

The

# Good News

*International Magazine of The Church of God*



**A BEGINNING AT CALGARY**

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 1972



## More About Our Cover...

On the night of Friday, August 25, 1972 in Calgary, Alberta, the Worldwide Church of God took another big step forward in preaching Christ's Gospel to the world. Garner Ted Armstrong began the first of a planned series of Personal Appearance Campaigns for Canada and the United States. Since then he has also spoken before capacity crowds in St. Petersburg, Florida and San Antonio, Texas. Response in all three cities was very favorable. To date, those who attended the meetings have returned nearly three thousand coupons requesting literature, and nearly two hundred people have requested visits. Scores have already been invited to church services and Bible studies. Be sure to read, beginning on page 22, our Vancouver Office Manager's first impressions of the meetings held in Calgary, and see the picture report on pages 24-25.

Cover Photo by Don Lorton — Ambassador College

## What our READERS SAY...

I have just finished reading for the second time Dr. Dorothy's article on the Spanish Work which appeared in the September-October issue of *The GOOD NEWS* magazine. I was glad for the short biography on Dr. Rea. It is interesting and helpful to learn about the men who worked so hard and had so much to do with the beginning of various phases of the Work. I feel that I knew Dr. Rea. There is no other work or activity on earth that makes one feel so close to its leaders and all those involved, although we may never see many of them face to face.

The Spanish Work has been added to my prayer list. There was a time when I could hardly think of anything to pray about for ten minutes; now I have so many things and people to pray about. I hope that is a sign of growth.

M. H., Palmyras,  
New Jersey

I want to comment on how inspiring the new *GOOD NEWS* was this month. They are all wonderful, but the articles in this one concerning children were so helpful. In this age, even in God's Church, we need all the help we can get on the subject of rearing children; and helpful articles seem to always come at the right time. I've read the articles over and over making notes and praying, and thanking God for inspiring these men to write these fantastic articles with such inspired instruction.

D. P., Carlock,  
Illinois

We wanted to tell you how very much we appreciated the last issue of *The GOOD*

*NEWS*. We hope you will continue with articles on the Foreign Work, as they make us realize how much our brethren worldwide need our prayers. The articles on child-rearing and the open letters from Mr. Carozzo and son really hit home. Having been in the Church for some time, we do take for granted that our children will just follow along. We also needed the article on "Spiritual Heroin" — what a perfect analogy! It is so easy to allow ourselves a little "pot" without realizing how easy it is to get hooked on real bitterness. Thanks to all of you who are responsible for the *GOOD NEWS*, and for these great articles we so desperately need!

R. H., Albuquerque,  
New Mexico

Thank you so much for the last *GOOD NEWS*. It was truly a feast of spiritual wisdom. To see two men pour out their hearts as Messrs. Tom and Al Carozzo did should shake us all into trying much harder. Yet we know it will go over many heads. Mr. Robert Fahey's masterpiece is what we've needed for so long. Some only correct their children when they are in front of other brethren, and it is so heartless and can be seen through so clearly. Mr. Dankenbring's warning to not become drugged is quite an analogy. Dr. Dorothy's article on the Spanish Work gives us something more to pray about, with much more understanding. Thanks to all who had a part in making it so dynamic. The printers and binders and all others behind the scenes also.

J. L., Granite City,  
Illinois

(Continued on back cover)

## The Good News

International magazine of  
**THE CHURCH OF GOD**  
ministering to its members  
scattered abroad

November-December 1972

Volume XXI

Number 7

Published at Pasadena, California  
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# THE PLAIN TRUTH ABOUT THE "SACRED NAME"

***This is the first of a series of articles in this issue on the Hebrew-name question. There is only one name whereby we may be saved. We want all of our members to BE SURE, on PROOF overwhelming and irrefutable, that we have that name!***

by Herbert W. Armstrong

LET me, first, tell you of my experience, and a bit of history regarding the "Sacred Name" doctrine. I first encountered this teaching, and made a study of it, in 1937, thirty-five years ago.

It was then apparently a new idea or contention arrived at by one or more zealous but unscholarly men. Careful examination proved it absolutely false, and contrary to the teaching and example set by Jesus Christ Himself. It also was totally contrary to the example of the apostles, and of the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

I do not want to rake up with anything totally contrary to the usage of Jesus Christ, the apostles and the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, and do not think that our members do either. Nevertheless, to avoid any of God's people being misled by well-intentioned but mistaken advocates of this false doctrine, we are publishing a series of in-depth articles in this issue of *The GOOD NEWS*, setting before God's people the PLAIN TRUTH.

But first, I want to relate how I found that the "Hebrew Names" teaching is NOT "new truth," but "OLD FALSEHOOD." And that was 35 years ago!

## Personal Experience

Most of you know that after God had called me as His instrument in His Great Commission — after my conversion in the spring of 1927 — my wife and I fellowshipped with Oregon members of the Church of God, whose headquarters was at Stanberry, Missouri. However, we never became

members of the Stanberry organization.

Research since the founding of Ambassador College has identified that church (Rev. 3:1-6) as the Sardis era of God's Church. It issued a weekly church paper called the "Bible Advocate." It was organized on the pattern of a biennial General Conference.

At the 1933 General Conference, held, as near as I can remember, either early or mid-August, its president and editor of its paper lost the presidency by one vote. This was cast by Elder Burt F. Marrs, acting as the chairman of the conference. He had the deciding vote in case of a tie.

That vote resulted in splitting the church, which thereafter split and resplit until I was unable to keep track of the many splinter groups — spin-offs of what once was the Sardis era of the Church of God. Thus, so far as the ORGANIZED "Sardis Era" of the Church of God is concerned, that 1933 conference may well be said to have marked THE END of the "Sardis Era."

And that may be of considerable significance. For late in August of that year, the small parent church of the "Philadelphia Era" (Rev. 3:7-12) was raised up near Eugene, Oregon.

On being defeated at the Stanberry 1933 Conference, the deposed president-editor left that church and teamed up with an Elder C. O. Dodd in organizing a competing organization. It claimed world headquarters at Jerusalem (with no member there, so far as I know), and United States headquarters at the little town of Salem, West Virginia.

To draw members from the Stan-

berry organization after them, they termed their new church "the Bible form of organization." This was a misnomer, but it appealed to many. Half or more of the Stanberry church left Stanberry and lined up with this new Salem, West Virginia group. They promptly issued their own "Bible Advocate" — almost identical in form and appearance to the Stanberry paper.

This new Salem, West Virginia liaison soon broke up, apparently in 1937, when Elder Dodd went into the "Hebrew Names" movement.

## Beginning of "Hebrew Names" Teaching

Apparently this new "Hebrew Names" teaching actually began in the 1930s. Dr. John B. Briggs met Mr. August Sheffick, who insisted that the English word "Christ" was of pagan origin. Dr. Briggs thereupon began to emphasize the Hebrew word *Yahshua*. He was in association with an A. B. Traina in an assembly in New Jersey. Apparently he was going somewhat overboard, and Mr. Traina insisted he calm down, whereupon Dr. Briggs and a Jewish man, Paul Penn, departed to Detroit. Their "Names Evangelization Program" and "Kadesh Name Society" began there in February, 1937.

This group first obtained a charter as "Assembly of Y.H.V.H." and later as "Yahveh Beth Israel." Dr. Briggs acted as executive. Apparently there was little growth or fruit borne, and he died in 1961, having ordained ministers to continue his work. This group believes Christ (whom they call "Yahshua") was kept in prison a couple of days,

and not crucified until the preparation for the weekly Sabbath, 28 A.D., and that He was raised three days later on the last day of Unleavened Bread. They dip three times to baptize (*The Faith* magazine, March 1969, page 4, and literature and correspondence from "Yahveh Beth Israel").

But what is more important than this group, is that Mr. Briggs had persuaded Elder C. O. Dodd to accept the Hebrew names. He had started a new magazine called *The Faith*. Mr. Dodd then went in with Mr. Traina.

Now we are getting into history I personally remember. Mr. Dodd, now leaving the Salem group as he had the Stanberry organization, was rebaptized in Michigan in the name of "Yahshua" by Elder Earl Bigford in 1941. His "Faith Bible and Tract Society" had been publishing *The Faith* magazine, beginning March 1937.

I received *The Faith* somewhat regularly and remember the articles by Mr. Traina on speaking or writing the names of God or of Christ only in the Hebrew language — which they, of course, termed the "sacred names."

Mr. Dodd and I discussed this new doctrine on the telephone.

I said to him, as nearly as I can now recall the words: "Elder Dodd, you know, as *all* the evidence proves, that the New Testament was originally written in the Greek language. It was inspired by the living Word of God, Jesus Christ, through the Holy Spirit. And by inspiration of the Holy Spirit the names of Jesus and of God, as well as the titles, were *INSPIRED* to be written in the GREEK language — not Hebrew.

"And *FURTHER*, much of the New Testament contains quotations or citations from the Old Testament, and wherever those Old Testament passages contained the names or titles of God, the HOLY SPIRIT inspired them to be written into the New Testament in the GREEK language. I cannot *change* or pervert what was *INSPIRED* through the Holy Spirit — can YOU?"

For a moment Elder Dodd seemed confused.

After some hesitation, he said, "Well then, I think the New Testament must have been originally in-

spired and written in the HEBREW language, and the Greek copies of the New Testament must be UNInspired and erroneous translations."

I said, "Elder Dodd, do you realize what you are saying? All authorities know that the *ONLY* copies of the original writings that have been preserved are in GREEK — absolutely *NONE* in Hebrew. You are saying, as an argument and with absolutely *NO* authority, that there are *NO* COPIES of the *inspired original writings* of the New Testament, and that the *ONLY* copies are in error. And if they are in error wherever the names of Jesus or of God are mentioned, how do we know that they are not in error in many other places? Then we have *NO SURE* Word of God for the New Testament Scriptures — only UNInspired translations."

"But maybe the translations into Greek were inspired," he suggested.

"If that had happened," I said, "then the Holy Spirit inspired the translations that write the names of God and of Jesus in GREEK, not Hebrew."

Elder Dodd was now *really* confused. He had no real answer. But he continued in this false teaching, regardless, so far as I know.

If those sincere (though deceived) people who insist we must speak the Hebrew language when we come to the names of God or of Christ, try to establish that the New Testament was originally inspired and written in the Hebrew language, then:

1) the burden of proof is on them — AND THERE IS NONE!

2) we are left with *ONLY* faulty, erroneous writings for the New Testament. But God has said, "... the truth of the Eternal endureth for ever" (Ps. 117:2) and, "... his truth endureth to all generations" (Ps. 100:5). "But the word of the Lord endureth for ever" (I Peter 1:25). And Jesus Christ said, "Heaven and earth shall pass away: but my words shall not pass away" (Mark 13:31).

#### Division and Confusion

So far as my personal experience and contact with this Hebrew names movement went, that telephone conversation with Elder Dodd ended it — except that I continued receiving

copies of his *Faith* magazine for some little time, and there was one other contact, mentioned later in this article. So far as I had contact or knowledge of it, the movement had virtually died out.

Current research shows that there have, indeed, existed a number of small splinter groups advocating the so-called "sacred names." They are divided among themselves in many ways, especially as to what the Hebrew names *are*.

I remember hearing or reading in "Sardis" literature of an Elder L. D. Snow who accepted the Sabbath and came into that church in 1931. Now I understand he later left that church and has his own independent group called "The Assembly of Yahvah" — and please note his group has a different Hebrew name pronounced differently than "Yahweh." Elder Snow apparently won over a few former "Sardis" era members of the Church of God, for I am informed he moved his headquarters to Junction City, Oregon, during 1957. He has a paper which uses both "Yahvahshua" and "Yahshua" as the Messiah's names. Elder Snow stopped off at Ambassador College in Pasadena to argue his case in 1953.

Still another group is the "General Council of the Assemblies of Yah," of Albany, Oregon, which address would suggest having included some members or former members of the "Sardis" era Church of God. It was formerly associated with the "Assembly of Yahweh," and publishes a paper called *The Word*.

And there have been many other splinter groups.

#### Just What Do You MEAN — "Sacred" Names?

First, understand just what is the contention of this so-called "Sacred Name" teaching.

Advocates of this belief do *NOT* contend that we must read the Bible only in the Hebrew language. They themselves use English-language translations of the Bible.

What they do claim is that the *names* of the Creator-Father, and of His Son the Saviour, are "sacred" *only in the Hebrew language*. The truth is, the names of God or of Christ are as sacred

in one language as another, and there is no scripture to the contrary.

In other words, they allow that we may freely translate all *other* words of the Bible into our English language — *except* those words that are the NAMES of the Father and the Son. They claim it is wrong, even sin, to use the names of the Father or the Son in the English language. But that contention is not substantiated by the Scriptures.

They contend that we may use English translations of the Bible, until we come to the NAMES of the Father and/or the Son. THEN we must speak the Hebrew language in pronouncing or writing their names.

Does any scripture teach that the people of any language may read, or quote the Bible in *their* language, EXCEPT for the NAMES of the Father or the Son — and that these names must always be written or spoken or copied in the HEBREW language? Most assuredly NOT!

Then does the Bible, as they claim, substantiate their teaching? Even the question sounds ridiculous! There is no such statement or command anywhere in the Bible!

Then how do they arrive at such a contention? By a series of arguments and wrestings which arrive at an answer CONTRARY to the usage of Christ or the apostles, or the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

Is their teaching, then, according to the Bible? ABSOLUTELY IT IS NOT though they try to prove that it is. NO SCRIPTURE gives any such teaching.

I have always said that in nearly every instance an error is based on a false premise, assumed and taken for granted.

### Their Basic Premise

The central, basic PREMISE, on which their entire doctrine of using only Hebrew names is based, is this: they contend — assume — take carelessly for granted — the false supposition that the name “GOD” is of pagan origin, and therefore we are following a pagan custom in using the name God. They claim we are actually sinning when we call the true Church the *Worldwide Church of God*.

Their argument is that our Germa-

nic-speaking ancestors used the name “God” to refer to their idols. But notice what the Bible reveals:

“When they [the Gentile nations] knew God, they glorified Him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations [reasonings], and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, and changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things” (Rom. 1:21-23). And in verse 28, “. . . they did not like to retain God in their knowledge.”

Now understand this: The above is quoted from the English-language translation. It was translated from the Greek version, which was inspired through the Holy Spirit. In the original writing, the Holy Spirit inspired the Greek name for God, *THEOS*. The very context shows that in the clause “when they knew God [*theos*],” the Holy Spirit used the name *theos* to mean the true Creator. The Gentiles once knew this true Creator as God. But they turned from Him — changing the incorruptible glory of the Supreme Creator into IDOLS, calling *them* god. They did not like to retain the true Creator in their knowledge — they substituted idols, which they came to honor as god. They applied the name of the true Creator to their idols.

Now notice the faulty reasoning of the “Hebrew name” people: Because the Gentiles used the name of the Creator (in Greek *theos* — in Hebrew *elohim* — and in English “God”) which originally they knew as the name of the true Creator, and began looking on their idols as God, these “Hebrew name” people reason that we are using the name that originated in idolatry.

Actually it was just the reverse. The pagans took the names of the true God and called their idols by those names. That made their idolatry all the more sinful. But did it contaminate or corrupt or paganize the names themselves? Of course not. Notice further:

The Apostle Paul told certain men of Athens: “For as I passed by, and beheld your devotions, I found an altar with this inscription, TO THE UN-

KNOWN GOD [*THEOS*]. Whom therefore ye ignorantly worship, him declare I unto you” (Acts 17:23). Beyond controversy it was *theos* whom the Athenians superstitiously honored by that altar, lest they should accidentally overlook any unknown deity who might possibly exist. But that *theos*, said Paul, is the Deity he declared (preached, proclaimed) to them. There is no escaping the fact that whatever was written in Greek on that Greek monument as the name of deity, *that* was the name Paul applied to the true God he preached. That Greek name was *theos*!

The English name “GOD” is merely the English translation from the Greek *THEOS*. Like *theos*, the Teutonic word “god” originally meant simply “that which is worshipped,” without reference to its use in paganism. (“God” has no known connection with the Old Testament name *Gad*.)

The customary practice of the pagans was to take the true names of God and apply them to their idols. In the inspired Hebrew of the Old Testament the Hebrew name *elohim* is used 240 times as the true name of the true God, but is also used for pagan idols. Notice just two examples: the idol gods of Egypt are called *elohim*, “. . . against all the gods [*elohim*] of Egypt I will execute judgment” (Ex. 12:12). The Egyptians once had known of the true God but became total idol worshippers.

Speaking of the heathen nations — Hittites, Perizzites and Canaanites — God commanded, “Thou shalt not bow down to their gods [*elohim*]” (Ex. 23:24).

And so that basic false assumption is clearly the source of the error. Of course it is an attempt to read doctrine INTO the Scriptures. We give you some examples of that in a separate, accompanying box.

### Same NAME — Different Language

Let me give you a few examples of how the same name is spelled and pronounced differently in different languages.

The name Anthony in English is *Antoine* (pronounced Antwán) in French. It is *Anton* in German, and *Antonio* in Spanish.

The name Charles is *Karl* in German, and *Carlos* in Spanish.

The name Henry is *Henri* in French, *Heinrich* in German and *Enrique* in Spanish.

James is *Jacques* (pronounced Zhock) in French, *Jakob* (pronounced Yahkob) in German, and *Jaime* (pronounced Highmay) in Spanish.

Peter is *Pierre* in French, and *Pietro* (pronounced Pi-etro) in Italian.

William is *Guillaume* in French, *Wilhelm* (pronounced Vil-helm) in German, and *Guglielmo* in Italian.

The city of Vienna, in Austria, is spelled *Wien* there, and the "W" is pronounced like "V". The city of Naples is *Napoli* in Italy. The city of Belgrade is *Beograd* in Yugoslavia.

The Holy Spirit, inspiring the original writing of the New Testament in the Greek language, translated NOT ONLY all other words quoted from the Old Testament into Greek, but the names of God as well, thus setting the precedent for us, when translating into English, to translate these *names* into English. THE HOLY SPIRIT OF GOD DID NOT MAKE ANY MISTAKE!

### Additional PROOF!

God attaches GREAT IMPORTANCE to the meaning of NAMES. His NAME is, indeed, of supreme importance.

God names persons or things WHAT THEY ARE. The archangel — the cherub Lucifer (Latin, "light-bearer"), was so named because from the time God created him he *was* a bringer of LIGHT and TRUTH. His name (in Hebrew, *Helel ben Shachar*) MEANT "Shining Star of the Dawn." But when iniquity was found in him — when he rebelled, turned to vanity, lust and greed, became an adversary and enemy, God changed his name to Satan, which MEANS "adversary" — "enemy" — "competitor."

Jacob was so named because he *was* a "supplanter," and that is the meaning of the name Jacob. But when he prevailed with God, and overcame, God changed his name to what he then WAS — Israel, which means "prevailer with God" or "overcomer."

The purpose of words is to convey MEANING. Our commission is to proclaim the Good News of the coming

## Misapplied Scriptures

**PSALM 83:18** That men may know that thou, whose name alone is JEHOVAH, art the most high over all the earth.

Notice this verse does NOT say God has *only one name*. The word "alone" modifies "thou." The meaning is: "You alone have a right to the name YHWH — you alone are the Eternal One." Other translations agree that this is the intent of the Hebrew.

