

# YAHWEH vs JEHOVAH

(Gihan-ay ni Brod. Ephraim Olarte Licayan)

Hain niining duha ang matuod personal nga Ngalan sa Langitnong Amahan: Yahweh o Jehovah?

Dili tinguha sa tagsulat ning maong basahon ang pagpadayag sa iyang kaugalingong hunahuna. Dili usab niya tinguha ang pagpresentar diha kanimo sa iyang mga argumento pabor sa Ngalan nga Yahweh. Ug labi na nga dili niya tinguha ang pagkutlo gikan sa mga basahon sa mga pundok sa tinuhoan nga nagsangpit sa Ngalan nga Yahweh.

Hinonoa maoy tuyo sa tagsulat ning maong basahon ang paghan-ay sa mga kutlo gikan sa mga referencia nga walay relihiyon nga gilabanan. Ingon man usab ang pagkutlo sa mga basahon sa mga pundok sa relihiyon nga nagdumili pagdawat ug paggamit sa Ngalan ni Yahweh bisan tuod ang ilang mga basahon miangkong na nga ang Yahweh mao ang husto. Ang maong mga kutlo atong bahinon ngadto sa duha: **Ecclesiastical Writings** ug **Secular References**.

## I – ECCLESIASTICAL WRITINGS

- a.) Review and Herald, December 16, 1971  
The Advent Review and Sabbath Herald  
Weekly International Edition  
From the Seventh Day Adventist Church

“Yahweh” is the name that identifies the God of the Hebrews. Where the Philistines worshiped Dagon, the Egyptians Amon, and the Amorites Milcom, the Hebrews worshiped Yahweh. The title “god” (elohim) is applied to false deities in the Scriptures as well as to Yahweh, hence is not a term by which one can be distinguished from the other. When the voice said, ‘**I am Yahweh**,’ there was no doubt in any listener’s mind as to the identity of the speaker. He was the God of the Hebrews. So far as is known, no other peoples called their god by this name.

“Someone may ask, why Yahweh and not Jehovah? Yahweh is a transliteration of the divine name based on its most likely pronunciation...We choose to use the form Yahweh which represents almost certainly the way the patriarchs and prophets pronounced the divine name.

“The fact that Yahweh is the Creator gave Him the authority to make the Sabbath and command His people to rest on that day.

“Anciently, only those who worshipped Yahweh kept the Sabbath. Therefore the keeping of the Sabbath was a sign of a Yahweh worshiper.”

-(Editorial by **Don F. Neufeld**, Associate Editor of the Review and Herald – Another outstanding Seventh Day Adventist Scholar, giving additional clarification on the use of the Sacred Name Yahweh.)

- b) Handbook of Catholic Faith, page 26  
(Tamdanan sa Katolikong Pagtuo)  
By: Socrates Fernandez  
Imprimatur: Ricardo Cardinal Vidal, D.D

“Ang Jehovah maoy sinayop nga paglitok sa original nga ngalan sa makagagahum nga mao ang Yahweh

- c) Adult Sabbath School Bible Study Guide  
January 19, 2003 – Sunday  
Seventh Day Adventist Church

“When God first entered into a **covenant relationship** with Abram, He made Himself known to the patriarch under the name **YHWH** (printed as LORD, in capitals in the KJV, Genesis 15:7) and **pronounced Yahweh**. Thus, Genesis 15:7 reads literally, “I am YHWH who brought thee out of...”

“The name **YHWH**, though, appearing 6,828 times in the Old Testament, is somewhat shrouded in mystery. It seems to be a form of the verb *haya*, “**to be**,” in which case it would mean “**the Eternal One**,” “**the Existent One**,” “**the Self-Existing One**,” “**the Self-Sufficient One**,” or “**the One who lives eternally**.” The divine attributes that seem to be emphasized by this title are that of self-existence and faithfulness. They point to the Lord as the living God, the **Source of Life**, in contrast with the gods of the heathen which had no existence apart from the imagination of their worshipers.

