

# "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 important. 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.

The greatest curse that could come on anyone is to have his name blotted out for all eternity!

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? Without it *you cannot be saved!*

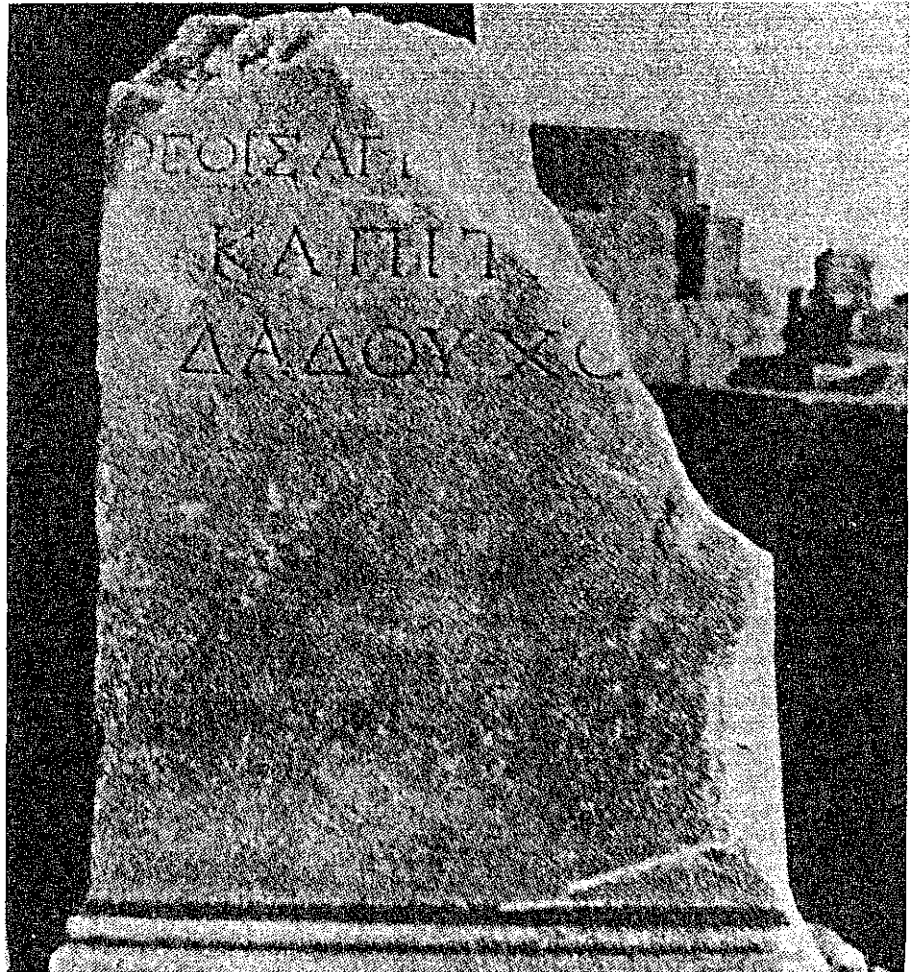
The Son came in His Father's name. *What is His Father's name?* Unless YOU bear your heavenly Father's name, YOU are not His son and heir!

## Modern Confusion

Some claim that "Jehovah" is the Father's name. They claim that we ought to use the word "Jehovah" instead of "Lord."

Is "Jehovah" the Father's name?

Other sects claim that when we speak of or pray to the 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 insist that we



Courtesy "Light from the Ancient Past" by J. Finegan, Princeton  
Pagan Greek altar to "The Unknown God." Found in archaeological excavation at Pergamon, Asia Minor. The Greeks, steeped in superstition, had lost the knowledge and the name of the Creator.

should always use the Hebrew words for Deity. They claim that it is a sin to pray "in the name of Jesus." A sin to be called a "Christian"!

Though these sects claim that "Jehovah" is not the name, they cannot agree among themselves as to what the Hebrew name should be! Some claim the name should be pronounced "Yahvah," others that it should be "Yah-

weh." They vehemently insist that it is a *sin* to translate the names of God into English! They contend that it is the *sound* of the name, NOT ITS MEANING, that is important!

