

## **Lesson Four**

### *The Importance of Hebrew and the True Name*

**1) The Scriptures are a collection of writings that were originally given from the very mouth and Spirit of YHWH in the Hebrew language. To best understand the Bible one must consider the Hebrew language and culture. By using Hebrew for Biblical studies, you discover a nation, identity, and the original meaning of the written word. Today, Hebrew is spoken by the Jewish people. The Jewish nation was entrusted with the kadosh lashon / holy tongue.**

Romans 3:1-2

Then what advantage does the Yehudi / Jew have? Or what is the profit of circumcision?

Much in every way! Because first of all, they were entrusted with the very words of YHWH.

**2) The revival of the Hebrew language is a prophecy come true. The restoration of the Ivrit tongue accompanies the restoration of the Israeli people to the Promised Land. In 1948, Israel became an independent nation for the first time since the Babylonian takeover in 606 BCE. Modern Hebrew was brought to life as a spoken language through the work of Eliezer Ben-Yehuda and other Zionists who believed that the reborn nation needed to speak the original language. Before this time, Hebrew was mostly only spoken for religious purposes. Today, Hebrew is a living language that is used to communicate in the Holy Land and throughout Messianic congregations.**

Deuteronomy 30:3

YHWH will turn thy captivity, and have compassion upon thee, and will return and gather thee from all the nations, whither YHWH thy Elohim hath scattered thee.

Zephaniah 3:8-9

Therefore wait for me," says YHWH, "until the day that I rise up to the prey, for my determination is to gather the nations, that I may assemble the kingdoms, to pour on them my indignation, even all my fierce anger, for all the land /eretz will be devoured with the fire of my jealousy. For then I will purify the lips of the peoples, that they may all call on the name of YHWH, to serve him shoulder to shoulder.

Ezekiel 17:11

I will even gather you from the people, and assemble you out of the countries where ye have been scattered, and I will give you the land of Israel

**3) It is important for a Bible Believer to study and be familiar with Hebrew. This is the language that is used in the synagogue and modern Israel. This is the language that was spoken by Moses, David, Paul, and Y'shua.**

Luke 4:16-20

He came to Natzeret, where he had been brought up. He entered, as was his custom, into the synagogue on the day of Shabbat, and stood up to read. The scroll of the prophet Yesha`yahu was handed to him. He

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opened the book, and found the place where it was written, "The Spirit of YHWH is on me, Because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim release to the captives, Recovering of sight to the blind, To deliver those who are crushed, And to proclaim the acceptable year of YHWH." He closed the book, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fastened on him.

Acts 15:21

For Moshe from generations of old has in every city those who preach him, being read in the synagogues every Shabbat."

Acts 26:14

When we had all fallen to the ground, I heard a voice saying to me in the Hebrew language, 'Sha'ul, Sha'ul, why are you persecuting me? It is hard for you to kick against the goads.'

**4) Hebrew is an amazing language. It resembles hieroglyphics more than it does English, in the sense that each Hebrew letter is full of meaning and symbolism. In English an "a" is an "a" and nothing more. Yet in Ivrit each letter is assigned a number and a word picture based upon ancient scripts. An Ivrit word can be better understood by examining each letter used and comparing how these correspond and relate to each other. Just as it is impossible for a practicing American lawyer to be successful without having a strong grasp of English and crucial for a first-rate physician to comprehend and internalize the hidden depths of biology and chemistry, it is imperative for a dedicated Torah scholar to have ample knowledge of Hebrew for him to succeed.**

Jeremiah 16:19-21

YHWH, my strength, and my stronghold, and my refuge in the day of affliction, to you shall the nations come from the ends of the eretz, and shall say, Our fathers have inherited nothing but lies, [even] vanity and things in which there is no profit. Shall a man make to himself gods, which yet are no gods? Therefore, behold, I will cause them to know, this once will I cause them to know my hand and my might; and they shall know that my name is Yod-Hey-Vav-Hey.

Isaiah 60:1,9-12

Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of YHWH rises upon you. Surely the islands look to me; in the lead are the ships of Tarshish, bringing your sons from afar, with their silver and gold, to the honor of YHWH your Elohim. Foreigners will rebuild your walls, and their kings will serve you. Your gates will always stand open, they will never be shut, day or night, so that men may bring you the wealth of the nations. For the nation or kingdom that will not serve you will perish; it will be utterly ruined."

