

# My Thoughts

## THE NAME OF GOD: YAH יה

Where Did It Come From & Should We Use It?

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2/01/12

Updated 3/11/13

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Greetings!

When reading my articles or listening to my music, you will notice I use the name YAH often to refer to the Creator of the universe. Where did I get this name from some of you may be wondering. Well this question is easily answered right in the pages of the Tanak (commonly called the Old Testament). Many have falling into the trap of calling the Most High by titles and names that are actually not His name or even a representation of his name. Some have even come to believe he doesn't even have a name. Today we will see that the Most High does in fact have a personal name and that it was well known and used.

[For this reading we will be using "ISR The Scriptures" translation unless noted. YHWH/יהוה will appear where you usually see "the LORD" or "God" in all caps in all other versions.] Let's begin our study in the Psalms.

Psa 68:1 (KJV) To the chief Musician, A Psalm or Song of David. Let God arise, let his enemies be scattered: let them also that hate him flee before him.

So this is a Psalm written by King David praising the Most High. Let's see what David has to say.

Psa 68:2 As smoke is driven away, so drive *them* away: as wax melteth before the fire, so let the wicked perish at the presence of God. Psa 68:3 But let the righteous be glad; let them rejoice before God: yea, let them exceedingly rejoice. Psa 68:4 Sing unto God, sing praises to his name:

We see here that we are told to praise Him by His name, well what name is that? Let's see.

...extol him that rideth upon the heavens by his name JAH, and rejoice before him.

We are told to praise the Most High by the name (singular) JAH. This is the name you will here a lot of Jamaicans and Rastafarians use in reggae songs. This is where they get that name for the Most High from. But we are not stopping there. Now in Hebrew, the letter that transliterated into the "j" is called "yod." The yod technically makes the "y" sound not the "j" sound. Let's look at that.

Yod or Yodh — *n* (יָ) the tenth letter in the Hebrew alphabet (יָ), transliterated as y [C18: from Hebrew, literally means: hand] – *World English Dictionary, Collins English Dictionary - Complete & Unabridged 10th Edition 2009* © William Collins Sons & Co. Ltd. 1979, 1986 © HarperCollins Publishers 1998, 2000, 2003, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2009

So the yod, which is the first letter of the name "JAH," makes the "y" sound. To get the "j" sound or something close to it, the letter used would have had to been a [gimel](#). So we have established that the "j" should be a "y" in the name "JAH," let's confirm that. Let's look at this name and its meaning in Hebrew.

H3050

יָהּ

yāhh

yaw

Contracted for H3068, and meaning the same; *Jah*, the sacred name: - Jah, the Lord, most vehement. Cp. names in "-iah," "-jah."

So the proper way to say this name phonetically is YAH or YAW and not JAH. We also see this is the name of the Most High. Another thing to notice is the name YAH is a contraction of 3068. What is 3068?

H3068

יְהוָה

Yhvh (i.e. יְהוָה, Yehovah or יְהוֵה, Yahveh) (217d); from H1933b; the proper name of the God of Israel: - GOD (314), LORD (6399), LORD'S (111).