“God Himself explains the meaning of *Yahweh* in Exodus 3:14: ‘I AM WHO I AM’ (RSV, NASB). This meaning expresses the reality of God’s **unconditioned existence**, while it also suggests **His rule over the past, present, and future**.

“Yahweh is also God’s personal name. The identification of Yahweh as the One who brought Abram out of Ur refers to the announcement of God’s **covenant** with him in Genesis 12:1-3....”

- d.) Kingdom Interlinear of the Greek  
Scriptures, Foreword, page 23  
Published by: Watch Tower Tracks and Bible Society  
1969 Pennsylvania, USA  
From: The Jehovah’s Witnesses

“While inclining to view the pronunciation **Yahweh as the more correct way**, we have retained the form Jehovah because of people’s familiarity with it since the 14<sup>th</sup> century.”

- e.) Leksyon sa Eskuela Sabatika  
Oktubri 17, 1982 – Domingo  
Seventh Day Adventist Church

“Yahweh – Ug ang Pakigsaad ni Abraham.

“Sila sa **sayup misulat** sa YHWH ingon nga “Jehovah”. Karong mga adlaw ang **labing maayong paagi sa paglitok** sa upat ka letra (tetragrammaton) sa ngalan sa Dios YHWH mao ang **Yahweh**.

“Ang “**Yahweh**” maoy husto kon personal nga ngalan sa Dios. Elohim gisulat usab ingon nga Dios.”

- f.) Koinonia Newsletter, Volume 2, No.3  
Corpus Christi, Iligan City  
March 1993

“Yahweh not Jehovah”

“Yahweh – the four consonants Hebrew word YHWH (tetragrammaton in Greek, is derived from the archaic form of verb “hawah” (“to be”). W. Albright and F.M. Cross insist that YHWH is from the causative conjunction of the verb “**hawah**” and means “**he causes to be**”. Albright notes that YHWH is only the first word of the entire name Yahweh – “**Asher-Yahweh**” (“**He brings into being whatever comes into being**”). Thus, “Yahweh” means Creator. This is the name of God.

“Jehovah – the barbaric transliteration Jehovah is often held to be the invention of Peter Galatin in a publication dated 1518, but in actuality it can be traced back to the work by a certain Raymond Martin in 1270 (see Jewish Encyclopedia, Vol. VII (1904), 88). This hybrid form appeared in the Authorized Version (cf: also New English Bible).

**Yahweh or YHWH (the Creator) is the name of God**, not Jehovah. The Greek Septuagint (LXX) Bible translates YHWH as Kyrios, the Latin Vulgate Dominus (lord).

-(Pastoral Care Column, by Fr. Goodie Felicitas,  
mga pahina 6 ug 28.)

- g.) Review and Herald, February 9, 1967  
Official Organ of the Seventh Day Adventist Church

The English spelling Yahweh is now almost universally believed to **reflect accurately the ancient, original pronunciation of YHWH**. (In keeping with the common practice today of pronouncing proper names translated from a foreign language with as nearly the original vocalization as possible). It would be **altogether correct and proper** for us to use the name Yahweh whenever the word YHWH (Lord) occurs in the Old Testament, and also whenever we are speaking of true God in Old Testament times. This practice is becoming more and more common among Bible scholars and informed Christians.

-(Editorial by **Raymond F. Cottrell**, Associate Editor of Review and Herald – One of the foremost Hebrew Scholars in the Seventh Day Adventist Church, giving the Adventist Point of View on the Use of the Sacred Name Yahweh)

- h.) Insight of the Scripture, Volume 2, page 5  
A publication of Jehovah’s Witnesses

“Correct Pronunciation of the Divine Name. “Jehovah” is the best known English pronunciation of the divine name, although “**Yahweh**” is **avored by most Hebrew scholars**.

i.) The New Catholic Bible (Catholic Bible Press)

