



THE
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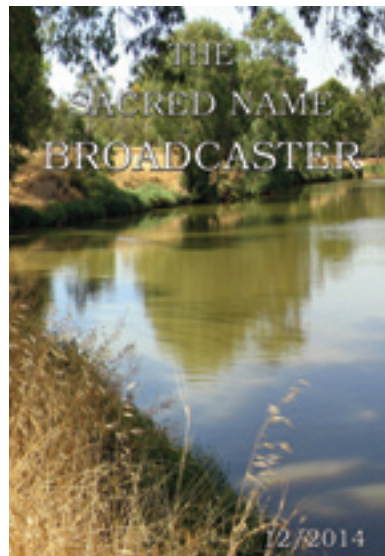
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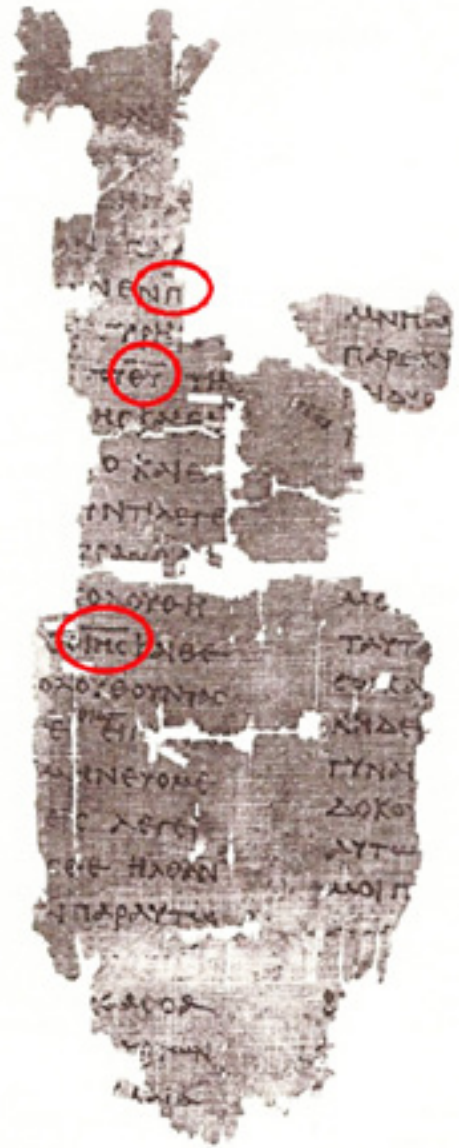


Our Cover:

"Yahweh is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me to lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside still waters. He restores my soul: He guides me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake." (Psalm 23:1-3). Our cover this month is of the Yarkon River flowing gently toward the sea. Yahweh's Narrow Pathway leads us beside peaceful waters during very troublous times.

The blessings of trusting in Yahweh are the fruits of righteousness. "Blessed is the man that trusts in Yahweh, and whose trust Yahweh is. For he shall be as a tree planted by the waters, that spreads out its roots by the river, and shall not fear when heat comes, but its leaf shall be green; and shall not be careful in the year of drought, neither shall cease from yielding fruit." (Jeremiah 17:7-8).

Septuagint Study Proves the Sacred Name



One of the most helpful tools for the study of the Hebrew Bible is the Greek version of the Old Testament called the **Septuagint**. This name is derived from the Latin *septuaginta*—*seventy*. One often encounters mention of this text by the Roman numerals LXX (70). When these Roman numerals are encountered, they should be read *seventy*.

Since this translation of the Hebrew Scriptures was done quite soon after the dispersion of the Jewish nation immediately following the Babylonian captivity, this Greek version gives some indication of how the Jewish translators of that time understood the Hebrew text. It must be remembered that this translation was made about a thousand years before the Masoretic edition of the

by Elder Jacob O. Meyer

text was completed.

The usual dating for the Septuagint is given as the end of the third century, B.C.E., although the exact date of the original translation is unknown. Dr. Moses Hadas in his book, **Aristeas to Philocrates (Letter of Aristeas)**, places the date at 130 B.C.E., because of some of the words used in the translation. However, this method of dating has not always proved reliable, since words may have been in common use at a much earlier date than when they eventually found their

way into a translated text. Then, again, we may not have access to all the early texts in which certain words appeared since not every text was preserved.

The Septuagint was undoubtedly produced in Alexandria, Egypt, by Jews who had migrated to Egypt in the time following the destruction of Jerusalem by Nebuchadnezzar. You may read in the Bible how Jeremiah warned the Jewish people (the two southern tribes) not to return to Egypt, but to submit to the rulership of the Babylonians since Yahweh had decreed this captivity to be their punishment.

But the leaders of the people did not heed the counsel of the prophet Jeremiah; in fact, they even forced this chosen prophet of Yahweh to

accompany them into Egypt. Please turn to the book of Jeremiah and read chapters 42-44.