Yet Paul was inspired to write in I Cor. 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 tongue (I Cor. 14:9, 19).

### Names Have Meaning

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

The first man was called in the Hebrew tongue *Adam* because he was made of "red earth." *Adam* in Hebrew MEANS "red earth." *Abram's* name in Hebrew was changed to *Abraham* because the promise was made to Abraham that he should become "a father of many nations" (Genesis 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. Her name means "Doe" in English.

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

THE NAMES OF THE CREATOR also have great meaning.

### The Meaning of God's NAMES

In the Old Testament the English word "God" comes from the Hebrew word *Elohim*, meaning "rulers" or "judges." It is a uniplural word showing

that there is MORE THAN ONE MEMBER IN THE ONE DIVINE FAMILY. Sometimes the English word "God" comes from another word *El*. It signifies in Hebrew "a mighty one."

Often the word *El* is combined with 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 and 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 may also be translated from the Hebrew as "I will be what I will be." This name — I AM — means that there is no one under heaven superior to, no one who exercises lordship over, the ONE who appeared to Moses. The One who appeared to Moses is above all creation — Lord of all! That is what His name means. He is the *One Who Is, the Self-Existent One*.

### He Is "The ETERNAL"

Now turn to Exodus 6:1-3. Here the Creator reveals yet another name. "And God spake unto Moses, and said unto him, I am the LORD" (verse 2). The Hebrew word which is here translated "LORD" is YHWH — translated "LORD" in verse 2, and mistranslated "Jehovah" in verse 3 — comes from the Hebrew root word meaning "to be," or "to exist." The name YHWH means "the Eternal," "the Everliving," and as the Creator of all and superior to all, this name signifies that He is eternally Ruler and LORD!

Now notice especially verse 3, in the King James translation: "And I appeared unto Abraham, unto Isaac, and unto Jacob, by the name of God Almighty, but by my name Jehovah

was I not known to them." The name "Jehovah" in the King James is admittedly a woeful mistranslation. It comes from the Hebrew word YHWH. Notice that the One who was worshiped by Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob appeared under the name "God Almighty" — in Hebrew *El Shaddai*. He did not reveal Himself by the name YHWH. Not until the days of Moses did He reveal this name. For 2,500 long years of human history the Creator did not explicitly use the name YHWH. When Moses compiled the book of Genesis, he introduced the name, beginning with chapter 2.

Abraham, of course, used the word *yhwh* in reference to the Creator, for he knew the Creator was everliving — that's what *yhwh* meant. But the name YHWH was never expressly used by the Almighty — the Spokesman of the Creating Family.

How plain! The Creator thought it more important to reveal His *Word* than even this name — YHWH — to Abraham. Notice Psalm 138:2, "... for thou hast magnified thy word above all thy name."

But what about the word "Jehovah" in Exodus 6:3?

### "Jehovah" Is NOT the Name

Tens of thousands are being led today to believe that the Creator's name is "Jehovah." Where did the name "Jehovah" come from? Notice what the *Jewish Encyclopedia* has to say:

"'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" (from *Jewish Encyclopedia*, article "Jehovah," volume VII, page 88).

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  $\text{YHWH}$ , what then is its proper pronunciation? Some "Hebrew Name" sects say *Yahvab*, others say *Yahweh*, still others believe it should be *Yehweh*, etc.

*Why this confusion?*

The answer is — *the true pronunciation of the Hebrew word  $\text{YHWH}$  was lost!!*

Here is how it happened.

The Hebrew language uses consonants and semi-consonants, not vowels. Moses was inspired to write this name for the Creator with the four Hebrew letters  $\text{YHWH}$ . This Hebrew word, which the Israelites originally knew how to pronounce, comes from another Hebrew word  $\text{HWH}$ , an old form of the root  $\text{HYH}$ , which means "to be," or "to become."

In the centuries since 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. *Adonai* is a Hebrew word meaning "Lord" or "Master." Hence the proper pronunciation of  $\text{YHWH}$  became lost!