“At **Exodus 3:14** notes, “**I am who I am**” apparently this utterance is the source of the word **Yahweh**: the **proper, personal name** of the God of Israel... Out of reverence for this name, the term Adonai, (“My Lord”) was used as substitute. The word “Lord” in the present version represents this traditional usage. The word Jehovah arose from a **false reading** of this name as it is written in the current Hebrew text.”

j.) Maayong Balita Biblia, Listahan sa mga Pulong  
Hubad sa mga Protestante ug Katoliko  
Diha sa Buhat sa Ekumenismo

GINOO – Niining atong hubad nagkahulugan kini sa ngalan nga Hebrew nga **Yahweh** (kaniadto nagrepresentar sa Jehovah).

k.) Seventh Day Adventist Bible Commentary  
Volume I, page 172

“And the name above all others that was looked upon as the name, **the personal name of God, was YAHWEH**”.

l.) Let Your Name Be Sanctified, pages 16 and 20  
Published by the Jehovah’s Witnesses

“**Yahweh ... is admittedly superior** to Jehovah.” “The **wrong spelling** “Jehovah” occurs since about 1100, and then it offers its arguments in favor of **Yahweh as the correct and original** pronunciation.”

m.) Revised Standard Version of the Bible  
Preface, pages 6 and 7

“The form Jehovah is of **late medieval origin**. It is a combination of the consonants of the Divine Name and vowels attached to it by the Masoretes but belonging to an entirely different word. The sound of Y is represented by J, and the sound of W by V, as in Latin. The word “Jehovah” **does not accurately represent** any form of the Name ever used in Hebrew.”

n.) The Emphasized Bible  
Introduction by Editor Joseph Rotherham  
Pages 24-25

“The pronunciation “Jehovah” was **unknown until 1520**, when it was introduced by Galatinus; but was consisted by Le Mercier J. Drusius and L. Capellus as against grammatical and historical propriety.

“**Erroneously** written and pronounced “Jehovah”, which is merely a combination of the sacred tetragrammaton and the vowels in adonay (Hebrew word for Lord) substituted by the Jews for YHWH, because they shrank from pronouncing the Name. To give the name

YHWH the vowels of “Adonay” and pronounce it “Jehovah”, is about as **hybrid a combination** as it would be to spell the name Germany with the vowels in the name Portugal – viz, Gormuna.

- o.) International Bible Encyclopedia of the King James Version Bible  
Published by Garden City Publishing Co.

“Jehovah – It is believed that the **correct pronunciation of this word is “Yahweh.”**  
Exodus 6:2,3.

- p.) Authorized King James Version, page 43

Tetragrammaton. The letters YHWH (or JHWH) used in Hebrew manuscript of the Old Testament to denote the divine Name, customarily vocalized as “Yahweh”. In reading aloud, the Jews often substituted Adonay (“Lord”) since the name Yahweh was considered to sacred for utterance. The King James Version uses **LORD**, with all letters capitalized, as the **English equivalent** (Note: Hinumdumi ang gipasidaan sa Yeremyah 8:8 – Taghan-ay)

- q.) New International Version (NIV) Bible  
Preface, page v

In regard to the divine name YHWH, commonly referred to as the Tetragrammaton, the **translators adopted the device** used in most English versions on rendering that name “LORD” in capital letters to distinguish it from “Adonai” another Hebrew word rendered “lord”, for which small letters are used... When Adonai and Yahweh Sabaoth occur together, they are rendered “the lord, the LORD Almighty.” (Note: Hinumdumi ang gipasidaan sa Yeremyah 8:8 – Taghan-ay)

- r.) Maayong Balita Biblia  
Hubad sa mga Protestante ug Katoliko  
Buhat sa Ekumenismo  
Pasiuna (Introduction)