**PSALM 68:4** Sing unto God [*Elohim*], sing praises to his name: extol him that rideth upon the heavens by his name JAH, and rejoice before him.

This verse is sometimes quoted to try to show God's only name is "*Yahweh*." Yet "*Yahweh*" is not even used in the verse! The short name *Jah* (or *Yah*) appears, and the verse shows that *Elohim* is also God's name.

**EXODUS 3:15** And God [*Elohim*] said moreover unto Moses, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, The LORD [*YHWH*] God [*Elohim*] of your fathers, the God [*Elohim*] of Abraham, the God [*Elohim*] of Isaac, and the God [*Elohim*] of Jacob, hath sent me unto you: this is my name forever, and this is my memorial unto all generations.

Does this say that YHWH is the only name by which the Father is to be remembered by all peoples forever? It does not. In the first place, as proven elsewhere, it was not the Father speaking, but the One who became the Son. Second, the message was specifically "unto Israel" — and His name was in Hebrew because they spoke Hebrew. Third, not YHWH but YHWH *Elohim* is the complete name used in the verse. But if you will read verse 14, you will see that the name sent to them was "I AM" and that God was to be remembered by the fact that HE LIVES.

**PSALM 79:6** Pour out thy wrath upon the heathen that have not known thee, and upon the kingdoms that have not called upon thy name.

Note that this Psalm does not specify pronouncing any *one* of God's names (and both *Elohim* and YHWH are used in its other verses). The plain meaning is that wrath shall be poured out, *not* on those who do not superstitiously call on God's name by *mouth*ing a certain sound, but on those who fail to become His people and cry out to Him for His *power* to quit sinning, and for protection from the tribulation, which can be done in any language. Psalm 18:3; Joel 2:32; Acts 2:21 and Romans 10:13 also speak of calling on the "name of the Lord" (and are likewise misused) and all refer to calling on His *power* for deliverance, not to pronouncing a Hebrew name.

**MALACHI 2:2** If ye will not hear, and if ye will not lay it to heart, to give glory unto my name, saith the LORD of hosts, I will even send a curse upon you. . . .

How do we give glory to His name? We honor His name, power and authority, by obeying Him (Deut. 28:15).

**MATTHEW 7:21** Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.

Here again, obedience to the commandments of God is the important thing. Talking about God is not enough. Most emphatically, this verse does not say that using the name of "Lord" (Greek *kurios*) is cause for being barred from God's kingdom! In fact, it says plainly that just using God's name is NOT what is required — but only conforming to His will in heart, mind and action can bring you to God's Kingdom.

**PROVERBS 18:10** The name of the LORD is a strong tower: the righteous runneth into it, and is safe.

What protects as described here? It is most assuredly the *power* of the Eternal. There is no such thing as protec-

tion by enunciating a magic word! Psalm 91:14-15 — "Because he hath *set his love upon ME*, therefore will I deliver him: I will set him on high, because he hath known [experienced] my name [my character and power]. He shall call upon *ME* [not on the sound of a particular name, notice], and I will answer him. . . ." See also Isaiah 58:9; Zechariah 13:9.

**EXODUS 23:13** And in all things that I have said unto you be circumspect: and make no mention of the name of other gods, neither let it be heard out of thy mouth. **JOSHUA 23:6-7** . . . Do all that is written in the book of the law of Moses, that ye turn not aside therefrom to the right hand or to the left; That ye come not among these nations, these that remain among you; neither make mention of the name of their gods, nor cause to swear by them, neither serve them, nor bow yourselves unto them.

Psalms 16:4 and 44:20-21 are also used with these verses. But to make mention of the name of pagan gods means to call upon, or pray to, or call oneself a follower of such a "god," in contrast to calling on the name of the Eternal. It is not a question of the pronunciation of the sound of heathen names, but of taking up the false worship of the gods of the Canaanites. Nor is there any reference here whatever to the use of Greek, English or other translations of the names of God.

**HOSEA 2:16-17** And it shall be at that day, saith the LORD, that thou shalt call me Ishi; and shalt call me no more Baali. For I will take away the names of Baalim [Baals] out of her mouth, and they shall no more be remembered by their name.

The time setting is the Millennium. To His people, who are even now called the bride of Christ, the Eternal will then be "My Husband" (*Ishi*). The old relationship (see Galatians 4:1) of slave and Owner (Baal) will be superseded by a higher kind of union. At that time also, the very names of the

idols which the Canaanites worshipped as "Owners," and whose rites proved so attractive to ancient Israelites, will be forgotten, along with the concept of owner-slave religion. These verses do not say that words like *Theos*, *Kurios*, "God," "Lord," "Jesus," etc., are wrong or will be discontinued. That is an assumption *read into* the Bible.

**MALACHI 4:5** Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD.

It is ludicrous to believe that, because the meaning of the name Elijah is "My God is Jah," that the sending of Elijah the prophet means sending forth the "Hebrew names" theory. If you will compare this verse with Revelation 11:3-6; I Kings 17:1; Luke 4:25 and James 5:17, you will see that an Elijah to come is literal. Note also that the Elijah of Jesus' day had the *name*, "John"!

**JEREMIAH 8:8-9** How do ye say, We are wise, and the law of the LORD is with us? Lo, certainly the false pen of the scribes worketh for falsehood [marginal rendering]. The wise men are ashamed, they are dismayed and taken; lo, they have rejected the word of the LORD: and what wisdom is in them?

There is no statement or prophecy here that the true text of God's Word was perverted and lost. Rather it refers to the false written interpretations about biblical passages by which Jewish scribes and wise men even in Jeremiah's day were rejecting and making of no effect God's intended meaning. Unfortunately many people are doing the same thing to this day. This verse also says people reject the word of YHWH, NOT the *word* YHWH!

**EZEKIEL 36:20** And when they [Israel] entered unto the heathen, whither they went, they profaned my holy name, when they said to them, These are the people of the LORD, and are gone forth out of his land.

How did they profane the Eternal's name? Was it by taking a supposed one-and-only name in verbal profanity? No. It was simply by setting such bad personal examples while claiming to be followers of the Eternal that they defamed His character and gave Him a bad name among the Gentiles.

**ACTS 7:45** Which also our fathers that came after brought in with Jesus into the possession of the Gentiles, whom God drove out before the face of our fathers, unto the days of David. **HEBREWS 4:8** For if Jesus had given them rest, then would he not afterward have spoken of another day.

These verses have sometimes been cited with special attention being drawn to the word "Joshua" in the marginal notes. The careless reader might thus be led into believing the New Testament says "Joshua" was Jesus Christ's real name. Check it for yourself. Don't you be careless. While "Jesus" was certainly the Greek form of the more ancient Hebrew name *Joshua*, what these marginal notes are pointing out is that the Jesus referred to in both those verses was the Joshua of the Old Testament, the successor of Moses.

**JOHN 5:43** I am come in my Father's name, and ye receive me not: if another shall come in his own name, him ye will receive.

This is supposed (by some) to prove that Jesus' name was *Yahshua* and derived from *Yahweh*. What it does mean is that He came claiming and using His Father's authority.

**REVELATION 14:1** And I looked, and, lo, a Lamb stood on the mount Sion, and with him an hundred forty and four thousand, having his Father's name written in their foreheads.

Along with this scripture, some cite Revelation 7:1-3 to show that the Father's name is that "sealing" in the forehead for which the "four winds" are held back. Turn there and you will find what the Father's name is. It is the "*living God*" (Greek *Theos dzontos*), not *Yahweh*.

— Lawson C. Briggs

Kingdom of God — which is the Government of God — and the *Family* of God — to rule the earth and bring PEACE and salvation. English-speaking people know that the name GOD means the supreme Creator — but if we use “Yahweh” — or “Yahvah” — or “Yah” — or “Yahshuah” — or “Yahashuah” — or some other form which these “Hebrew names” people advocate, English-speaking people would not know who we were talking about. We use the names of God in whatever language we are speaking so the people of that language will UNDERSTAND, and GET THE MESSAGE!

*Jesus and Paul did this*, setting us the example, which we follow!

If we do not use names IN THE LANGUAGE of the people to whom we speak — if we do not use the names that CONVEY MEANING, we are simply making useless, meaningless and uncertain sounds.

### An “Uncertain Sound”

The “Hebrew names” people say we must speak in another language — another TONGUE — the Hebrew — when

using the name of the Father or the Son. THE BIBLE TEACHES OTHERWISE! For these Hebrew words or names are an UNKNOWN — FOREIGN — TONGUE to nearly all English-speaking people, as well as French-speaking, German-speaking, Spanish-speaking or those of other languages. But listen to the INSPIRED TEACHING:

“For the speaker in a foreign tongue does not speak to men . . . no man understands it. . . . So you also, with your languages, unless you produce an intelligible speech, how can it be known what is spoken? For you would be talking to the wind” (I Cor. 14:2, 9, Fenton trans.). And the 8th verse says: “And if a trumpet should give an unknown [*uncertain* in the Authorized Version] sound, who would prepare for battle?”

We are commissioned to proclaim Christ’s Gospel of the Kingdom of God to all the world as a witness — to ALL NATIONS speaking languages *other than* Hebrew — to people who DO NOT UNDERSTAND HEBREW — to people who would not know WHO we were pointing them to if we use the

Hebrew *YHWH*. And NO ONE can be certain HOW to pronounce or SOUND that name in Hebrew. Its pronunciation has been LOST — and these Hebrew names groups DISAGREE among themselves as to HOW to pronounce the name! Certainly we would be giving out an “UNCERTAIN SOUND.”

### Christ’s Example

Jesus STARTED the Work of God, proclaiming this Gospel. *He never once* is recorded to have used the Hebrew *YHWH* during the entirety of His earthly ministry, though He spoke Hebrew (as will be explained in a following article in this series).

Paul spoke to Gentiles who spoke the GREEK language. There is no recorded use of the Hebrew *YHWH* — but he used the *same names* in the GREEK language.

The Holy Spirit inspired the New Testament in the GREEK language — and did NOT use the Hebrew *YHWH*, or “Yahshua” or “Yahashuah,” but the GREEK words that conveyed the MEANING of the names of deity in the Greek language.

We are the instruments the living Christ is using in proclaiming His Gospel to the world. We could not point people to the Creator and Saviour, or to understand His Gospel, unless we use words and names that make clear WHO the Creator is!

Moreover, although NO ONE can be CERTAIN (though most *think* “Yahweh” is probably correct) of the correct vowels that should be used in the Hebrew *YHWH*, Hebrew scholars do show that it MEANS “The Everliving One” or “The Eternal” or “The Self-Existent One,” or “The One who was, and is, and is to be” (see accompanying box for the derivation of *YHWH*).

### WHY Name Is Important

The “Sacred Name” people contend the IMPORTANT thing, in using the names of the Father or the Son, is the SOUND, more than the MEANING. But even they are not certain as to the sound — so they have “an uncertain sound.”

I have said that names *ARE* important to God. God NAMES things or  
(Continued on page 32)

## Derivation of YHVH

THE word \**YHVH* (which is always the Hebrew when the capital letters LORD are used in the King James Version) is explained by Rabbinic sources as encompassing *three* Hebrew words:

HYH	meaning	Was	
HVH	meaning	Is	(literally “the present tense” — the word “is” is not used in Hebrew)
HYH	meaning	Will Continue to Be	

Putting them all together, *YHVH* actually means the “*Was-Is-Will Continue to Be*” Being. Even Hebrew linguistic scholars agree that *YHVH* must

be derived from some form of the verb “to be” (was, is, will be).

By His very name, then, God *quite literally* encompasses all aspects of time — past, present and future. This is in complete accord with Mal. 3:6 “For I am *YHVH*, I change not;” Heb. 13:8, “Jesus Christ the same yesterday [was], and today [is], and forever [will continue to be];” and Rev. 1:8, “I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which *is*, and which *was*, and which *is to come*, the Almighty.”

Consequently both Moffatt’s “the *Eternal*” and Fenton’s “*Ever-Living*” are excellent translations.

\* The *V* was originally pronounced as *W*, though in modern Hebrew it is pronounced as *V*. You may see either *V* or *W* used in transliterations.

— Robert L. Kuhn



# Is There **MAGIC** in *the* **NAME?**

**Without realizing it, the Hebrew names advocates may be falling into an ancient error which led the pagans into superstition and magic!**

**T**HERE was a primitive belief that to know a name gives power over its bearer — even when it was God Himself. The superstition prevailed that when a man uttered the name of a god and then demanded or asked something, it would be fulfilled because he spoke the name. “Men can have this magical power over the god only because . . . the name is essentially linked with the one who bears it. Of both men and gods it is finally true that the name contains *mana* (supernatural force or power). The name is thus a power which is very closely associated with the bearer and which discloses his nature. Pronouncement or invocation of the name sets in operation the energy potentially in him” (*Theological Dictionary of the New Testament*, vol. V, p. 243).

This irrationality was not restricted to the heathen as one might assume. Rather, “Gentile and Jewish magic intermingled freely in Egypt. This may be seen in the fact that the efficacious vowel sequences often echo Yahweh, or the name **Iaw** often appears. In order that the magic may work the true name must be named, the one made known by the god himself” (*ibid.* p. 251). The pagans “. . . supposed that anyone who doubted the power of names did not believe in the gods at all” (Luc. Philops., 9f., 12, 17).

There is no doubt that today God’s name — in any language, including **YHWH** in Hebrew — symbolizes all of His power and authority. But that power simply cannot be magically conjured by

pronouncing or carefully tracing Hebrew letters. Mere squiggles on a piece of paper or parchment are neither sacred nor magical even though they spell God’s name. Neither does precise pronunciation of those same letters magically capture God’s attention and unleash His power. God responds to those whose hearts are contrite, submissive and obedient. He hears those who have faith in the redemptive sacrifice of His Son. He honors those who have repented, been baptized and so have his Holy Spirit.

Nowhere do the Scriptures command the Christian to become a perfect penman or excellent enunciator. Everyone knows you can still properly worship God with your hands cut off and your tongue torn out.

God simply is not concerned about specific sounds. He is concerned about both the attitude in which a sound is made and the mental concept it represents. Paul used the Greek word *Theos* to teach about the Hebrew word **YHWH**. He defines the concept of both words at once: This One is Creator and Ruler of heaven and earth. He needs nothing from man. He is utterly superior to man who depends upon Him for life itself. Every race and each man has been given the time and space to find God (Acts 17:24-28).

The name of God is more than a mere label. **YHWH**, *Theos*, *Gott*, and “God” are words that speak volumes. They concentrate His fame,

renown, glory, reputation, character. These names are all laden with His authority, power, holiness. There are other native language names through which He is revealed to all mankind. But think! No three- or four-letter word, nor even any short phrase such as “I AM THAT I AM” (Ex. 3:14) or “Him which is, and which was, and which is to come” (Rev. 1:4) can really convey all that is needful even though they enlarge the concept contained in the names of God.

Nonetheless, the English-speaking Christian can quite properly worship The Creator by using the name “God.” Why? Because the transplendent magnificent concept is in that wonderful name: “The supreme and ultimate reality. The holy, infinite and eternal spiritual reality presented in the Bible as the Creator, sustainer, judge, righteous sovereign, and redeemer of the universe who acts with power in history in carrying out His purpose. The eternal, invisible, arbitrarily omnipotent Lord of the worlds and final judge of all men. All-knowing, just, compassionate, merciful and unchangeable perfect Being that is the first and final cause of the universe. The one ultimate infinite reality that is pure existence, consciousness, and bliss without distinctions (as of time and space). The Being supreme in power, wisdom and goodness that men worship and to whom they pray” (*Webster’s Dictionary*).

Now, that is a NAME — real and practical — NOT MAGICAL!

— Clint C. Zimmerman

# "THE UNKNOWN GOD"

**The ancient Greeks labeled the Creator: "The Unknown God" (Acts 17:23). They forgot WHO He is — because they had lost the meaning of His name! That name is important — what is it? What does it mean?**

by Herman L. Hoeh

**H**ow important is a *name*? Does it make any difference what name you use to designate the Creator?

Does it matter in *whose name* you pray?

## Authority in a Name

A person's name is certainly important. But what in reality does the word "name" mean? When one acts in another's name, one acts in his stead — *by his authority*. The name designates the source of the authority — it designates *who* the person is for whom one acts. To pray in someone's NAME is to take the AUTHORITY of that name.

A person's "name" is also his reputation. "A good name is rather to be chosen than great riches" (Prov. 22:1). His name represents his entire character.

It does make a difference what name you use for the Creator — and in whose name you pray. There is *only one* NAME under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved" (Acts 4:12). What is this NAME which is necessary to be saved? Is it a certain set of sounds? Or here too, does name mean the reputation, personality, character, *authority* and POWER of the Savior?

The Son came in His Father's name. *What is His Father's name?* Unless YOU, too, bear your heavenly Father's name, YOU are not His son and heir! Without His name you will never see His Kingdom!

heavenly Father and/or the Son, we should use only the Hebrew names of Deity. They insist that it is a sin to use the words "God," "Lord," "Jesus," "Christ," "Word," and "Christian." They claim that it is a sin to pray "in the name of Jesus" and improper to be called "Christian."

The same people believe that it is wrong to translate the names of God into English! Wrong to do more than to *transliterate* the same Hebrew sounds of the names into any other language. They contend that it is the *sound* of the name, NOT ITS MEANING, that is important.

Yet Paul was inspired to write in I Corinthians 14:9: "Except ye utter by the tongue words easy to be understood, how shall it be known what is spoken?" In verse 19 Paul continued, "Yet in the church I had rather speak five words with my understanding, that by my voice I might teach others also, than ten thousand words in an unknown tongue." To the Greeks, Hebrew was an "unknown" or foreign tongue.

## Names Have Meaning

In the Bible, names have *meaning*. Names are given for a purpose.

*Abram's* name in Hebrew was changed to *Abraham* because the promise was made to Abraham that he



Courtesy "Light from the Ancient Past" by J. Finegan, Princeton

**PAGAN GREEK ALTAR** with inscription "To Unknown Gods" (*theois agnostois*), found in archaeological excavations at Pergamon, Asia Minor. The Apostle Paul saw an altar similarly dedicated and inscribed at Athens, and told the Athenians that he came to reveal to them that "God" which they named *theos* (Acts 17:23).

## What Name?

Some claim that the Father's name is *Yahweh* or perhaps *Yahvah*. They claim that when we speak of or pray to the

should become "a father of many nations" (Gen. 17:5). *Abraham* means "a father of many nations."

Jacob's name in Hebrew was changed to *Israel*. The word *Jacob* in Hebrew means "supplanter," but the word *Israel* means "prevailer with God." Jacob prevailed with God and obtained His blessing.

All these biblical names convey *meaning*. Notice that these names are usually not greatly changed in any foreign tongue because their meanings are already given in the Bible. They do not have to be translated.

But other important Hebrew biblical names mentioned in the New Testament ARE TRANSLATED from Hebrew into Greek.

Notice Acts 9:36, "Now there was at Joppa a certain disciple named Tabitha, *which by interpretation is called Dorcas*" — in Greek. In other words, the disciples in Joppa were speaking Greek and had translated her name and called her Dorcas. Her name means "Doe" in English.

Again in Acts 13:8, the Aramaic name "Elymas" is *translated as Magos* in the inspired Greek New Testament — "sorcerer" in English. *From these examples we see that personal names are often translated in the Bible.*

The names of the CREATOR also have great meaning.