#### True Pronunciation Prophesied to Be Lost!

The Bible even prophesied that the pronunciation of this name should be lost to us today! Notice Jeremiah 23:25-27:

"I have heard what the prophets said, that prophesy lies in my name, saying, I have dreamed, I have dreamed . . . 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."

The Jews in Jeremiah's day knew how to pronounce the word  $\text{YHWH}$ . But through the dreams of their false teachers they were misled into believing that the word  $\text{YHWH}$  should not be pronounced — that it is too holy a word to be uttered! And so the true pronunciation of the word became lost!

*No one today knows absolutely how it should be pronounced.* This is exactly what Jeremiah prophesied in these verses over 2500 years ago!

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).

So the pronunciation of  $\text{YHWH}$  is definitely not *Jehovah*. Nor do any exact means today exist of knowing precisely how it is to be pronounced — **YET THE MEANING OF THIS NAME IS PRESERVED FOR US TODAY.** It means the "Eternal," the "Everliving," the Eternal "LORD." The meaning of the Almighty's name is far more important than its mere sound.

Now notice definite **SCRIPTURAL PROOF** that it is proper to **TRANSLATE** 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 sects 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*. Were these Hebrew names 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 whole 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 words for God into the Aramaic word *ELAH!* In 78 different places in these 9 chapters, the Aramaic word *ELAH* is used to translate the Hebrew word for "God"!

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 word for God* into the Aramaic word *ELAH*, which means "God"! 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 letters or marks of the alphabet — in the Old Testament has been lost (Matthew 5:18; Luke 16:17).

Since the Creator inspired His prophets to translate the Hebrew word for God into the Aramaic *ELAH*, which means "God" in Aramaic, *then it is fitting and proper that the Hebrew word **ELOHIM** should be translated "God" in the English translations of the Old Testament!*

#### "God" Is NOT a Pagan Name

Some "Hebrew Name" sects contend that it is a sin to use the word "God"! They reason that because the word "God" was used by our ancestors to refer to their idols, 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 also a sin to use the Hebrew words *Elo-*

*him, 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 claimed to be God.

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

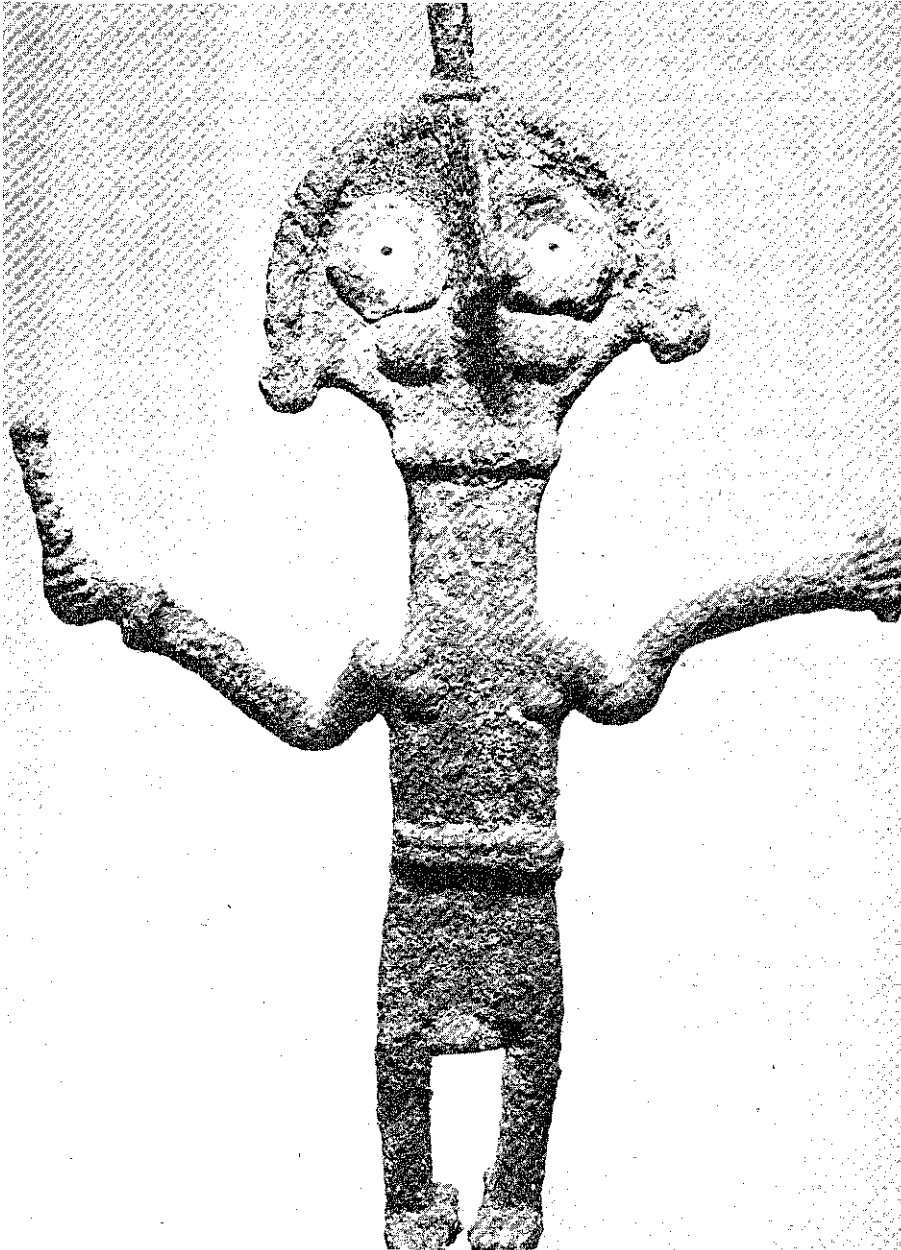
The words of your Saviour are given to us in the New Testament. Before He ascended to heaven, He promised His disciples, “Heaven and earth shall pass away, *but my words shall not pass away*” (Matthew 24:35).