**5) There is much lost in translation when the Bible is read or studied in any other language than Hebrew. For example, the Sacred Name of the Creator of the universe has been concealed and hidden in English Bibles. The terms "lord" and "god" are generic words that can not express the glory and power of the name of yod – hey – vav**

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**- hey. In fact, there is much proof that the terms “lord” and “god” have pagan roots and actually refer to false deities.**

It's important to note that "YHWH" is used almost 7,000 times throughout the Bible as the only and unique name of the Mighty One of Israel. The KJV sometimes uses the poetic form of "Jah" to reference the mighty name of YHWH. "Sing praises to his name: extol him that rideth upon the heavens by His name JAH, and rejoice before Him," Psalm 68:4. Is "JAH" some foreign god that the psalmist is worshipping? No! JAH, pronounced "yah," is just a shortened version of the name YHWH. Other Hebrew titles such as Adonai or El Shaddai are just that - they are titles that describe His attributes and actions. The English word "god" that is found in most Bibles is usually a poor translation for the Hebrew "Elohim" which according to Strong's Exhaustive Concordance means "mighty one, judge, or deity."

It is important to recognize that personal names do not translate across languages. George Bush is George Bush in any language. Names don't translate. Instead, they transliterate. What this means is that the names in the Bible are supposedly changed to retain the original pronunciation. For example, Yermi'yahu was transliterated to read "Jeremiah." Sadly, the name of YHWH was not transliterated BUT replaced. "The LORD" is not a transliteration.

**6) The Hebrew name of the savior is Y'shua and is spelled yod-hey-vav-shin-ayin. Today, this name is not used by Christianity. Instead, many Bible believers call the Savior by the false name “Jesus.” The Jewish people do not call upon YHWH. Instead titles and false names replace the true name of YHWH Y'shua. This is in violation of the 3<sup>rd</sup> commandment which says, “Do not take the name of YHWH in vain.” Surely we have taken His name in vain by not using it with honor.**

In Hebrew, the word for name is “shem.” The Strong's Exhaustive Concordance and Dictionary define “shem” as “a primitive word an appellation, AS A MARK or memorial of individuality; by implication honor, authority, character: - + base, [in-] fame[-ous], name[-d], renown, report.” This correlates with Exodus 3:15, “And Elohim said moreover to Moses, Thus shalt thou say to the children of Israel, YHWH Elohim of your fathers, the Elohim of Abraham, the Elohim of Isaac, and the Elohim of Jacob, hath sent me to you: this [is] my name for ever, and this [is] my memorial to all generations.”

Proverbs 30:4

Who hath established all the ends of the earth? what is his name, and what is his son's name, if thou canst tell?

Luke 11:52

Woe to you, the experts in the Torah (Scriptures), for you took away the key of knowledge; yourselves did not enter, and those who were entering you hindered.

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.

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**7) Many messianic believers use the terms “Adonai” and “HaShem.” Adonai means “my master.” Hashem means “the name.” These phrases are simply titles of YHWH. Much like El Elyon or El Shaddai, Adonai and Hashem are descriptive terms for YHWH. These titles are NOT to replace His name but can be used in conjunction with His true Name. When you call upon the true Hebrew name of YHWH you accept His power and can enter into greater Spiritual intimacy.**

Psalm 29:2

Give unto YHWH the glory due his name.

Psalm 35:27

Let them shout for joy, and be glad, that favour my righteous cause: yea, let them say continually, “Let YHWH be magnified!”

Psalm 54:6

I will freely sacrifice unto thee: I will praise thy name, O YHWH; for it is good.

Psalm 63:4

Thus will I bless (praise) thee while I live: I will lift up my hands in thy name.

Psalm 68:4 - Sing unto YHWH, sing praises to his name: extol him that rideth upon the heavens by his name YAH, and rejoice before him.

Psalm 86:11

Teach me thy way, YHWH; I will walk in thy truth; unite my heart to fear thy name.

Psalm 92:1

It is a good thing to give thanks unto YHWH, and to sing praises unto thy name, O most High.

Psalm 99:2-3

YHWH is great in Zion; and he is high above all the people. [3] Let them praise thy great and terrible name; for it is holy.

Proverbs 18:10

The name of YHWH is a strong tower: the righteous runneth into it, and is safe.

Isaiah 12:4

And in that day shall ye say, "Praise YHWH !" Call upon his name; declare his doings among the people; make mention that his name is exalted.

Isaiah 42:8

I am YHWH; that is my name; and my glory will I not give to another, neither my praise to graven images.

Isaiah 47:4

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As for our redeemer, YHWH of hosts [is] his name, the Holy One of Israel.

