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behind that, in the Old Testament, is “YHWH”. Where the small caps “LORD” appears in the New Testament, it is accurate because the Old Testament is being quoted from its Greek translation.

Because Jesus and the inspired writers of the New Testament are never quoted as having said the holy name, it is certainly not a requirement to do so now. For that matter, it was never uttered by human lips until the life of Moses, more than 2,500 years after creation. *“God spoke to Moses and said to him: ‘I am Jehovah. I appeared to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, as God Almighty, but by My name Jehovah I was not known to them’”* (Exodus 6:2-3). God has always been Jehovah, and He has always communicated in some way to mankind, but He reserved knowledge of His name until He called Moses at the burning bush. *“Then Moses said to God, ‘Indeed, when I come to the children of Israel and say to them, ‘The God of your fathers has sent me to you,’ and they say to me, ‘What is His name?’ what shall I say to them?’ And God said to Moses, ‘I AM WHO I AM.’ And He said, ‘Thus you shall say to the children of Israel, ‘I AM has sent me to you.’”* Moreover God said to Moses, *“Thus you shall say to the children of Israel: ‘Jehovah 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’”* (Exodus 3:13-15). When God revealed His name to Moses, He uttered a verb conjugated in the first person, not a proper noun: *“I AM”*, meaning He is self-existent. He simply is and no one else had anything to do with that. Having first identified Himself as *“I AM”*, He then claimed the name *“Jehovah”*, which is itself a derivative of that verb. The name literally means “self-Existent or Eternal” according to Strong.

This name is not exclusive to the Father, distinct from the Son Jesus Christ. The Father and Son, in fact, share this name. John wrote, *“Although He had done so many signs before them, they did not believe in Him, that the word of Isaiah the prophet might be fulfilled, which he spoke: ‘Lord, who has believed our report? And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?’ Therefore they could not believe, because Isaiah said again: ‘He has blinded their eyes and hardened their hearts, lest they should see with their eyes, lest they should understand with their hearts and turn, so that I should heal them.’ These things Isaiah said when he saw His glory and spoke of Him”* (John 12:37-41). According to the apostle, it was Jesus’ glory Isaiah beheld in the quoted passage. That text, though, mentions Jehovah! *“I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lifted up, and*

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the train of His robe filled the temple. Above it stood seraphim; each one had six wings: with two he covered his face, with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. And one cried to another and said: ‘Holy, holy, holy is Jehovah of hosts; the whole earth is full of His glory!’ And the posts of the door were shaken by the voice of him who cried out, and the house was filled with smoke. So I said: ‘Woe is me, for I am undone! Because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, Jehovah of hosts.’ Then one of the seraphim flew to me, having in his hand a live coal which he had taken with the tongs from the altar. And he touched my mouth with it, and said: ‘Behold, this has touched your lips; your iniquity is taken away, and your sin purged.’ Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying: ‘Whom shall I send, and who will go for Us?’ Then I said, ‘Here am I! Send me.’ And He said, ‘Go, and tell this people: ‘Keep on hearing, but do not understand; keep on seeing, but do not perceive.’ Make the heart of this people dull, and their ears heavy, and shut their eyes; Lest they see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their heart, and return and be healed’” (Isaiah 6:1-10).

While there is no obligation to say the divine name as the Watchtower Society of the so-called “Jehovah’s Witnesses” likes to insist, there is, arguably, good reason to put it into practice.

First, although He waited until Moses’ lifetime to reveal His name, this is how God refers to Himself. That cannot be unimportant. He is God. He is Lord. Many epithets can be correctly applied, but those mostly describe what He is, rather than **who** He is. Paul the mechanic would probably prefer to be called “Paul” over “Mechanic” and Jorge the barber likely wants to go by “Jorge”, not “Barber”, while Joe the butcher really is “Joe” more than he is “Butcher”. “Jehovah” is personal and self-applied. It cannot be irrelevant.

Second, “Jehovah” is specific. *“Even if there are so-called gods, whether in heaven or on earth (as there are many gods and many lords), yet for us there is one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we for Him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, through whom are all things, and through whom we live. However, there is not in everyone that knowledge”* (1st Corinthians 8:5-7). For believers, God is the only god; that is enough. Nevertheless, there are skeptics who scoff at faith, saying things like, “Oh, you believe in god? Which one? There are thousands!” This is not exactly the gotcha they think it is, but the

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"WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED?"

ACTS 16:30

LEARN THE GOSPEL

John 6:45; Romans 10:17

BELIEVE IN CHRIST

Hebrews 11:6; John 3:16

CONFESS CHRIST

Matthew 10:32-33; Romans 10:9-10

REPENT OF SIN

Acts 3:19; 17:30

BE BAPTIZED INTO CHRIST

Mark 16:16; Romans 6:3-6

REMAIN STEADFAST

1st Corinthians 15:58; Revelation 2:10

"THE ASSEMBLING OF OURSELVES TOGETHER"

HEBREWS 10:24-25

SUNDAY

Worship @ 10:00 a.m.

Studies @ 11:45 a.m.

WEDNESDAY

Studies & Worship @ 7:00 p.m.

THURSDAY

Men's & Ladies' Studies @ 6:20 p.m.

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**Seekers Welcome.
Members Expected.**

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vagueness by which the true God is so often identified certainly feeds into their sense that it's an argument of some merit. It is helpful, therefore, to acknowledge, "*Jehovah our God, Jehovah is one!*" (Deuteronomy 6:4).

Skeptics are not alone. My wife recalls a high school classmate lamenting that God, whom He ostensibly believed in, needed a less generic name. When she suggested, "Oh, you mean like, 'Jehovah'?", the kid excitedly said, "Yeah! That'd be great!", not realizing the ignorance he was revealing.

Seeing the value of putting God's name Jehovah into use, this writer has long been in the habit of reinserting the holy name. When reading aloud, if the small caps "LORD" occurs in an Old Testament text, I will simply say, "Jehovah". When quoting Old Testament references in an article, such as this one, I will delete "LORD" and type in "Jehovah". Of course, I could simply rely on the American Standard Version as my primary Bible and never change a thing, but, for a few reasons, I still prefer the New King James Version and the slight modification is not a burden. No one else has to do this, but it seems appropriate to let others know why I do and why I encourage this.

"WHOLE COUNSEL"

ACTS 20:27

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THE DIVINE NAME

Bryan Matthew Dockens

"Jehovah" is a rough anglicization of "Yahweh", which is an attempt to fill in the blanks of the abbreviation "YHWH", often called the "tetragrammaton", a Greek word meaning "four letters". The tetragrammaton and variations of it appear over 6000 times in the Hebrew Old Testament.

It would seem the four letters appear in place of the full holy name due to a superstitious fear of using that name in vain. Twice, Moses was inspired to command Israel, "*You shall not take the name of Jehovah your God in vain, for Jehovah will not hold him guiltless who takes His name in vain*" (Exodus 20:7; Deuteronomy 5:11). Saying the name of God in a less than holy way is a serious concern, but the Almighty was not expecting His name to never be spoken or written. Nevertheless, through the centuries, scribes wrote the tetragrammaton rather than the actual holy name. Eventually, when the Old Testament was translated from Hebrew into Greek, even the four letters were dropped in favor of the word "Lord", so that when Jesus and the apostles and prophets quoted Scripture, they were accurately saying "Lord" instead of "Jehovah".

English translations, except for the American Standard Version of 1901, continue the tradition of excluding the divine name and substituting it with the small caps "LORD", even though the Hebrew – Continued on page 2 –

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