Sinunod ang usa ka karaang batasan, nga **gisugdan sa unang hubad sa Biblia** nga Hebreo (ang Septuaginta) ug gisunod sa kadaghanan gayud sa mga hubad nga Iningles, ang ngalan Hebreo sa Dios (nga sa masabog gihubad ug Jehovah o Yahweh) **gihubad niining hubara sa GINOO**. Kon ang Adonay, nga naandan paghubad GINOO sundan sa Yahweh, nga giiningles LORD GOD, **gihubad nato** kini nga GINOONG Dios. (Note: Ang gibuhad sa mga maghuhubad pag-usab sa ngalan sa Amahang Langitnong ug sa Manluluwas maoy gipasidaan sa Yeremyah 8:8 – Taghan-ay)

## II – SECULAR REFERENCES

- a.) Encyclopedia International, Volume 19, page 530

“**Yahweh or Jahveh (yǎ wē)** – the most common name for God in the Hebrew Bible. It appears **6,823 times**. It is the **proper name** for the God of Israel, in contrast to the more general name for the Deity; “Elohim”. From earliest times in the synagogue, the name was not pronounced, the word “Adonay” being used instead. Since the word was pointed with the vowels of its substitute “Adonay”, when the vowel points were finally put into the Hebrew text, **YHWH** was **mistakenly** read as “**Jehovah**”.

b.) The World Book Encyclopedia, Volume 11, page 86

“**Jehovah**” – is the form of **Yahweh**, the **sacred Hebrew name** for God. God **first revealed the name of Yahweh to the Israelite leader Moses (Exodus 3:14)**. Jews thought the name Yahweh was too holy to pronounce. By the years **200’s B.C.**, they were using the word “Adonai” as respectful substitute when reading from the scriptures. When Yahweh was preceded by Adonai, they said Elohim. When writing the word, Jewish **scribes mixed the vowels of Adonai and Elohim** with the **consonants of YHWH** the traditional spelling of Yahweh. This **mixing** resulted in the **Latin spelling “Jehovah”**, which carried over into English.

c.) Encyclopedia Americana, International Edition  
Volume 16, pages 8-9

“**Jehovah** – an **erroneous pronunciation** of the name of the God of Israel in the Bible, due to pronouncing of the vowels of the term “Adonay”, the marginal Masoretic reading, with the consonants of the text reading Yahweh. **Yahweh** was not uttered to avoid the profanation of the divine name for magical or other blasphemous purposes.

“The reading “Jehovah” can be traced to the early Middle Ages and until lately was said to have been **invented by Peter Galatin (1518)**, confessor of Pope Leo X. Recent writers, however, trace it to an earlier date; it is found in **Raymond Martin’s Pugeo Fidei (1270)**.”

“Of the various names of God found in the Old Testament, Jehovah (**more accurately Yahweh**) occur the most frequently.”

d.) Shorter Oxford English Dictionary

For “**Yahweh**” they have **substituted “Baal”**, the Babylonian god and “**Adonay**”, the Canaanite god of the Phoenicians, both corresponding to the English word “LORD”.

e.) The Encyclopedia Judaica, Volume 7, page 680

**YHWH, the personal name.**

“Written in the Hebrew with the four consonants **YHWH** and is referred to as the “tetragrammaton”. At least until the destruction of the First Temple in **586 BCE**, **this name was regularly pronounced with its proper vowels**, as is clear from the **Lachish Letters**, written shortly before that date. But at least by the **third century B.C.E.** the pronunciation of the name YHWH was avoided, and Adonay (the Lord) was **substituted for it**, as evidenced by use of the Greek word **Kyrios, (Lord) for YHWH in Septuagint**. The Septuagint was the translation of the Hebrew Scriptures that was begun by Greek-speaking Jews in that century.