Isaiah 48:11

For how should my name be polluted? and I will not give my glory unto another.

Jeremiah 33:2

Thus saith YHWH the maker thereof, YHWH that formed it, to establish it; YHWH is his name;

**8) YHWH is His name. His name is not "god." Just ask any person on the street "Who is god?" and a variety of answers will be given. Most people will say that he is a "Supreme Being," others will argue god's name is "Brahma" or "Jehovah." Most people though, view god from the background and teaching of their religious affiliation. God is the source of worship for those involved in Wicca and the New Age. Even some people claim to be god. The Muslims and the Scientologists both call their being of worship "god."**

Evidently, god is a general term, used universally by millions to describe their receiver of adoration and devotion. The Encarta Online Encyclopedia defines God as "the center and focus of religious faith, a holy being or ultimate reality to whom worship and prayer are addressed." Notice here that it does not specify one belief system over another, rather it just states that "most religions" worship god. Do all religions worship the same god?

It makes no difference whether or not the "g" in god is capitalized because capital letters are not expressed when speaking and most languages do not use capitalized letters. When a person replies, "god bless you" after a sneeze, there is simply no way to distinguish which "god" is doing the blessing. Also, when "sharing God" with someone the other person always views god from their past experiences and religious backgrounds. Using this general term for the Creator is lumping all beings of worship into one category. It is also a violation of Exodus 20:7, which tells us not to take the name of the LORD in vain. Surely calling him the name of a pagan deity is defaming His character and taking His name in vain.

The Encyclopedia Americana says under this topic that "god is a common Teutonic word for personal object of religious worship, formerly applicable to super-human beings of heathen myth." While further research reveals that the Druids called the sun 'Gud, Gudh, Goth, or Gott' which were later translated into English as "gawd" or "god." By using the generic term "god," a person is equating YHWH with the being of worship for every religion in the world. Yet all religions in the world do NOT worship YHWH. Islam for example worships their god. Allah is not YHWH. Bible believers and Muslims do NOT worship the same being Yet confusion comes when a person openly uses the term "god." In fact, "allah" is the Arabic word for "god." The god of Islam is not YHWH.

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The Bible says in Isaiah 65:11,12 "But as for you who forsake Yahweh and forget my holy mountain, who spread a table for Fortune and fill bowls of mixed wine for Destiny, you did evil in my sight and chose what displeases me," NIV. Here the underlined word "Destiny" is the SAME Hebrew word translated as the deity of good fortune called "god." It is clear from this verse that we are not to mix Destiny worship or "god" worship with the true worship of YHWH. Those who do, according to this verse, "displease" the Creator. Are you guilty of this?

Joshua 23:5-8

YHWH your Father Himself will drive them out of your way. He will push them out from in front of you, and you will take possession of their land, just as YHWH your Father has promised you. Therefore, be very strong to carefully obey and do all that is written in the Book of the Law *given through* Moshe, without turning aside either to the right or to the left; By not mingling with these nations that are left with you: by not pronouncing the names of their gods (elohim), nor causing anyone to administer a vow in their names. You must not serve them, and you must not bow down to them. You are to hold fast to YHWH your Father, just as you have until now.

John 17:6

I have manifested Your Name to the men whom You gave Me out of the world; they were Yours and You gave them to Me, and they have kept Your word.

John 17:11-12

Holy Father, keep them in Your Name, the Name which You have given Me, that they may be one even as We are. While I was with them, I was keeping them in Your Name which You have given Me

John 17:26

And I have made Your Name known to them, and will make it known, so that the love with which You loved Me may be in them, and I in them.

### **9) While many Bibles and dictionaries do not use the True Name of YHWH, these documents to teach it's history and importance. Review the comments as follows:**

*The Encyclopedia Britanica*, Volume 23, page 867, confirms the fact that the proper, original Name Yahweh was replaced with common substitutes:

YAHWEH, the proper name of the God of Israel; it is composed of four consonants (YHWH) in Hebrew and is therefore called the tetragrammaton...The name Yahweh later ceased to be used by the Jews for two somewhat contradictory reasons. As Judaism began to become a universal religion, the proper name Yahweh tended to be replaced by the common noun Elohim, meaning "God," which could apply to foreign deities and therefore could be used to demonstrate the universal sovereignty of Israel's God over all others. At the same time, the divine name was increasingly regarded as too sacred to be uttered, for fear of profanation, and in the synagogue ritual it was replaced by Adonai ("my Lord"), which was translated Kyrios ("Lord") in the Septuagint. The occurrence of the four sacred letters in the text of the Bible itself could not be thus replaced, but the same fear of profanation caused Masorettes (6th-8th centuries a.d.) to

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change the pronunciation by replacing the vowels (which in Hebrew are marked beneath or above the consonants if not omitted altogether) with the vowels of Adonai (or, more rarely, the vowels of Elohim).

