Jehovah

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One of the questions Jehovah's Witnesses frequently ask is *"Do you know the Lord's prayer?"* When the answer is given it will include the phrase *"…hallowed be thy name…."* Then the JW will ask, *"What is God's name?"* This conversation-starting question is intended to show that "Christendom" has not "hallowed" God's name but Jehovah's Witnesses have.

The name of God is comprised of four Hebrew letters that are pronounced Yod Hay Vav Hay, or YHWH. These four letters are known as the Tetragrammaton. The Jews do not pronounce this name out of reverence but the closest we can come to its pronunciation would be Yahweh. The name Jehovah is a hybrid name created in the Middle Ages by including the vowel sounds from Adonai (Hebrew for Lord) between the four Hebrew consonants YHWH thus creating Jehovah, a Latinized version of Yahweh.

Jehovah's Witnesses have very little understanding of the Name they have taken for themselves. The origin of the Name is in Exodus 3, where a pre-incarnate appearance of Jesus as "the angel of the Lord" says His name is I Am. The Hebrew behind I Am is the origin of Yahweh. So based on Exodus 3 and many other Old Testament passages we can conclude that Jesus is Yahweh. The JWs don't know that.

Hebrew letters have multiple functions. Of course, they are first of all letters. But, they are also used as numbers like Roman numerals. In addition they are also used as pictograms. A male or female silhouette on a restroom door is a pictogram. Here is where the four letters of the Tetragrammaton become very interesting.

Recall what "doubting" Thomas said, that he would not believe Jesus had risen unless he saw the wounds of the nails? When Jesus appeared to him in the upper room He offered the evidence of His wounds as proof of His resurrection (John 20).

Recall also that in Zechariah 13:6 the prophet said, *"And one shall say unto him, 'What are these wounds in thine hands?' Then he shall answer, 'Those with which I was wounded in the house of my friends.'"*

Now to the pictographic meaning of the four Hebrew letters. The letter hay occurs twice and can be used pictographically as 'eye' 'see' 'look' 'behold' and 'window'. The other two letters, yod and vav, are used to depict the hand and the nail. So our pictographic meaning of YHWH would be *"Behold the Hand, Behold the Nail."*

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Order	**Sign**	**Name**	**Literal Meaning**	**Ancient Script**	**Latin**	**Pronunciation**
1	א	Aleph	Ox		A	Silent glottal stop, like the "-" in "a-ha"
2	ב	Bet	House		B	בּ (with a dot): B as in Bet ב (without a dot): V as in Vet
3	ג	Gimel	Camel		C	G as in Gift
4	ד	Dalet	Door		D	D as in Door
5	ה	Hey	Behold		E	H as in Hey
6	ו	Vav	Nail		F	V as in Vine. It also represents the vowels "u" as in "flute" (וּ) and "o" as in "hole" (וֹ).
7	ז	Zayin	Weapon		Z	Z as in Zechariah
8	ח	Chet	Fence		H	Ch as in Bach
9	ט	Tet	Twist, Serpent			T as in Turn
10	י	Yod	Hand		I,J	Y as in Yes. It also represents the vowels "i" as in machine and "ey" as in "they."
11	כ ך	Kaph	Palm of Hand		K	כּ (with a dot): K as in King כ (without a dot): Ch as in Bach
12	ל	Lamed	Staff, Ox Goad		L	L as in Learn
13	מ ם	Mem	Water		M	M as in Memory
14	נ ן	Nun	Fish		N	N as in Now
15	ס	Samek	Support			S as in Support
16	ע	Ayin	Eye		O	It is supposed to be formed in the back of the throat like a gulp, but is usually silent.
17	פ ף	Pey	Mouth		P	פּ (with a dot): P as in Power פ (without a dot): Ph as in Phone
18	צ ץ	Tzaddi	Fish Hook			Ts as in Sits
19	ק	Quph	Eye of Needle		Q	C as in Cry (more guttural than Kaph)
20	ר	Resh	Head		R	R as in Rush
21	ש	Shin	Tooth		S	שׁ (with a dot above right): Sh as in Shine שׂ (with a dot above left): S as in Sun
22	ת	Tav	Mark, Sign Cross		T	תּ (with a dot): T as in Time ת (without a dot): Th as in Theme

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