

## **The Name of Creator (Yahweh) Replaced with Lord and God**

Today there are thousands of religions claiming to be the original or inspired by "God" and hold the truth. However ALL of those that founded these religions are oblivious to the truth. The name of the faith has been lost in obscurity, muddled and hidden behind traditions. Thousands of years of time combined with oral and written traditions have not only hid these powerful names but also hid the importance that names have in the original faith itself. The True faith and its foundation relies on understanding the importance of Names, their meaning and how it is still so vitally important today if you want to reach the almighty through Prayer.

Understanding how important names were to ancient Hebrews:

In ancient Hebrew culture, names held profound significance, serving as more than identifiers—they embodied a person’s essence, destiny, or circumstances, believed to shape their life’s path. For instance, Abraham, meaning “father of many,” was given to Abram by Yahweh to signify his role as the progenitor of nations (Genesis 17:5). Similarly, Moshe, meaning “drawn out,” reflected his rescue from the Nile and his future leadership in guiding Israel to freedom. These names were carefully chosen to convey purpose, anchoring individuals to their community and their covenantal relationship with Yahweh, whose own name carried unparalleled sacred weight.

Names in ancient Hebrew society often invoked Yahweh, forging a deep spiritual connection to the Creator. Names like Yliyah ( “my strength is Yah”) or Micha’yl ( “who is like Yahweh? and often transliterated to Michael”) embedded references to Yahweh, serving as constant reminders of His sovereignty and presence. A significant name change, such as Yaaqob ( “supplanter”) to Yisra’yl ( “he strives with Yahweh”) after wrestling with a divine being (Genesis 32:28), marked a transformative shift in identity and mission, aligning the individual with Yahweh’s purpose. The reverence for names was so profound that misusing Yahweh’s name was forbidden (Exodus 20:7), highlighting their sacred power.

The name Yahweh, revealed to Moshe (Exodus 3:14), derives from the Hebrew root hayah ( “to be”), meaning “I Am Who I Am” or “He Who Is,” signifying the Creator’s eternal, self-existent nature. This name was central to Hebrew identity, embodying Yahweh’s unique authority and covenantal relationship with His people. Its sanctity was paramount, used sparingly and with awe, as it represented the very essence of the divine. Incorporating Yahweh into personal names or invoking it in worship underscored the Hebrew belief that names carried spiritual authority, linking individuals and their destinies to the eternal presence of Yahweh, whose name was a sacred bridge between the human and the Creator.

### **Yahweh’s Name Replaced**

For those of you not familiar with the Name *Yahweh*, this was the original personal Name of the Creator found throughout both the Old and New Testaments long before modern translations. The command to “call upon the name of the Lord” was originally written “*call upon the name of Yahweh*” (Joel 2:32).

Quoting from the Ten Commandments (KJV):

*“You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain, for the Lord will not hold him guiltless who takes His name in vain.”*

The Hebrew word for *vain* is **שָׁוְיָ** (*shav'*) — Strong’s 7723 — meaning *emptiness, worthlessness, falsehood, deceit, or idolatry*. Most people think this commandment is only about saying a curse word with “God” in it. However, the original meaning is much deeper.

Here are **four primary ways** this commandment is broken:

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### **1. Using His Name Falsely (Deceit)**

Claiming “Yahweh said” when He did not, swearing falsely in His Name, or using it to back lies, manipulations, or personal agendas. This includes using His Name to give authority to false messages or movements.

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### **2. Replacing or Hiding His Name (Falsehood)**

Substituting the Name *Yahweh* with generic titles like “Lord” or “God” effectively erases the identity He gave for all generations (Exodus 3:15). Jeremiah 23:27 warns against causing people to *forget His Name* for “Baal” (which also means “lord”). This fits the biblical sense of *shav'* — making His Name empty and misleading.

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### **3. Using His Name While Living in Rebellion (Hypocrisy / Idolatry)**

Invoking or wearing His Name while living in ways that contradict His character also profanes it. This is taking His Name upon oneself in vain — claiming to belong to Him but acting against Him.

#### **How Yahweh’s Name Was Replaced**

Although there are volumes of documented historical facts that could take years to unpack, let’s look at the **100,000-foot view**.

