

GOD – JHWH

In Hebrew the name of God is spelled *YHWH*. Since ancient Hebrew had no written vowels, it is uncertain how the name was pronounced originally, but there are records of the name in Greek, which *did* have written vowels. These records indicate that in all likelihood the name should be pronounced "*Yahweh*."

Shortly before the first century A.D., it became common for Jews to avoid saying the divine name for fear of misusing it, and breaking the second commandment ("*You shall not take the name of the Lord, your God, in vain,*" [Deut. 5:11](#)). Whenever they read scripture aloud and encountered the divine name, they substituted another Hebrew word, "*Adonai*" (which means "*Lord*" or "*my Lord*") in its place.

Eventually, Hebrew developed written vowels, which appeared as small marks called vowel points and were placed above and below the consonants of a word. In the sixth or seventh century, some Jews began to place the vowel points for "*Adonai*" over the consonants for "*Yahweh*" to remind the reader of scripture to say "*Adonai*" whenever he read "*Yahweh*."

About the 13th century, the term "*Jehovah*" appeared when Christian scholars took the consonants of "*Yahweh*" and pronounced it with the vowels of "*Adonai*." This resulted in the sound "*Yahowah*," which has a Latinized spelling of "*Jehovah*." The first recorded use of this spelling was made by a Spanish Dominican monk, Raymundus Martini, in 1270.

1. The personal name of Jehovah is *JHWH*
2. Jehovah is the personal name of each member of the Trinity in contrast to Elohim (which refers to all members of the Trinity). Jehovah is singular – while Elohim is plural. Jehovah

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always refers to one person in the Godhead. Elohim is the name of God from the view of essence/attributes.

3. Jehovah is a singular name and refers to a specific person in the Trinity. Without vowels, Jehovah was JHWH.
4. Those letters are called a *tetragrammaton* – The name representing God in the Hebrew written without vowels. 4 letters JHWH.
5. Note various words with that root:
 - 1) *Tetrabasic* – a chemical containing 4 basic atoms
 - 2) *Tetrachord* – a music word – a diatonic series of 4 tones
 - 3) In geometry – a *tetragon* is a plane figure having 4 angles
 - 4) In drama – a *tetralogy* means a series of 4 related dramas
 - 5) A *tetragram* is a word having 4 letters.
6. When this *noman* (name) tetragrammaton appeared, the Jews refused to pronounce it, and instead used the word *ADONAI* which means “LORD.” The Jews took the vowels (e o a); they shortened the first vowel and it became an “A” – then placed in the “e” – then took the last vowel and lengthened it “na” – this *ANONA* or *ADONAI*.
7. When the Jews translated the Septuagint (Greek translation of the Old Testament), they used the word “*Kurios*” to translate “*Adonai*.”