While in Egypt, the Jewish people continued to use the Hebrew Scriptures that they had brought with them. They determined to retain their Hebrew culture. Some of those Jews could have been the ones who sold their services as mercenary soldiers to the Pharaoh of Egypt and lived on the island of Elephantine, located in the Nile River opposite modern Aswan. Those Jewish mercenary soldiers were, at one time, in contact with the religious authorities in the Holy Land and even expressed a desire to build a replica of the Jerusalem Temple for their own worship while they were isolated from their homeland. The Elephantine papyri, that have been widely publicized and discussed in scholarly circles, are the correspondence between those Jewish mercenaries and their homeland religious authorities. This correspondence proves that the revealed personal Name of our Heavenly Father "Yahweh" was in common use at the time.

The Legendary Story of the Septuagint Development

The story behind the production of the **Septuagint** version is quite interesting. The **Apocryphal Letter of Aristeas**, which was addressed to Philocrates, was written to extend credibility to the Greek **Septuagint** text. Although this letter must be relegated to the position of legend, because it has been proven to be spurious, it, nevertheless, must be studied to get the complete picture. It seems that the Jews who lived outside of their homeland had absorbed some

of the Hellenic culture. Since the community had assimilated the widely used Greek language which was commonly employed in business, they decided that a translation of the Old Testament Scriptures into the vernacular was necessary. The

The Scriptures allow the translation of the Bible from one language to another since it was done from ancient times. You may note this fact from such a biblical example as Nehemiah 8:8. "And they read in the book, in the law of Elohim, distinctly; and they gave the sense, so that they understood the reading."

religious authorities in the land of Israel viewed such a translation with skepticism and general hostility.

Consequently, some kind of support for the Greek version had to be found. Therefore, this letter of Aristeas was circulated as propaganda to lend credence to the **Septuagint** translation. Aristeas was supposed to have been a highly-placed court official serving the Pharaoh and a Gentile.

The subject of the letter describes how the royal librarian, Demetrius of Phalerum, upon reporting to the Egyptian emperor, Ptolemy II Philadelphus, that there were now 200,000 volumes in the royal library, expressed regrets that this magnificent library did not include a copy of the Torah (Laws) of the Jews. He suggested that such a volume be obtained. Immediately a letter was dispatched to the religious authorities in Jerusalem requesting that a volume of the Hebrew Scriptures be sent to the Alexandrian library in Egypt. Demetrius, furthermore, urged that the religious authorities send along to

Alexandria a contingent of elders to translate the Hebrew Scriptures into Greek; six elders from each tribe of Israel. These 72 men were to make the translation; hence, the name **Septuagint**. Along with the party, the Pharaoh sent lavish gifts for the

Temple of Jerusalem after making a gesture of good will by releasing 100,000 Jewish captives in Egypt.

When the party returned from the Holy Land along with the 72 translators, they were immediately received by the Egyptian court. They showed the king the Hebrew Torah scroll they had brought back with them, a parchment written with letters of gold. The king prostrated himself seven times before this scroll. Then there followed a feast of seven days in which the elders of Israel who were to do the translation answered questions that were put to them concerning their religion.

After the feast, Demetrius took the 72 men to the island of Pharos (otherwise famous for its lighthouse) where they were placed in seclusion in lavish quarters. The translation work was finished in 72 days. The Jewish community was then called together, and the volume was read to them. They acclaimed it with a tremendous ovation, and copies were immediately requested.

The Pharaoh also heard it read and marvelled at it. He, as had the Jewish community, urged that reverent care be exercised over the books, because it was so well and accurately done. The Egyptian Jewish community, thereupon, declared that no revision of the translation would ever be permitted—a curse being pronounced upon anyone who would revise, add to, or excise anything.

Obviously, since many questions arise, the letter of Aristeas is customarily considered to be

only a story—a farce, Jewish propaganda—to lend credibility to the Greek translation. The orthodox Jewish religious community was so hostile to the translation that they invented their own fable to reject its authority. The Talmud records that the day the **Septuagint** was produced there was a severe earthquake in the Middle East, during which every inch of ground shook in Palestine, because the Almighty was so angered that His Word had been translated into a heathen language.

But, in addition, later commentators embellished still further upon the Aristeas story. Philo, Pseudo-Justin, Irenaeus, and Clement of Alexandria all insisted that the translators worked independently and, when the different manuscripts were compared, they were all identical! Even more fantastic is the assertion by Epiphanius, who said that these 72 men completed translating the entire Hebrew Bible (not merely the Torah), along with the 22 books of Apocrypha, all in 72 days! Apparently, these stories (and that is all they really are) are a takeoff on the Aristeas letter, and, since this was purely an invention, they felt that they also could add to the account.

The **Septuagint** certainly is not an inspired text. It is the uninspired translation of men. It bears the unmistakable characteristic of Semitic syntax and is very slavishly translated with little regard being given to correct Greek syntax.

The following is a quote from the noted work of Dr. F. F. Bruce, **The Books and the Parchments**, pages 70-71. “*But the Septuagint was not written in magnificent Greek. The first five books of the Bible had special attention paid to them, and their Greek style is tolerable; but many of the books were translated very indifferently, and the Hebrew idioms were imported bodily into Greek. To one accustomed to reading good Greek, Septuagint Greek reads very oddly; but to a Greek reader acquainted with Hebrew idiom, Septuagint Greek is immediately intelligible. The words are Greek,*

but the construction is Hebrew. This was the version, then, in which so many early Christians knew the Old Testament, and for those of them who became ‘men of one book’ it influenced their style, Hebrew idioms and all.”

