



Bible Study: What About Sacred Names?

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United Church of God-Northwest Arkansas

Reference: Ken Graham's 2001 article, "The Sacred Name – Is a Christian Required to Use it?" © 2001 United Church of God 1

Why is there an issue?

Acts 4:12

Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is **no other name under heaven** given among men by which we must be saved.”

What is in a name?

- Identification or description
- Conveyance of authority or responsibility

Name Changes in the Bible

- Abram's name changed to Abraham (father of many nations)
- Jacob's name (supplanter) was changed to Israel (prevailer with God)

Both names changed within their native language

In My Father's Name

John 5:43

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 10:25

Jesus answered them, "I told you, and you do not believe.

The works that I do in My Father's name, they bear witness of Me

Tetragrammaton: YHWH

- The Son came in the Father's name
- Unless you bear the name of your heavenly father, then you are NOT his son and heir.

Old Testament Names for God

Exodus 6:3

I appeared to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, as God Almighty, but by My name Lord I was not known to them.

Old Testament Names for God

Exodus 3:15

Moreover God said to Moses, “Thus you shall say to the children of Israel: ‘The Lord God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you. This is My name forever, and this is My memorial to all generations.’”

Old Testament Names for God

Books of **Ezra** and **Daniel** do not refer at all to YHWH.

They use the Aramaic names:

- Elah
- Eloah
- Elaw

They DO NOT use the names Elohim or YHWH

Languages of the Bible

Old Testament written in Hebrew

New Testament written in Greek
(with possible exception of Matthew & Hebrews)

Whose Name Was Used?

Mark 9:38

Now John answered Him, saying, “Teacher, we saw someone who does not follow us casting out demons **in Your name**, and we forbade him because he does not follow us.”

Whose Name Was Used?

Mark 9:39-41

But Jesus said, “Do not forbid him, for no one who works a miracle **in My name** can soon afterward speak evil of Me.

40 For he who is not against us is on our side. 41 For whoever gives you a cup of water to drink **in My name**, because you belong to Christ, assuredly, I say to you, he will by no means lose his reward.

Pentecost—Spoke in Several Languages

Acts 2:1-4

When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. 2 And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting.

3 Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. 4 And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

The Foreigners' Gate



Pentecost—Each Heard in Own Language

Acts 2:5-11

And there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men, from every nation under heaven. 6 And when this sound occurred, the multitude came together, and were confused, because everyone heard them speak in his own language. 7 Then they were all amazed and marveled, saying to one another, “Look, are not all these who speak Galileans? 8 And how is it that we hear, each in our own language in which we were born?

9 Parthians and Medes and Elamites, those dwelling in Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, 10 Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya adjoining Cyrene, visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, 11 Cretans and Arabs—we hear them speaking in our own tongues the wonderful works of God.”

New Testament Evidence

Apostle Paul translated the Hebrew YHWH into the Greek word Theos

Words for the Creator:

Logos = The Word

Kurios = Lord

Christos = Christ or anointed one

Yesous = Jesus

Nowhere in the New Testament do Hebrew words for God appear.¹⁶

More New Testament Evidence

John 17:11

Now I am no longer in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to You. Holy Father, **keep through Your name** those whom You have given Me, that they may be one as We are.

The Father's name is God in English and Theos in Greek.

Jesus called Himself the Son of God (Theos) numerous times.

More New Testament Evidence

Before we accept the theories of some that it is wrong to use anything but the Hebrew word YHWH, or that salvation is only possible through the correct use of one name, we need to recognize the overwhelming evidence to the contrary that is contained in the New Testament.

I Corinthians 11:1 Common English Bible

Follow my example, just like I follow Christ's.

Neither Jesus Christ nor Paul compelled the use of a sacred name.



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