

## On the Name of God -- Yahweh

In this and subsequent issues, I will endeavor to use God's proper name Yahweh more frequently. The following quote from Rotherham's Emphasized Bible explains why:

The Proper Name of God: Most modern scholars agree that the proper name of God was originally pronounced Yah-weh. Most English Bibles, however, have rendered the name as LORD, using small caps to distinguish the proper name from the positional title Adonai, usually rendered "Lord." This follows the traditional Jewish practice of reading both Hebrew words as Adonai....The name was suppressed so that it would not be misused. But that also meant that it could not be used positively in prayer and praise.

There is nothing necessary or magical about pronouncing the name of God in Hebrew. If it were necessary for salvation or sanctification, we certainly would have had the name phonetically represented in the New Testament. But it is of great significance as God's unique proper name. There are many so-called gods in Scripture and many human lords (1 Corinthians 8:5), but there is one Yahweh. Further, "Yahweh" does not mean lord, it communicates God's eternal existence and powerful saving presence. No wonder Yahweh is built into the name "Jesus," which means Yahweh is salvation.