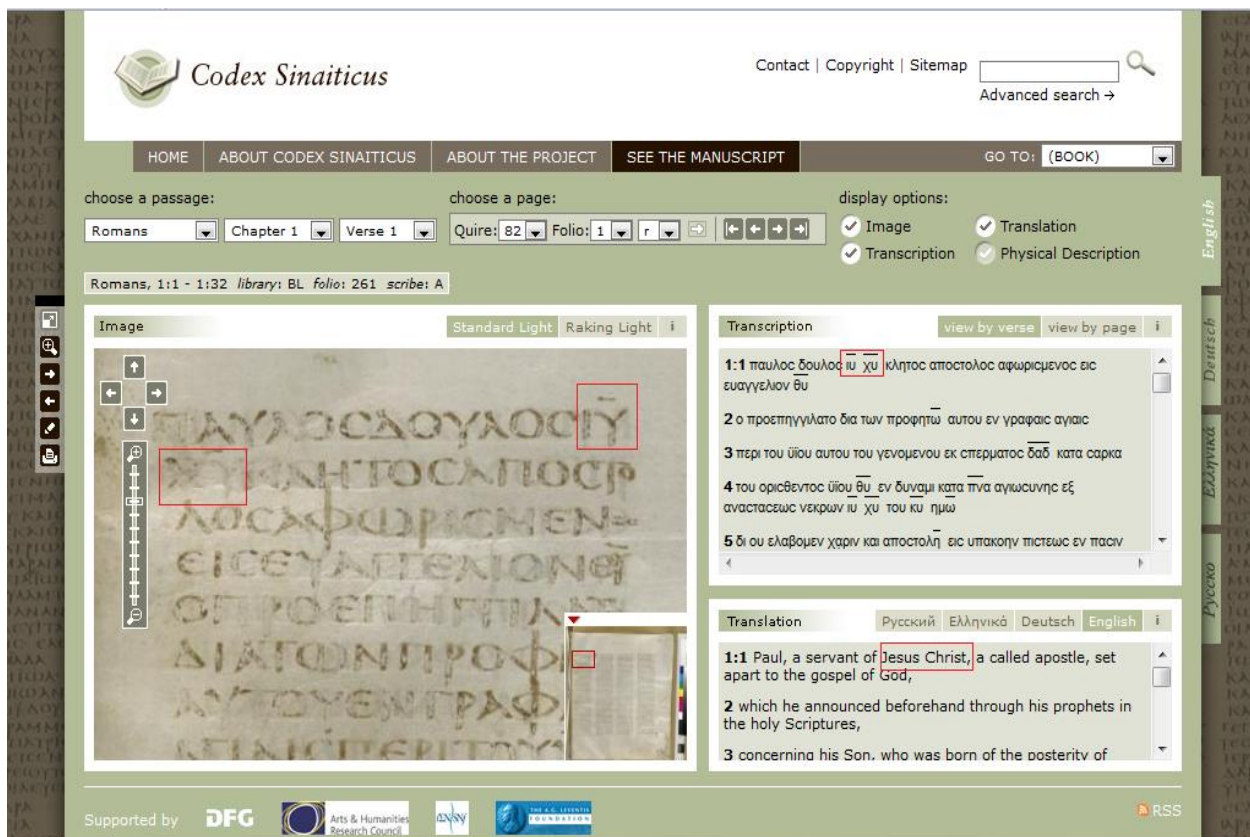
So YAH יָהּ is a contraction of the four letter name YHWH or יְהוָה. What is a contraction?

"Contraction: In traditional grammar, a contraction is the formation of a new word from one or more individual words. This often is a result of a common sequence of words, or, as in French, to maintain a flowing sound. However, contraction has gained a broader meaning both in linguistics and other areas of language research. Based on the latest definitions, contraction is shortening of a word, syllable, or word group by omission of internal letters." –Wikipedia Online Encyclopedia.

"The shortening of a word or phrase by omitting letters or syllables. In the English language, a contraction generally, but not always, marks the omitted letters or syllables with an apostrophe or a period. *Telco*, for example, is a contraction of *telephone company*. Doesn't is a contraction of does not. *Mr.* is a contraction of *mister*, a title of courtesy for a man. *Mrs.* is a contraction of *mistress*, a title of courtesy for a married or widowed woman. Once upon a time, people used the title of courtesy *Miss* to denote a

girl or unmarried woman. The feminist movement of the 1970s forced a change to **Ms.**, which makes no distinction in a woman's marital status.” – yourdictionary

So a contraction is done by omitting the internal letters. **Mr.** from mister is a perfect example. Another example of a contraction is the word “junior.” The contraction of junior is “jr.” So YAH is actually taken from the first and last letter of the full Name! The name is written in Hebrew as יהוה (YHWH); Yod, Heh, Waw, Heh. The Waw (ו) and the first Heh (ה) are removed leaving us with יה (YH) pronounced as YaH. YAH is the contracted form of the full Name YEHOWAH. For a full break down on the full name YEHOWAH, see my article entitled “The Great Name.” So again YAH comes from the full name YHWH or YEHOWAH. This ancient practice was done all throughout the days of antiquity, and not just by the ancient Jews/Yehudim. Even other ancient nations did this, such as the Greeks. For example, KE is a very common contraction for KOURIE (Lord) and KS for KURIOS (Lord). Even the Greek form of the Messiah’s name was done like this in the Greek text. In the Greek text we see IU which is a contraction for Iesou and XU for Kristou. This can be seen [here](#) in the Greek Codex Sinaiticus or the example below.



With the definition of contraction, it can now be understood that YAH (YH - יה) is not a different name but one and the same as YHWH. Just like the example we saw earlier with the title mister. Both mr. and mister mean the same thing because they are both the same word: the short and long form!

