

The truth about the name “Jesus”

“the more popular accounts—which were nevertheless taken quite seriously—such as the notorious Toldot Yeshua are even worse, for in addition to the above crimes they accuse him (Yeshua) of witchcraft. The very name “Jesus” was for Jews a symbol of all that is abominable and this popular tradition still persists...

“The Hebrew form of the name Jesus—Yeshu—was interpreted as an acronym for the curse, ‘may his name and memory be wiped out’, which is used as an extreme form of abuse. In fact, anti-zionist Orthodox Jews (such as Neturey qarta) sometimes refer to Herzl as ‘Herzl Jesus’ and I have found in religious Zionist writings expressions such as “Nasser Jesus” and more recently ‘Arafat Jesus.’ –Dr. Israel Shahak, Jewish History, Jewish Religion, pp. 97-98, 118.

A few excerpts from the book “Do You Know Him by Name? **hwhy** The Name of the Father and the Son” by my long-time Sabbath-studying peer Matthew Janzen, says this:

He Has Many Names

This argument is nothing more than complete conjecture. There is not a single passage in Scripture stating that he has many names. We do find evidence that Yahweh has many descriptive titles or generic names that we can refer to him by, but never, **never**, is it said in Scripture that he has more than one name. Scripture is clear when it makes statements as *“I am Yahweh, that is my name... (Isaiah 42:8)”* or *“Yahweh of hosts is his name... (Jeremiah 31:35).”* When making arguments to prove our position we should always have a verse stating our argument. No such verse can be found stating that the Creator has more than one name.

It Doesn't Matter What You Call Him

Much like the previous objection, this objection is also not found in Scripture. Can you point me to book, chapter, and verse which say it doesn't matter what you call Him? No, you cannot. As a matter of fact we should see by now that with all the Scriptures we been through in this short book that it does indeed matter what you call him; it profoundly matters.

As a child growing up I was taught by my earthly father to make it a practice to refer to people by their proper name, whether in a grocery store, gas station, or department store. Referring to someone by their proper name shows that you have respect for them and that they are not just some bump on your road of life; it causes relationships to be built. How much more do you think the Creator of heaven and earth desires for us to praise the name He gave himself?

Above From pps. 93, 94

Appendix I hwhy applications in 1857

While studying at Pitts Theological Library in Atlanta, Georgia one day, I came across a very old book on microfilm. The title of the book shocked me as it agreed with the belief I held because of studying the Scripture. The name of the book was *Yahveh Christ* or *The Memorial Name*. The date of the publication of this book was even more dramatic; it dated back to the year 1857! This showed me that even over 100 years ago there were individuals studying Scripture and making the conclusion that the name Yahweh can and should be applied to the Messiah.

This book was written by Alexander Mac Whorter of Yale University, with an introductory letter by Nathaniel W. Taylor D.D., professor of didactic theology and Yale theological seminary. Mr. Taylor closes his introductory letter to the book with this statement:

I only add, that just views of the moral government of God over this world since the Apostacy in Eden; - a government of Law and Grace, administered by Him who is the Seed promised to our first Parents, - the Jehovah Angel of the Patriarchs, - the Messiah of the Jews, the Redeemer of the world, the King on the holy hill of Zion, and the Lamb in the midst of the Throne, - not only harmonize with, **but almost seem to require, the import which the writer of this critique gives to the Hebrew word, hwhy (Yahveh).**¹

Mr. Mac Whorter then goes on to say in the preface:

It will be shown that this Name, having been deprived of its true vowels through superstition of the Jews, is not "Jehovah," but YAHVEH; that it is not properly rendered "I am," but HE WHO WILL BE; that it is the Great Messianic Name of the Old Testament, and there represents the same Divine Person, who afterward appeared in the world's history under the name of CHRIST.²

In reading Mr. Mac Whorter's book one will find that the primary intention is to recognize that the Messiah is none other than the Almighty manifested in the flesh. However, I find it nothing short of amazing that others in the past have recognized the application of the name Yahweh to the Messiah.

YAHVEH in the person of Christ speaks on earth.

YAHVEH, HE WHO WILL BE, becomes CHRIST, THE ANOINTED, THE MESSIAH. But the eyes of the nation are holden, that they know Him not.

His very name, veiled in superstition and represented by false and foreign word, **is indeed "incommunicable" to their blinded hearts.**³

Above from pp. 100, 101

¹ *Yahveh Christ*, by Alexander Mac Whorter, Introductory letter, pg. x, by Nathaniel W. Taylor, Yale College, Oct. 1, 1856. Bold Emphasis Matthew Janzen's.

² Ibid, pg. 1

³ Ibid, pg. 128, Bold Emphasis mine.

Upon whose “authority” do we speak or act? Are we
”covered” by that authority if we are “a member in good standing” of that kingdom or
territory? Whose territory and authority are we then under if say, we mention the
Constitution? Does it not have particulars as to who we will all answer to in this nation?
Is it not mandatory that we call upon the “particular” name of Him that blesses us?

Is a name not “*important*” then?

How can people not see the seriousness of the name of their own Creator and how we
must honor the carrying on of His name?

Why do we, as mankind, *spend so much time defining everything under the sun* **except**
for the name of our Creator? How rude and arrogant is that? We rule ourselves by
infinite particulars in law, be they honest or deceptive, where we use the most clarifying
words known to man to clearly describe what others are to be guided by when we stand
under the authority of any king, ruler or prelate, So.... Why is our Father YHWH to be
spoken of so “generally” and thereby so berated without a name at all in our churches and
even in our most important national documents? Think about this my brethren!

Is this not a spiritual war? Many will agree that this is a war between good and evil, but
the majority of those very same people then also refuse to recognize that the *Creator* of
“good” is not even being respected enough to have His name used. Do we not put the
names of most authors on their work if we respect that work?

How is it that we can loudly “root for a hero who will *someday save us here real soon*”,
and will paste the name of that hero EVERYWHERE WE CAN PUT A BUMPER
STICKER OR YARD SIGN (does the name *Ron Paul* or *Obama* come to mind?). I
wouldn’t even be surprised that, if they did a poll in America, that the name Ron Paul (let
alone “Obama”) would be more popularly recognized than the name YHWH today.

Would YOU feel like saving a nation who was doing that to your name if YOU were the
Creator of the Universe?