For anyone who had ever closely studied any amount of the **Septuagint** text, the foregoing statement rings true. It is very easy for the scholar to determine when a particular text is a translation, especially when he has the acknowledged primary or foundation text with which to compare. Nevertheless, unenlightened people often mistakenly appeal to the authority of this uninspired translation to support their erroneous doctrines. We frequently hear that those who are unfamiliar with **Septuagint** studies make the statement that we know we do not have to use the Sacred Name because of the **Septuagint** translation, since this version did not transliterate the Tetragrammaton. Could this assertion be true? Should we really depend upon a translation which is certainly not inspired as the basis upon which to hang such an important doctrine that will eventually mean the salvation of our very souls? Let us see what we can unearth by some further research into the text of the **Septuagint**. We may just be surprised with what modern scholarship has unearthed. We feel certain this will prove to be a very interesting study.

A Greek Targum

The word *targum* has been defined as *an oral paraphrase of the Hebrew text of the Scripture as it is rendered into another dialect or tongue*. Using this explanation, Dr. Bruce states in his book mentioned previously above (page 147), “*Alexandria was from the start a Greek-speaking city, and its Jewish population soon forgot their Palestinian vernacular and came to speak exclusively in Greek. If these people were to make any use of the Hebrew Bible, it must be in a translation. A Greek Targum was as necessary in*

Alexandria as an Aramaic Targum was in Palestine and Babylonia. And the internal evidence of the Septuagint suggests that this Greek version of the Old Testament was made in the first instance to meet the requirements of the Jewish population of Alexandria, and not to grace the royal library. That a copy ultimately found its way into the royal library is quite likely, but that is another matter.”

Consequently, there was no intention on the part of the **LXX** translators to produce an outstanding literary translation into the Greek, but merely to present to the Jewish congregations in Alexandria a version that was a Greek paraphrase of the Hebrew text. In most cases, this paraphrase turned out to be quite slavish and literally faithful to the original. But those people had been brought up in the Jewish-Hebrew tradition. They could easily comprehend the idiomatic expressions and the stilted syntax. The literary style was meant to retain the flavor of the underlying Hebrew text so that the traditional religion would be bodily transferred into the Greek tongue. The Scriptures allow the translation of the Bible from one language to another, since it was done from ancient times. You may note this fact from such a biblical example as Nehemiah 8:8. “***And they read in the book, in the law of Elohim, distinctly; and they gave the sense, so that they understood the reading.”***

Pagan Greek Vocabulary Used

Although all nationalities are entitled to hear the wonderful words of Yahweh in their own languages, this is NO EXCUSE to use substitute names for the Almighty Heavenly Father Yahweh in the translation. Our Heavenly Father has only one Name, Psalm 83:18. This is His Name forever, and His memorial to all generations. (Exodus 3:15). Languages are all corrupted by paganism to some extent—ex-

cept the language of the inspired Scriptures, which is Hebrew. Let us note Zephaniah 3:9. ***“For then will I change to the peoples a pure language, that they may call upon the name of Yahweh, to serve him with one consent.”***

This is the language of the Bible, the language in which the inspired Scriptures were handed down to us.

Let us again peruse the work of Dr. F. F. Bruce, **The Books and the Parchments** (page 159). *“It is not always realized that the New Testament writers’ task of recording the Gospel in Greek was made easier because the Septuagint already existed. They did not have to invent a Greek theological vocabulary; such a vocabulary lay ready at hand in the Septuagint. The general religious vocabulary of the Greek language was PAGAN in character; but several elements of that PAGAN VOCABULARY had been taken by the Alexandrian translators and used as EQUIVALENTS of the GREAT WORDS of the Old Testament revelation. Thus it came about that in Greek-speaking Jewish circles these words did not bear their original PAGAN significance but the new significance which they acquired from the Hebrew vocabulary which they represented.”* (Emphasis in the passage by the author.)

Here, then, is the basic root cause of why the world today uses names to invoke the Almighty which are of PAGAN origin. They justify themselves by indicating that, because the translators who produced the **Greek Septuagint** translation employed these pagan names and terms, it is acceptable to the Heavenly Father to continue to use them in worship. Such is a BLATANT ERROR. Neither the **Septuagint** translators, nor their version, was inspired.

Let us note again the emphasized words in the paragraph above, allowing them to sink into our intellect and take firm root within our minds. The general religious vocabulary of the Greek language is PAGAN in character. Read that

sentence over again. The Greek religious vocabulary is PAGAN in character. This comment can be proven so conclusively that even a child can comprehend it. We have done so repeatedly in the pages of **The Sacred Name Broadcaster**. Then we must ask, why do so many people continue to use these PAGAN Greek words and names? Obviously, they desire to justify themselves.

Almighty Yahweh never sanctified these substitute names to be used in worship. They have no real basis for doing so, other than to fall back on the **Septuagint**. Since the theologians guiding the people spiritually fall back upon the **Septuagint** to support their conclusions that we can continue to use a pagan vocabulary in the New Testament, one can now very readily see that their house is built upon shifting sand. One day soon it will fall and great will be the fall of it!