### Meaning in God's NAMES

In the Old Testament the English word "God" is used for the equivalent Hebrew word *Elohim*. It is a uniplural word allowing for MORE THAN ONE MEMBER IN THE ONE DIVINE FAMILY.

Sometimes the English word "God" represents another word, *El*. Often the word *El* is combined with still other Hebrew words to give new names to the Creator. Thus *El Shaddai* means the "Almighty God" (Gen. 17:1).

Now turn to Exodus 3:13-14 for another surprising NAME of the Almighty. "And Moses said unto God, Behold, when I come unto the children of Israel, and shall say unto them, The God of your fathers hath sent me unto you; and they shall say to me, What is His name? What shall I say unto them? And God said unto Moses, I AM THAT I AM: and He said, Thus shalt thou say

unto the children of Israel, I AM hath sent me unto you."

Notice! Here is one of the many names of the Creator — "I AM THAT I AM." There is real meaning to this name! It could also be translated from the Hebrew as "I will be what I will be." This name — I AM — means that the One who appeared to Moses is above all creation. His name means the *One Who Is, the Self-Existent One, the Eternal*.

In this context the Creator then introduced to Moses His name YHWH (verse 15) derived from the same Hebrew verb and having approximately the same meaning as I AM.

### "Jehovah" Is An Error

But what about the word "Jehovah" which a well-known religious group uses exclusively? Notice what the *Jewish Encyclopedia* has to say about the origin of this word:

"'Jehovah' is generally held to have been the invention of Pope Leo X's confessor, Peter Galatin . . . who was followed in the use of this hybrid form by Fagius . . . . But it seems that even before Galatin, the name 'Jehovah' had been in common use . . . . It is found in Raymond Martin's 'Pugio Fidei,' written in 1270" (*Jewish Encyclopedia*, vol. VII, p. 88, article "Jehovah").

The word "Jehovah" has come down to the modern world through the Catholic Church! Even the "Jehovah's Witnesses," in the preface to their translation of the Bible, state: "While inclining to view the pronunciation 'Yahweh' as the more correct way, we have retained the form 'Jehovah' because of people's familiarity with it since the 14th century" (page 25).

If "Jehovah" is not the proper pronunciation of the Hebrew word YHWH, what then is its proper pronunciation? Some "Hebrew Name" groups say *Yahvah*, others say *Yahweh*, still others believe it should be *Yehweh*, etc.

Why this *confusion*?

The answer is — *the true pronunciation of the Hebrew word YHWH was lost!*

Here is how it happened.

The Hebrew Bible originally used only consonants and semi-consonants, not vowels. Moses was inspired to

write this name for the Creator with the four Hebrew letters YHWH. This Hebrew word, which the Israelites originally knew how to pronounce, comes from another Hebrew word HWH, an old form of the root HYH, which means "to be," or "to become."

In the centuries following Jeremiah's day, certain Jews became superstitious and *made an idol* out of this name! They treated it with such superstitious reverence that they decided *never to pronounce it!* Instead, whenever they found this word in the Old Testament, they read *Adonai* in its place. Or, in places where *Adonai* was already combined with YHWH they read it *Elohim* to avoid redundancy.

*Adonai* is a Hebrew word meaning "Lord" or "Master." It is not a pagan word. Both *Adon* (Lord) and *Adonai* (originally a plural form meaning "my Lords") are used frequently in the inspired Old Testament. The pagan Greeks adopted the name of their Adonis from the Hebrews, not the other way around.

When the Jewish textual scholars, known as *Masoretes* (hence *Masoretic text*) added the vowels to the written Hebrew text about the seventh century A.D., they wrote the vowel points of *Adonai* or *Elohim* with the word YHWH to tell the oral Jewish reader to pronounce the word which was thus indicated. Non-Jews, ignorant of this purpose, read and pronounced a non-existent hybrid word *Yehowah*, which was written "Jehovah" in English but not pronounced with our modern "J" sound until much later.

But the proper pronunciation of YHWH had long before become lost! And *no one* today knows for certain exactly *how* it should be pronounced.

### Not Necessary to Pronounce

Here is what Rotherham says about this name in his *Emphasized Bible*, page 25: "The true pronunciation seems to have been Yahwè . . . . The accent should be on the final syllable." *The Jewish Encyclopedia* says of this name: ". . . the original pronunciation must have been Yahweh, or Yahaweh" (article "Names of God," volume IX, page 161).

Most modern Hebrew scholars feel "*Yahweh*" (pronounced Ya-hweh, with

the second syllable like the *wh* in *where* and accented) is a close approximation. (*Editor's note:* See the accompanying article by Dr. Martin which shows this reconstruction is partly based on "Christian" transliterations into Greek several centuries A.D., and preserves not a Jewish but primarily a Samaritan pronunciation.) But other scholars believe the original name was *Yabo* or *Yabwo* or *Yabu* or something else. These include such well-known men as G. B. Driver, B. S. Erdmans and W. Vischer.

However, the important *meaning* of the name is not so uncertain. Lacking the original vowels, we cannot be positive about the exact grammatical form, but scholars generally agree that *YHWH* is from the verb "to be." Some suggest the name was the original form which meant "he causes to be," others "he exists," etc. And no better interpretation of the overall meaning can be found than that given by inspiration in Revelation 1:8, referring to Jesus Christ: "I am the Alpha and the Omega [in English we would say the *A* and the *Z*], says the Lord God, who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty" (RSV). English equivalents would be the "Eternal," the "Everliving," the Eternal "LORD."

If we believe the Creator really is all-powerful, and since only the meaning has been preserved today, this should tell us what HE considers important. The meaning of the Almighty's name is infinitely more important than its mere sound in Hebrew.

Now notice definite SCRIPTURAL PROOF that it is proper to TRANSLATE even the names of God so that we may understand what they mean in whatever language we speak today!

### Part of Old Testament Not Written in Hebrew!

Some deny we should ever translate the Hebrew names of Deity. But notice the Bible evidence!

In the Old Testament the English word "God" is often a rendering of the Hebrew words *El*, *Eloah*, and *Elohim*. Remember that these words are as much God's *names* as is *YHWH* (Ps. 69:30; Isa. 9:6 — also see the accompanying box, "God Has Many Names"). Were these Hebrew names

## God Has Many "Names"

**I**s *YHWH* the only "name" of God, while all other designations are merely "titles"?

Even in English such a distinction is far from exact. One of the definitions of "name" is "title," and one of the definitions of "title" is "name" (*Webster's New World Dictionary*). In the Hebrew of the inspired Old Testament, the distinction does not exist.

The truth is that the argument that *YHWH* is a "name" while other appellations such as *Elohim* are only "titles," is a linguistically unsound quibble over semantics. The matter can be simply settled from the Bible itself, where the Hebrew word usually translated "name" is *sem* (שֵׁם).

Notice the following passages which speak of God's "name" (*sem* in Hebrew) as something other than *YHWH*:

Amos 4:13 — "For, lo, he that formeth the mountains, and createth the wind, and declareth unto man what is his thought . . . [is] The Lord, the God of Hosts [*Elobē-seva'ot*, אֱלֹהֵי-צְבָאוֹת] is his name."

Exactly the same Hebrew wording is used in Amos 5:27, which rendered literally says — "Therefore will I cause you to go into captivity beyond Damascus, says the Lord, The God of hosts is his name." The Authorized Version is not in error with "... saith the Lord, whose name is The God of hosts."

In Psalm 48:10, the Hebrew text could correctly and just as easily be translated, "As your name *Elohim* so is your praise to the ends of the earth."

And one could read the original of Psalm 69:30 as — "I will praise the name of *Elohim* with a song and magnify it with thanksgiving."

Now consider the following passages and names: Psalm 111:9 — "His name is Holy [*Qados*, קָדוֹשׁ] and Fearful [*Nora*, נֹרָא]." These two could be taken as personal names.

Isaiah 57:15 — "For thus saith the high and exalted One who inhabiteth eternity, whose name is Holy [*Qados*]."

We could speak of God as the *Holy* (One) just as easily as the *Eternal* (*YHWH*). In fact, the Bible does do so in II Kings 19:22; Job 6:10; Jeremiah 50:29; 51:5; Ezekiel 59:7; Hosea 11:9; Habakkuk 1:12; 3:3, seven times in Psalms and nearly 30 times in the book of Isaiah. In every case, "Holy One" is translated simply from this one word (שֵׁם) in the inspired Hebrew.

The New Testament also declares that the Savior's name is Holy (Luke 1:35, 49) and uses "Holy One" as His name in Mark 1:24; Luke 4:34; Acts 3:14 and I John 2:20. Every true Christian is called a "saint" (Greek *ἅγιος*, *holy one*) because we, too, are becoming "holy ones" in the God Family.

Isaiah 9:6 also gives Jesus Christ the Messiah — who is, remember, the *YHWH* of the Old Testament — several additional names: "... his name (*sem*) shall be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God (*El*), Father of Eternity, Prince of Peace."

The Hebrew word for "name" (*sem*) can be used with a greatly expanded meaning to include a person's whole character and reputation. A similar usage can be found in the English expression, "a good name." When we say a person has a good name, we aren't referring to its *pronunciation*. Of course not! We mean the *entire character* of the one who bears the name.

Rather than trying to distinguish between "name" and "title" we should all learn how the Bible actually uses the concept of *name* in both Greek and Hebrew. Sober biblical and linguistic scholars J. H. Moulton and George Milligan write: "By a usage similar to that of the Heb. שֵׁם [*sem*, "name"], *ὄνομα* [*onoma*, the Greek word for "name"] comes in the NT [New Testament] to denote the *character, fame, authority* of the person indicated" (*Vocabulary of the Greek Testament*, p. 451).

Along with the name (title, character, fame, authority) of *YHWH*, the Eternal also bears many more names.

*El* is perhaps the primary Hebrew word used to express the attribute of the divine all-ruling Creator. It is a root common to most of the Semitic languages, found in Babylonian and Ugaritic literature and appearing in Arabic as *Allah*.

*Eloah* (אלה) seems to be a variant form of *El* though the singular is not used frequently. However, the plural is one of the most frequently used words in the Bible:

*Elohim*, the second-most-used word (after *YHWH*) for the Divinity in the Old Testament. Although originally the plural form of *Eloah*, it had already come to be used with a singular idea by the time the first part of the Bible was written. So we find in Genesis 1:1 that *Elohim* creates, not *Elohim* create.

Because of its unique usage, *Elohim* serves very well to express the idea of the divine Family. It can apply to every member or to one member without changing form. For example, the plural verb in Genesis 1:26 obviously takes more than one Person. But many times throughout the Bible we find *Elohim* speaking directly and using the pronoun "I." (In these passages it is obviously only the single individual who became Christ speaking, though He is speaking for the entire Family.)

Also, just as we can use the term "god" or "gods" to refer to idols or pagan concepts, so *Elohim* is used to refer to other gods, usually in the plural but sometimes in the singular only (Judges 11:24). This usage by ancient Israel shows it is perfectly all right to use our native English word "god" to apply both to idols, and to the true God.

*Shaddai* is generally believed by Hebrew scholars to mean something like "Almighty." It first appears in Genesis 17:1. It is sometimes used in combination with *El* (hence the rendering "God Almighty") and in names of persons, such as Zurishaddai ("my rock is Shaddai") in Numbers 1:6.

*Adonai* was the name most often read by later Jews instead of *YHWH*. But this word also occurs many times in its own right in the Hebrew text. It means "Lord" or "Master."

The One who became the Messiah or Christ is the member of the God Family most often mentioned in the Old Testament. Naturally, the various names most often refer to Him. But as descriptive names or titles, they can and do apply to *every* member of the God Family. That is why, for example, we find *YHWH* once apparently applied to the Father in Psalm 110:1.

The Greek New Testament also contains various names and titles. A study of these would be helpful to understanding God better. Yet even if we studied the entire Bible from beginning to end, we would not exhaust God's name. For one thing, God will give new names to those who enter His Family in the resurrection (Rev. 2:17).

In addition, Christ will write His own *new* name on them at that time — "... and I will write upon him the name of my God ... and my own new name" (Rev. 3:12). One of the Eternal's (Christ's) names will be new. And if it's new, then we don't know it yet.

We can be absolutely sure Christ has at least one name we do not know, because Revelation 19:11-12 tells us this. "And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war. His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself."

God's names and titles help us to see some of His character. His names are only *symbols* of what He is. We respect His names because they represent *Him*. But God reveals Himself primarily through His *Word*.

Christ said He came to reveal the name of the Father (John 1:18; 17:6, 26). Yet we would search in vain for any discussion of its pronunciation or requirement to use only Hebrew.

What then is meant by these verses?

What Christ revealed is the Way. He revealed the Way to Life, the way of the character of God. The same character in us will lead us to have eternal life like God, and to bear His names which summarize His character.

— Lester L. Grabbe

ever translated into other tongues in the original inspired Old and New Testaments?

The answer is a resounding yes!

When Babylon conquered the Kingdom of Judah (604-585), Hebrew gradually ceased to be the language of common speech of the Jews. Hebrew was replaced by Aramaic, spoken throughout the Babylonian Empire. Daniel wrote five whole chapters of his prophetic book in Aramaic — chapters 2 through 6. And Ezra wrote four chapters of his work in Aramaic — chapters 4 through 7 (specifically 4:8-6:18 and 7:12-26).

When Daniel and Ezra referred to the Creator in these chapters, did they use the old Hebrew words, or their Aramaic translations?

The surprising answer is that Daniel and Ezra TRANSLATED the Hebrew names for God into the Aramaic word *ELAH*. In 78 different places in these 9 chapters, the Aramaic word *Elah* is used to translate these Hebrew words.

If anyone says that Aramaic was really just a dialect of the earliest Hebrew and that *Elah* is a virtual transliteration of Hebrew *El*, *Eloah* or *Elohim*, THEY SHOULD KNOW that the divergence between these two different languages was far greater than mere dialectical difference. And the change from the Hebrew names to Aramaic *Elah* was as great as the transliteration of Hebrew *Yehoshua* (Joshua) to *Yeshua* (Neh. 8:17) to Greek *Ἰησοῦς* (Jesus).

If the Almighty intended that His name should be pronounced only in Hebrew, then Daniel and Ezra were false prophets! But Daniel and Ezra were not false prophets! They were inspired men! They were *inspired to translate the Hebrew names for God* into the Aramaic word *ELAH*. Every word — every letter — which Ezra and Daniel were inspired to write has been preserved for us today! Not one jot or tittle (the least letter or mark of the alphabet) of the Old Testament has passed away that God's people should not obey all His will (Matt. 5:18; Luke 16:17).

Since the Creator inspired His prophets to translate the Hebrew names for God into the Aramaic

ELAH, then it is fitting and proper that the Hebrew word ELOHIM should be translated into English in English translations of the Old Testament!

Now let us notice how God inspired the apostles to write His name in the inspired Greek New Testament.

### The Name in the New Testament

The words of your Savior are given to us in the New Testament. Some claim they were originally written in Hebrew and only translated — wrongly — by some later hand into Greek, thus deleting the name YHWH. But before He ascended to heaven, He promised His disciples, "Heaven and earth shall pass away, *but my words shall not pass away*" (Matt. 24:35).

I think all will agree, that heaven and earth have not passed away! Then neither have the words of the Savior! For He ever lives to prevent such a thing from occurring. His words are found inspired in the New Testament today! How were the names of Deity rendered in the New Testament for the Greek-speaking converts? Notice!

Paul was sent to the Gentiles — particularly the Greek-speaking Gentiles. His ministry covered the whole Greek-speaking world. The Greeks did not know Hebrew or Aramaic. They knew Greek. How did Paul explain to these Greek converts who the Father and who the Son were? What names did he use for the Greeks when referring to the Creator?

The answer is — *he used the Greek words* for "God," "Lord," "Christ," the "Word," and "Jesus." God inspired him to *translate* the Hebrew word *El*, meaning "God," into the Greek word *Theos*. God inspired Paul in the New Testament to translate the Hebrew word YHWH into the Greek word *Kurios*, meaning "Lord."

In 665 different places in the New Testament the apostles were inspired to translate the Hebrew word YHWH into the Greek word *Kurios*, meaning the eternal "Lord." And 1,345 times the apostles were inspired to translate the Hebrew word for God into the Greek word *Theos* — which means "God" in the Greek language! These two Greek words — *Kurios* and *Theos*

— meaning "Lord" and "God" in Greek, are found hundreds of times in the gospels, and in the directly quoted words of Jesus Himself! *And Jesus said His words would not pass away* — Matthew 24:35.

Either we have the inspired words of Jesus, or He lied — and if He lied, you have no Savior! He did not lie. These are His words. He inspired His apostles to translate the names of God from the Hebrew into the Greek when writing to the Greek converts; and He has seen to it that not one word has perished or been lost!

God's Word has *not* been corrupted or tampered with! God has preserved His message unaltered. Otherwise, you would have no basis for your faith.

There is not one New Testament manuscript with the names of Deity written in Hebrew! There is not one New Testament manuscript which supports the idea that the apostles exclusively used Hebrew names for God when speaking to the Greek people.

### New Testament Inspired in Greek

Those who believe that God can only be correctly addressed or referred to in Hebrew must deny what the inspired New Testament says, and deny it was originally written in Greek. They assume Jewish Christians could not understand Greek and would also have us believe Paul wrote to the Greek converts in Greece, Asia Minor and Rome in Aramaic instead of Greek. This is not true!

*Greek* was the one universal language which united the common people in the Roman Empire in New Testament times. The Jewish historian Josephus testified to Greek as the language which the Jews everywhere understood in New Testament days! Not only did the Jews who lived in the Greek world speak Greek, but even the Jews who lived in Palestine, he declares, were well acquainted with Greek!

Greek-speaking Jews — who could not speak Hebrew nor even Aramaic — were so prevalent in Palestine that synagogues for them had to be built (Acts 6:9). Jewish law for Palestine permitted that the Scriptures "may be

read in a foreign tongue to them that speak a foreign tongue" (Megillah 2, article 1). And it was further permitted "that the Books [of the Bible] may be written in any language," but that at the time of Christ the Books were "*only permitted to be written in Greek*" (Megillah 1, article 8, *The Mishnah*, Herbert Danby, Oxford University Press).

Though the native-born Jews in Palestine in the days of the apostles generally used Aramaic (or perhaps even Hebrew in certain areas) as their common spoken language, yet Greek was the next in importance even to them.

Josephus tells us why he, a Jewish priest, when he had decided after the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 A.D. to become a writer, had to make a special study of Greek:

"I have also taken a great deal of pain to obtain the learning of the Greeks, and understand the elements of the Greek language, although I have so long accustomed myself to speak our own tongue, that I cannot pronounce Greek with such an exactness" — Josephus spoke Greek *with a Semitic accent* — "for our nation does not encourage those who learn the languages of other nations, and so adorn their discourses with the smoothness of their periods; *because they look upon this sort of accomplishment* [imitating the supposedly 'great' men of the Greeks] *AS COMMON, not only to all sorts of freemen, but to as many of the servants as pleased to learn them.* But they give him the testimony of being a wise man who is fully acquainted with our laws, and is able to interpret their meaning" (*Antiquities of the Jews*, Book XX, chapter XI, Section 2).

Nearly everyone in Palestine in those days knew at least a moderate amount of Greek.