“The **true pronunciation of the name YHWH was never lost**. Several early Greek writers of the Christian church testify **that the name was pronounced “Yahweh”**.

f.) Jewish Encyclopedia, Volume 7, page 88

“The reading “Jehovah” is a comparatively **recent invention**. Jehovah is generally held to have been the invention of Pope Leo the 10<sup>th</sup> confessor (De Arcanis Catholic Veritates 1518, Folio XLIII), who was followed in the use of this hybrid form by Faguis Drusius.

g.) New Standard Bible Dictionary

“Jehovah, **properly Yahweh**. The form “Jehovah” is **impossible** according to the strict principles of Hebrew vocalization.

h.) A History of Christianity  
by Kenneth Scott Latourette, page 11

Israel regarded their god **Yahweh**, a name **mistakenly put into the English as Jehovah**, as the God of the universe, the maker and ruler of heaven and earth. Other people had their gods, but Yahweh was regarded by these monotheists as far more powerful than they.

i.) Encyclopedia Britannica  
(Micropedia, Volume 10)

**Yahweh** – the **personal name** of the God of the Israelites. The Masoretes, Jewish biblical scholars of the Middle Ages, **replaced the vowel signs** that had appeared above or beneath the consonants of YHWH with the vowel signs of Adonay or Elohim. Thus, the **artificial name Jehovah** (YeHoWah) came into being. Although Christian scholars after the Renaissance and Reformation periods used the term Jehovah for YHWH, in the **19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries** biblical scholars again began to use the form Yahweh. Early Christian writers, such as **Clement of Alexandria** in the **2<sup>nd</sup> century**, had used the form Yahweh. Thus this pronunciation of the Tetragrammaton was **never really lost**. Greek transcriptions also indicated that **YHWH should be pronounced Yahweh**.

j.) The Oxford Cyclopedia Concordance  
Article Jehovah

Jehovah – the name revealed to Moses at Horeb. Its **real pronunciation** is approximately **Yahweh**. The Name itself was **not pronounced Jehovah** before the **16<sup>th</sup> century**.

k.) The New American Encyclopedia  
Article Jehovah

**Jehovah** – (**properly Yahweh**) a name of the God of Israel, now widely regarded as a **mis-pronunciation of the Hebrew YHWH**.

- l.) American Heritage Dictionary  
Article Yahweh

**Yahweh** – A name for God assumed by modern scholars to be a rendering of **the pronunciation** of the Tetragrammaton.

- m.) Jewish Quarterly Review  
April 1969, Dr. Zlomon Zeithlin

In the **biblical period Yahweh was a proper name**, the God of Israel, an ethnic God.

- n.) New International Dictionary of  
New Testament Theology, Volume 2

In the Old Testament the words **el, eloah, elohim**, from related roots, are **generic designations** of God. Alongside and alternating with them stands the individual **personal name Yahweh**.

### **HIMOA ANG MATINUD-ANON NGA PAGPILI**

Karon imo na nga nabasa ang pipila sa mga evidencia nga nagmatuod nga ang Yahweh mao gayud ang Ngalan sa atong Amahang Langitnon; nga ang Jehovah **sayop gayud**.

Apan kon ugaling ikaw nahigugma sa sayop, padayon sa Jehovah. Si Amahang Yahweh mangutana ra unya kanimo sa adlaw sa paghukom **“Nganong gipili mo ang sayop?”** Andama unya ang imong kaugalingon pagtubag niining maong pangutana! Si Abba YAHWEH dili moangay sa pilosopo.

Kon wala ka pa makadesisyon, o kaha dili ka pa makahimo sa pagpili, nan, ipadayon ang imong pagsusi ug pagtuon mahitungod sa labing importante ug dalaygon nga Ngalan sa Amahang Langitnon.

Ang Iyang Ngalan kamatuoran nga labaw pa ka-importante ug kabililhon kay sa tanang bahandi sa kalibutan. Pangitaa kini sa tibuok nimung kasingkasing. **HalleluYah!**

(6-3-14)

Pamati sa:

**BALIK SA KAMATUORAN**  
DYSS-AM 999 KHz  
7:00-8:00am Matag Domingo

O Sulati ang:

**CONGREGATION OF YAHWEH**  
**IN YAHSHUA HAMASHIACH**  
P.O. Box 81 Tagbilaran City  
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