

## Doctrine of Jehovah

### Who is Jehovah?

1. A central doctrine of the Witnesses revolves around the name of God, “*Jehovah*.”
2. The Witnesses teach that this Hebrew word, denoted by the English letters JHVH or YHWH, occurs no less than 6,823 times in the Old Testament. And they are correct.
3. In the Old Testament part of the KJV the words “God” and “Lord” often occur in capital letters.
4. The word in the original Hebrew is “*Yahweh*” which is “*Jehovah*” in the Anglicized form. Concerning the name of Jehovah, the following observations can be made.
5. The name “Jehovah” was the greatest, highest, and holiest name known to the Jews of Old Testament times.
6. It is possible that the name “*Jehovah*” was used by Abraham, the father of all Jews; but certainly by Moses.
  - *Exodus 6:6 Wherefore say unto the children of Israel, I am the Lord, and I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians, and I will rid you out of their bondage, and I will redeem you with a stretched out arm, and with great judgments: 7 And I will take you to me for a people, and I will be to you a God: and ye shall know that I am the Lord your God, which bringeth you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians.*
7. Jehovah was everything to the Israelites.
  - *Isaiah 33:22 For the Lord is our judge, the Lord is our lawgiver, the Lord is our king; he will save us.*
8. The name “*Jehovah*” distinguished the nation of Israel from the heathen nations round about them.
  - *Isaiah 42:8 I am the Lord: that is my name: and my glory will I not give to another, neither my praise to graven images.*
9. Other gods might be called upon (Ezek. 8:14; 1 Cor. 8:5), but there is only one true God and by His name could he be known, Jehovah, the living God.
10. With the passing of time the Greek language superseded Hebrew as the popular tongue.

11. Certain superstitions arose including the concept by the scribes and priests that the sacred name of God could not be pronounced by unclean lips.
12. For that reason the Greek words “*kyrios*” (Lord) and “*Theos*” (God) began to be substituted for the sacred name, Jehovah.
13. The English Bible reflects this superstition for the Bible was translated largely from Greek manuscripts of the Old Testament, which had “*kyrios*”, and “*theos*” in the place of “Jehovah.”
14. However a difficulty arose in rendering this distinctive name by the popular nouns “Lord” and “God” for there were many occasions where, right in the original Hebrew of the Old Testament, the Almighty was called by those terms.
15. It became necessary to make a distinction between “Lord” and “God” as literal translations from the original languages, and “*Lord*” and “*God*” as substitutes for “Jehovah” in the originals.
16. The decision was made to render the two words as “Lord” and “God” where they were translated literally from the originals, and with capital letters as “LORD” and “GOD” when translating as “Jehovah.”
17. In the New Testament manuscripts the name “Jehovah” does not appear in the originals despite the Lord’s own deepest respect for the name of His Father.
  - *John 17:5 And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was.*