### Greek the INSPIRED Version

Now let us notice the testimony of history as to the language in which the books of the New Testament were inspired. ONLY two books — out of a total of twenty-seven in the New Testament — were ever asserted *even by ecclesiastical tradition* to have been written in Hebrew. The Catholic historian Eusebius did relate, based in part on an earlier tradition of Papias: "... the

Epistle to the Hebrews is the work of Paul, and . . . it was written to the Hebrews in the Hebrew language; but . . . Luke translated it carefully and published it for the Greeks, and hence the same style of expression is found in this epistle and in the Acts."

If Eusebius' account — written two and a half centuries later — be true, then the letter to the Hebrews was inspired to be translated by Luke and published in the Greek language. It is Luke's *inspired* translation God intended to be preserved for us.

Eusebius also wrote, and Jerome repeated, that Matthew wrote "the reports," which he took to mean Matthew's gospel, in Hebrew for Jewish Christians. But we need not think that someone other than Matthew wrote the inspired Greek gospel. It is likely Matthew made such changes and additions as God inspired him to make, and wrote his final account in Greek *for the whole Church*. It is Matthew's *inspired* Greek gospel, whether there was a Hebrew precursor or not, which God has preserved.

None of the other twenty-five books of the New Testament were ever said to have been written in Hebrew.

The Aramaic versions of the New Testament which we have today are admittedly *translations from the Greek* despite what some mistakenly claim. (See *The Books and the Parchments* by F.F. Bruce, p. 189.)

### Proof That Aramaic Is Not Original

Open your Bible to Mark 15:34. The English rendering of this verse reads: "And at the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani? which is, being interpreted, My God, My God, why hast thou forsaken me?"

Notice this! The last half of verse 34 proves that Mark was writing his gospel account, including these final words of Christ, in a language different from the one in which Jesus spoke! Jesus' own words are quoted in Aramaic, but *translated* into Greek.

Now consider the Aramaic version, which some have claimed to be the original version of the New Testament. If Aramaic were the original language

of the New Testament, there would have been no reason to insert in the Aramaic version the words "which is, being interpreted, 'My God, My God, why hast thou forsaken me?'" because every Aramean would have understood Jesus' words without translation. Yet the Aramaic New Testament does repeat the exact Greek original word for word! This *proves* Aramaic NOT to have been the original language of the New Testament, but merely a translation from the Greek.

There are at least a dozen places in the New Testament where Aramaic words are quoted and are *translated into the Greek* for the Greek-speaking people — and in most cases the Aramaic New Testament retranslates the original Greek word for word!

Another example is John 1:41: "He [Andrew] first findeth his own brother Simon, and saith unto him, We have found the Messiah, *which is, being interpreted, the Christ.*" The word *Messias* is a Greek spelling of the Hebrew word *Mesiah*, which means "the Anointed." But the Greek-speaking people were not generally acquainted with the meaning of the word *Messias*, hence John translates it for them into the Greek word *Christos* which means "the Anointed One."

### "Christ" or "Messiah"?

Hebrew names people claim we should use only the word "MESSIAH" and never the word "CHRIST." Their assumption is that the word "Christ" comes from the name of the Hindu god Krishna! "Christ" does not come from the name of the Hindu god Krishna! *Christos* is a common Greek word which means "anointed," exactly the same as *Messiah* means in Hebrew.

The New Testament was inspired to read that Jesus *is* "the Christ." Even the enemies of the early true Church called the disciples "Christians" (Acts 11:26). The disciples would not have been called "Christians" in the city of Antioch if they had not been followers of *Christ!* They would have been called the "Messians"!

Now turn to I Peter 4:14: "If ye be reproached for the name of Christ [*Christos* in Greek], happy are ye." The scripture does not use some unknown

Hebrew name; it uses the "*name of Christ.*" And now verse 16 — "Yet if any man suffer *as a Christian*, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God on this behalf." The disciples in the New Testament Church could not have suffered as "Christians" unless they were the followers of *Christ!*

### False Churches Use True Name

Notice Jesus' startling prophecy in Matthew 24:4-5: "And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you. For many shall come in *my name* [*using His Name*], saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many." *In whose name* are the many coming? Are they coming in some "Hebrew name"? No! They are coming *in the name of "Christ"* — *in the name of "Jesus."* And Jesus said these would be using HIS NAME.

Now turn to Acts 4:10. What is the *only name* given among men whereby we may be saved? "Be it known unto you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of JESUS CHRIST of Nazareth, whom ye crucified, whom God raised from the dead, even by him doth this man stand here before you whole" — the man who had just been healed. Verse 12: "Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved."

Notice! According to the inspired Greek New Testament, there is no other name given whereby we must be saved than the name of *Jesus Christ!*

The English word "Jesus" is an Anglicized spelling of the Greek word *Iesous*. The Greek word for "Jesus" is but the common Greek name used to translate the Hebrew name *Yehoshua* (Joshua). The meaning of the Hebrew word for "Joshua" is "the Eternal is the Savior." Over 910 places in the New Testament God *inspired* the New Testament writers to use the Greek word *Iesous* as the personal name of Christ, the Messiah! EITHER YOU WILL HAVE TO ACCEPT THE NAME OF JESUS AS YOUR SAVIOR — or you will have to throw away the entire New Testament!

But — reason "Hebrew Name" believers — doesn't the Greek word *Iesous* come from the pagan Greek god *Zeus*?

(Continued on page 30)

# WHO – WHAT – WAS JESUS BEFORE HIS HUMAN BIRTH?

**Was He God — was He angel — was He spiritual essence — did He exist only in the plan, thought and purpose of God? Each of the variant Hebrew names proponents find their theory in grave difficulty when one understands WHO the God of the Old Testament really is!**

by Garner Ted Armstrong

**T**HERE is irrefutable proof that the *YHVH* of the Bible is usually the same God which the New Testament reveals to be the Son — Jesus Christ. He was a literal God-being whose name is *YHVH* just as much as is the Father's. He proclaims, "I am the LORD (*YHVH*); and I appeared to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob . . ." (Ex. 6:2, 3). The patriarchs saw and heard this God — the *Logos* — the Spokesman — the Son — Jesus Christ of Nazareth.

Most of you brethren have already studied the truth about Jesus' prior existence. But many of the newer members have not. All members should definitely *read* and *STUDY* this article with their Bibles to crystallize this vital truth.

## Jesus Had a Father

During His earthly ministry, Jesus Christ revealed a Father-Son relationship existing between Him and His heavenly Father. Throughout the Bible, God stresses this *family* relationship which is first between God the Father and the Son, and then between each begotten Christian and the Father. The Church is revealed as the *mother* of us all. Individuals within the Church refer to each other as "brothers" and "sisters." There is a *FAMILY* known as God.

Let's understand it.

The logical place to begin is in the *very beginning*, so get your Bible, and turn to Genesis, the first chapter. "In the beginning *GOD* [*Elohim* in Hebrew] created . . . . And God [*Elohim*]

said, Let *us* make man in *OUR* image, after *OUR* likeness . . ." (Gen. 1:1, 26). God was not one Person, who was speaking to Himself — but was revealing a *PLURALITY* of persons, *MORE* than one, in the word appearing in your Bible as "God."

*Elohim* is a *uniplural* word — that is, a word which can be used as either singular or plural, like "sheep" or "deer." It can include more than one person. In fact, unlike "sheep" or "deer" the actual *form* of this Hebrew word is plural though often used as if singular.

What's more — all other scriptures uphold and support this vital truth! Listen to the words of the inspired Apostle Paul, who said, "For by him [Christ] were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: ALL THINGS WERE CREATED BY HIM, and for him." Paul went on to say, "And he is BEFORE all things, and BY HIM all things consist" (Col. 1:16-17).

Was Paul just flattering Christ — was he simply adding spiritual-sounding phrases to make Christ seem more *magnified* to the Christians in his care? Certainly not. For "ALL SCRIPTURE is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness" (II Tim. 3:16).

If *all things* were CREATED by Christ, then He must have been *ONE* of the persons included in the Hebrew word *Elohim* used in Genesis 1:1, 26.

## Christ Before Adam

Strange though it may seem, there are *TWO* accounts of the "beginning" of all things given in your Bible! In the Gospel of John, chapter 1, a most vital passage gives us the clear, simple *TRUTH* of Christ's office *prior* to His human birth. "In the beginning was the Word" (John 1:1). Notice, "*In the beginning . . .*" This was exactly the *same time* as Genesis 1:1. "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was *with* God, and the Word WAS GOD."

*There* is the vital truth still unseen by so many — and yet so plainly revealed in your Bible.

The Greek word which is translated into the English as "Word" in John 1:1 is *logos* which also means *spokesman*, or one who *speaks*. To continue: "The same was in the beginning *with* God. All things were made by him; and without him was not anything made that was made" (John 1:2-3). Yes, *EVERYTHING* WAS MADE BY HIM, the *spokesman* or *logos* who became CHRIST, as we read in Colossians 1:16-17.

The Person in the God Family who later *became* Jesus Christ was the One who SAID (spoke), "Let US make man in OUR image," thus executing His awesome office as the very *EXECUTIVE* of the God Family.

Notice how clearly John's Gospel states this truth — "And the Word [*logos*] was MADE FLESH, and dwelt *among us*, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth" (John 1:14).



WHO was full of grace and truth? Verse 17 says, "... grace and truth came by *Jesus Christ*."

Further light is shed on this commonly misunderstood subject in the wonderful book of Hebrews. Paul tells us, "God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, hath in these last days spoken unto us by *his Son*, whom he hath appointed *Heir* of all things, by whom also he made the worlds" (Heb. 1:1, 2).

It becomes self-evident, then, that Jesus Christ is the very CREATOR. And yet millions do not know, nor even faintly comprehend this amazing truth.

### God Made Flesh

Paul called Jesus Christ "God our Saviour" (Titus 1:3). And so — in the person of Jesus Christ, our very CREATOR became our Saviour. Christ is at once our Maker, and a member of the Godhead. Therefore, His life which He gave for us is of *far greater value* than the sum total of every living, breathing human being.

To pay the PENALTY for your sins and mine, which penalty is *death* — death for *all eternity* — unless it is pardoned and washed away (Rom. 6:23), it was necessary that Christ be *divine* — that His life be worth more than all our *human* lives put together! When Christ took our sins He paid the penalty we have incurred — *not* eternal life in hellfire, but the cessation of life — DEATH. "Christ *died* for our sins according to the scriptures" (I Cor. 15:3). Jesus was MADE FLESH (John 1:14) and became a human being for this very purpose, that He might be put to death for all mankind!

And yet, if Christ were ONLY human, His death could have paid the death penalty incurred by only *one other human*. The penalty for every individual's sin had to be paid. Remember, the penalty of sin is DEATH and God cannot die! Therefore, the penalty is HUMAN life — and God of Himself could not have paid such a penalty. It was absolutely necessary, then, that Christ be BOTH *human and divine*.

Remember, the Bible never says there is only ONE member in the God Family, but rather expresses a PLURAL-

ITY of persons — more than one. Otherwise Jesus would be a liar, for He prayed constantly to His *Father* who was in heaven.

This awe-inspiring mystery of God is grasped in its overwhelming significance only by those who will *hunger and thirst* for God's truth (Matt. 5:6). The *Logos*, the One who *spoke* and CREATED by His very WORD, "*emptied himself and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: and being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross*" (Phil. 2:7-8, margin).

The divine Being who was instrumental in CREATING all things was *changed into* human flesh. Was Jesus human? YES, He was! Your very salvation depends on this fact!

### Jesus Had HUMAN Nature

It stands conclusively proved that Jesus Christ was HUMAN, that He DIED and was absolutely DEAD during the three days and three nights He was in the grave. It was for this very reason that Jesus was God made into mortal flesh — "*for the suffering of death*" (Heb. 2:9).

But notice further: "He also himself likewise [as the children are partakers of *flesh and blood*] took part of the *same*" — took on HUMAN NATURE — became flesh and blood — "that through *death* He might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil" (Heb. 2:14).

Because He was human, Jesus constantly had to CRY OUT to His Father to keep Himself from falling! MILLIONS of people do not understand the tremendous *battle*, the life-long *struggle* Christ had with *Himself*, in overcoming His own human nature — the natural pulls of the flesh — and in living a perfect life totally without sin, the sacrifice of which would thus be available to pay for OTHERS' sins. Not realizing this, millions *do not fully understand the extent of the sacrifice their Saviour made*, and in many cases are trusting in a FALSE SAVIOUR!

"For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in ALL

POINTS tempted like as we are, yet without sin"! (Heb. 4:15.)

"Who in the days of his *flesh*, when he had offered up prayers and supplications with strong crying and tears unto him that was able to save him from death, and was heard in that he feared" (Heb. 5:7).

Your very Saviour had to CRY ALOUD TO GOD, in strong crying and TEARS, for power to overcome Himself, to withstand the temptations of SIN to finally be put to death with the record of a PERFECT life. Are you WORTHY of this tremendous sacrifice?

### Jesus Christ — The "LORD" of the Old Testament

In the King James authorized version of the Bible the word "LORD" is frequently used, and usually in small capital letters. Wherever this word appears all in capital letters, it is translated from the Hebrew word YHVH. YHVH, when more literally translated, implies "The ETERNAL," or the EVER-LIVING one.

It is commonly supposed that the God of the Old Testament — YHVH, sometimes translated "Jehovah," and in the Authorized Version "The LORD" — was always God, the FATHER of Jesus Christ. *This is a flagrant error!*

Throughout the books of the Old Testament, the LORD appeared to various individuals, dealt particularly and personally with the ancient Israelites, and talked directly (though from the darkness of a cloud or the brightness of a fire) to Moses. This Person who spoke to Adam, to Enoch, and to Moses was *the One who later became Jesus Christ!*

YHVH was the God of Israel, the only One of the Godhead known to ancient Israel. When He came in human flesh they did not recognize Him. "He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not" (John 1:10). However, neither did they know God the Father (Matt. 11:27 and Luke 10:22). "... No one knoweth... who the Father is, but the Son, and he to whom the Son *will-eth* [Greek] to REVEAL him" (Luke 10:22).

*Elohim* — the God kingdom — includes both the Father and the Son who was the *Logos* or the WORD of

God (most often the One referred to by the word YHVH), and also their Spirit emanating from them, the Holy Spirit, the life, character, and power of God. Jesus, in praying for the welfare of the Church, prayed that its many members might "be ONE, as we are" (John 17:11, 21). The church is ONE body, yet composed of many members (I Cor. 12:12). A husband and wife are ONE FLESH, yet two persons.

The word "God" has two meanings — the God kingdom or the family of God, AND the *persons* composing that kingdom or family. Christ and the Father are ONE God, not two Gods — one *Elohim*. That is why *Elohim* said, "Let us make man in OUR image" (Gen. 1:26).

YHVH was the "WORD" or Spokesman of the Godhead — its second member. As soon as God began to SPEAK to man, it was always YHVH who spoke (Gen. 2:16, 18; Exodus 20:2).

As a fragment of the evidence that the LORD of the Old Testament is the same person as the Lord of the New, compare Isaiah 8:13-14 with I Peter 2:7-8. Isaiah said, "The LORD of hosts" — YHVH — shall be "a stone of stumbling and a rock of offence." Peter said, in quoting this text in reference to Christ, He is "a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offence." Jesus is the LORD — the Eternal of the Old Testament.

Now compare Isaiah 40:3 with Matt. 3:3 and Mark 1:3. John prepared the way before YHVH (Isa. 40:3) who was CHRIST (Mark 1:14-15).

In Revelation 1:17 we read (I am going to use the *Revised Standard Version* from here on), "When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. But he laid his right hand upon me, saying, 'Fear not, I am the first and the last.'" And in verse 8, "'I am the Alpha and the Omega,' says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty." Again Revelation 22:13, "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end." Study also Revelation 22:16 for proof it was Jesus speaking. Jesus Christ calls Himself the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End, the First and the Last. Now compare these texts with Isaiah 44:6: "Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel and his

Redeemer, the LORD of hosts: 'I am the first and I am the last; besides me there is no God.'"

Now turn to Isaiah 48:11-12. "For my own sake, I do it, for how should my name be profaned? 'My glory I will not give to another. Hearken to me, O Jacob, and Israel, whom I called! I am He, I am the first, and I am the last.'" Verses 17-18 show it was YHVH speaking. And also in Isaiah 41:4, "Who has performed and done this, calling the generations from the beginning? I, the LORD, the first, and with the last; I am He."

All of these scriptures show that YHVH is the first and last. Christ is clearly the YHVH of the Old Testament!

### Who Is Our Redeemer?

The person of the Godhead who is our REDEEMER is Jesus Christ. John 4:42 contains this: "They said to the woman, 'It is no longer because of your words that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that *this is indeed the SAVIOUR* of the world.'" "But our commonwealth is in heaven, and from it we await a *Saviour*, the Lord Jesus Christ" (Phil. 3:20). Read also Titus 2:10-14, Luke 1:68-69.

For further proof that Jesus the Saviour is YHVH, see Isaiah 49:7 and Isaiah 60:16, where He — YHVH — is the Redeemer and Saviour and *also* "the Mighty One of Jacob" — (to be OF Jacob means a son, or descendant of Jacob) — the Mighty One of all Jacob's children. In Isaiah 48:17, YHVH is also called the Redeemer and the Holy One of Israel — the One of Israel who is holy! The same is expressed in Isaiah 43:14, "Thus says the Lord, your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel..." Also note verse 15 where YHVH is Israel's King. Now notice in Acts 3:14-15 that the Christ who was denied was the same "HOLY ONE" — YHVH! "But ye denied the Holy One and Righteous One... the Prince [or Author, margin] of life." See also Acts 2:27 and Mark 1:24.

### Christ Was David's "Shepherd"

Who was David's *shepherd*? The LORD — YHVH (Ps. 23:1).

In John 10:11, Jesus said *He* was the Shepherd. Open your Bible also to Hebrews 13:20: "Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great *shepherd* of the sheep..." Compare this text with I Peter 2:24-25, which says, "For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the *Shepherd* and *Guardian* of your souls." We also read, "Tend the flock of God that is your charge, not by constraint but willingly, not for shameful gain but eagerly, not as domineering over those in your charge but being examples to the flock. And when the chief *Shepherd* is manifested you will obtain the unfading crown of glory" (I Peter 5:2-4).

The great Shepherd who is coming to RULE as King over all kings is YHVH. "And you are my flock, the sheep of my pasture, and I am your God, says the Lord [YHVH] God" — Christ! (See Ezekiel 34:11, 30-31.)

It is JESUS CHRIST who is coming again in person as KING of kings to rule, and to restore. In Revelation 19:13 "He is clad in a robe dipped in blood, and the name by which he is called is The Word of God." "From his mouth issues a sharp sword with which to smite the nations, and he will rule them with a rod of iron; he will tread the wine press of the fury of the wrath of God the Almighty" (verse 15). And again in Revelation 17:14 we read, "They will make war on the *Lamb*, and the Lamb [Christ] will conquer them, for he is Lord of lords and King of kings, and those with him are called and chosen and faithful."

Now notice Isaiah 2:2 and Micah 4:3. "It shall come to pass... that the mountain [Kingdom] of the house of the Lord [YHVH] shall be established as the highest of the mountains [kingdoms]" — ruling the world. "And he [YHVH — Christ] shall judge between many peoples, and shall decide for strong nations afar off," and then they shall have lasting peace.