With YAH being a contraction of the Most High’s full name and representing the name to the fullest, is it acceptable to call Him and praise Him by this form of His name? Some (**a very small few among the radical Black Hebrew Israelites groups**) have proposed that YAH is not acceptable to use. Well I would think after reading the aforementioned, the obvious answer would be yes but we will see if this name appears anywhere else in Scripture. Let’s begin in the Torah. Surely if it is in the Torah then it is acceptable to use. Let’s take a look.

Exo 15:2 “YAH (YH - יה) is my strength and song, and He has become my deliverance. He is my Ėl, and I praise Him – Elohim of my father, and I exalt Him.

Exo 17:16 for he said, “Because a hand is on the throne of YAH (YH - יה), יהוה is to fight against Amaleq, from generation to generation.”

Both the short and contraction form of the Most High’s name are seen and used interchangeably throughout the Hebrew Scriptures (Tanak). Here we see Moses using both YAH and YEHOWAH together in the same verse. Now if YAH was good enough for Moses, a true servant of the Most High, then who are you or me to come behind that and say it’s not sufficient enough to use alone? As we read earlier, King David said to praise the Most High by His name (singular) YAH.

Psa 68:4 Sing to Elohim, sing praises to His Name. Raise up a highway for Him Who rides through the deserts, By His Name YAH (YH - יה), And exult before Him.

Anyone reading the Scriptures and studying them in Hebrew will see YAH used all throughout Tehillim/Psalms. Despite the claims of those who say the Masoretes tried to hide YAH, it appears all throughout the Hebrew text. It wasn’t removed from any names or hidden. People need to read for themselves and stop believing these false conspiracy claims made by unlearned men. The problem with those who make this claim is; YAH is not the first half of the Most High’s name, it is a contraction of the name. once this is understood, there is no conflict between using YAH and YEHOWAH. The point of this lesson is not to argue the form YEHOWAH for יהוה but to show that YAH is an acceptable and commonly used form of the Most High’s name that can be used by all. Let’s continue reading more verses that prove my point.

Psa 68:18 You have ascended on high, You have led captivity captive, You have received gifts among men, And even the rebellious, That YAH (YH - יה) Elohim might dwell *there*.

Let’s look at this verse in the Hebrew Scripture so you can see with your own eyes YAH or יה in the text.

Psa 68:18 (68:19) עלית למרום שבית שבי לקחת מתנות באדם ואף  
סוררים לשכן יה אלהים:

Transliterated - (68:19 in Heb.) `aleeta lamarowm shabeeta shevee laqach'ta matanowt ba'adam w'aph sor'rim leesh'kon YAH 'Elohim.

H7617 thou hast שבית H4791 on high, למרום H5927 Thou hast ascended עלית Psa 68:18  
H3947 thou hast לקחת H7628 thou hast led captivity captive: שבי led captivity captive:  
H5637 yea, the סוררים H637 also, ואף H120 for men; באדם H4979 gifts מתנות received  
H430 God : אלהים H3050 that the LORD יה H7931 might dwell לשכון rebellious

As you can see in the last translation which is the KJV, the translator chose to substitute the contraction form YAH with LORD (all caps) as they did the full name YEHOWAH about 7000 times in the Tanak (OT). This is why you would never know YAH is actually in the text unless you study the Hebrew or get a version of the Bible that doesn’t practice this tradition. As you see, in the Hebrew text, YAH or Yod Heh (יה - YH) appears. This will be the case in every

verse we look at. I would advise that you, in your personal time, look at each verse in Hebrew to see this fact **FOR YOURSELF**. Let's continue.

Psa\_77:11 I remember the deeds of YAH (YH - יה), For I remember Your wonders of old.

Psa\_89:8 O יהוה Elohim of hosts, Who is mighty like You, O YAH (YH - יה)? And Your trustworthiness is all around You.

Psa\_94:7 Yet they say, "YAH (YH - יה) does not see, And the Elohim of Ya'aqob pays no heed."

Psa\_94:12 Blessed is the man You discipline, O YAH (YH - יה), And instruct out of Your Torah,

Psa\_102:18 This is written for a generation to come, So that a people to be created praise YAH (YH - יה).

Ok, this psalm we just looked at has a very famous phrase used throughout the religious world. That phrase is Hallelujah (Hallelu - YAH - הללויה), which actually means "praise ye YAH." Most people don't know that this praise is actually telling you to praise the name of the Most High by YAH, that's why it's the highest praise. You wouldn't know this though if you didn't study the Bible in Hebrew as well. This phrase also appears frequently throughout the Hebrew Scriptures.