Funk & Wagnall's Encyclopedia Corporation's *Microsoft Encarta*, 1994.

The name Jesus is derived from a Greek rendering of the Hebrew name Joshua, or in full Yehoshuah.

*The New Bible Dictionary*, 2nd Edition, 1986, pg. 584.

The name Jesus is not strictly a title for the person who bore it. It is however a name with a meaning, being a Greek form of *Joshua*, i.e. 'Yahweh is salvation'. The NT writers were well aware of this meaning (Mt. 1:21).

*Webster's Seventh New Collegiate Dictionary*, 1971, pg. 456.

Jesus / noun [Late Latin, from Greek *Iesous*, from Hebrew *Yeshua*]

*Matthew A Commentary*, by Fredrick Dale Bruner, Vol. 1, The Christ Book, pg. 25.

The Greek name Iesous is the Hellenizing of the Hebrew "Yeshua" (familiar to us as "Joshua") a shortening of "Ye-ho-shuah," and means "Yah(weh) is the one who saves."

*New Explorers Study Bible for Kids*, pg. 1226.

The name Jesus comes from the Old Testament name Yeshua or Joshua. In the New Testament the name was written in the Greek language. Both of these spellings have the same meaning. They mean "the Lord is Salvation."

W. E. Vine, *Vine's Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words*, vol. 2, pg. 274.

Jesus - *Iesous* is a transliteration of the Hebrew "Joshua," meaning 'Jehovah is salvation,' i.e., 'is the Saviour,' a common name among the Jews.

A. T. Robertson, *Word Pictures in the New Testament*, vol. 1, pg. 10.

"Jesus is the same as Joshua, a contraction of Jehoshuah (Nu. 13:16; 1 Ch. 7:27), signifying in Hebrew, 'Jehovah is helper,' or 'Help of Jehovah'" (Broadus). So Jesus is the Greek form of Joshua (He. 4:8).

Adam Clarke, *Clarke Commentary*, vol. 3, pg. 39.

Mt. 1:21. JESUS] the same as Joshua.

Also vol. 3, pg. 393-394. "Through the ignorance and carelessness of transcribers innumerable mistakes have been made in ancient names. These also have suffered very greatly in their transfusion from one language to another, till at last the original name is almost totally lost. Examples might be multiplied without end; a very few will suffice: Yehoshua (according to the Masoretic punctuation) of the Hebrew Bible, is changed into Joshua and Jesus; Yeshayahoo into Isaiah and Esaias; Eliyahoo into Elijah and Elias. Besides, neither the Greeks nor Romans could pronounce either the Hebrew or Persian names; and when engaged in the task of transcribing, they did it according to their own manner of pronunciation. It is notorious that all the Greek and Latin historians have committed innumerable blunders of this kind, in their accounts of foreign nations. St. Jerome loudly complains of the ridicule which those Christians, who were accustomed only to a Greek or Latin mode of pronunciation, endured continually from the Jews, because they could not pronounce the Hebrew proper names, particularly the gutturals."

Clarke concludes by stating, "From these examples, the reader will see the indubitable evidence of corruption in many proper names, and the great probability of it in others."

*New American Standard Version*, 1901. Preface to the *New American Standard Bible*, 1963, pg. vi.

It is inconceivable to think of spiritual matters without a proper designation for the Supreme Deity. Thus the most common name for deity is God, a translation of the original Elohim. There is yet another name which is particularly assigned to God as His special or proper name, that is, the four letters YHWH. See Exodus 3 and Isaiah 42:8. This name has not been pronounced by the Jews because of reverence for the great sacredness of the divine name. Therefore, it was consistently pronounced and translated LORD.

It is known that for many years YHWH has been transliterated as Yahweh. No complete certainty attaches to this pronunciation.

However, it is felt by many who are in touch with the laity of our churches that this name conveys no religious or spiritual overtones. It

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(this name) is strange, uncommon, and without sufficient religious and devotional background. No amount of scholarly debate can overcome this deficiency. Hence, it was decided to avoid the use of this name in the translation proper.

*Revised Standard Version*, 1946, Preface, pg. v.

