

Who Is the King of Glory?

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by
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Lift up your heads, O gates,
And be lifted up, O ancient doors,
That the King of glory may come in!
Who is the King of glory?
The LORD of hosts,
He is the King of Glory.
--Psalm 24:7-8

Remember the inspiring rendition of this psalm in Handel's oratorio, *The Messiah*? That selection is probably second only to the great "Hallelujah Chorus."

But this great Messianic Psalm, one of the most majestic and spectacular passages in all the Bible, has been totally vitiated by the most appalling translation decision in the English Bible. If not so utterly deplorable, it would be laughable. By it, not only has the majesty and splendor of this passage been destroyed, but its very meaning is entirely lost.

If you were to ask this question, "Who is the King of Glory?" in the nations of the Ancient Near East, many answers would have been given, depending on the country. But what was David's answer?

Who is the King of Glory?
YAHWEH--He is the King of Glory!

Not Baal, not Molech, not Chemosh, not Tammuz, not Ra--but YAHWEH,
Yahweh of Hosts: HE IS THE KING OF GLORY!

"Lord" is not a name. It is a title, and it is the proper translation of the Hebrew *adonai*. The Hebrew in this verse is יהוה, *Yahweh*. Even in all capital letters, "LORD" is NOT a translation of Yahweh.

Yahweh is a *name*, the name of God, the name of the God of the Bible, the name of the God we worship. It appears over 6000 times in the Old Testament, but not ONCE does it appear in our modern English

translations. How many of those sitting in Bible-believing, Evangelical churches today know his name? How many ministers use his name in the pulpit?

Is this a small thing to Yahweh?

What Does Yahweh Think of His Name?

God, furthermore, said to Moses, "Thus you shall say to the sons of Israel, 'Yahweh, the 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-name to all generations. Exodus 3:15

But not to our generation.

Yahweh calls his name his "honored and awesome name" (Deut. 28:58). The psalmist calls his name "holy and awesome" (Ps. 111:9). "From the rising of the sun to its setting, the name of Yahweh is to be praised" (Ps. 113:3).

That's pretty difficult when Christians today don't know his name. To them God is anonymous. How does Yahweh feel about that?

He associates his name with his glory:

*I am Yahweh, that is My name;
I will not give My glory to another,
Nor My praise to graven images. Isaiah 42:8*

What Are We Supposed to Do?

But, indeed, for this reason I have allowed you to remain, in order to show you My power and in order to proclaim My name through all the earth. Exodus 9:16

How can Christians proclaim his name when they don't even know what it is?

Over and over the psalms exhort us to "praise his name" (e.g., Ps. 54:6; 135:1; 145:2; 194:3), "sing praises to his name" (e.g., Ps. 7:17; 61:8; 68:4; 92:1), "sing the glory of his name" (e.g., Ps. 66:2), "bless his name" (e.g., 96:2; 145:1), and "exalt his name" (34:3). This is all a bit difficult to do when Christians don't even know his name! What a travesty.

Ultimately, we praise God's person, but his person is reflected in his name. We praise Yahweh through and by means of his name.

*Let them praise the name of Yahweh,
For His name alone is exalted;
His glory is above earth and heaven. Psalm 148:13*

Christians anxious to show their enthusiasm, enjoyment, or thankfulness in church services often shout out "Hallelujah!" But how many have any idea what that word means? Many popular and often-sung hymns use this word. How many Christians know what they're singing?

Psalms 146-150 open and close with הללו יה. Transliterated, it is this word "Hallelujah." It means "Paise Yahweh." The "Jah" on the end of the English word is the short form of Yahweh.

HaShem, which means *the Name*, is used instead of *Yahweh* in Jewish translations of the Old Testament. Out of respect when dealing with Jewish people, we refrain from using the name *Yahweh*, but among Christians? No excuse.

Two Other Spectacular Passages Vitiating

Remember the great contest on Mt. Carmel? An exciting battle! A showdown! Who were the antagonists? Well, Elijah against 450 prophets of Baal. But on another level, it was a battle between Baal and...who?

The "LORD"? What insulting, dishonoring nonsense! The word "LORD" doesn't identify anyone. The contest was between two gods, and both of them have names. But Bible-believing Christians sitting in the pews today know only the name of the false god Baal, not the name of the God who created the heaven and earth, the true God, Elijah's God.

All of Israel were given a choice that day on Mt. Carmel. Who would they serve? The choice was between **Yahweh** and **Baal**!

Here is what the Hebrew text really says. Read it and experience the true power of this passage and the contest it relates.

*Elijah came near to all the people and said, "How long will you hesitate between two opinions? If **Yahweh** is God, follow Him; but if **Baal**, follow him." But the people did not answer him a word. 1 Kings 18:21.*

After fire rained down from heaven and consumed Elijah's offering, what did the people do? What did the people **say**?

When all the people saw it, they fell on their faces; and they said, "Yahweh, He is God; Yahweh, He is God." 1 Kings 18:39.

Too bad Christians today don't know who is God.

Here's another great, majestic passage completely vitiated of its splendor. In this case the translators would not even let Yahweh refer to himself by his own name. Moses had asked to see the glory of God, and here's what happened:

Yahweh descended in the cloud and stood there with him as he called upon the name of Yahweh. Then Yahweh passed by in front of him and proclaimed, "Yahweh, Yahweh God, compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in lovingkindness and truth..."

Conclusion

There is no excuse, no rationale for our translations to use LORD for Yahweh, the very name of our God, the name he glories in.

There is no excuse, no rationale for pastors not to use the name of our God when preaching and especially when reading the Scripture.

I once heard a pastor preach on Ezekiel 6. FOUR TIMES in that chapter God says,

"Then you will know that I am Yahweh!"

But the pastor read only that absurd translation, "the LORD," and at the end of his message...

...no one in the church knew that it was Yahweh.