Heaven and earth have not passed away! Neither have the words of the Saviour! They 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 *Kyrios*, meaning “Lord.”

In 665 different places in the New Testament the apostles were inspired to *translate* the Hebrew word *YHWH* into



Courtesy Archaeological Museum — Teheran, Iran

**THE TRUE GOD UNKNOWN BY PAGANS** — Idol found in Iran which the ancient Persians ignorantly worshipped as having God-like powers. Their ancestors had long since forgotten the true God and had lost the real meaning of His name.

the Greek word *Kyrios*, 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 — *Kyrios* and *Theos* — meaning "Lord" or "God" in Greek, are found hundreds of times in the gospels, in the very words of Jesus Himself! *And Jesus said His words would not pass away* — Matthew 24:35. Either these are the inspired words of Jesus, or He lied — and if He lied, you have no Saviour! 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 authoritative 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

Some sects are unwilling to admit what the inspired New Testament plainly says! They falsely claim that the New Testament was not written originally in Greek. They assume that the Jewish Christians could not understand Greek. They would have us believe that Paul wrote to the Greek converts in Greece, and 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 himself 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 were so

prevalent in Palestine that synagogues for them had to be built (Acts 6:9). Jewish law for Palestine permitted that the Scripture "may be read in a foreign tongue to them that speak a foreign tongue" (Megillah 2 § 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 § 8) (from *The Mishnah* by Herbert Danby, Oxford University Press).

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

Josephus tells us why the Greek language, after Aramaic (and, of course, Hebrew), was so common with the Jews in Palestine:

"I have also taken a great deal of pains 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 an Aramaic 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 [learning Greek!] AS COMMON, not only to all sorts of free-man, 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).

Now let us notice the testimony of history as to the language in which the books of the New Testament were inspired. From the *Church History* of Eusebius, Book VI, chapter 14, we read: "... 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."

Notice that to the Jews Paul "became

a Jew." In order to gain the audience of the Jews, after being made a prisoner in 56 A.D., Paul spoke "in the Hebrew tongue" (Acts 21:40). Continuing with Acts 22:2: "And when they heard that he spake *in the Hebrew tongue* to them, **THEY KEPT THE MORE SILENCE.**" Hebrew, in the days of the apostles, had become a more literary language while Aramaic was the common tongue of the people and Greek was next most often spoken.

