

THE **N**ew HOLY **I**nternational BIBLE **V**ersion

Edwin H. Palmer, Th. D., Executive Secretary

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February 3, 1979

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Miss Julie Moore
3531 Cortez
Klamath Falls, Oregon 97601

Dear Miss Julie,

Thank you for your letter and concern about the fact that the NIV did not use the name Jehovah in the Old Testament.

Here is why we did not: You are right that Jehovah is a distinctive name for God and ideally we should have used it. But we put 2½ million dollars into this translation and a sure way of throwing that down the drain is to translate, for example, Psalm 23 as, "Yahweh is my Shepherd." Immediately, we would have translated for nothing. Nobody would have used it. Oh, maybe you and a handful others. But a Christian had to be also wise and practical. We are the victims of 350 years of the King James tradition. It is far better to get two million to read it -- that is how many have bought it to date -- and to follow the King James, than to have two thousand buy it and miss the grand truth in the Bible on every page because they are following an old fashion translation and have the correct translation of Yahweh.

Furthermore, we do not know if we should say Jahu or Yahweh or Jehovah.

And we do cover ourselves in the preface.

It was a hard decision, and many of our translators agree with you.

Cordially yours,



Edwin H. Palmer