If you’re reading this, you likely already know the **Old Testament was written in Hebrew**, and there is also **evidence that much of the New Testament was originally written in Hebrew** as well (see *Encyclopaedia Judaica*, Vol. 10, p. 10).

However, the Bible as we have it today comes from **different manuscript traditions**, known collectively as **sources**. The **oldest identifiable source**, for which only small fragments survive, is called the **“J” source**.

You might wonder why it’s called the *J* source instead of the *Y* source since the divine Name is **YHWH (Yahweh)**. The answer is **linguistic**:

In early German biblical scholarship — where the Documentary Hypothesis originated (the theory that the Torah was compiled from four ancient sources: J, E, D, and P) — the **Hebrew letter “Yod” (י)**, which begins *YHWH*, was rendered with a **“J”** in German.

In German, “J” is pronounced like the English “Y.” So **“Jahweh”** in German is

essentially “Yahweh” in English.

Because these scholars saw this source as consistently using **Yahweh’s personal Name** in the text (rather than Elohim), they labeled it **the “J” (Jahwist) source**.

Later translations and traditions further **suppressed the pronunciation of the Name** by replacing YHWH with **titles** like “LORD” (in all caps) or “God,” continuing the shift away from the original Name.

## How “LORD” Replaced the Name Yahweh — A Brief Look at the Sources

The Bible as we know it was formed through the merging of different ancient manuscript traditions. Scholars often refer to these as *sources*. While the detailed history is extensive, we can understand the core of what happened to Yahweh’s Name by looking at just three: the **J**, **E**, and **P** sources.<sup>2</sup>

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### 1. The J Source — “Yahwist” (Most Original)

**Age:** Considered the earliest identifiable source (10th–9th century BCE).

**Name:** Called “J” because early German scholars spelled Yahweh as *Jahweh* (the “J” is pronounced as “Y”).

**Characteristic:** The J source consistently uses the personal Name **Yahweh** (יהוה) — not a title.

**Key Point:** Yahweh is never referred to as an *Elohim* in this source. He is Yahweh, by name — personal, specific, and covenantal.<sup>1</sup>

**Tone:** Close, relational, direct.

**✓ Why this matters:** This is the earliest layer of the Hebrew Scriptures, and it shows that the **Name itself — not a title — was used from the beginning of creation.**

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### 2. The E Source — “Elohism” (Later)

**Age:** Roughly 9th–8th century BCE.

**Characteristic:** Instead of using the Name Yahweh, this source uses the title “**Elohim**” (a Hebrew word meaning *mighty one* or *powerful being*) to refer to Him.<sup>2</sup>

**Important:**

Elohim is a **generic title**. It can refer to Yahweh only in this later source, but it can also refer to:

Pagan gods (Exodus 20:3),<sup>3</sup>

Demons (Deuteronomy 32:17),<sup>4</sup>

Human rulers or judges (Psalm 82:6).<sup>5</sup>

The English word “God” ultimately comes from this Elohist usage, not from the original J text.

⚠ **Why this matters:** The E source replaced Yahweh’s Name with a **title** that could also describe other beings that was rooted in demon worship. This was the beginning of the shift away from the original.

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### 3. The P Source — “Priestly” (Much Later)

**Age:** 6th–5th century BCE, during or after the Babylonian exile.

**Characteristic:** Emphasized priestly order, ritual, and reverence.

**Approach to the Name:** Began avoiding pronouncing Yahweh’s Name altogether, substituting *Adonai* (“Lord” or “Master”) in worship and readings.<sup>6</sup>

⚠ **Why this matters:** This institutionalized the avoidance of using the Name, preparing the way for translators to remove it entirely.

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### How “LORD” Entered English Bibles

When the Hebrew Scriptures were translated into **Greek (Septuagint)**, the Tetragrammaton (YHWH) was replaced with “**Kyrios**” (Greek for *Lord*).<sup>7</sup>

The **Latin Vulgate** later used “*Dominus*.”

English translators followed this tradition, replacing Yahweh with “**LORD**” (in all caps) to signal where the divine Name originally stood.

Over centuries, Yahweh’s Name was erased from common reading, leaving only titles in its place.