In almost every Old Testament passage, the LORD YHVH — the Eternal — is Jesus Christ. Clearly, Jesus our Saviour is the God of the Old Testament. □

# Did Christ or the Apostles Use the Name YAHWEH?

**In this most revealing article, the Chairman of the Department of Theology at our Pasadena campus presents proof positive — by the example of Jesus and the apostles — that the USE and PRONUNCIATION of the Hebrew name YHWH is unimportant and unnecessary today.**

by Ernest L. Martin

**I**T IS supposed in some circles that *Yabweh* — or perhaps *Yabvab* — should be the principal name by which we address God. While it will be admitted on all hands that God is jealous over His name (especially its significance), one might wonder if that “jealousy” extends to the exclusive use and pronunciation of *YHWH*.

For all of us who wish to live as God’s children, we have a divine arbiter who can settle all such matters for us — our Savior. If we can determine that Jesus Christ constantly (or even occasionally) used and pronounced the name *YHWH*, then perhaps there is some justification for our using it today.

But what if Christ *NEVER* pronounced the name? What if He avoided its use altogether? It then becomes a different matter.

The truth is, it can be proved absolutely that Christ *NEVER* used the name *Yabweh* even when He spoke Hebrew or Aramaic to the people of Palestine!

## **He Would Have Been Called a Blasphemer!**

Christ preached to the Jews of Jerusalem, Judaea and Galilee in the period of the Second Temple. He taught publicly for over three years. Thousands upon thousands of Jewish people heard Him. If Christ had used the divine name *YHWH* in the midst of that Jewish community, He would have been accused of utter blasphemy and judged worthy of excommunication from the society!

Why?

Because *NO ONE* was permitted to pronounce the divine name in the time of Christ. This can be proved beyond the shadow of a doubt.

Why was there such fear of pronouncing the name *YHWH* among Jews in the time of Christ? It seems ludicrous, even bordering superstition — and perhaps there is some truth in that assessment — but the Jews did have a major reason why they never uttered the divine name. There was actually a biblical command which, *as the Jews interpreted it*, clearly forbade them to express the divine name precisely.

## **Why Jews Avoided the Tetragrammaton**

The whole matter seems absurd. Yet, was it? Actually, there are two verses in the Old Testament which can be interpreted as a prohibition against phonetically expressing the name of *YHWH*. These scriptures are Leviticus 24:11, 16. They say in our Authorized Version the following: “And the Israelitish woman’s son *BLASPHEMED* the name of the LORD [*YHWH*]. . . . And he that *BLASPHEMETH* the name of the LORD [*YHWH*] he shall surely be put to death.”

I have capitalized and italicized the words “blasphemed” and “blasphemeth” because in Hebrew these two words come from the Hebrew verb *nachav*. The word *nachav* is clearly susceptible of more than one meaning.

As *Davidson’s Lexicon* shows, the verb can signify “to bore” or “to per-

forate.” The Authorized Version does on occasion translate *nachav* as “pierce” (II Kings 18:21), or “bored” (II Kings 12:9), or “strike through” (Hab. 3:14). By extension it can mean “to pierce” (as in speech) or to give “cutting remarks.” This is tantamount to “cursing” or to “blaspheming.” It is also used this way a few times in the Bible. But another meaning, and one which is commonly used in the Old Testament, is “to declare distinctly” (Davidson). It means “to express precisely,” “to say clearly,” or “to name with precision.” It is used this way in I Chronicles 12:31; 16:41; II Chronicles 28:15; 31:19; Ezra 8:20; Numbers 1:17; Isaiah 62:2 and Amos 6:1. There is no question about it. The word *nachav* can mean, as one of its prime meanings, “to pronounce or express distinctly.”

It thus becomes clear that the word *nachav* might mean either “to blaspheme” or “to pronounce distinctly.” And this is just where the trouble comes.

The Jews about the time of Nehemiah began to wonder just how *nachav* in Leviticus 24:11, 16 was to be interpreted. While the traditional (and certainly the correct) way was to say it meant “to blaspheme,” it could just as well mean “to pronounce distinctly.” This is a fact which no one can argue with. Now, taking the latter meaning as the correct rendering of *nachav*, Leviticus 24:11 would read: “And the Israelitish woman’s son *pronounced distinctly* the name of *YHWH*, and cursed.” Verse 16 could be: “And he



Photos: Nathan, Ambassador College; P. Gross; Courtesy: Views of the Biblical World

that *pronounceth distinctly* the name of YHWH, he shall surely be put to death.”

Looking at *nachav* in this fashion, the Jews soon decided they were on far safer ground not even to express or pronounce the divine tetragrammaton. Soon after the time of Nehemiah they began “to play it safe” in regard to the name of YHWH. They came to believe that Leviticus 24:11, 16 commanded one NOT to *pronounce* the name because it was so holy — which is the motive why some people today feel they MUST *pronounce* it, because it is so holy! *Neither*, of course, is correct!

### The Use of Yahweh and History of its Prohibition

From the time of Moses to the period of Jeremiah, the name YHWH was used freely without any fear of pronouncing it. *The Lachish Letters* written in the time of Jeremiah use the term YHWH indiscriminately and show that it was commonly used even in everyday parlance. Immediately after the Babylonian Captivity, we find Ezra the priest preaching before the people in Jerusalem using the name YHWH

Flavius Josephus (left), first century Jewish priest-turned-historian and contemporary witness that it was not considered lawful in the time of Christ and the apostles to pronounce the name YHWH. Above is a Samaritan scroll of the Torah (the books of Moses). The Samaritans had their own pronunciation of the letters YHWH which Moses wrote. Lachish Letter VI is shown at right. The Lachish letters, written in Jeremiah’s time, reveal the name YHWH was then freely used. At extreme right is shown one of the Dead Sea Scrolls written in the first century B.C. Scrolls reflect Jewish reluctance to use YHWH even in writing.

(Neh. 8:1-8). However, a change in Jewish attitude concerning its use commences about this time. With Nehemiah (during the latter part of Ezra’s life), it has been noticed by scholars that “Nehemiah almost wholly shuns its use” (Heinisch, *Theology of the Old Testament*, p. 39).

About the time of Nehemiah we meet with a movement to be careful in relation to the use of YHWH. The common people were told not to utter the name. Only the priests were privileged to retain the pronunciation of it, because it was included in certain benedictions prescribed in the Law which they were compelled to read to the people at the Temple.

The Tetragrammaton, the four-lettered Name of God, was fully pronounced only by the priests *in the Temple* when blessing the

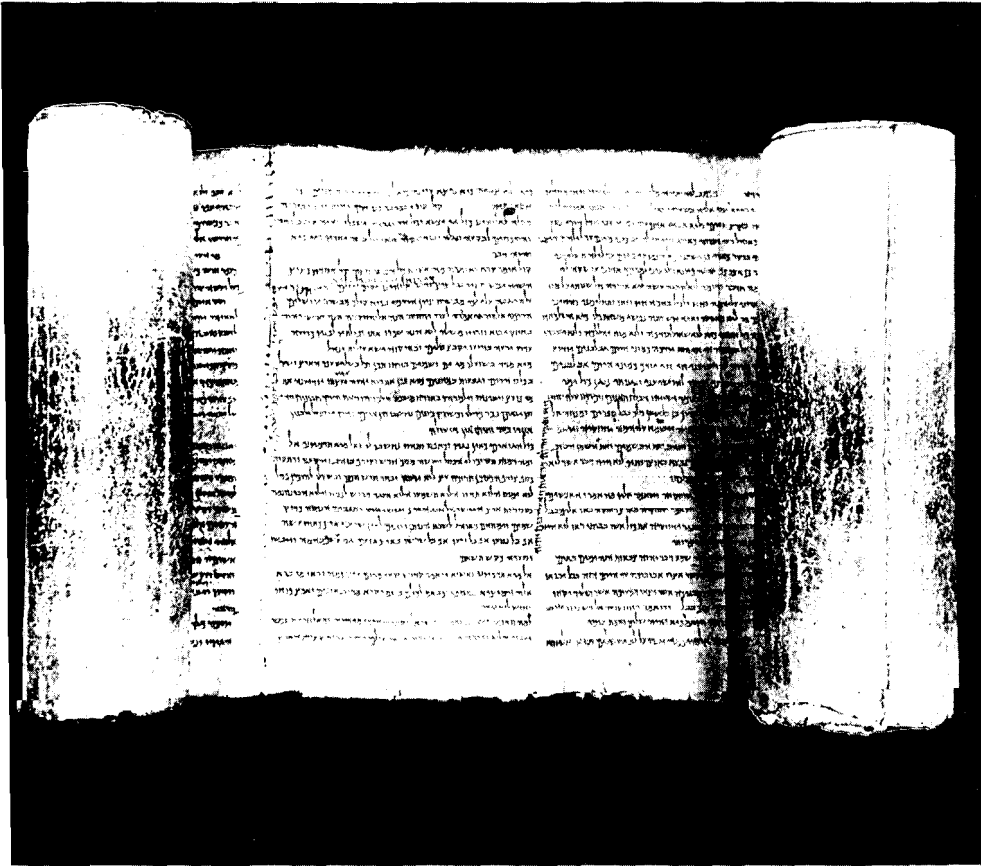
people. Everywhere else it was pronounced “Adonai.” (Note to Abodah Zarah, the *Talmud*, p. 90, Soncino.)

As time went on, the use of the name became even further restricted. Its use was finally confined to the high priest and even he might pronounce it only on the Day of Atonement.

*The Universal Jewish Encyclopedia* says:

The rabbis, however, were certain that the true name of God was the Tetragrammaton. In the period of the Second Temple YHWH was never pronounced except by the high priest on Yom Kippur [the Day of Atonement] (vol. 6, p. 7).

We are told by R. H. Charles, the translator of the *Apocrypha* and *Pseudepigrapha*, published by Oxford Uni-



versity Press, that the Day of Atonement "was the only occasion on which the Holy Name was pronounced" (*Pseudopigrapha*, p. 510).

Jewish history, as related in the *Talmud*, shows that Simon the high priest (300 to 270 B.C.) was able to utter the divine name on the Day of Atonement throughout all his pontificate. Sirach, author of the apocryphal book of Ecclesiasticus, wrote about 180 B.C. that Simon the Righteous, while giving his glorious benedictions had been "privileged to pronounce his [the Eternal's] name" (Ecclus. 50:20, *Jerusalem Bible*).

But even this allowance soon ceased.

At Simon's death, the rest of the priesthood decreed that from thenceforth no one, not even the future high priests, were permitted to pronounce the name. The later Jewish historians in the period of the *Talmud* record:

... The Ineffable Name could be pronounced *only* when there was some indication that the *Shechinah* rested on the Sanctuary. When Simon the Righteous died, with many indications that such glory was no

more enjoyed, his brethren no more dared utter the Ineffable Name" (Note to *Yoma*, 39b, the *Talmud*, p. 186, Soncino version).

This historical fact is expressed by *The Jewish Encyclopedia* as follows:

After the death of Simon the Righteous... the priests ceased to pronounce the Name [YHWH]. From that time *the pronunciation of the Name was prohibited*. "Whoever pronounces the Name forfeits his portion in the future world" (San. xi, 1). It appears that the majority of priests in the last days of the Temple [during the time of Christ and the apostles] were unworthy to pronounce the Name (vol. IX, pp. 162, 163).

There can be no doubt about it — from the death of Simon the Righteous in 270 B.C., no one, *not* even priests in the Temple, were permitted to pronounce the name of YHWH. Its utterance meant the death sentence (see *Sanhedrin*, 56a, the *Talmud*).

### Not Used From Third Century B.C.

From then on, the Jewish community interpreted Leviticus 24:11, 16 solely as a prohibition against *anyone* pronouncing the tetragrammaton — no matter who he was. As a matter of fact, in the Septuagint version of the Old Testament, translated about 280 or 270 B.C., we find the two verses in Leviticus rendered thus: "And the son of the Israelitish woman *named* THE NAME and cursed." Also, "He that *names* the name of the Lord, let him die the death." It is clear that the Septuagint translators took the word *nachav* to mean "to express" or "to name." They didn't consider the other meaning, "to blaspheme," as worthy of mention.

History shows how this prohibition found expression even in later literature. The author of *Ecclesiasticus* in the year 180 B.C. (about 100 years after Simon's death) refused to use the tetragrammaton even in the Hebrew version of his work. He decided to use, instead, *three yods* ("") as a substitute for the divine name (R. H. Charles, *Pseudopigrapha*, p. 510).

And when we come to the Dead Sea Scrolls, written from the second century B.C. to the second century A.D., we find a complete avoidance of using the tetragrammaton.

The divine name YHWH (Lord) was omitted at Qumran through the belief that this name is so awesome that one dare NOT UTTER IT (*The Meaning of the Qumran Scrolls for the Bible*, Brownlee, p. 83).

As sectarian as the Qumran people were, they avoided pronouncing the name YHWH just like all the Jews. Professor Brownlee, who helped translate the Dead Sea Scrolls, mentions that this evidence proves that the prohibition of pronouncing the tetragrammaton was not of Talmudic origin, but goes back at least to the second century B.C. when the earliest of the Dead Sea Scrolls came into existence (*ibid.*, pp. 163, 164).

A little later, in the time of Christ, a man named Onkelos translated the first five books of the Old Testament from the Hebrew into the Aramaic which was the language spoken throughout

Palestine. This man was a disciple of Gamaliel who also taught the Apostle Paul. For all we know, Paul and Onkelos may have known each other. Whatever the case, Onkelos was contemporary with the apostles (*McClintock and Strong Biblical Cyclopedia*, vol. X, p. 205).

Now, when Onkelos translated his *Targum* from the Hebrew into the Aramaic, he rendered Leviticus 24:11, 16 as follows: "And the son of the woman the daughter of Israel gave *expression* to the Name and cursed." And, "He who *expresseth* the Name of the Lord, dying shall die." To Onkelos the only meaning of *nachav* was "to express" and *not* "to blaspheme." And interestingly, *everytime* Onkelos translated the divine name he deliberately changed the pronunciation to make sure no one would utter the true sound (Etheridge, *The Targums of Onkelos and Jonathan*, vol. II, pp. 7-10).

We also have the plain testimony of Josephus (the Jewish historian who lived in the time of the apostles). When he came to the divine name, he studiously avoided commenting on it. In fact, he considered doing so *UNLAWFUL*.

Whereupon God declared to him [Moses] his holy name, which had never been discovered to men before; CONCERNING WHICH IT IS NOT LAWFUL FOR ME TO SAY ANY MORE (*Antiquities* II, xii, 4).

Thus, if Josephus (even though he was a priest) would not discuss the tetragrammaton, do we think that any ordinary layman would pronounce it?

There can be no doubt about it. In the time of Christ, NO ONE (not even the priests) dared utter the sound of the name *YHWH*. We have the further testimony of Celsus and Irenaeus, in the second century A.D., that all Jews consistently substituted another name, or another pronunciation, for *YHWH* (Heinisch, *Theology of the Old Testament*, p. 40).

Thus, the historical proof becomes complete.

### What All This Means

What does this history show? Very much. Notice it carefully. Had Christ

*ever* used the tetragrammaton in public, *even once*, He would have been reviled by *everybody* in the Jewish community. The common people would *never* have given Him a hearing. They would have considered Him impious.

The Scribes and Pharisees would have gotten rid of Him early had He ever attempted to pronounce the divine name. The Sadducees would have considered Him a clear fraud because of His disobedience to what they thought to be a biblical prohibition concerning the utterance of the name. *But*, there is not a hint that any of the laypeople in Palestine, or the priests, or the Scribes and Pharisees or even the Sadducees, or anyone else, ever accused Christ or His apostles of violating the precept that *all Jews* in the first century obeyed.

Surely, this absence of condemnation is proof positive that Christ *never* uttered the divine name even once. Had He done so, it could not have escaped their attention because all considered it blasphemous to mention that holy and august name.

Now consider a final fact which further proves the case. When the religious leaders of the Jewish community succeeded — on trumped-up charges — in condemning Jesus to death for blasphemy, certain dishonest individuals sought for and purchased the testimony of false witnesses. Even so, they could find *nothing* in which to condemn Him (Mark 14:55-60)

Had Christ ever once uttered the divine name, there would have been no need of *false* witnesses. The Sanhedrin would immediately have convicted Him of blasphemy for that reason alone, and there would have been no occasion for dispensing with the witnesses as they were finally driven to do in order to pronounce Him worthy of death for blasphemy (verses 62-64).

There is no doubt about it. Jesus Christ *never* used that name which some today, who say they desire to follow His example, think they must pronounce.

What Christ obviously did, as did all others, was to substitute the word *Adonai* ("Lord" — *Kurios* in Greek) when He spoke of the Eternal God of the Old Testament, or He used the

term "Father" when referring to the other Person of the divine family. This was a common term that even many Jews utilized as a substitute for *YHWH*.

It is instructive to observe that when Christ told His disciples how to pray, He told them to say "Our Father which art in heaven." When He prayed His last prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane, He used the term "Father" throughout His prayer.

Even though He didn't necessarily approve of the over-cautious scruples of the Jewish community concerning the pronunciation of the name, nevertheless, He didn't abuse their sensitiveness. He probably considered the matter unimportant in general, because He worshipped His Father in spirit, and in truth — not in syllables! (John 4:24.)

### Should We Use the Divine Name?

Those who wish to use the name *Yahweh* have, if anything, the Bible and history *against* expressing the name. After all, an interpretation of *nachav* in Leviticus 24 can truly mean *not* "to pronounce" the name of *YHWH* even if we knew today exactly how it should sound. Surely the prohibition against using the name has far stronger warrant from the Bible than the supposition that *it MUST at all costs be used*. Yet, it must make little difference to God.

### Is "Yahweh" the Correct Pronunciation?

One question does need to be asked: Is *Yahweh* really the right pronunciation?

The Jews after the time of Simon the Righteous (270 B.C.) lost all knowledge of exactly which vowel sounds were to be used. They admitted they didn't know. Then where have scholars gotten their modern interpretation of the tetragrammaton as *Yahweh*? If many sincere people who insist on pronouncing it in that fashion really knew what fountain it came from, one wonders if they would persist in their teaching.

(Continued on page 31)

# ANSWERS TO YOUR QUESTIONS ABOUT THE FOREIGN WORK

**Q.** I heard recently that a new Feast of Tabernacles site was established in Colombo, Ceylon. Would you please tell us more about it?

**A.** During Mr. Armstrong's visit to Ceylon last August, several of the members requested that if possible, the Feast of Tabernacles might be held in their country. As a result, Mr. Richard Frankel and Mr. Chris Carpenter were sent to conduct the last half of the Feast. Twenty-nine people were in attendance on the Last Great Day. Then from Ceylon, Mr. Frankel began this year's Indian baptizing tour.

**Q.** Is it true that the Feast of Tabernacles was held in Argentina this year? If so, had those people been keeping the Feast before?

**A.** Seventy overjoyed brethren kept God's Fall Festival in Argentina this year for the *first time*. Mr. Robert Flores opened the observance. Dr. Charles V. Dorothy, director of the Spanish Work, was present to lead the second half.

By holding it "the first time" we mean that these people — apparently from those "few names in Sardis which have not defiled their garments" (Rev. 3:4) — kept *all eight days* for the first time as distinct from their former practice of keeping the two high days only. Also for the first time these people (64 Argentinians, 4 Uruguayans and 2 Americans) kept the Feast as baptized and prospective members of the "Worldwide Church of God."