So history tells us that, in order to influence the religiously sensitive Jews, Paul wrote his "Epistle to the Hebrews" in the Hebrew language. But notice, the letter to the Hebrews was inspired to be translated by Luke and published for the Greeks in the Greek language. It is Luke's inspired translation which God intended to be preserved for us.

Notice what the church historian Eusebius, in chapter 25 of Book VI, tells us about the first gospel: "Among the four gospels, which are the only disputable ones in the Church of God under heaven," he wrote, "the first was published by Matthew, who was once a publican, but afterwards an apostle of Jesus Christ, and it was prepared for the converts from Judaism, and published in the Hebrew language." Jerome tells us, in his "Lives of Illustrious Men," chapter 3, that Matthew's Gospel was translated into the Greek language for the whole Church. It is Matthew's inspired Greek gospel which God has preserved.

These two are the ONLY books of the New Testament which were ever asserted to have been written in Hebrew!

The Aramaic version of the Bible which we have today is admittedly a translation 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 Bibles 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 from the Aramaic, but *translated* into Greek.

Now consider the Aramaic Version. If Aramaic were the original language of the New Testament, there would be 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 repeats 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 *Meshiach*, 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."

Some sects today claim that 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 "to anoint."

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 names"? 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 Saviour." 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 SAVIOUR — or you will have to throw away the entire New Testament!

But — reason these "Hebrew Name" sects — doesn't the Greek word *Iesous* come from the pagan Greek god *Zeus*? This is absolutely untrue! In fact, the Greek word *Zeus* and the Roman word *Jove* are both ultimately derived from the Hebrew *YHWH* — or *JHVH*. But the Greeks — and other heathen — did not like to retain God in their knowledge. So they took the names of God and attached them to their idols! The ancient Hebrew-speaking people did the same thing by calling their idols *El* or *Elohim*, meaning "God" in Hebrew.

So the name "Jesus" is actually derived from *YHWH!*

Jesus said if any would deny Him — which means *deny His Name* — before men, "Him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven" (Matthew 10:33). If you deny the name Jesus, He will deny your name before the Father in the Judgment!

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

Notice 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 whom men worship is *YHWH* or eternal.

But did you know that the Father in heaven has 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.

Jesus said in John 5:43, "I am come in my Father's name, and ye receive me not." What was Jesus' family name? Notice the surprising answer in 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?*" 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 — "GOD"!

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 Corinthians 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 Thessalonians 2:14).

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

The Hebrew name YHWH — the Greek *Kyrios*, 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.

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."

Notice that even the Church today is to bear the Father's Name — God. The Church today — before which Jesus Christ is opening the doors of radio and the printing press to preach His Gospel, His Message, to all the world — this Church has "kept my word" said Jesus, and has "not denied my name"

(Revelation 3:8). God's Church today is to be named the *Church of God*.

### Jesus Called the "Word"

The true Church is even promised to have forever the name of God (Rev. 3:12) and Jesus' "new name" — Revelation 19:12. Jesus not only is to receive a new name, but He even now — and from the beginning — is called "the Word of God." And, in verse 16, He has "on his thigh a *name* written, King of Kings, and Lord of Lords."

In Amos 4:13 and 5:27 another one of the names of the Divine Family is "the God of Hosts." Jeremiah 46:18 and 48:15 call Him "the Lord of Hosts." Another of His names is "Zealous" (sometimes spelled "Jealous") in Exodus 34:14.

Yes, "God" *is* the Father's Family Name! And "Jesus" is the name of His Son! But they both have many other names! It is time we called on GOD for His mercy *in the name of Jesus Christ!* It is time we *believe* the Bible — and recognize that God *is* God! □

If you are not yet a subscriber to TOMORROW'S WORLD, a magazine of Biblical understanding published by the Ambassador College Graduate School of Theology, be sure to request a free subscription.

And write for the free article "Is Jesus God?" This article fully explains how many members there are in the Godhead.