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### Why This Matters — *Unger’s Bible Dictionary*

*Unger’s Bible Dictionary* (1966, p. 1177) clearly states:

\*“The substitution of the word ‘Lord’ for the name of Yahweh is most unfortunate, for it hides the distinctive character of the name of the true God and tends to confuse Yahweh with pagan deities.”\*<sup>8</sup>

Because *Elohim* is a broad, **generic** title that can refer to demons, pagan gods, or other beings, replacing the Name Yahweh with titles introduced **theological confusion**. What began as a personal, covenant Name was gradually blurred into something vague and shared with false gods.

#### Yahweh Is NOT a God

The Creator was never known as “God” in the original writings. The oldest source (the J or Yahwist source) uses only the personal Name **Yahweh** — never the title *Elohim* (“God”). The title “God” only appears in the later E (Elohlist) source.

In the original Hebrew, the word Elohim can refer to demons (Deuteronomy 32:17), pagan deities (Exodus 20:3), or even human rulers (Psalm 82:6). This is why the Interpreter's Dictionary of the Bible states that in its original sense, "God" (Elohim) simply meant "demon." Yahweh is not one of many gods — He is Yahweh, the self-existent Creator. Replacing His personal Name with a title that also describes demons is one of the greatest deceptions in history.

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## ✓ Summary of the Shift

**J Source** – Yahweh is identified by **Name**, not as an Elohim. (Original and specific)

**E Source** – The Name is replaced by the **title Elohim**, which can also refer to other beings. (Where the title "God" comes from)

**P Source** – Pronunciation is restricted; *Adonai* (Lord) is used instead of Yahweh.

**Later Translations** – Yahweh was replaced with "LORD," fully removing the Name from public reading.

*"This is My Name forever, and this is My memorial unto all generations."* —

**Exodus 3:15**

The replacement of Yahweh's Name was not just a translation choice — it was a **progressive deviation** from the original text, identity, and intent.

### The Word "God" Itself Comes from Baal Worship

The English word "God" is not neutral or holy. In the King James Version of Isayah 65:11 we read that the people "prepare a table for that ||troop." The center reference shows "troop" is actually **Gad**. Webster's Deluxe Unabridged Dictionary explains that "Gad" is an old euphemism for "God."

This same "host of heaven" (the troop) is what Israel was worshipping when they turned to Baal (II Kings 17:16). The title "God" (from the Hebrew Elohim) only appears in the later E source of the Scriptures. In the oldest writings (the J source), Yahweh is never called "God." The word Elohim can also refer to demons (Deuteronomy 32:17), pagan gods (Exodus 20:3), and even human judges (Psalm 82:6). This proves the title "God" itself comes directly from the very pagan worship Yahweh condemned.

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## References

1. Richard Elliott Friedman, *Who Wrote the Bible?* (New York: Harper & Row, 1987), 50–51.
2. Julius Wellhausen, *Prolegomena to the History of Israel* (Edinburgh: Adam & Charles

- Black, 1885).
3. Exodus 20:3 — *elohim* clearly used of other gods.
  4. Deuteronomy 32:17 — *elohim* referring to demons.
  5. Psalm 82:6 — *elohim* used of human rulers.
  6. Paul Joüon and T. Muraoka, *A Grammar of Biblical Hebrew* (Rome: Pontifical Biblical Institute, 2006), §16 n.1.
  7. Martin Rösel, “The Reading and Translation of the Divine Name in the Masoretic Tradition and the Greek Pentateuch,” *Journal for the Study of the Old Testament* 31, no. 4 (2007): 411–428.
  8. Merrill F. Unger, *The New Unger’s Bible Dictionary* (Chicago: Moody Press, 1966), 1177.

## **Yahweh’s Name Replaced: The Great Deception of the Whole World**

Although we have seen how Yahweh’s Name was gradually removed through the J, E, and P sources and later translations, we must understand the deeper spiritual reality: **this replacement was Satan’s deliberate plan to deceive the whole world.**

The Book of Revelation warns us plainly:

“And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, who **deceives the whole world.** She was cast out into the earth, and her angels were cast out with her.”

### **(Revelation 12:9)**

Because of this deception, almost every nation and every denomination today worships “God” and “Lord” instead of calling upon the personal Name **Yahweh** as Scripture commands (Joel 2:32; Psalm 105:1; Zephanyah 3:9).

These titles are not innocent or neutral. They are the exact names of the Canaanite deities that Yahweh repeatedly commanded His people **never** to serve.