Let us allow Dr. Bruce to continue to expose this fallacious error of translation. *“Much the same took place with regard to a number of other words, including NAMES and TITLES of divine beings, psychological terms, and words denoting such things as righteousness, mercy and truth, sin and atonement. It is particularly important to understand the New Testament words for atonement, sacrifice, forgiveness, propitiation, and reconciliation, not in the PAGAN Greek sense, but rather in the sense in which they were used in the Septuagint to render corresponding Hebrew words,”* (pages 159-160, *ibid.*). (Note again the emphasized words by the author.)

One cannot help but be horrified by the revelation and very candid admission of this famous Bible scholar that the NAMES and TITLES most everyone has used for the Almighty and the Savior from childhood are PAGAN in origin. No wonder our Heavenly Father is displeased with our world. Our only recourse is to return humbly and meekly back to the original texts (as clearly as we can return to them) and use the NAMES and TITLES for the Al-

mighty and the Messiah, which They revealed to the human race under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit in the Hebrew text. We really cannot know the Almighty unless we call upon His revealed personal Name, nor can we know the salvation of the Messiah without knowing that this is the meaning of His Name. Since the author, Dr. Bruce, actually suggests that we return to the Hebrew Scriptures to learn the true meaning of such words as grace, atonement, sacrifice, righteousness, mercy, and truth, should this not provide even greater impetus and incentive to return to the Hebrew texts for the NAME of the Almighty which determines our very salvation if we call upon Him?

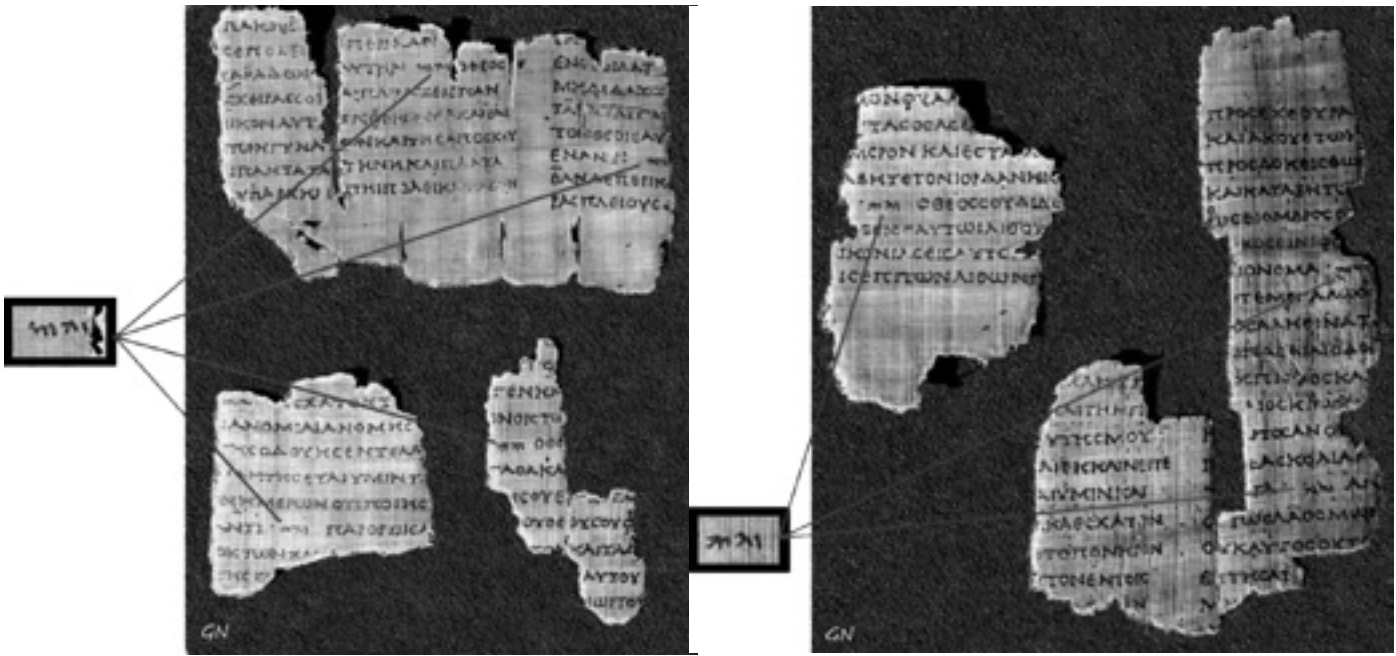
Joel 2:32 reads, ***“And it shall come to pass, that whoever shall call on the name of Yahweh shall be delivered; for in mount Zion and in Jerusalem there shall be those that escape, as Yahweh has said, and among the remnant those whom Yahweh does call.”*** See also Romans 11:13 and Acts 2:21.

“For great is Yahweh, and greatly to be praised: He is to be feared above all elohim. For all the elohim of the peoples are idols; but Yahweh made the heavens.” Psalm 96:4-5. Don’t be afraid of using the revealed personal Name and the inspired titles of the Almighty as they appear in the Hebrew text. Recognize that you are now returning to the Faith which was once and for all time delivered to the saints. (Judah 3).

