

What is the Father's Name?

Yahshua told his disciples to pray after this manner,

Matthew 6:9 Our Father which art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.

Brethren, how can we hallow^[1] our Father's name if we do not even know his name?

Moses understood this dilemma well enough, for it was *the* critical issue in his mind when he first encountered the Elohim of his fathers in the burning bush at Mt. Sinai.

Exodus 3:13 Moses asked him, When I come unto the children of Israel, and shall say unto them, The Elohim of your fathers hath sent me unto you; and they shall say to me, 'What is his name?' What shall I say unto them?

Moses knew that in order for the Israelites to “hallow” his name, they would first need to know his name.

We would all do well to listen to the answer, an answer rich in meaning.

Exodus 3:14-15 And Elohim 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. And Elohim said moreover unto Moses, Thus shalt thou say to the children of Israel, hwhy [not “The LORD”, but “YHVH”] 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 unto all generations.

Our Father's name is his memorial unto all generations. The word “memorial” is translated from the Hebrew word rkz [zeke] that literally means “memorial” or “remembrance,” i.e. that by which we remember. We are to remember our maker by his memorial name, hwhy (YHVH). Consider this. We erect memorials for ourselves and for others all the time. We fill our nations and our cities with them. If we would not destroy or ruin one of our memorials, then how much more should we not desecrate YHVH's memorial that he has erected for himself? His name, hwhy (YHVH) is his memorial. His memorial is not Lord, God, nor anything else for that matter.

One of the reasons Yahshua came to earth was to declare to his disciples his Father's name:

John 17:26. And I have declared unto them thy name, and will declare it: that the love wherewith thou hast loved me may be in them, and I in them.

This was to fulfill the prophecy found in

Psalms 22:22 I will declare thy name unto my brethren: in the midst of the congregation will I praise thee.

and quoted in

Hebrews 2:12 Saying, I will declare thy name unto my brethren, in the midst of the church will I sing praise unto thee.

that the Messiah would “declare thy name unto my brethren: in the midst of the congregation will I praise thee.”

The apostle Paul [Sha'ul] was commissioned to bear the memorial name “YHVH” as well. As it says in

Acts 9:15, Go thy way: for he is a chosen vessel unto me, to bear my name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel.

Why did Yahshua and the apostles have to declare the Father's name, YHVH? Did the people not know

the Father's name? The answer may surprise you. The Jewish religious leaders believed that if someone mispronounced the "sacred name," he would be breaking the third commandment –

Exodus 20:7 Thou shalt not take the name of YHVH thy Elohim in vain.

Because of this taboo, they forbade the people to utter YHVH's name. In fact, around the time that Yahshua walked the earth, the name "YHVH" was spoken only once in the entire year. The high priest muttered it in a low, hushed whisper on the Day of Atonement, when he went into the most set-apart place with the blood of sprinkling. Even today, many will not speak the Father's name, even when reading the Hebrew Scriptures. Instead, tradition dictates that substitutions are made to his name by using titles or euphemisms such as Lord, Adonai, or HaShem (which literally means, "the name"). Yahshua corrected the religious leaders of his day for supplanting YHVH's commands with their own traditions

Mark 7:7-8 Howbeit in vain do they worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men. For laying aside the commandment of God, ye hold the tradition of men, as the washing of pots and cups: and many other such like things ye do.

I believe that since he is "the same yesterday, and to day and for ever"

Hebrews 13:8 Yahshua the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever.

he would do the same in our day.

I hope we do not become like the Pharaoh of the exodus who scoffed by saying, "Who is YHVH, that I should obey his voice? I do not even know YHVH"

Exodus 5:2 And Pharaoh said, Who is the Lord, that I should obey his voice to let Israel go? I know not the Lord, neither will I let Israel go.

Brethren, we now are without excuse for not knowing the name of our heavenly Father, since the Hebrew Scriptures record his name literally thousands of times (see "["YHVH" in the Bible](#)" below).

Isaiah 42:8 I am YHVH: that is my name: and my glory will I not give to another, neither my praise to graven images.

The Father's name is not God, Lord, HaShem, or any other title or substituted euphemism. His name, plainly written in the scriptures thousands of times, is YHVH.

Let us learn to hallow the Father's name and earnestly look forward to the day when the words written in the book of the prophet Jeremiah will be fulfilled.

Jeremiah 16:19-21 O YHVH, my strength, and my fortress, and my refuge in the day of affliction, the Gentiles shall come unto thee from the ends of the earth, and shall say, 'Surely our fathers have inherited lies, vanity, and things wherein there is no profit. Shall a man make gods unto himself, and they are no gods?' Therefore, behold, I will this once cause them to know, I will cause them to know mine hand and my might; and they shall know that my name is YHVH.

"YHVH" in the Bible

Many Bible translations, including the much beloved Authorized Version of 1611 (KJV) do not transliterate the memorial name, hwhy, into English. Therefore, when reading an English Bible, how can we know where YHVH should be? For some more modern translations, this may be difficult; however, for the KJV and many others it is quite simple. Most of the time, although there are a few exceptions, the phrase "the LORD" (with "LORD" in all capital letters) indicates where the name "hwhy" appears in the Hebrew text. In other places, where we read "the Lord GOD," the Hebrew word

rendered GOD, again in all capital letters, is why.

[1] The Greek word translated “hallow” comes from *agiazw* [*hagiazō*], which means “to sanctify or set apart.”