### **Yahweh’s Clear Warnings Against These Titles – The Snare**

Yahweh knew exactly what would happen if His people used these pagan titles. He warned them repeatedly:

- Deuteronomy 12:30-31 — “Be careful not to be ensnared... You must not worship Yahweh your Father in their way.”
- Deuteronomy 8:19-20 — “If you ever forget Yahweh... by following hinder gods... you will surely perish.”
- Deuteronomy 30:17-18 — “If your heart turns away... to worship them... you will surely perish.”
- Deuteronomy 31:16-18 — Yahweh told Mosheh the people would “prostitute themselves to the gods” and break the covenant.

These are not gentle suggestions. They are life-and-death warnings. The children of Israyl ignored them, turned to Baal and “The Lord,” and the same deception has now spread to the whole world.

Before Israel entered the promised land, Yahweh gave this solemn command:

“You shall make no covenant with them, nor with their gods (elohim). ... You must not worship Yahweh your Father in their way, for every abomination to Yahweh, which He hates, they have done to their gods (elohim).”

**(Exodus 23:32-33; Deuteronomy 12:31)**

He repeated the warning many times:

“But if your heart turns away ... and you are drawn away to submit to gods (elohim), to worship them ... you will surely perish.”

**(Deuteronomy 30:17-18)**

“If you ... ever forget Yahweh your Father, by following hinder gods (elohim) to serve and worship them, I testify ... that you will surely perish.”

**(Deuteronomy 8:19-20)**

Yet the children of Israyl did exactly what Yahweh warned against:

“They provoked Yahweh to anger, because they forsook Him and worshiped **Baal; The Lord**, and the Ashtoreth.”

**(Judges 2:13)**

### **The Prophets Exposed the Plot**

Yeremyah (Jerimiah) revealed how the deception was carried out:

“How long shall this be in the heart of the prophets who prophesy lies? ... Which think to cause My people to **forget My Name** ... as their fathers have forgotten My Name for **Baal**.”

**(Jeremiah 23:26-27)**

### **“Lord” Literally Means Baal**

The Bible itself makes the connection unmistakable. In Judges 2:13 we read that the children of Israyl “forsook Him and worshiped **Baal; The Lord**, and the Ashtoreth.” Here the Scriptures explicitly call Baal “The Lord.”

This is not symbolic. Baal was the chief Canaanite deity, and his title literally meant “lord” or

“master.” In 1 Kings 22:5-7 (Hebrew interlinear), the prophets of the Northern Kingdom were calling on Adonai (“Lord”) while the Southern Kingdom still used Yahweh’s Name. This shows the replacement of Yahweh with the title “Lord” began very early — and it is the exact practice Yahweh warned would lead to destruction.

“Baal” literally means “Lord.” Just get a dictionary and look up “baal” and you will see “Lord” is one of the main definitions. Baal represents the Canaanite fertility god who challenged the worship of Yahweh in biblical narratives. In other words Baal is demonic and challenged the true pure righteous worship of Yahweh. The prophets called this replacement of Yahweh's name the work of the “lying pen of the scribes”:

“How can you say, ‘We are wise, and the law of Yahweh is with us’? But behold, the **false pen of the scribes** has made it into a lie.”

### **(Jeremiah 8:8)**

Even Hosheya recorded Yahweh’s promise to reverse this:

“And it shall be at that day ... thou shalt call Me Ishi; and shalt call Me **no more Baali**. For I will take away the names of Baalim out of her mouth.”

### **(Hosea 2:16-17)**

#### **Baalzebub – The “Lord of Heaven” = Satan**

Unger’s Bible Dictionary (p. 413) tells us that Baalzebub, the form of Baal worshiped at Ekron, means “lord of the (heavenly) habitation.” In the New Testament this same being is called Beelzebub, “the prince of the demons” (Mattithyah 12:24). Yahshua Himself said this title belongs to Satan.

When people today pray to “the Lord of Heaven,” they are unknowingly using one of Satan’s own titles. This is why the replacement of Yahweh’s Name is not just a translation issue — it is part of the great deception that has led the whole world to worship the adversary instead of the Creator.

#### **Yahshua Himself Confirmed the Deception**

When Yahshua spoke to the Samaritan woman (a “God-worshiper”), He told her the truth:

“You do not know what you worship.”