Septuagint Precedent?

Too frequently, we hear of people continuing their practice of using pagan names as found in the New Testament, because they assert that those names appear in the **Septuagint** text and that the New Testament writers merely quoted from the **Septuagint** which had somehow attained inspired status.

To dissect this argument to determine its validity, let us begin by recognizing the fact that only the



The photographs appearing above and the one at the beginning of this article are fragments of the Greek **Septuagint** translation, from the collection known as the *Fouad Papyri*. Noted are the places where the **Tetragrammaton** appears in paleo-Hebrew within the Greek text.

original texts were inspired by the Holy Spirit. There is no indication anywhere in the Bible that a targum or a translation was ever considered inspired. It is merely transferring the thoughts and instructions of the Almighty into the vernacular. All translations are the works of men. It was the original texts (known as the autographs) that were Yahweh-breathed through His Holy Spirit.

It is also entirely possible that much of the New Testament was originally written in Hebrew or Aramaic. The book of Matthew has been historically proven to be written in the Hebrew (or Aramaic) language. You may check Eusebius' **Ecclesiastical History**, as well as any encyclopedia, for verification.

The book of Hebrews was written to the Hebrew people, who spoke Hebrew or Aramaic. This book bears unmistakable evidence of a primary Hebrew or Aramaic text underlying the present Greek text. The book of Revelation can easily be shown to have been written originally in Hebrew, since it reads almost exactly like the translated **Septuagint** with Hebrew, not Greek, syntax.

Have you read our free booklet,

Exploding the Myth of the Inspired Greek New Testament?

This booklet has collected a substantial amount of scholarship to prove that the New Testament was not originally inspired to be written in the Greek language, but rather in Hebrew or Aramaic. Why not write in for your own personal copy today? As stated previously, it is free for the asking, with no cost and no obligation of any kind. Write in immediately before it slips your mind. Don't procrastinate!

If, indeed, the New Testament was originally written in the Hebrew or Aramaic languages, then it is entirely possible that the men who translated it from Hebrew into Greek did indeed quote from the **Septuagint** text of the Hebrew Scriptures when translating. But this translation work was done no earlier than the second century after the Messiah, fully 400 years after the Greek **Septuagint** had been translated. Could it be that some changes had taken place in the **Septuagint** text over that period of time, which could now make a difference in doctrine? Was the **Septuagint** text kept as pure as

the Hebrew? Let us do a little more research and see what we shall find.

The First Septuagint Translation Contained the Sacred Name

One of the most interesting facts that **Septuagint** study will reveal is the notable absence of the use of the Hebrew substitute Name for the Almighty—Adonai. The date of the **Septuagint** translation would reveal that, at the time this version was produced, the practice of using the name, Adonai, had not yet caught on outside of Palestine. It indicates that some other Name was used for the Almighty rather than the substitute name, Adonai, which is currently in use by the Jews and which began to be introduced into common usage after the years 300 B.C.E.

In the **Septuagint** text, the name used to replace the Sacred Name is **KURIOS**. This term was later transferred into the New Testament Greek text and has been translated "L-rd" in the **King James Version**. But was this name, which is admittedly pagan in origin, used in the

The ministry of Yahweh is committed to supporting the authenticity of the original inspired Scriptures as closely as we can return to the original autographs.

original **Septuagint** translation? If we can prove this point one way or the other, it will go far toward establishing sound doctrine. Absolute proof will finally and forever lay to rest and bury deeply these false concepts.

Accompanying this article in **The Sacred Name Broadcaster** will appear two pictures of **Septuagint** fragments. These pictures are widely circulated in scholarly circles and you can find them in library research material published in the collection by P. Fouad. The fragments are from the book of Deuteronomy. The fragments apparently parallel in date the fragments of the Rylands papyri dated in the 2nd century B.C.E. Consequently, they are very ancient. You will notice that appearing here is the Sacred Name, the Tetragrammaton, the four letters comprising the Heavenly Father's Name, not the Greek letters as a transliteration, but they were reproduced in the paleo-Hebrew letters יְהוָה. These letters have the same sounds as the modern Hebrew square-printed letters יהוה. The **Qumran Isaiah** scrolls were written utilizing these ancient Hebrew letters. The alphabet is similar, only the shape of the letters of the alphabet are written

differently. The sounds of the letters are the same as they are today.

As a consequence, it is obvious to the student that the translators of the Greek **Septuagint**, who did the original translation, had a very high regard for the Sacred Name, and they accorded it the utmost reverence. They revered it so much that they retained it in the ancient Hebrew letters so that the reader would pay special attention to the term. Undoubtedly, they wished to educate the reader personally regarding the importance of the Name of the Almighty and to instruct him in how to properly pronounce the Sacred Name.

When, and For What Reason, Was the Sacred Name Removed?

