

## ***Jehovah or Yahweh?***

The term "Jehovah," appears in the American Standard Version (1901) as well as in most modern versions. It derives from four Hebrew consonants, called the Tetragrammaton (a term that simply signifies a four-letter word). This expression is used by scholars for the four Hebrew letters, YHWH, that constitute a name for God, employed some 6,800 times in the Old Testament.

The name *Jehovah* is a hybrid term. Vowels from the Hebrew word *adonai* (meaning Lord) were imported into the four Hebrew consonants (YHWH). Actually, the same procedure is employed in the construction of *Yahweh*. Numerous scholars have noted that the original word's exact pronunciation has been lost and the various spelling forms are speculations, e.g., "Jehovah, Yehovah, Jahweh, Yahweh". All of these forms are conjectural transliterations. There is no solid documentation to confirm the original vocalization of YHWH. Dogmatism, therefore, is without justification. It is difficult to appreciate the rationale of caustic critics who virtually rail against the name Jehovah, when no one knows precisely how the original term was pronounced.

- by **Wayne Jackson**

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## ***Questions on Forgiveness and Repentance***

**Question:** If a brother in the church offends us, is it right for us to forgive him whether he comes and ask us to or not, or must we hold it against him until he comes and asks our pardon? Would it not be more Christlike to forgive him and try to love him as much as lieth in us, whether he comes and asks us to or not?

**Answer:** Christ never forgave anyone his sins until he repented of them, nor do we see how anyone can. Christ loved them while yet sinners, was anxious for them to repent, suffered and died to bring them to repentance. We should be like him; should love men, be willing to suffer that they may be brought to repentance, and be kind, gentle, longsuffering to help them to turn; but there is and can be no forgiveness with God or man without repentance; and when a man sincerely repents, he will confess and ask forgiveness of whomsoever he has offended.

- by **David Lipscomb**,

*from Questions Answered, Lipscomb and Sewell, Kurfees, pg. 260*

**Question:** "Should I forgive a man even though he does not repent?"

**Answer:** Our Lord said, "*If thy brother sin, rebuke him; and if he repent, forgive him*" (Luke 17:3). Jesus forgives only those who repent (Acts 2:38), and He expects no more of us. It is, indeed, impossible to forgive one who does not repent since forgiveness is the acceptance of a relationship which existed before the sin. Unless the rebellious brother desires this relationship it is impossible to establish it. We must ever be ready to forgive and we must entertain no malice or bitterness in our hearts. But, we can forgive only when penitence is shown. Those who question this conclusion (and there are always those who thus do, not knowing the true significance of forgiveness), remember that the Lord's order is (1) if a brother sins against you, rebuke him; (2) if a brother repents, forgive him (Luke 17:3).

- by **Guy N, Woods**,

*from Question and Answers Volume II, Freed-Hardeman, pg. 41*

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## ***Things Expected of All Members (#2)***

We are blessed by God's plan for us to be members of a local congregation. But, this blessing comes with associated responsibilities. We previously discussed the importance of 1) setting a proper example in the local community, 2) assisting and serving our brothers and sisters, and 3)

edifying and restoring the weak. Here are some more things that will help us bring glory and praise to God as we work together:

4) We have a primary mission to spread the gospel to the lost people of this world (Mark 16:15). There are many right here in our immediate community, and millions worldwide, who need to hear about salvation in Christ Jesus. We need the participation of every member to address this urgent need. You can and must do your part to teach the lost souls within your circle of influence.

5) It should go without saying that every member of this congregation should attend every assembly of the saints (Hebrews 10:25). You should make every effort to attend each of our scheduled meetings. Personal schedules should be rearranged, activities dropped or modified, and plans made that will allow you to be present at all of the worship assemblies and Bible studies. School functions, recreational or sporting events, family get-togethers, or things of this sort do not serve as legitimate "excuses" for missing any service. Sickness and other unavoidable circumstances may occasionally arise, but the normal practice of every saint should be to attend every assembly.

6) The only means authorized by God for the financing of the work of the local church is by means of the free will offering of the members. Such a contribution . . . . . is collected each Lord's day (1 Corinthians 16:1,2). You are expected to give regularly and liberally (2 Corinthians 9:7). If travels or other matters cause you to be away from this congregation on a Lord's Day, it certainly seems reasonable that provisions would be made to leave your contribution in advance, or "make up" your offering when you return. Our ongoing work depends upon your consistent giving.

7) Every member of a local body of believers has a personal responsibility to maintain peace with and among their fellow members (Ephesians 4:1-3). We acknowledge that situations arise wherein feelings may become hurt or bad judgments may lead to disagreements. It is the duty of each Christian to seek immediate resolution of these matters (Matthew 5:24; 18:15-17). Our rule is this: In matters of faith or doctrine we can make no compromise (Jude 3), however, in matters of judgment or opinion we should be humbly submissive (1 Peter 5,6). Trouble makers, gossips, and those who promote strife cannot be tolerated (Proverbs 6:16-19).

Your conscientious effort to fulfill your personal responsibilities in the local congregation are critical to our effectiveness in bring glory to our Lord. Think!