### **(Yahchanan 4:22)**

She thought she was worshiping the Creator, but she was actually calling upon Baal’s titles — exactly as the whole world still does today.

This is why the command remains unchanged: “**Call upon the Name of Yahweh**” (Joel 2:32). Any other name is part of the great deception. However, because of the replacement of the name

of Yahweh the whole world thinks Joel 2:32 is saying “call upon the name of the Lord” which has deceived billions.

## **What Authoritative Dictionaries and Scholars Actually Say**

Again this is only a brief description of how and why Yahweh's name is replaced, but many authoritative books document this fact. Respected Bible scholars and dictionaries openly admit that the titles “God” and “Lord” are **not** innocent or holy — they are ancient Canaanite/Phoenician names for pagan deities.

**Unger’s Bible Dictionary** states plainly:

“Baal (bā’āl), common Canaanite word for ‘master, lord,’ was one of the chief male deities of the Canaanite pantheon... Baal was the farm god who gave increase to family and field, flocks and herds.”

**(Unger’s Bible Dictionary, p. 413)**

Under the entry for “Lord” it adds:

“The substitution of the word ‘Lord’ for the name of Yahweh is most unfortunate, for it hides the distinctive character of the name of the true God and tends to confuse Yahweh with pagan deities.”

**(Unger’s Bible Dictionary, p. 1177)**

The **Encyclopedia Judaica** confirms the pagan origin of both titles:

“The words El, Elohim (God) and Adon, Adonai (Lord) were slowly, but surely, incorporated into the worship of the Israelites... The word ’eloha ‘God’ and its plural, ’elohim... came from Canaanite usage.”

**(Encyclopedia Judaica, Vol. 7, pp. 674–680)**

Even **Webster’s Deluxe Unabridged Dictionary** shows that the English word “God” itself traces back to the same pagan root as the troop or host of heaven that Israel was condemned for worshipping (Isayah 65:11).

These are not fringe opinions. These are the very reference books used by Bible translators and seminaries — and they all agree: “God” and “Lord” are **pagan titles that were deliberately substituted for Yahweh’s personal Name.**

## **The Replacing of Yahweh’s Name Was a Gradual Religious Movement**

Replacing Yahweh’s Name did not occur overnight. It unfolded **gradually over thousands of years** as generation after generation **moved further away** from calling upon the sacred Name. In

doing so, they **broke the very commandment**:

“You shall not take the name of Yahweh your Father in vain; for Yahweh will not hold him guiltless who takes His name in vain.”  
— *Exodus 20:7*

The Hebrew word for “vain” here is **שׁוֹׁן** (*shav*), meaning “emptiness, worthlessness, to bring to nothing.” Replacing or hiding the Name **fulfilled exactly what the commandment forbade**: bringing the Name of Yahweh to nothing.

Today, most of the world **worships Yahweh as a generic “God” or “Lord”**, rather than by His **personal Name** as commanded in Scripture (e.g., *Joel 2:32; Psalm 105:1; Zephaniah 3:9*).

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## Replacing the Name Became a Religious System

This was not merely a “translation choice” or a “cultural tradition.” It became an **institutionalized religion**, embedded into the teachings of priests, scribes, translators, and Pharisees.

They **taught the people to stop saying the Name Yahweh** using various justifications — which Scripture and history expose as **false excuses**:

### ◆ 1. “Yahweh’s Name is too holy to pronounce.”

Talmudic and Pharisaic teachings claimed the Name should only be spoken by the High Priest on the Day of Atonement in the Holy of Holies (cf. *Mishnah Sanhedrin 10:1; Yoma 3:7; Josephus, Antiquities 2.275*).

This directly contradicts Yahweh’s command to **“call upon My Name”** (e.g., *Joel 2:32; Exodus 3:15*), as well as breaking the commandment not to take or bring Yahweh’s name to Vein (nothing).

### ◆ 2. “To avoid profaning His Name.”

They claimed saying the Name aloud might lead to accidental misuse (Leviticus 24:16), so they **banned** pronouncing it altogether.

Ironically, **hiding His Name is itself profaning it**, because it removes His memorial from the mouths of His people (*Exodus 3:15*).