Can we then ascertain how the Sacred Name was removed from the text and the approximate time when this was done? In recent years, a great deal of scholarly work has been done on the **Septuagint**, and this work has produced some surprising new evidence in support of the Sacred Name doctrine. We can allow this tangible evidence to correct us and strengthen us in the Faith of Yahweh's Word, or we can merely shrug it off and go on searching for other evidence that will prop up our refusal to follow the commandments of Yahweh as they are recorded for us in the Hebrew Scriptures. But those props are growing more feeble and insecure as time goes along toward the end of the age and knowledge is being increased. Let us not forget that casting doubts upon one part of the Scripture will allow this doubt to filter into other doctrines until we entirely lose our Faith. The ministry of Assemblies of Yahweh is committed to supporting the authenticity of the original inspired Scriptures as closely as we can return to the original autographs.

Dr. Sidney Jellicoe has written a masterful work in his book published in 1968 called, **The Septuagint**

and Modern Study. Essentially, this book draws together the various segments of the study of the Greek **Septuagint** version that had been done by scholars over the past two centuries. The book also contains a bibliography of **Septuagint** studies that is outstanding and comprehensive.

Let us note what this prominent **Septuagint** scholar has to say on the subject of the Sacred Name and how it once was incorporated into the Greek text, but eventually disappeared. The following quote is from pages 271 and 272.

“On the transcription of the Divine Name B. J. Roberts wrote in 1951: “The problem still remains unsolved and is under discussion. If any change has taken place over the past decade it is in a movement still further away from the position of Baudissin. This scholar had maintained that right from its origins the LXX had rendered the Tetragrammaton by Κύριος [Kurios], and that in no case was the latter a mere substitute for an earlier יהוה [Adonai]. Thus he denied the evidence of Origen that in the more accurate manuscripts the Divine Name was written in the ancient (palaeo Hebrew) script and the later testimony of Jerome to the same effect. As Waddell pointed out, Baudissin’s summary statement is ‘flatly disproved’ by the Fouad Papyrus, and now a Qumran fragment of Leviticus II-IV, written in a hand closely akin to Fouad 266, has been found to render the Tetragrammaton by יהוה [YHW]. Kahle is also of the opinion, and claims the concurrence of C. H. Roberts, that in the Rylands Papyrus Greek 458, at Deuteronomy XXVI. 17 where the text breaks off just before the appearance of the Divine Name, the original bore not Κύριος [Kurios] as Roberts original supposed, but the unabridged Tetragrammaton. It would seem therefore that the evidence most recently at hand is tending to confirm the testimony of Origen and Jerome, and that Kahle is right in holding that the LXX texts, written by Jews for

Jews, retained the Divine Name in Hebrew letters (palaeo-Hebrew or Aramaic) or in the Greek imitative form Π Ι Π Ι [Pipi], and that its replacement by Κύριος [Kurios] was a Christian innovation. We should, however, hesitate to add with Kahle 'when the Divine Name written in Hebrew letters was not understood any more,' as the Tetragrammaton was surely intelligible to the scribe. How otherwise would he have known how to render it at all? The almost complete absence of אֲדֹנָי [Adonai], save in the A text of Ezekiel, bears out Baudissin's reluctance to admit this form at any stage as a rendering of the ineffable Name, for had it been otherwise a number of traces would undoubtedly have survived."

This eminent scholar of **Septuagint** studies just quoted, Dr. Sidney Jellicoe, has come face to face with the facts unearthed in recent years. The Name of the Almighty Heavenly Father YAHWEH did indeed appear in the Greek text of the **Septuagint**. However, the scholars feel that it was the Christians who removed it. To this we would agree.

Let us note that Revelation 2:6 and 15 indicate that the doctrine of the Nicolaitanes had crept into, and ultimately taken over, the Assembly. This was the doctrine of a laity who insisted upon using a variant of a common Greek Name for the Savior. This doctrine took on the appearance of preaching the victory of Zeus; hence, the term *Nicolaitanes* from *Nike* (winged victory, the evangelist of Zeus) laity (lay members). How difficult (almost impossible) it is for a minister of the Truth of Yahweh's Word (as is the author) to impress upon people sound doctrines as they appear in the Bible. If the people are not totally humble and submissive to the Word, they hold tenaciously to what they were taught in their childhood in the churches in which they were reared. Biased opinions do not stop with the Sacred Name doctrine, but extends also to other doctrines such as the correct day to observe for the New Testament Sabbath, the Trinity, baptism, etc., ad

infinitum. It was the people living several centuries after the Messiah who wanted to make this new religion palatable for the masses. They introduced the idea that, since the Jews had already begun to use a substitute name for the Almighty, the Hebrew letters could be completely eliminated from the text and a substitute name inserted. This also extended to the New Testament translation. But we must remember that the Messiah Himself did not teach such a doctrine, nor did the early Apostles who had preached in the Name of Yahweh. See John 17:6 and 26.

It has also been shown that the Greek-speaking Jews and proselytes began to misread the Tetragrammaton when the modern Hebrew letters were introduced instead of the archaic palaeo-Hebrew letters in which the Sacred Name appears in the original **Septuagint** manuscripts. Since the Tetragrammaton in modern Hebrew appears as אֲדֹנָי they misread it as [Pipi] Π Ι Π Ι. One can readily see how such confusion could have happened. Consequently, we feel that, as the modern Hebrew letters were introduced, the next step was to fall back and follow the Jewish idea of substitution entirely and insert Κύριος [Kurios], L-rd. This would again prove that the innovation was of a rather late date, because the modern Hebrew letters were not in very wide use much before the Messiah's time. For proof of this, one need look no further than the Dead Sea scrolls discovered at Qumran, in Jordan. We must additionally point out the absence of the use of the word *Adonai* in the **Septuagint** texts, and this also proves that the insertion of the word *Kurios* is of more recent date. If it had been in early usage, there would have been manuscript evidence of transliteration of *Adonai*.