Excitement ran high as the brethren met all together for their first fall feast, their first visit from Headquarters, and their first "fun shows" with the full liberty to sing and dance. Can you imagine the first-time joy of people

who have wanted to sing and dance for years, but who felt God would not be pleased? Their joy was heightened by the beautiful springtime setting (because Argentina is in the Southern hemisphere) on the Atlantic coast at Necochea.

**Q.** Is our Work reaching at all inside Communist China?

**A.** Yes! In August the Sydney office received two letters from inside Communist China. One letter was from a Zambian student studying mechanical engineering in Peking. He wrote:

While I was back in my home country, I used to enjoy your wonderful magazine. I hoped to find a source here where I could get it but I have failed so far. That's why I'm requesting you to send me monthly copies of the magazine including past copies for 1972 if it is possible. I am really missing your free magazine because everytime I read it, I enlarge my scope of thinking.

— Student, North China  
University of Communication,  
Peking,  
People's Republic of China

**Q.** I read with great interest the article about our members behind the Iron Curtain in the August GOOD NEWS. I was wondering how the Feast of Tabernacles went for those brethren.

**A.** This year the brethren in East Germany had a very unusual experience. We quote here from a letter from Mr. John Karison referring to the Feast behind the Iron Curtain.

I spent the first Holy Day with the East German brethren in East Berlin, as has been the case over the past three years, in order to help them get the Feast off to a right start. This year, however, the start of the Feast was somewhat unorthodox, to say the

least, as the meeting was interrupted by Communist officials.

The brethren were keeping the Feast in an international camping and resort area, where they had rented small cottages for the duration of the Feast. I flew to West Berlin from Düsseldorf that Friday morning, checked into my hotel in West Berlin, and then went through Check Point Charley into East Berlin. I was at the Feast site by *early afternoon*, and had time to take care of personal counselings before the Sabbath began. That evening we all had dinner together and then I returned to West Berlin.

Saturday morning I was back at the Feast site early, and all 16 of us sat together in one cabin where I was able to give them news of the Work. Shortly after 11:00 o'clock, as I was just getting into a Bible study on the meaning of the Feast, there came a knock on the door. Two men were standing there and asked for Herr Pistorius (our oldest member in terms of the number of years baptized, and the one who at one time was the secretary of the Communist Party in his region). Herr Pistorius went out with them for a minute and then one of the men entered the cabin, walked over into the corner of the room and picked up a folder containing Mr. Pistorius' daughter's Correspondence Course notes, looked around at us briefly and then left the cabin. Both men then took Herr Pistorius away with them. He was gone for about a half hour, during which time we all prayed. When he came back, he was alone as the two men had left. He proceeded to tell us what had happened and it became evident that God had directly intervened to enable us to continue keeping the Feast there.

The two men knew everything about us. They knew we were keeping the Feast of Tabernacles. They knew the names of everyone present. They knew I was there and they thought Mr. Schnee was with me. They said that they had been watching us for years. They also knew that we had met together on other occasions in East Berlin. They said that what we were doing in meeting together in one room was illegal. When they tried to connect us with Jehovah's Witnesses, which have been banned in East Germany, Mr. Pistorius explained that we in no way were to be connected with Jehovah's Witnesses since JW's were anti-government, and since JW's proselyte and we didn't. The men seemed satisfied.

After awhile one of the men began looking at the CC notes he had taken from the cabin. He was about to confiscate them when Mr. Pistorius became a little righteously indignant. He told the men, "You can't just come here, when we have done nothing.

(Continued on back cover)

# CALGARY!



**OVERFLOW CROWD** — Garner Ted Armstrong makes a point as he speaks to an overflow crowd at Jubilee Auditorium in Calgary, Alberta, Canada.

***The prayers of thousands who have labored faithfully have begun to be answered. Much fruit is being brought forth by new efforts to reach this world with God's truth, as related in this on-the-spot report from Calgary!***

by Dean R. Wilson

Photography by  
Don Lorton and Mike Hendrickson

Calgary, Alberta, Canada

**S**EVERAL months ago Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong expressed his feeling that the Work of God is beginning all over again, utilizing the same triple thrust — radio (and now TV), the printed page and personal evangelism — that originally built the work of the Church of God in the “Philadelphia” era. Only this time, of course, the Work is beginning hundreds of times more powerfully, building on an already established body of tens of thousands of members.

For those of us who were privileged to be in Calgary from Friday August 25 through Sunday August 27, as the third aspect of this three-pronged effort (personal evangelism) was reactivated, it was a rare thrill and an unparalleled opportunity to personally experience

exactly *what* and *how* Mr. Armstrong felt.

The feeling and emotion of that experience are almost impossible to put on paper. Many hundreds and thousands of us have labored faithfully for years in tithes, offerings and supplications before God to bring forth fruit in the efforts of God's Work in preparing this world for the coming of Jesus Christ and a better world tomorrow.

But to actually see the attention of thousands held for over an hour before God's representative who carried that message, and to see hundreds line up for counsel, is something that only personal experience can give you. The emotion and almost inexplicable feeling of appreciation and gratitude toward God for answering so many



thousands of prayers welled up within me.

Yes, *Calgary was a tremendous success!*

### The Dynamic Messages

The format of the campaign was somewhat similar to, and yet different from, our "America Listen" campaigns of two years ago. Each night at 8:00 p.m., the curtain opened to a medley-type overture of marches and pop standards played by our band, which lasted about five minutes. Next, Mr. Joe Bauer, our M.C., walked onto the stage to welcome the audience, after which he introduced the chorale and band which performed an inspiring musical number such as "Bridge Over Troubled Water."

After this he returned to the stage to introduce Garner Ted Armstrong to the expectant audience. Mr. Ted Armstrong then came out and gave an informal talk of about five minutes duration. At the end of this talk he introduced Dan Truhitte who sang a beautiful rendition of "I Believe."

Following the song the curtain closed and Mr. Ted Armstrong walked to the speaker's stand where he began his talk, which usually lasted a little over an hour.

His last message was especially *bold and dynamic!* He challenged the audience to read their Bibles and not to be biblical illiterates. He showed how world conditions tied in with the Gospel of Jesus Christ — the Kingdom of God. He explained the reason for the return of Christ.

In the three meetings Mr. Armstrong covered such subjects as: Why Does God Allow War? Why Did God Let Tommy Die? This is Not God's World — but Satan's.

He said the Bible does not teach the trinity, the immortality of the soul, Christmas, going to heaven, an ever-burning hell, or give us the picture of Jesus Christ that is portrayed by either the establishment or by the rock opera "Jesus Christ Superstar."

He explained that there is a real devil and that the Passover should be kept, challenging the people to read the history of the Quartodeciman controversy.

He explained that the Kingdom of

God is a literal world-ruling empire to be set up by Jesus Christ at His second coming. He emphasized over and over that it did not matter whether people believed Jesus was going to return — he was simply telling them that the Bible says it will happen — that the Bible is true — that it does not depend on men to make its prophecies come to pass. He explained that he was merely preaching the gospel as a *witness* to the world, whether or not the world believes it. Again the audience was challenged to "read the book."

The vital messages of Mr. Armstrong gripped the attention of thousands during the three hour-long sermons. Many observers noted that Mr. Armstrong has never been more effective as a speaker. The audience was enthusiastically "with" him. At one powerful point in the last night's sermon, one person shouted "Amen!" It was impossible not to agree wholeheartedly with her.

### Overflow Crowds

Jubilee Auditorium seats 2850, but the building was jam-packed every night. On the first night over 200 people could not find seats. The same thing happened on Saturday night. On the last night hundreds were unable to even park their cars in the parking lot and had to return home. Over one hundred were unable to stay in the building after parking their cars! Over *five hundred* remained standing, lining the lobby of the auditorium, or sat on the stairs.

Two youngsters barely ten years old were found peering in a door. When asked what they were doing, they said they wanted to see and hear Garner Ted Armstrong and assured Mr. Bauer that there were two vacant seats in the front row. They had been watching those two seats for over fifteen minutes of the program. After it was confirmed that there really were two vacant seats, two happy Calgary youngsters had the opportunity of sitting right in front of the speaker for a full hour.

Hundreds of youngsters, teenagers, adults and elderly took the opportunity after the meetings to talk to the Ambassador College students present and

to the other counselors who answered hundreds of questions. Many wanted to know how they could become a part of this worldwide effort.

### What it Means to You

Brethren, the Calgary campaign made plain the great need and value of truly dedicated, local members who have grown spiritually. Do you realize that each of us is called to help and teach others? We were not called just to sit in local Sabbath services *listening* — being served — year after year and perhaps decade after decade.

One reason you have been called is for ACTIVE SERVICE — to become ready to assist your ministers and elders — when you are called upon — in *teaching* the newer hundreds and thousands coming into contact with the Work of God!

Have you, like some members of the Ephesian era, lost your first love (Rev. 2:4)? The Apostle Paul wrote very plainly to some of them — and perhaps to some of you — of "the time when you ought to be teachers" (Heb. 5:12), no longer needing to relearn the "first principles" — no longer dominating the time and efforts of your local minister.

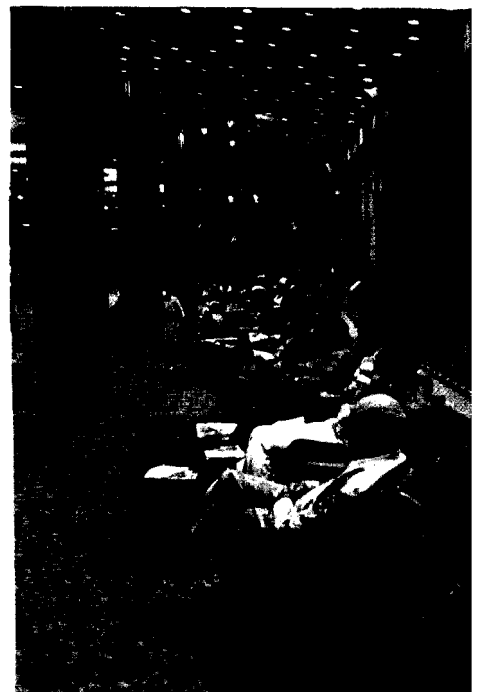
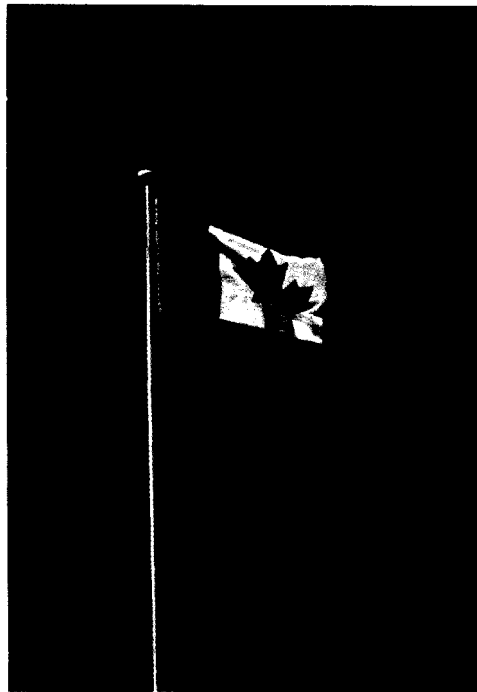
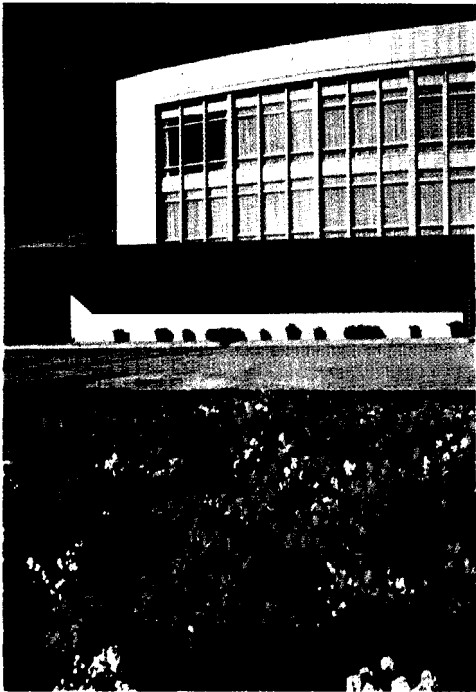
Many of you already should be prepared to be inspiring and teaching some of the hundreds, and thousands, who will be called into God's Work as the result of personal evangelism. Dozens of Ambassador undergraduates and local members of God's Church in Calgary did become teachers to these new ones at these meetings.

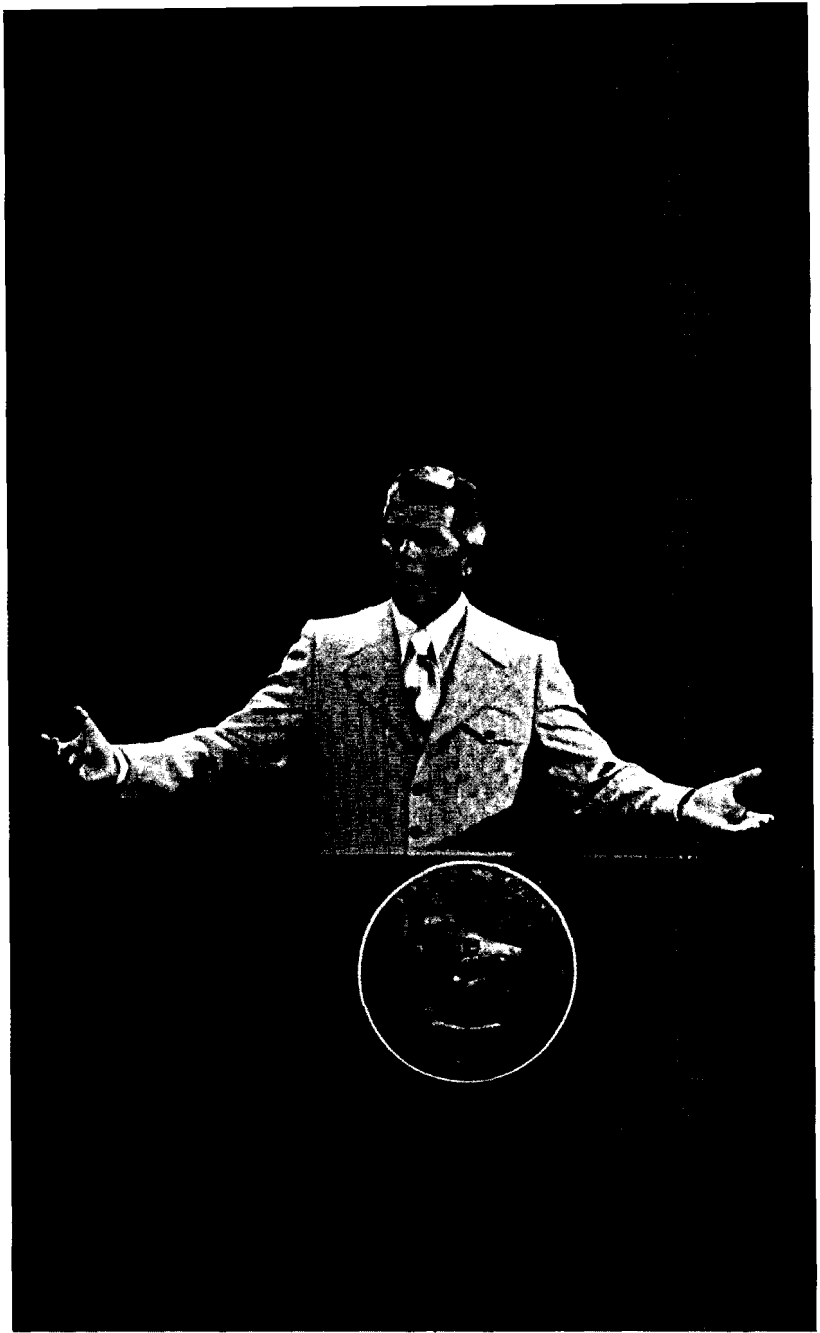
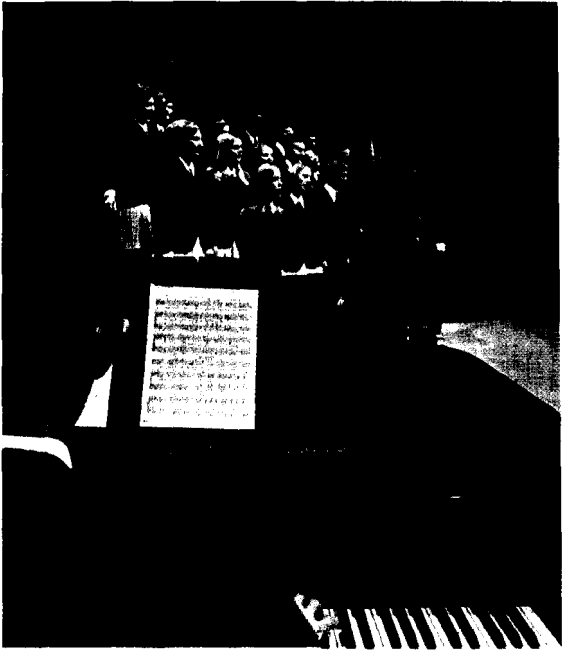
Brethren, we want to hold similar meetings and receive this tremendous response in *your* home town. We know you want it in your home town.

God stirred thousands in Calgary. But this is just the beginning. Let's all pray faithfully for the success of the future meetings planned for other cities, and ask God to *inspire*, direct and GUIDE this vital new phase of God's Work. The doors are opening. Let's get the job done with increasing power and impact! □

(Photo report on the following two pages)

# Calgary...





# What's Behind Your Credit Cards?

*Credit can be a convenience or a CURSE! What lies behind those charge accounts and neatly embossed credit cards so common today? Here are some surprising FACTS you should know.*

by Hod Pomeroy



**F**ROM ALL appearances, Harry and his family were riding high. They had a new car, a beautiful home in the suburbs — all the comforts and labor savers from color TV to power lawn mower.

Harry had a good job and plenty of credit. He could buy anything he desired on "extended payment plans" which greatly increased the family's purchasing power.

As time went on, Harry's monthly payments rose with his higher standard of living. But after all, they *had* to keep up with the neighbors! So he and his family kept spending.

As the payments continued to become steeper and harder to meet, Harry finally made some adjustments with a credit "consolidation loan" from the local finance company. He also decided to pay the more important monthly bills first, such as the house and furniture payments, leaving others to be paid late. Harry also decided to cut down on expenditures to catch up a bit. His wife agreed.

But then the *unexpected* happened!

### Disaster Strikes!

Without warning Harry's company lost an important contract. Harry was laid off. Of course, the bills kept on coming in, but could not be paid. As they continued delinquent, the creditors' collection letters grew increasingly unpleasant in urgent demands for payment.

One evening, several men came to the door to repossess the furniture on which payments were far behind. Harry was, naturally, indignant and told them to "go away." Soon after that, his car disappeared. Harry's suspicions were confirmed when the finance company answered his inquiry that "yes, it had been repossessed for non-payment of monthly installments."

The situation was getting bad now, and Harry was receiving many calls from several collection agencies to "pay up or face serious consequences."

The trouble was that he couldn't "pay up." Two months out of work, and then finally a job at much lower

wages — barely enough to make the house payments, buy food and pay the utility bills — left him helpless. The humiliation to Harry's family was perhaps worst of all.

