

How should we use the name Yahweh?

Spelling and pronunciation: YHWH is too confusing to use as a personal name, and Jehovah is an unusual variation of “Yahweh” that is seldom used today. Though we can’t know with certainty the best spelling or pronunciation, “Yahweh” is broadly accepted in both Christian and secular literature.

Personal usage: Christians do not need to feel pressured to refer to God as Yahweh in conversation or prayer. You may, but the point is the meaning of the name, not our usage of it. It’s not a secret name, a key to unlock power in prayer, or anything like that.

Church usage: We use the name “Yahweh” occasionally at church, especially in Old Testament readings, because it is important for Christians to remember and understand the name. But we don’t place a major emphasis on it, because we don’t want it to become more of a distraction than a help.

Translations: There is a very long tradition of translations using LORD. It’s not going to change. I wish they would include a clear footnote so that readers can be reminded when the Hebrew word is *Yahweh*.

Meaning: This is what really matters! It is essential that all Christians know the meaning of the divine name, its relationship to Jesus, and its importance in key passages (such as Exodus 3, 6, 20, 33, 34; Deuteronomy 6; Isaiah 41-43; and John 8).

You Must Know About “Yahweh”

What does Yahweh’s name indicate about Him? (Exodus 3)

1. Yahweh is self-existent (3:14).

“I AM”

Isaiah 44:6 *I am the first and I am the last.*

Malachi 3:6 *I, Yahweh, do not change.*

Revelation 1:4 *God was and is and is to come.*

2. Yahweh is the only true God (3:14).

Deuteronomy 32:39 *See now that I, I am He, And there is no god besides Me.*

3. Yahweh is the authoritative and powerful God (3:10).

Psalms 93:1 *Yahweh reigns.*

4. Yahweh is holy (3:5).

5. Yahweh is a personal God (3:15).

6. Yahweh speaks (3:14-15).

7. Yahweh cares (3:16).

8. Yahweh saves and blesses (3:17).

Exodus 6:7 *Then I will take you for My people, and I will be your God; and you shall know that I am the LORD [Yahweh] your God, who brought you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians.*

Hosea 13:4 *Yet I have been the LORD [Yahweh] your God Since the land of Egypt; And you were not to know any god except Me, For there is no savior besides Me.*

Exodus 34:6-7 *Then the LORD [Yahweh] passed by in front of him and proclaimed, "The LORD [Yahweh], the LORD [Yahweh] God, compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in lovingkindness and truth; who keeps lovingkindness for thousands, who forgives iniquity, transgression and sin; yet He will by no means leave the guilty unpunished, visiting the iniquity of fathers on the children and on the grandchildren to the third and fourth generations."*

9. Yahweh makes promises and covenants (3:13, 15).

2 Corinthians 1:20

10. Yahweh is present with His people (Exodus 3:4, 12).

11. Yahweh deserves all of our love and allegiance (3:10)

Deuteronomy 6:4-5 *"Hear, O Israel! The LORD [Yahweh] is our God, the LORD [Yahweh] is one! You shall love the LORD [Yahweh] your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might."*

Exodus 20:2-3 *I am the LORD [Yahweh] your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. You shall have no other gods before Me.*

Leviticus 18:4-5 *'You are to perform My judgments and keep My statutes, to live in accord with them; I am the LORD [Yahweh] your God. 'So you shall keep My statutes and My judgments, by which a man may live if he does them; I am the LORD [Yahweh].*

Why do you need to know about the name Yahweh?

- 1. Someday, you will stand before this God.**
- 2. Understanding the name Yahweh encourages big biblical thinking about God.**
- 3. Thus says the LORD [Yahweh], "Let not a wise man boast of his wisdom, and let not the mighty man boast of his might, let not a rich man boast of his riches; but let him who boasts boast of this, that he understands and knows Me, that I am the LORD [Yahweh] who exercises lovingkindness, justice and righteousness on earth; for I delight in these things," declares the LORD [Yahweh] (Jeremiah 9:23-24).**
- 4. Understanding the name Yahweh opens up the understanding of "Hallelujah."**

(Revelation 19:3, 4, 6; Ps 68:4; 104:35; 105:45; 106:1, 48; 111:1; 112:1; 113:1, 9; 115:18; 116:19; 117:2; 135:1, 3, 21; 146:1, 10; 147:1, 20; 148:1, 14; 149:1, 9. 150:1, 6)

- 5. Understanding the name Yahweh opens up the understanding of "Jesus."**

Matthew 1:21

- 6. The name Yahweh proves definitively that Jesus is the one true God.**
- 7. Understanding the name Yahweh opens up the understanding of key statements of Jesus.**

John 8

Revelation 1

- 8. Understanding the name Yahweh clarifies the full meaning of Jesus as Lord (Romans 10:9).**