The Elephantine colony at Aswan in the Nile River bears record that the Name Yahweh was in common use in about the 4th and 5th centuries B.C.E. This correspondence does not substitute Adonai for the

Sacred Name Yahweh, but uses the Tetragrammaton frequently in the messages of the letters. The Name Yahweh was well known among all Jews, and those of the dispersion were no exception. Anyone who was familiar with the Hebrew language knew the Sacred Name and knew how to pronounce the Tetragrammaton. As a consequence, the statement that the insertion of the Greek word *Kurios* was a later Christian innovation is entirely true.

The Hexapla of Origen

We cannot leave this study of the **Septuagint** without mention of the **Hexapla** that was produced by Origen. The word *Hexapla* means *sixfold*. Origen was an exegete, philosopher, theologian, and mystic. He was a native of Egypt—probably from Alexandria. His parents were believers in the Messiah, and his father was martyred during the reign of Servus, C.E. 203-204. Origen traveled extensively and finally settled in Caesarea where he was made a priest. He had also studied under Clement of Alexandria. Origen was well educated in Greek, but he had no desire to be a literary man; rather, he sought to be a student and teacher. Nevertheless, he did an extensive amount of writing, although little of it has survived. His magnum opus (great work) was the **Hexapla**. This work reached 6,500 pages in length. It was composed of six columns and apparently took about 15 years to complete. The primary purpose of this work was textual criticism in which Origen hoped to establish a correct Greek text, which he planned to use for exegetical and apologetic studies in his debates with Gnosticism. He also intended to use his **Hexapla** in conversations with the Jews. Eusebius relates that Origen began his studies with a thorough study of the Hebrew text, which he had obtained from among the Jews. The current Hebrew text in Palestine became the basis for the first column of his **Hexapla**.

The **Hexapla** was a very unique

work. It was a manuscript of six vertical columns, with the Hebrew text forming the first column. Column 2 represents the transliteration of the Hebrew words into Greek characters. This was a masterful work in itself, although some commentators feel that he may have merely copied the work of another scholar. Column 3 is the version of Aquila (circa 2nd century, C.E.), and column 4 is the version of Symmachus (circa beginning of the 3rd century, C.E.). Column 5 was Origen's own reconstruction of the standard **Septuagint** text with reference to the Hebrew. Column 6 was the translation of Theodocian. This last translation of the Hebrew Bible into Greek was thought to be the very best of any of the others. Although Origen shared the high regard for the Greek **Septuagint** that traced back to Philo, he acknowledged the superiority of the Hebrew text. This is recognized, because Origen gave it the honored place of the first column in his work.

Interestingly, Origen included three other Greek texts at various places in his translation. They are called Quinta, Sexta, and Septima. The Sexta version was discovered in a jar near Jericho and most likely came from one of the Dead Sea Qumran caves.

The **Hexapla** was a very valuable work for comparison of the various texts extant at that time. The Jews had a very reliable Hebrew text through the work of Rabbi Akiva (Akiva) and his school, but no two Greek texts completely agreed with each other. The value of the work was that such great Bible scholars and translators as Eusebius, and Jerome (translator of the **Latin Vulgate**) used the **Hexapla**. Both attest to the importance of the Sacred Name and that the most reliable manuscripts contained the Tetragrammaton in Hebrew letters. This would mean that the copies made by reliable scribes contained the Sacred Name, while copies made by other people, possibly laymen, from those copies contained the

substitute appellation *Kurios*. Obviously, then, as time went along, the error of removing the Tetragrammaton, or its transliteration, from the Greek **Septuagint** text gained acceptability.

The **Hexapla** was on display in Caesarea and was known to have existed until 638 C.E. when the city fell to the Saracens. If only we had this document today, what an aid it would be in biblical studies! However, only small fragments of copies remain, one of which was discovered in the Cairo Geniza in 1898. Various other portions of copies and some translations also remain, but the original is missing.

Conclusion

Well did the prophet Daniel predict in chapter 12, verse 4 of his prophecy, "***But you, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased.***"

Today, there is no excuse for anyone to remain in ignorance concerning sound doctrine. As we approach the end of the age, we are able to return back ever closer to the original texts to prove these sound doctrines. In many cases, ancient documents never before published are being circulated; while in other cases, reconstruction of ancient texts is now possible. The evidence is becoming ever more overwhelming that the Name of the Heavenly Father is Yahweh. This is the accurate transliteration of the Tetragrammaton into English from the Hebrew language.