Creditors became more and more obnoxious, pounding on his door at home, calling him at work and employing other ingenious methods of harassment. They wouldn't leave Harry alone. One day, the Personnel Department at his place of employment called him in and said his wages had just been attached by a creditor. They would take 35% of it each month until their bill was paid. Things got worse and worse.

Soon afterward, the county marshal came to the house, served some papers and repossessed the furniture.

Harry had reached bottom and he knew it. There was nothing left but shame and humiliation. In desperation, he took the final step, legal bankruptcy, and moved out of the state to try to put his fractured family life together again.

Harry's tragic situation could happen to you! Thousands of Americans go through this sad experience every year, the result of ignorance and poor planning. On the other hand, Harry's dilemma need never happen to anyone. The key to survival in our credit card society is a solid understanding of how it really works and a *firm determination never to ABUSE it!* Let's take a look at what really lies behind our credit system, how it functions and why.

### Credit Galore!

One of the biggest temptations — and pitfalls — of credit today is the incredible amount of "free purchasing power" available to the average individual in the United States especially. Everything can be charged today from vacations to gasoline. It's all made so easy. Companies and banks actually compete to lend you money in the form of revolving credit, much of it through the use of credit cards.

Credit cards are far more "flexible" than they used to be, both in payment schedules and what they can be used to purchase. Gasoline company credit cards, for example, now are often accepted at motels. The major bank cards can be used nationwide to charge al-

most anything, including airline tickets, and payments are available on the installment plan. If you are over 21 and working, with any reasonable credit record, a filled-out application form will quickly bring you the requested credit card. Many people have four or five gasoline company credit cards, each with an average credit limit of \$300 or more, plus others.

Locally, charge accounts can easily be opened in all the department stores if "your record is clear." Most offer time payment and revolving charge plans which allow the customer to buy far more than can be paid for in one month by extending the payments over several months.

Another potentially dangerous area is a relatively new credit device offered by banks to their checking account customers. Going by various names, such as "Ready Reserve," "Check Credit" and "Balance Plus," it is a bank overdraft arrangement whereby the customer can overdraw his checking account up to a set line of credit simply by writing a check. When the loan is created, it is paid down in "convenient small payments" monthly, usually 5% of the balance at 18% annual interest. It works like a revolving charge account, but is far more subtle.

The payments are usually automatically deducted from the person's checking account, so it is quite easy to lose track of how much debt has been run up — especially if one does not balance his checkbook regularly.

Such credit can be very dangerous because it is so easy to use and ABUSE — just *write* a check! This is simply another way to get deeper into debt, especially when other revolving charge accounts are being used.

Regardless of the type of credit, it's all potential DYNAMITE if abused, as Harry so sadly learned! In effect, it is a *mortgage on your future paycheck* which can slowly build up to huge amounts.

### Why So Easily Available?

Why are banks and other commercial organizations today more than happy to make this abundant credit available? Why do they, in fact, especially encourage the time payment and revolving charge plans?

High interest rates are one big reason. The average rate on most revolving charge accounts, including the bank cards, department store and many oil company credit cards is 1½% monthly or 18% annually! These rates are charged on balances not paid within 30 days.

The revolving charge account so popular today allows the customer to buy on credit up to a set limit, usually from \$300 to \$1,000. He needs only to make monthly payments of 5% of the account balance, and this is what many people do, paying 18% annual interest on the rest. To the lender, this type of credit is very lucrative business.

These interest rates are low, however, compared to what finance companies charge. Because they will take higher risk loans, grant more liberal credit terms, extend payments, etc., their interest rates run about 26%!

Another important reason credit is so easily obtained today is the vast reservoir of confidential information now available about almost everyone. Banks and credit bureaus maintain extensive credit reference files about individuals' past payment performance which they make available to their business customers for a fee. This data is stored in millions of credit files and computer data banks ready for almost instant retrieval by countless credit investigators routinely checking applications for new charge accounts and other credit. With such background information on each applicant, the bank or department store can choose only the "good risks" rather than "flying blind."

This whole area of credit investigation is not normally seen by the person seeking credit. Most people are not even aware they are being "checked out."

Finally, many powerful remedies are provided for non-payment which also encourage the liberal granting of credit. This is the most sobering area of all, and should be a vital warning to everyone using credit. The law is on the creditor's side! Harry didn't know this until it was too late. Here are some facts he should have known:

### What Can Happen

1. **Repossession** People are usually asked to sign a contract when they pur-

chase an automobile, furniture or other expensive items on credit. Should they not make their payments, the creditor can then legally repossess the item under contract, no matter how many payments were previously made.

The defaulted contract is usually given to a collection agency whose hard-boiled professional repossessors go into action. The person's car will simply *disappear!* Where merchandise is in the individual's home, if the reposessor is refused entrance, the papers are given to the county sheriff or marshal, who comes and takes the items — by *force*, if necessary.

New laws are now pending in the courts which will require the reposessor to get a court order to repossess, but the process will still be the same. Repossession can be a humiliating and traumatic affair, unpleasant in every aspect. And everyone is the loser!

2. **Judgment to Collect Debts** The creditor has tremendous latitude and power to collect his debts on most open-end credit agreements. It usually goes like this: when the customer doesn't pay, repeated collection letters are sent out, growing increasingly threatening in tone.

Usually the creditor will first try to work out an arrangement with the debtor, even agreeing to accept very small payments over a long period of time. But if no agreement is reached — and rather soon — the company will likely farm out the debt to a collection agency, usually for a 50% commission. The creditor takes a big loss but hopes, at least, to recover half the debt rather than lose everything.

Then, if payment is still not received after repeated and continual harassment, the creditor or agency representing him goes to court and obtains a judgment against the debtor.

If the amount is \$500 or less in the United States (this varies from state to state), the creditor can go to Small Claims Court. No lawyer is needed here, and a judgment can be obtained quickly and speedily from the court. Only a small fee is charged for serving the debtor with a notice of the court date set to hear the claim which, ordinarily, the sheriff's office does. At that

time, the debtor can come and plead his case. Usually, however, those served never show up and judgment against them is granted easily.

This is an important point. Anyone receiving such a notice should *always* appear, because in that case the judge will often give the benefit of the doubt to the debtor and refuse to issue a judgment. If one doesn't show up, it is an automatic admission of the debt.

For amounts over \$500, the creditor must go to Superior Court and be represented by a lawyer. This costs at least \$200-400, and these court expenses are of course added to the judgment (if granted) to be paid by the debtor.

With a legal judgment in hand, creditors have great power to collect their claims with all the legal enforcement of the state behind them. For example, they can attach the debtor's bank accounts and salary, even take his *home* for payment of the debt.

Collection agencies are notoriously ruthless and hard-boiled. Leniency is often ignored. Often all that interests them is getting their 50% of the cash as quickly as possible.

Bank accounts and wages are always the first thing they hit. One method used to determine where the debtor banks is to check through his garbage. Bank envelopes and other useful information found there leads to the order for the sheriff to attach the proper bank account. Zap! The poor debtor never knew what hit him.

The county marshal brings the legal papers to the debtors' bank, and his account is attached immediately. If there is any money in it, the creditor gets what is owed or the attachment stays on until the debt is paid.

The same process applies to attachment of the debtor's wages, usually up to 35%, if he is working. Creditors act quickly in these two areas because usually "they want to get there first" before other creditors do — like a school of sharks!

Homes and other real property are taken by a process called a "sheriff's sale." Under this legal procedure, the debtor's house is auctioned off publicly by the county sheriff, after due process of law. The law in most states allows the debtor to live in his home after this

sale for one year. During this time, he can pay off the debt owed and thus keep his home. Because of this legal provision, there is generally only one bidder at such a sheriff's sale — the creditor, who bids the exact amount of the debt owed.

But if the debtor does not pay by the time the year is over, the house is no longer his and the sheriff "moves the family out" and the creditor gets the house. Such homes are often heavily mortgaged; however, there is usually enough equity so the creditor gets something if the debtor decides to "just walk away." In any case, it is a credit tragedy. The amount of human misery involved in this entire affair can scarcely be measured!

3. **Skip Tracing** Once a person seriously abuses his credit and the collection machinery is set in motion, a literal nightmare begins. The family no longer has any privacy; the harassment is continuous. If they try to "skip town," another process goes into effect.

There are experts — called skip tracers — working for collection agencies who do nothing but track down debtors who have suddenly disappeared without leaving a forwarding address. They use various ingenious methods of finding the "skip's" new address, such as calling relatives, former neighbors, checking public records, etc. Their techniques for sleuthing often rival the C.I.A.

The State Department of Motor Vehicles, County Recorder's Office and the Social Security Administration are all very cooperative to creditors or their agents. But in addition, skip tracers live by their wits. A tracer will often call relatives of the debtor (stated on the credit application form) and represent himself as being from some governmental agency "looking for Harry," or use various other clever schemes to extract the desired information. Often, the skip tracers do far better than police departments in tracking down their man!

The point is that running away is *no answer!* The runaway will almost always be discovered and then the whole collection nightmare starts again.

4. **Bankruptcy** One collection expert I interviewed estimated that, in

Los Angeles county alone, approximately 2000 people each month finally choose to declare bankruptcy. Each case is an individual sad story and a gigantic admission of failure! Each person has hit bottom with his own tragic story to tell. Bankruptcy is not a pleasant process to go through. It is utterly humiliating, especially if a family is involved.

In legal bankruptcy, the individual's property, if any, is sold and the proceeds disbursed to the creditors by the court according to certain set laws of procedure. There is little left but disgrace and a stigma that can remain for many years.

### What You Should Do

When one has a problem, the worst thing to do is ignore it or try to run away. The thing to do is face the situation squarely.

If you are in financial hot water, go to your creditors, talk to them and work out some arrangement with each. Most people are too afraid or embarrassed to try this, but most creditors will bend over backward to work things out as long as they have any hope of recovering their debts. Almost anything is better than resigning 50% of the amount to a collection agency, or maybe not being able to collect anything even then. It is therefore in the creditors' best interests to cooperate.

Wise counsel is also available to the person in financial trouble. Many banks, local lawyer associations and civic groups offer *free* services to advise individuals with financial or credit problems and often will use their influence with creditors to work out a viable solution. For information on local help, look in the yellow pages under your state and call the Attorney General, District Attorney's Office, Public Defender's Office or Sheriff's Office. These agencies can usually direct you to such counselors in your area.

These counselors will also assist a family in setting up a budget and offer other helpful advice. This is how Harry could have straightened out his sad state of affairs, but instead he was too ashamed and uninformed. He tried to ignore the situation, wishing it might go away.

But problems never go away *by them-*

*selves.* They just get worse! If we face them and fight to resolve them, however, a Christian will also have GOD to help him. And this is the real answer if you have already fallen in debt and are facing financial disaster. (Don't forget that you can go to your local pastor for counsel, too.)

### Avoiding the Pitfalls in the First Place

The old saying, "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure" is wise advice that applies perfectly to everyone desiring to avoid the potential credit disasters we have just discussed. Although it is "never too late" to begin to straighten things out, so very much grief and heartache could be spared with a little *prevention*. The key is to have knowledge of just how serious it is to abuse your credit and then take steps to see that this never happens to you. Here are some guidelines to follow:

1. Get in the habit of using cash more often.

2. Before saying "charge it," make sure your budget can stand it. Remember that all debt incurred is a *mortgage on your future paycheck!*

3. Be especially cautious of revolving charge accounts and buying on time! Not only are interest rates extremely high, but this type of credit buying is the most subtle trap of all; subtle because the payments remain relatively small while the actual amounts owed grow each month as more is purchased. When a number of these accounts are being used at the same time, the individual concerned is courting real trouble. Any sudden financial setback can bring disaster!

In our "paper" society, credit can be a convenience if handled wisely. But, like fire, it can be a good friend or a *very* dangerous master. Understanding the system helps, but balance and moderation are the keys to credit usage. Remember that one of the fruits of God's Spirit is *self-control*.

If you cannot exercise discipline when using credit, pay cash; you're far better off. Remember, if you abuse your credit, you may ruin your life. Is it worth it? □

## UNKNOWN GOD

(Continued from page 13)

This is absolutely untrue! Any Greek scholar would tell you that the two words have *no* relation to each other. *Zeus* is a native Greek word while *Jesus* is a Hellenized Semitic form. Any resemblance is purely accidental and mainly to the eye, in English.

The name "Jesus" is actually derived from *YHWH*! It is the Greek transliteration of the Hebrew *Yeshua* (English, *Jeshua* — see II Chron. 31:15 and dozens of other places in the Old Testament), a shortened form of *Yehoshua* meaning "Yah is Savior." For grammatical reasons the Greeks ended it with an "s," which is less of a change than the shortening from *Jehoshua* to *Joshua* or *Jeshua*.

Now let us consider the English word "God."

### "God" is NOT a Pagan Name

Just as they contend that use of *Theos* and *Kurios* was wrong and could not have been in the original inspired New Testament, some "Hebrew Name" teachers contend that it is a sin to use the English word "God." They reason that because the word "God" was used by our ancestors to refer to their idols, just as *Kurios* and *Theos* were by the Greeks, it is improper to use it to refer to the Creator. But notice what the Bible reveals about this very question in Romans 1:21:

"When they [the Gentile nations] knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, and changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and to fourfooted beasts, and creeping things." And notice verse 28, "... they did not like to retain God in their knowledge."

The nations *once knew God*, but they changed the glory of the *incorruptible God* into images — idols! *They attached the name of their Creator to their idols.*

Notice the astounding proof of this in the Old Testament!

In the inspired Hebrew of the Old Testament the Hebrew word *ELOHIM* — which means "the God Kingdom," or "the God Family" — *is used 240 times to refer to PAGAN, HEATHEN "GODS"!* In two places this word is also translated "goddess" in the Old Testament.

Again, the Hebrew word *El* is once translated "idol" and 15 times translated "god" — and refers to the heathen gods. The Hebrew word *Eloah* is five times used in the Old Testament to refer to heathen "gods." In 16 different places Ezra and Nehemiah were inspired to use the Aramaic word *Elah* to refer to the heathen "gods" of the Aramaic-speaking people!

Thus if it is a sin to use the English word "God" to refer to the Creator — merely because our pagan ancestors used it to refer to their idols — *then it is a sin to use the Hebrew words Elohim, Eloah, El, or the Aramaic Elah to refer to the Creator because these words were also used by our pagan ancestors to refer to their pagan idols in Old Testament times!*

*God inspired His prophets to use in the Old Testament Scriptures the very same Hebrew words for both pagan idols and the true Creator!* It is just as right and proper for us today to use the English word "God" when referring to the Creator!

"God" is simply the English word for the Supreme Deity. Like the Hebrew *Elohim*, it also refers to idols which men have falsely worshipped.

### What Is the Father's "Family Name"?

Now carefully read Psalm 83:18: "... that men may know that thou, whose name *alone* is *YHWH*, art the most high over all the earth." This verse does NOT say, as some assume, that the Creator has *only one name* — it plainly declares that *the Creating Family alone* of all which men worship is *YHWH* or eternal.

But did you know that the name of the Father in heaven is also a Family Name?

In Ephesians 3:14-15 we read: "For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, *of whom the whole family in heaven and*

*earth is NAMED.*" Jesus Christ is the Father's Son. Every son bears his father's last name. We bear our human father's name and we shall, like Jesus, bear our *heavenly Father's name!*

Notice John 10:36: "... Say ye of him, whom the Father hath sanctified, and sent into the world, Thou blasphemest; because I said, *I am the SON OF GOD* [Greek *Theos*]."<sup>2</sup> Jesus claimed to be "GOD'S Son." We, too, may be called GOD'S Sons (I John 3:1). The supreme, divine, all-ruling family is the GOD Family! It is the Family or Kingdom of GOD! Jesus' Gospel — His entire message — was about the Kingdom or Family of *God* and how you may be born into it! His whole message was about the DIVINE NAME — *Theos* in Greek, "GOD" in English.

Just before Jesus was crucified, He prayed that His Church would be kept "in the Father's name." Notice John 17:11-12, "And now I am no more in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to thee. Holy Father, keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me, *that they may be one, as we are.* While I was with them in the world, I kept them *in thy name.*"

What is the Father's NAME in which the New Testament Church is to be kept? The name of "God"! In 12 passages in the New Testament, the name of the Church is called "the Church of God." Paul wrote, "unto the church of *God*, which is at Corinth" (I Cor. 1:2). Paul wrote to the Gentile Thessalonian converts: "For ye, brethren, became followers of the churches of *God* which in Judea are in Christ Jesus" (I Thess. 2:14).

Either your entire New Testament is a fraud and must be rejected, or the true Church is rightly named "the Church of *God*!" "God" is the "Family Name" of the divine creative Kingdom.

The Hebrew name *YHWH* — the Greek *Kurios*, the "Eternal" or "Lord" in English (remember, *God inspired the name to be translated from Hebrew*) — is but one of God the Father's numerous given *personal* names. It is also one of the *personal* names of the Son, because both are eternal. But the whole message of Jesus Christ, the Gospel, was the message about the FAMILY



NAME — the “GOD” Family. Jesus Christ came in the name of God, His Father. He called Himself the “Son of God” numerous times — never the son of *Yahweh*.

Read John 9:35, “Dost thou believe on the Son of God?” See also Matthew 16:16-17 and especially Mark 1:1, “The beginning of the gospel of *Jesus Christ, the Son of God*!” Jesus came bearing His Father’s name — “God’s Son” — the “Son of God.”

Jesus’ whole message — which He spoke “in the name of the Lord” — or “by His authority” — was to explain that the name “God” — the Hebrew *Elohim* — is a family NAME! His Gospel, or good news, is the message that we may also bear that name, God — that we may be called the sons of God and be “born again.”

The Church today which “has not denied” the Savior’s *name* (Rev. 3:8) is not one which clings to a Hebrew sounding word, but a Church before which Jesus Christ is opening the doors of radio and the printing press to preach His Gospel, His Message, to all the world; and which is believing and making known the POWER, AUTHORITY, PERSONALITY, CHARACTER, FAME and REPUTATION of the Almighty, Everliving, Eternal *God*. God’s Church today is named the *Church of God!* □

## DID CHRIST USE YAHWEH?

(Continued from page 20)

Well, here is the truth. This pronunciation itself comes from the *Samaritans*! Because the Samaritans never had the same scruples as the Jews over the matter, they continued to say the word in their own dialect.

The pronunciation of the divine name as “*Yahweh*” RESTS UPON SAMARITAN TRADITION as given by Theodoret (fifth century A.D.), also upon evidence given by Clement of Alexandria (Heinisch, *Theology of the Old Testament*, p. 39).

That’s right! Even the modern pronunciation which scholars think *may* closely resemble the ancient sound is

clearly of Samaritan origin — *not* Jewish!

In the theological journal *Oudtestamentische Studien*, vol. 5, pp. 1-29, published by Brill Press, Leiden, Holland, is an excellent article by Professor Eerdmans entitled “The Name Jahu.” One could hardly do any better than quote from his extensive study on the pronunciation of the tetragrammaton.

Theodoret said that the Samaritans used the name Jabai (‘*יאבאי*). In the treatise *Quaestiones in Exodus* he wrote this name Jabe (‘*יאבֵּ*). [The “J” had a “y” sound and the “β” something close to our “v”.] These passages have induced scholars to insert the vowels of the *Samaritan Jabe* into the original Hebrew consonants, pronouncing *Yahweh*. But this is a mere guess. It is inconsistent with other passages in Theodoret and lacks historical probability (page 2).