While it is almost if not quite certain that the Name was originally pronounced "Yahweh," this pronunciation was not indicated when the Masoretes added vowel signs to the consonantal Hebrew text. To the four consonants YHWH of the Name, which had come to be regarded as too sacred to be pronounced, they attached vowel signs indicating that in its place should be read the Hebrew word *Adonai* meaning "Lord."

The form "Jehovah" is of late medieval origin; it is a combination of the consonants of the Divine Name and the vowels attached to it by the Masoretes but belonging to an entirely different word. The sound of Y is represented by J and the sound of W by V, as in Latin. For two reasons the Committee has returned to the more familiar usage of the King James Version: (1) the word "Jehovah" does not accurately represent any form of the Name ever used in Hebrew; and (2) the use of any proper name for the one and only God, as though there were other gods from whom He had to be distinguished, was discontinued in Judaism before the Christian era and is entirely inappropriate for the universal faith of the Christian Church.

*New International Version*, 1973, Preface, pg. ix.

In regard to the divine name YHWH, commonly referred to as the Tetragrammaton, the translators adopted the device used in most English versions of rendering that name as "LORD" in capital letters to distinguish it from *Adonai*, another Hebrew word rendered "Lord," for which small letters are used.

*New King James Version*, 1982, Preface, pg. iv & v.

In the discipline of translating biblical and other ancient languages, a standard method of transliteration, that is, the English spelling of untranslated words, such as names of persons and places, has never been commonly adopted. In keeping with the design of the present work, the King James spelling of untranslated words is retained.

The covenant name of God was usually translated from the Hebrew as "LORD" in the King James Old Testament. This tradition is maintained.

*The Jerusalem Bible*, 1966, Editor's Foreword, pg. vi.

It is in the Psalms especially that the use of the divine name Yahweh may seem unacceptable, though indeed the still stranger form Yah is in constant use in the acclamation Hallelu-Yah (Praise Yah!). It is not without hesitation that this accurate form has been used, and no doubt those who may care to use this translation of the Psalms can substitute the traditional 'the Lord'. On the other hand, this would be to lose much of the flavour and meaning of the originals. For example to say, 'The Lord is God' is surely a tautology (redundant), as to say 'Yahweh is God' is not.

*New English Bible*, the introduction to the Old Testament.

One variation of this convention is of special importance, inasmuch as it affects the divine name. This personal proper name, written with the consonants YHWH, was considered too sacred to be uttered; so the vowels for the words 'my Lord' or 'God' were added to the consonants YHWH, and the reader was warned by these vowels that he must substitute other consonants. This change having to be made so frequently (ed. note: 6,823 times), the Rabbis did not consider it necessary to put the consonants of the new reading in the margin. In course of time, the true pronunciation of the divine name, probably Yahweh, passed into oblivion, and YHWH was read with the intruded vowels, the vowels of an entirely different word, namely, 'my Lord', or 'God'. In late medieval times this mispronunciation became current as Jehova, and it was taken over as Jehovah by the Reformers in Protestant Bibles. The present translators have retained this incorrect but customary form in the text of passages where the name is explained with a note on its pronunciation (e.g. Exodus 3:15) and in four place-names of which it forms a constituent element; elsewhere they have followed ancient translators in substituting 'LORD' or 'GOD', printed as here in capital letters, for the Hebrew Name.



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8) What specifically did you learn from this lesson?

9) Read and consider the points found in section 9 about the Hebrew names and the changing of the Savior's true name. Use at least 2 quotes from the documented sources to write an article explaining the true name of our Messiah. Discuss how using His name restores the Messiah to His correct context and provides a glimpse into the Messiah's true nature.

**Lesson Four**  
***The Letter Dalet***



This is the Hebrew letter “dalet.” It was once a picture of a door.



This letter has the “d” sound as in “dad.”



This is the fourth Hebrew letter and the number “four.”



This letter resembles a door way. The Hebrew word for door is “delet.”



Some Hebrew words that begin with a dalet are:

**Da’at** - Knowledge

**Dahm** - Blood; Pronounced Dah-hm

**Dameshek** - Damascus

**Dan** - Tribe Of Dan

**Derachot** - Ways, Or Roads, Or Paths

**Derech** - Way, Or Road, Or Path

**Devar YHWH** - Word Of YHWH

**Divre HaYamim** - Chronicles

**Drash** - Allegoric Level Of Hebraic Understanding

**Davesh** – Honey

**Dahg** – Fish

**Daven** - Pray