### ◆ 3. “Tradition of the Fathers” — elevating man’s tradition above Scripture.

By Yahshua’s time, these man-made laws had become **the official religion of the Pharisees**.

Yahshua rebuked them directly:

“Why do you also transgress the commandment of Yahweh by your tradition?” — *Matthew 15:3*

This is why Yahshua stated in John 5:43 “I come in my Father’s Name but you do not

receive me”. This is because the Pharisees and Sadducees had STOPPED using the name Yahweh. Yahshua’s argument with the Pharisees and Sadducee was not at all about keeping the law of Yahweh or not, it was about the Pharisees and Sadducee breaking the law through their traditions including replacing the name of Yahweh.

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## What the Prophets Said About This

The prophets foresaw and condemned this very practice.

### ◆ Jeremiah 23:26–27

“How long shall this be in the heart of the prophets who prophesy lies? ... Which think to cause my people to forget My Name by their dreams which they tell every man to his neighbour, as their fathers have forgotten My Name for Baal.”

Jeremiah reveals it was through **false prophets** that the people were **taught to forget Yahweh’s Name** and replace it with “Baal” (which literally means “**Lord**”).

This is not symbolic: Unger’s Bible Dictionary (p. 1177) confirms “**Baal**” is translated “**lord, master**”.

This is why calling Him merely “Lord” fulfills the enemy’s design to **blur His identity**.

### ◆ Jeremiah 8:8

“How can you say, ‘We are wise, and the law of Yahweh is with us’? But behold, the false pen of the scribes has made it into a lie.”

The “**false pen of the scribes**” refers to those who **altered the text**, replacing Yahweh’s Name with *Adonai* (Lord) and *Elohim* (God).

This process was gradual but deliberate. Scribes standardized the **Qere/Ketiv** tradition — reading “Adonai” where “YHWH” is written.

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## This Same Religion Was Active in Yahshua’s Day

By the 1st century, when Yahshua (Jesus) walked the earth, the prohibition against saying Yahweh’s Name was in full force:

The **Pharisees and Sadducees** were the religious leaders who upheld this man-made ban.

Yahshua declared:

“I have come in My Father’s Name, and you do not receive Me; if another comes in his own name, him you will receive.” — *John 5:43*

It was considered **blasphemy** to use the Name Yahweh openly — even though Yahweh had commanded it from the beginning (*Exodus 3:15; Psalm 105:1; Joel 2:32*).

Josephus (first-century Romano-Jewish historian, military leader, and scholar) confirms that the Divine Name was **not pronounced by the people** in his day:

“Then the high priest ... pronounced the Name, which those of us who are not priests are not permitted to speak.” — *Jewish War* 5.235.

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## Summary of the Progression

Period	Key Change	Reason/Excuse
Early Israel (J source)	Yahweh’s Name spoken freely	Covenant identity
First Temple Period	Priestly control begins	“Too holy to speak”
Second Temple / Pharisaic	Public use banned	“Reverence,” “avoid misuse”
Scribes & Translations	Replaced Name with “Adonai” and “Elohim”	“Tradition of the Fathers”
Septuagint → Vulgate → English Bibles	YHWH replaced with “Kyrios,” “Dominus,” “LORD”	Translational tradition
Today	“God” and “Lord” replace the personal Name Yahweh globally	Legacy of man-made religion

Now in the last days it is prophesied that the world will begin to repent and go back to calling upon Yahweh instead of Lord as Hosea the prophet declared (Hosea 2:16).

## References

*Exodus 3:15; Exodus 20:7; Joel 2:32; Jeremiah 8:8; Jeremiah 23:26–27; 1 Kings 18 (Baal worship); John 5:43; Matthew 15:3*

*Mishnah Sanhedrin 10:1; Jerusalem Talmud Yoma 3:7; Kiddushin 71a.*

Flavius Josephus, *The Jewish War* 5.235; *Antiquities* 2.275.

Martin Rösel, “The Reading and Translation of the Divine Name in the Masoretic Tradition and the Greek Pentateuch,” *JSOT* 31.4 (2007).

Merrill F. Unger, *The New Unger’s Bible Dictionary* (Chicago: Moody, 1966), p. 1177.

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George Wesley Buchanan, *The Name of God: Yahweh and Its Use in Scripture* (SBL, 1965).