Psa\_104:35 Let sinners be consumed from the earth, And let the wrong be no more. Bless יהוה, O my being! Praise YAH (Hallelu - YAH - הללויה)!

Psa\_105:45 In order that they might guard His laws, And watch over His Torot (instructions). Praise YAH (Hallelu - YAH - הללויה)!

Psa\_106:1 Praise YAH (Hallelu - YAH - הללויה)! Oh, give thanks to יהוה, For He is good! For His kindness is everlasting.

Psa\_106:48 Blessed be יהוה Elohim of Yisra'el From everlasting to everlasting! And all the people shall say, "Amën!" Praise YAH (Hallelu - YAH - הללויה)!

Psa\_111:1 Praise YAH (Hallelu - YAH - הללויה)! I thank יהוה with all my heart, In the company of the straight, and of the congregation.

Psa\_112:1 Praise YAH (Hallelu - YAH - הללויה)! Blessed is the man, Who fears יהוה, Who has greatly delighted in His commands.

Psa\_113:1 Praise YAH (Hallelu - YAH - הללויה)! Praise, O servants of יהוה, Praise the Name of יהוה!

Psa\_113:9 Causing the barren *woman* to dwell in a house, A rejoicing mother of children. Praise YAH (Hallelu - YAH - הללויה)!

Psa\_115:17 The dead do not praise YAH (Hallelu - YAH - הללוּ-יָהּ), Nor any going down to silence.

Psa\_115:18 But we, we bless YAH (YH - יָהּ) Now and forever. Praise YAH (Hallelu - YAH - הללוּ-יָהּ)!

Psa\_116:19 In the courts of the House of יהוה, In your midst, O Yerushalayim. Praise YAH (Hallelu - YAH - הללוּ-יָהּ)!

Psa\_117:2 For His kindness is mighty over us, And the truth of יהוה is everlasting. Praise YAH (Hallelu - YAH - הללוּ-יָהּ)!

Psa\_118:5 I called on YAH (YH - יָהּ) in distress; YAH (YH - יָהּ) answered me in a broad place.

Psa\_118:14 YAH (YH - יָהּ) is my strength and song, And He has become my deliverance.

Psa\_118:17 Let me not die, but live, And declare the works of YAH (YH - יָהּ).

Psa\_118:18 YAH (YH - יָהּ) has punished me severely, But did not give me over to death.

Psa\_118:19 Open to me the gates of righteousness; I enter through them, I thank YAH (YH - יָהּ).

Psa\_122:4 Where the tribes have come up, The tribes of YAH (YH - יָהּ), A witness to Yisra'el, To give thanks to the Name of יהוה.

Again and again we see YAH and YEHOWAH both in the text even in the same line as being the name of the Most High.

Psa\_130:3 O YAH (YH - יָהּ), if You should watch crookednesses, O יהוה, who would stand?

Psa\_135:1 Praise YAH (YH - יָהּ)! Praise the Name of יהוה; Praise, you servants of יהוה,

Psa\_135:3 Praise YAH (YH - יָהּ), for יהוה is good; Sing praises to His Name (singular), for it is pleasant.

Psa\_135:4 For YAH (YH - יָהּ) has chosen Ya'aqob for Himself, Yisra'el for His treasured possession.

Psa\_135:21 Blessed from Tsiyon, יהוה be, Who dwells in Yerushalayim! Praise YAH (YH - יָהּ).

Psa\_146:1 Praise YAH (YH - יָהּ)! Praise יהוה, O my being!



Psa\_146:10 יהוה reigns forever, O Tsiyon, Your Elohim to all generations. Praise YAH (YH - יה)!

Psa\_147:1 Praise YAH (YH - יה)! For it is good to sing praises to our Elohim. For it is pleasant – praise is fitting.

Psa\_147:20 He has not done so with any nation; And they have not known *His* right-rulings! Praise YAH (YH - יה)!

Psa\_148:1 Praise YAH (YH - יה)! Praise יהוה from the heavens, Praise Him in the heights!

Psa\_148:14 He also lifts up the horn of His people, The praise of all His kind ones; Of the children of Yisra'el, A people near to Him. Praise YAH (YH - יה)!

Psa\_149:1 Praise YAH (YH - יה)! Sing to יהוה a new song, His praise in an assembly of kind ones.