Professor Eerdmans continued his article by showing why it is *not* safe to follow the Samaritan pronunciation:

Ezra . . . introduced a new alphabet, the “square script,” to be used for the sacred literature. The refused Samaritans [their brand of religion was repudiated by Ezra] responded by making another alphabet for their own text of the *Thora*. They built their own temple on Gerizim and had their own priesthood. They thwarted the Jews whenever they could. The Sanhedrin of Jerusalem signalled the time of the great feasts by means of fires in the hills. Since the Samaritans lighted fires at inappropriate times in order to disarrange the Jewish calendar the Sanhedrin had to use messengers. On account of their attitude we may safely assume that the Samaritans had their own [different] pronunciation of the holy name. For this reason the Samaritan pronunciation should *not* have been regarded [by modern scholars] as evidence for the Jewish pronunciation. . . .

Consulting other passages in the works of Theodoret we learn that the name of God used by the Jews was *Jao*, ‘*יאו*’ (page 3).

Another Jewish use of the name, as recorded by Theodoret, was *Aia* (‘*איה*’), but he said that this *Aia* “was not pronounced in Hebrew” (page 4).

As a result of the above information, Professor Eerdmans continues,

We learn from these passages that Theodoret knew the Samaritan pronunciation was *different from the Hebrew*.

The evidence from other ancient authors is not in favour of the *new-made term Yahweh*, however generally it may be used in textbooks and sermons (pp. 4, 5).

The professor then gives a list of ancient authorities, going all the way back to the time of Christ, who purport to give a pronunciation of the tetragrammaton. Diodorus Siculus said it was *JAO*. Irenaeus also said *JAO*. Origen wrote *JAOU*, Epiphanius, *JAO*. Porphyry said *JEUO*, while Jerome wrote *JAHIO* (pp. 5, 6). All these foregoing “Js” were pronounced somewhat like our English “Y”.

Professor Eerdmans’ research shows that the *modern* pronunciation which the scholars borrowed from the Samaritans is probably *not* correct. Since the Jews officially determined to forego the true pronunciation after the death of Simon the Righteous (270 B.C.), is it really proper to go to the Greeks and Samaritans for the supposed pronunciation?

The truth of the matter is, the pronunciation of the tetragrammaton should be of little consequence to us. It is abundantly evident that Christ (and the apostles) *never* uttered it. Instead, He commanded and set us the example to use primarily “Father.”

In this New Testament, Gospel age, we now have access directly to the Father — the Most High God (Gen. 14:18; Luke 1:32, 35; 8:28). It is *His* — the Father’s — “name” (His character and power) which Christ emphasized. And it is His Fatherhood to all who have become His begotten children that is all-important to our divine Creator. □

## Plain Truth About the "Sacred Name"

(Continued from page 6)

people *what they are!* Names are used to convey MEANING.

They may not realize it themselves, but to these "Hebrew Names" people the names are like having the "secret password." And if *one* has the Hebrew sound of the name, that lets him through to the Father (see the box, "Is There Magic in the Name?"). But with God — and in THE BIBLE — no magic password, no superstition is involved.

God's name has MEANING, and must convey that *meaning*, which is the Eternal, the Self-Existent One, the Ever-Living, the Creator — the One IN AUTHORITY! In the case of the Father and the Son, the NAME CONVEYS THE AUTHORITY of the Person so named, not merely a certain (or uncertain) sound. And even their sound is suspect — for NO ONE, say the authorities, can be certain of the correct pronunciation or sound of YHWH.

### Meaning of the Word "Name"

The word "name" in the Bible signifies more than its mere pronunciation or sound. Moulton and Milligan in their *Greek Lexicon* show that a major use of the word *onoma* (name) in the New Testament "denotes the *character, fame, authority* of the person indicated." In secular Greek literature use of the word "name" compares remarkably well with New Testament usage "as a title of *dignity* or *rank*." The Lexicon gives several references to this well-known usage. One of them is Hebrews 1:4, where Paul says: "Being made so much better than the angels, as he hath by inheritance obtained a *more excellent name* than they."

James Moffatt, the translator, says in his commentary on Hebrews 1:4 that the word name "carries the general sense of 'rank' or 'dignity'" (*International Critical Commentary*, p. 8).

This one verse, out of many in the New Testament, shows "name" means *rank, dignity or authority*. Moulton and Milligan also show how secular Greek authors used "name" consistently to signify "authority." For example, a man told his deputy to "carry out

everything *in my name* during my absence." This shows the deputy had power of attorney to use the *authority* of his master. And even we today mean the same thing in common speech. "Stop, *in the name* of the law" doesn't mean to pay attention to the "phonetic sound" of the word "law," but it means "Stop, *by the authority* of the law."

The lexicon gives other New Testament references showing "name" means "authority." Notable among them is Philippians 2:9, 10. Another example is our closing in prayer; "in Jesus' Name" means "by Jesus' authority." Kittel's *Theological Dictionary of the New Testament* gives many more references.

### Bible PROOFS

Now notice additional Bible PROOFS.

In the pivotal Olivet prophecy, Jesus said: "... Take heed that no man deceive you. For many shall come in *my name*, saying I am the Christ, and shall deceive many" (Matt. 24:4-5). They were not to come in their own name, saying THEY were Christ. They were to come claiming to have His authority, to be HIS REPRESENTATIVES His ministers. They were to claim to be the ministers of Jesus Christ, saying that JESUS is the Christ — yet DECEIVING THE MANY.

Jesus did not say that a scattered, divided, fragmented FEW would come in the name of *Yahshua*, saying *Yahshua* is the Christ, and deceiving a FEW. (I don't think the Hebrew name people will say that he was speaking of them.) But WHO were the MANY who have deceived the MANY — actually forming the largest religion on earth, deceiving the millions? What name did they come in? They came in the name of CHRIST. They called themselves Christians. They call their religion CHRISTIANITY. They have DECEIVED THE WORLD (Rev. 17 and 18).

IF His name is ONLY YHWH or *Yahshua*, then Jesus made a mistake in this saying! The name they came in, He said, is HIS NAME.

Take another BIBLE proof.

On the day of Pentecost, after Jesus' resurrection and ascension to heaven,

the Holy Spirit had come from heaven, and filled the disciples. This tremendous miracle amazed people — multitudes of Jews from "every nation under heaven." And when the disciples through the Holy Spirit spoke in tongues, they were confounded, and said, "How hear we every man in our own tongue, wherein we were born? . . . we do hear them speak in our tongues the wonderful works of God" (Acts 2:5-11).

All these, from "every nation under heaven" — each ONE — heard THEM (the disciples) speak of the wonderful works of GOD in HIS OWN LANGUAGE! They heard of the works of GOD — *not* in the Hebrew language, but each in HIS OWN NATIVE LANGUAGE.

Here again, the HOLY SPIRIT, speaking in and through the disciples, spoke of GOD in the various *many different languages!*

And yet the Hebrew names people think we SIN if we do as the Holy Spirit did!

There are many other PROOFS. Other articles in this issue will discuss them in depth.

### New Testament INSPIRED in GREEK

One vital proof, alone, however, is absolutely DECISIVE!

That is the FACT that the original writing of the New Testament was inspired through the Holy Spirit IN THE GREEK language — and in that language the Holy Spirit did NOT use the Hebrew YHWH or *Yahshua*, but GREEK words for the names of the Father and the Son.

Now I have asked one of our research staff, himself a Greek, to give me a brief treatise on the language in which the New Testament was inspired. He would be the first to add that one second-century (Catholic) writer, Papias, put forth a theory that "Matthew compiled the reports in the Hebrew language." We know of his statement through a quotation by Eusebius (also Catholic). It, however, offers no proof that Matthew did not write the INSPIRED text in GREEK, as virtually all scholars agree. Further, NO COPIES EXIST of any inspired Hebrew original text by Matthew.

It is true that certain old fragments of manuscripts of the Greek Septuagint (LXX) translation of the Old Testament do have the tetragrammaton (YHWH) in either the Paleo-Hebrew or the Aramaic script. But this was not the normal usage. Most copies even of the Septuagint used the Greek *Kurios*, and it is definitely true that *no New Testament manuscript has the YHWH*.

Following is the evidence for the language of the original writings of the New Testament:

New Testament writers quoted frequently both from the Hebrew Bible and from the Greek Septuagint, but the vast majority of the quotations are from the Septuagint, because most Jews as well as the Greeks used the Greek language and did not read Hebrew. Consider: If the New Testament had been written in Hebrew, there would have been no need to quote from the Greek version. Yet — and let's be specific — MATTHEW, the one author most usually cited as possibly writing in Hebrew or Aramaic, when quoting from Psalm 8:2 (Matt. 21:16) where the Septuagint and the Hebrew texts differ, uses the Septuagint, NOT the Hebrew. Such cases can be cited by the score. See, for examples, Isaiah 40:3 and Matthew 3:3 where Matthew again follows the Septuagint rather than the Hebrew; also Matthew 13:14 and Isaiah 6:9-10.

In the second century A.D., scores of writings were composed about the New Testament accounts. Only slightly later such men as Tatian, Papias, Tertullian, Irenaeus and many others not only refer to and quote from, but describe the original writings. Yet neither the second century nor later has provided us with so much as a single quote from other than a Greek text.

If the original had really been written in Hebrew, one would expect that at least some copies would still be floating around at such an early time — only a few years after the completion of the writings of the Apostle John. Their total absence must be taken either as an indication that the “conspirators” against the postulated Hebrew original worked very fast indeed, and very thoroughly, or that the

proposition of a non-Greek original is, and must be, a fable of unscholarly theorists.

Certainly the translators of the New Testament into *other* foreign languages would have gone to the original version. Do we find the old Italian versions (second century) based on the supposed Hebrew or Aramaic original? We find nothing of the kind. The Muratorian canon (second century) is based on a Greek original. The Harmony of Tatian (170 A.D.) is based on a Greek original. The Old Latin (180 A.D.) is based on a Greek original. The Armenian, Palestinian, Egyptian, Gothic, Ethiopic, etc., etc., are ALL based on Greek texts, and NOT ONE of the scholars who made them ever used a *different* “original.”

Finally, it can be shown from the linguistic standpoint alone — involving the use of infinitives, genitive absolutes, etc. — that the New Testament *could not* have come from a Hebrew original. It is definitely NOT a translation of Hebrew!

### The Saviour's Name in Greek

Notice the inspired use of the name “Jesus” (English form of the Greek *Iesous*):

The first place the Saviour's name occurs in the New Testament is Matthew 1:1, where by God's inspiration through the Holy Spirit, the GREEK words are *Iesous Christos*, in English “Jesus Christ.” It is true that the Greek *Iesous* is the Greek *form* or equivalent of *Yahshua* — BUT THE HOLY SPIRIT DID NOT USE YAHSHUA, BUT INSPIRED IN THE GREEK LANGUAGE THE GREEK EQUIVALENT *IESOUS*.

The translators properly have followed the Holy Spirit's example in translating into the English language the ENGLISH *equivalent*, Jesus Christ! And I am not willing to accuse either the Spirit of God of error or sin in having INSPIRED the name in the GREEK language, or the translators in having translated the name into the ENGLISH language.

What name did the Holy Spirit inspire in the original writing of the Greek-language New Testament? The angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph, husband of Mary, and said, “And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt

call his name JESUS . . . . Then Joseph being raised from sleep did as the angel of the Lord had bidden him, and took unto him his wife: and knew her not till she had brought forth her firstborn son: and he called his name JESUS” (Matthew 1:21-25). That is the name given BY COMMAND OF GOD! The name “JESUS” is the English form of the Greek *Iesous*. This is the English translation from the Greek as inspired by the Holy Spirit. I am not willing to say, as the teaching of the “Hebrew Names” people implies, that the Holy Spirit erred or sinned, in having inspired the Greek *Iesous* instead of *Yahshua*. ARE YOU?

### The ONLY NAME!

Now what IS the ONLY NAME by which we may be saved?

Peter and John had used THIS NAME, and BY THE AUTHORITY OF THAT NAME, had performed the remarkable miracle of healing the cripple, lame from birth. They were arrested, accused, imprisoned. The authorities demanded of Peter and John, “By what power, or by *what name*, have ye done this? Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said unto them . . . that *by the name of Jesus Christ* of Nazareth, whom ye crucified, whom God raised from the dead, even by Him doth this man stand here before you whole . . . neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved” (Acts 4:7-12).

The Holy Spirit of God, inspiring the writing in the GREEK language, inspired that ONLY NAME by which we may be saved to be written in the GREEK, and not in the Hebrew. Therefore if we were speaking in the Greek language, we should understand that name to be, in the Greek, *IESOUS*. The Spirit of God *did not* inspire those words to be written in the Greek language, EXCEPT for the ONLY name, and then inspire that name in the HEBREW, as the Hebrew names people would have done. The ONLY NAME was inspired in the SAME LANGUAGE as the rest of the writing. Therefore we should understand that same name in the language in which we read our Bibles — the ENGLISH name JESUS CHRIST of Nazareth! □

## Readers Say . . .

(Continued from inside front cover)

To the entire staff of the *inspiring* and *encouraging* GOOD NEWS magazine, thank you. This magazine is a great source of comfort to all of God's people I am sure, and I for one want to express my gratitude to all who have a part in it. I thank God daily, — now I thank you also. The "Open Letters" by Mr. Tom and Alfred Carozzo were so helpful and moving I just had to write and tell you how they have opened my eyes to my own mistakes and shortcomings in the enormous job of rearing children. Thank you for sharing this personal and private part of your lives with us.

E. R., Medford,  
Oregon

I want to take a few minutes of *my* time (the least I can do since you and so many others in God's Church devote all of *your* time) to thank Mr. Fahey for his article, "Obedient Children Are Not Enough!" We in God's Church really need more instruction on how to rear our children. We can make them or break them. I have four small children and I certainly fall short in "know-how" when it comes to getting all their feelings and thoughts into the open, and in directing them in God's truth. There are so many little things that children think about that would never cross our minds. There are so many times when I for one would like to discard the responsibility of explaining some question, or a reason why this or that should or should not be done. But who else can do it and would they do it right? The open letters to parents and young people fit right in with Mr. Fahey's article. Thanks also to both Mr. Carozzos.

F. D., Grand Prairie,  
Texas

Thanks for the September-October GOOD NEWS. The article "Spiritual Heroin" is about one of the strongest "strong-meat" articles I have ever read yet. It's an eye-opener and shockingly true. After reading it I am now taking my own life in consideration. I know I have been guilty of this myself, but didn't realize how it strikes or works.

R. G., Carmi,  
Illinois

We would like you to know how much we enjoy *The GOOD NEWS*. Each one seems to have articles which we like best of all — that is, until the next issue comes, bringing us more of the same. We thank you very much for adding to our reading pleasure. The articles in the August issue, "Which Old Testament Laws Are in Force Today?" and "What Was Really Nailed to the Cross," were especially helpful to us as we have been studying about these subjects.

J. C., Portland,  
Oregon

My thanks to Dr. Hoeh for his article in the August GOOD NEWS in which he explained so clearly the distinctions among Old Testament laws — which ones are everlasting, eternal laws, and which were estab-

lished only as taskmasters for disobedient Israel. No doubt it cleared up many questions for new students of the Bible, and it also made more lucid those points which have been forgotten or never really understood by some of us older members. Truly an excellent refresher and review.

M. B., Elyria,  
Ohio

We certainly need all the help we can get and *The GOOD NEWS* is always inspiring and timely. It broadens our horizons and makes us aware of the worldwide scope of God's Work. The sheep are certainly being fed well this year. Please thank Mr. Wilson and Mr. Wiedenheft for their article "Study the Bible Profitably." I have recently started rereading and marking a new Bible, and so this message has given me new purpose and direction.

R. L., Haines City,  
Florida

I am especially pleased to have read the article in *The GOOD NEWS* about profitable Bible study. I was truly in a rut, not knowing what to study, how to study, and just going about the whole thing haphazardly. Knowing that God is not the author of confusion, I've always wanted to better my approach to Bible study. Now I have the opportunity. I am also in the process of reading the Bible from cover to cover and I'm sure that Mr. David Jon Hill's article "Read the Book," will be very helpful, too.

W. P., Jacksonville,  
Florida

I greatly appreciate the inspiring articles found in the August GOOD NEWS, as well as *The PLAIN TRUTH* and all literature we receive from you. In particular I was greatly impressed with the article "Pray for Us" by John Karlson, concerning our brethren behind the Iron Curtain in East Germany. They truly need our prayers. I pray that God's Word would somehow reach them as well as others in Russia, China, Poland and other lands. Our God is able if we pray earnestly and trust in Him. My ancestors came from the territory of East Germany now under Communist control, and I shudder to think of what it would be like if I were behind the Iron Curtain. It most certainly must take a great deal of faith to remain faithful to God under those circumstances.

H. D., Chippewa Lake,  
Ohio

We want to thank Mr. Wolverton for his recent article in *The GOOD NEWS*. In talking about it to my husband we have had to chuckle, as it surely is what we have need of, and we hope it received a great deal of applause. How great is this kind of good humor, and accompanied by such hilarious cartoons. We do hope that Mr. Wolverton will be encouraged to write more of these articles accompanied by his cartoons. Life can be a very sober thing when the going is hard, so when there is a way of adding a bit of honest mirth, lessons are more effectively driven home. So please give us more of the same!

Mrs. J. N., Eugene,  
Oregon

## Foreign Work

(Continued from page 21)

ing knowingly against the State, and confiscate notes which my daughter compiled through hard work and years of Bible study." One of the men asked what the words "Lesson 28" meant, and Mr. Pistorius explained that that was from the Bible CC his daughter was taking. The men then returned the notes to Mr. Pistorius, but told him that he was to bring them all the literature he had upon his return to his home from the Feast. This would then be scrutinized by the police. In conclusion the leader of the two men told Mr. Pistorius, "Carry on as you have been and have a good vacation. Just don't have any more meetings."

We all decided to go into town for lunch as planned. At first everyone was a little shocked and stunned, but the more we thought about it the more we began to see that God was fighting our battle for us and Satan had not been able to wreck the Feast. In fact, as it turned out, the Feast in East Germany was kept precisely as planned, with the one exception that no one from West Berlin was able to go to East Berlin for the Last Great Day.

This past week we received word from Mr. Pistorius that everything went very well for the remainder of the Feast. The real trial could come now that he is home and has had to turn in his literature. I somehow have the feeling, however, that God could use this apparent turn of affairs to make possible total recognition and approval of His Work in East Germany.

The Pistorius family is also going through another trial right now as their younger son, Dietmar, also in the Church, is scheduled to be drafted by the East German Army this fall. As conscientious objectors are not recognized in East Germany, Dietmar has made an appeal to the draft board on the grounds of his wife's poor health and consequent inability to provide for and take care of the family in his absence. As of now he has received no reply to his appeal. We are praying that God will move the officials to grant him a postponement.

**Q.** Were any of our brethren affected by the quake in Managua?

**A.** The only information we've received from the area as we go to press is a brief telex from Mr. Enrique Ruiz, our representative for that area:

Concerning horrible Managua earthquake, no member there — only subscribers and two persons interested in baptism. Unable to communicate with them to help.