Do ye thus requite **YAHWEH**, O foolish People and unwise? Is not He thy **FATHER** that hath bought thee? Hath He not made thee, and established thee?” Dt. 21:6.

Here are two great men of the Scriptures that have utilized both his name and acknowledged Him as their and our Father.

But Yahshua, Himself, said, “I have manifested (made known, declared) Thy name unto the men which Thou gavest Me out of the world: Thine they were, and Thou gavest them Me; and they have kept Thy word,” Jn. 17:6.

Didn't Yashua ask Him, “Holy Father, keep through Thine own name those whom Thou hast given Me that they may be one, as We are,” Jn. 17:11.

Doesn't your own church have the name God incorporated into it so that this Scripture may supposedly be fulfilled? Your own works, the works of your church and all people like you believe that the name of the Father is God. Whether you believe it or not, Mark, this is a disastrous error.



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Have you never read Rev. 14:1, “And I looked, and lo, a Lamb stood on the mount Sion (not the Greek Olympus), and with Him an hundred forty and four thousand, HAVING HIS FATHER’S NAME WRITTEN IN (or on) THEIR FOREHEADS!”

What would you think is written on their foreheads, Mark; the name of the Father which your own mentor and the mentor of your leaders (Herbert W. Armstrong) declared to be Yahweh in the early 1980’s or is it just the word Father? If you think that it is the word Father, then you are even more deceived than I think you are. No, Mark, they have His Father’s name written on their foreheads because the name Yahweh is the true name of the true family of Elohim.

CONCLUSION

Mark writes, “There is also only one name by which we can be saved. That name was written in the same language as the rest of the New Testament, and we should speak that name in the same language that we read our Bibles. For English-speaking peoples, that name is Jesus Christ of Nazareth.”

COMMENT: Mark, I have proof that the greater majority of New Testament was written in Hebrew, not Greek. I have proof that even the original Greek copies of the Scriptures (which were copied from the Hebrew), both Old and New Testaments had the Sacred Name of the Father in the original Paleo Hebrew language. (Read my accompanying article entitled “*An Answer To Ten Reasons For Rejecting the Yahweh Doctrine.*”)

I am sending copies of both articles to you for your perusal. If you are a true scholar and disciple

of the Savior, if you truly love him, then you will study these things out. I expect you to do a good and thorough study on these things. When you come to the knowledge of the truth, I expect you to admit your error and to recall your article “*Using God’s Sacred Name.*”

Here is a prophecy for you, Mark. The time is coming when you will either have to embrace the true names or you will be shut out of the kingdom of heaven. For those who are wise, who can humble themselves, admit their mistakes and errors turning to the truth, HalleluYah! But please be advised that there are those who do appear to be wise and know much about the Scriptures. However, they unwisely resist the truth about the Sacred Names. They will lose their part in the kingdom of heaven. Why? Because of their stiff-necked refusal to acknowledge truth when it comes to them.

Herbert W. Armstrong taught that when the truth comes, we must recognize it, repent of our error and embrace it. I have shown you the truth, Mark. Herbert W. Armstrong admitted the truth about the name Yahweh, but wouldn’t embrace it. Not long after he declared the truth about the name Yahweh and subsequently refused to employ it, he died. Not only did he die, but the work that he had been utilized to raise fell into the hands of those whose purpose was to destroy the truths that it did have out of it. The first message I ever heard HWA’s successor give stunned me and caused me to declare to some of my confidants that that man was there to destroy the church.

It will be much better for you to repent, Mark, turn to the true names and walk in newness of life. Oh, I know that your peers will make it difficult on you, but you will find Yahweh’s and Yahshua’s true people. In that, you will be greatly blessed.

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