Psa\_149:9 To execute on them the written right-ruling; A splendour it is for all His kind ones. Praise YAH (YH - יה)!

Psa\_150:1 Praise YAH (YH - יה)! Praise Ėl in His set-apart place; Praise Him in His mighty expanse!

Psa\_150:6 Let all that have breath praise YAH (YH - יה). Praise YAH (YH - יה)!

All throughout the Psalms we see the contraction YAH being used to speak about the Most High. Surely if it was wrong or insufficient to use the Most High would have rebuked the Jews/Yehudim but no such rebuke exist. Using both names is no different than using Liz and Elizabeth or Bill and William to present a person's first name.

Son\_8:6 Set me as a seal upon your heart, As a seal upon your arm; For love is as strong as death, Jealousy as cruel as the grave; Its flames are flames of fire, a flame of YAH (YH - יה)!

Shlomo/Solomon, the wisest man in the world, uses the contraction form YAH as well. Here we have all throughout the Writings/Ketubim the name YAH being used. So we find YAH in the Torah and the Ketubim. Let's see if we can find it in the Prophets as well.

Isa\_12:2 "See, Ėl is my deliverance, I trust and am not afraid. For YAH (YH - יה), יהוה, is my strength and my song; and He has become my deliverance."

Isa\_26:4 "Trust in יהוה forever, for in YAH (YH - יה), יהוה, is a rock of ages.

Isa\_38:11 I said, "I shall not see YAH (YH - יה) – YAH (YH - יה) in the land of the living! I shall no longer look on man with the inhabitants of the world!"

So even in the Nebi'im (Prophets) we have the form YAH being used by a prophet of the Most High. If it's good enough for the prophets and the ancients then it should be good enough for us. But it doesn't stop there! Even in the Aramaic, Syriac and Greek copies of the New Testament we find the Most High's name YAH written! First let's go to the Tanak and compare it with the Greek Translation known as the Septuagint LXX. Let's look at Psalms 150:1 in the Hebrew first.

הללו יה הללו-אל בקדשו הללוהו ברקיע עזו:

(The Scriptures) Praise YAH! Praise Ēl in His set-apart place; Praise Him in His mighty expanse!

Now as we saw earlier, hallelu-YAH actually means praise ye YAH and is written in Hebrew as הללו-יה. In the Greek we also find HalleluYAH as well. Hallelu-Yah (הללו-יה) is written as Alleluia (Αλληλουια) in the text. This a direct transliteration!

(Brenton LXX) Alleluia. Praise God in his holy places: praise him in the firmament of his power.

(LXX in Greek) Αλληλουια. Αινεῖτε τὸν θεὸν ἐν τοῖς ἁγίοις αὐτοῦ, αἰνεῖτε αὐτὸν ἐν στερεώματι δυνάμεως αὐτοῦ·

Let's look at the definition of Alleluia.

G239

ἀλληλουΐα

allēlouia

al-lay-loo'-ee-ah

Of Hebrew origin (imperative of [H1984] and [H3050]); praise ye Jah!, an adoring exclamation: - alleluiah.

So we see Alleluia is in fact the transliteration of HalleluYAH. Now let's go to the New Testament/Brit Chadashah and look at Rev 19:1 (see also verses 3, 4 & 6).

(The Scriptures) Rev 19:1 And after this I heard a loud voice of a great crowd in the heaven, saying, "HalleluYAH! Deliverance and esteem and respect and power to יהוה our Elohim!

In the Hebrew:

(HNT) אחרי-כן שמעתי קול גדול כקול המון רב בשמים האמרים הללויה  
הישועה והכבוד והעז לאלהינו:

In the Greek:

(GNT) Μετὰ ταῦτα ἤκουσα ὡς φωνὴν μεγάλην ὄχλου πολλοῦ ἐν τῷ οὐρανῷ λεγόντων· ἀλληλουΐα· ἡ σωτηρία καὶ ἡ δόξα καὶ ἡ δύναμις τοῦ Θεοῦ ἡμῶν,

In the Peshitta (Aramaic-Syriac):





understanding as I did years ago. I hope those who didn't even know that Most High even had a name have been enlightened as well.

*Let us hear the conclusion of the entire matter: fear Elohim (God) and guard his commands, for this applies to all mankind! For Elohim shall bring every work into right-ruling, including all that is hidden, whether good or whether evil - Eccl 12:13-14*

Shalom Uv'racha  
(Peace & Blessings)

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