The erasure of Yahweh’s Name was not an accident — it was the **direct result of religious policies** that spanned centuries. These policies were **condemned by the prophets** and **challenged by the Messiah Himself**.

*“This is My Name forever, and this is My memorial unto all generations.” — Exodus 3:15*

*“Give thanks unto Yahweh, call upon His name; make known His deeds among the people.” — 1 Chronicles 16:8 (also 16:26)*

*And in that day shall you say, Praise Yahweh, call upon His name, declare His doings among the people, make mention that His name is exalted. —Isaiah 12:4*

To honor Yahweh, we must reject the **tradition that hides His Name** and return to the **command to call upon it**.

Yahweh Commands Us to Call Upon His Name

Yahweh does not leave this as an option. He repeatedly commands His people to use His personal Name:

- Joel 2:32 — “Whosoever shall **call on the name of Yahweh** shall be delivered.”
- Zephanyah 3:9 — “That they may all **call upon the name of Yahweh**, to serve Him with one consent.”
- Psalm 105:1 — “Give thanks unto Yahweh; **call upon His name.**”
- Isaiah 12:4 — “**Call upon His name**, declare His doings among the people.”
- Psalm 116:13, 17 — “I will **call upon the name of Yahweh.**”
- Exodus 3:15 — “**This is My Name forever**, and this is My memorial unto all generations.”

These are not suggestions. They are direct commands from Yahweh Himself.

## **The Name Jehovah and Where It Came From**

We have learned that the name Yahweh was replaced by Lord and God. However, few understand where the name Jehovah came from, and many people still believe Jehovah was the Creator’s real name. This is a misunderstanding that came from the very same replacement process we have been studying.

The original Hebrew Scriptures write the Creator’s name with four letters: YHWH. Scholars call these letters the Tetragrammaton. For centuries the true pronunciation was Yahweh. This is the name the prophets used and the name the earliest writings recorded.

By the third century B.C.E., Jewish teachers stopped saying Yahweh out loud. They believed the name was too holy to speak. So when they read the four letters YHWH in the Scriptures, they said “Adonai” (which simply means “my Lord”) instead. This custom became so common that later copies of the Scriptures reminded readers to say Adonai by adding the vowel sounds from

Adonai onto the consonants of YHWH.

In the early Middle Ages, Jewish scholars called the Masoretes added these little vowel marks to the Hebrew text so people would read it correctly. They took the vowels a-o-a from Adonai and placed them under the letters Y-H-W-H. The result looked like “YeHoWaH.” This was never meant to be a real name. It was only a reminder: “When you see these letters, say Adonai.”

Hundreds of years later, Christian scholars in Europe were studying the old Hebrew manuscripts for the first time. They saw the strange form “YeHoWaH” and did not understand what the Masoretes had done. They thought this hybrid spelling was the actual name. Because they read Hebrew through Latin pronunciation rules, they said it as “Jehovah.”

The Encyclopedia Judaica, Volume 7, page 680, explains it clearly: the true pronunciation of YHWH was always Yahweh, and this was never lost. The form “Jehovah” is simply a mix-up that happened when people combined the consonants of Yahweh with the vowels of Adonai. Unger’s Bible Dictionary says the same thing: “The substitution of the word ‘Lord’ for the name of Yahweh is most unfortunate,” and the later hybrid “Jehovah” only added to the confusion.

Even today, when modern Bible scholars examine the oldest manuscript fragments, they can see the same pattern. The scribes had already replaced Yahweh with titles like Adonai and Elohim long before the vowels were added. The scholars who first printed Bibles in the 1500s and 1600s did not realize this. They saw “YeHoWaH” written in the text and thought it was the real name, so they printed “Jehovah” in their translations. That is how a mistake that started with the desire to hide the name ended up becoming a name that millions still use.

This is one more result of the great deception. The same religious system that hid Yahweh’s name, corrupted the priesthood, and led the whole world away from the original faith also gave us the word Jehovah. It is not ancient. It is not Hebrew. It is simply another title that came from the effort to replace the personal name the Creator gave for all generations.

Yahweh Himself said, “This is My Name forever, and this is My memorial unto all generations” (Exodus 3:15). The prophets warned us not to forget it. The Messiah taught us to call on it. Now that we know the truth, we can return to the original faith and call upon the only name that brings salvation — the name Yahweh.