But other sources also confirm the authenticity of this Sacred Name of the Almighty. The Greek **Septuagint** carries one of the most heavily weighted arguments in favor of the use of the Sacred Name Yahweh, as we have now seen in this study. The names and the terms in the Greek **Septuagint** are admittedly of pagan origin and we must never forget this. Do you think that the Messiah would have used words and names of pagan origin in restoring the pure

Truth of the inspired Scriptures? Do you suppose that the disciples He ordained to carry this Truth to the nations of the world would have resorted to the use of pagan names to call upon the Almighty Heavenly Father? Do you suppose that these disciples would have used names tainted with pagan idolatry to call upon the Messiah, their King? The only conclusion we can arrive at is to reject those pagan names and go back to the exclusive source of Truth, the original Hebrew Scriptures, as closely as we can return to them. There alone we will find sound doctrine.

The scholars have pointed out that it was the Christians of the 2nd and 3rd centuries who began to use substitute pagan names and titles for the Almighty in the **Septuagint**. This is three to four generations after the time of the Messiah, when the error that had crept into Messianic worship finally permeated it completely. Such substitutions as Sunday for the scriptural Sabbath had begun, and rejection of Yahweh's feast days and dietary laws proliferated.

If this is the case, why should it be so difficult to believe that the substitution of a different name for the Almighty was inserted into the text? The answer, of course, is that reliable and irrefutable evidence has over the past few decades come to light which indicates that the translators of the **Septuagint** did indeed revere the True, revealed, personal Name of the Almighty, and they retained it in their translation in its original Hebrew letters. It was quite a considerable time after the Greek **Septuagint** translation was made that the substitution was introduced and the pagan names and titles inserted into the manuscripts. It is only one step then to the conclusion that the translators of the New Testament followed suit. What is termed as the "received text" (*Textus Receptus*) emerged as a corrupted Greek text.

With such weighty evidence at

Continued on page 11.

Blessings

in the

Sacred Name

Let us read Psalm 113 together. ***“HalleluYah! Praise, O you servants of Yahweh, praise the name of Yahweh. Blessed be the name of Yahweh from this time forth and for evermore. From the rising of the sun to the going down of the same Yahweh’s name is to be praised. Yahweh is high above all nations, and his glory above the heavens. Who is like Yahweh our Elohim, who has his seat on high, who humbles himself to behold the things that are in heaven and in the earth? He raises up the poor out of the dust, and lifts up the needy from the dunghill; that he may set him with princes, even with the princes of his people. He makes the barren woman to keep house, and to be a joyful mother of children. HalleluYah!”***

If we but open our eyes and look around us at the world in which we are living, we can see the abundant blessings which the people of our time have received. At no time in history has there ever existed an era which has received so many blessings and has enjoyed so many temporal benefits. It was Abraham Lincoln who expressed this same thought when he proclaimed a day of national thanksgiving for our nation. And, yet, sad as it is, our people have taken their blessings for granted. We, as a nation, have not given thanks for these abundant blessings. We have not praised the

by Elder Jacob O. Meyer

Name of the True Mighty One. We read in Jacob 1:17-18, ***“Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom can be no variation, neither shadow that is cast by turning. Of his own will he brought us forth by the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.”***

Our nation today seems to be groping around in a deep chasm of darkness. People are searching for a tangible concept on which to anchor their hopes for the future. There is turmoil on every hand, and, yet, the new ideas and philosophies which come out of the modern institutions of learning seem only shallow palaver which hold no solutions, but only add to the existing confused situation. In order to maintain a stable and tranquil society, it is necessary to return to the very root of the problems which confront us, instead of doing what is so common today, sidestepping or evading the issues and never solving them. Our Bibles give us the answers, if we will only seek them and then have the courage to implement them. And believe it or not, your Bible states that the great Memorial Name of our Heavenly Father should actually be the very basis on which to

found a nation which is blessed by our Heavenly Father. We have received these abundant blessings, because we are the flesh and blood descendants of Israel. We should then be worshipers of the same Mighty One as were the Israelites! We should be calling upon Yahweh, rather than upon the name which some Bible translators have substituted for the True, revealed Name of our Heavenly Father. When ancient Israel heard the voice declaring the ten commandments from Mount Sinai, they heard, ***“I am Yahweh your Elohim, who has brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. You shall have no other elohim before me.”*** Exodus 20:2-3. When the third commandment was given, they heard, ***“You shall not make wrong use of the Name of Yahweh your Elohim; for Yahweh will not leave unpunished the man who misuses His Name,”*** (corrected translation). They actually heard this Majestic Being speak His Name. In the fierce burning fire which appeared to them upon the mountain of Sinai, they saw something to be feared. Today in our modern time, mankind, as a whole, has lost the fear, or reverence, of spiritual things, mainly through the influence of false philosophers. Don’t you think it is time to return to the basic roots upon which our Faith is founded?

In Psalm 33:12 we read, ***“Blessed is the nation whose Elohim is***

Yahweh, the people whom he has chosen for his own inheritance.”

For a while after the Exodus, ancient Israel followed Yahweh and worshiped only Him. The Moabite stone proves that the nations around Israel considered it to be a peculiar nation, worshipping a Mighty One whose name is YAHWEH. Under the government of Solomon, Israel realized its greatest blessings and prosperity. The reason why Israel received these abundant blessings was because this was the era in which they worshiped Yahweh and

my water, my wool and my flax, my oil and my drink. Therefore, behold, I will hedge up your way with thorns, and I will build a wall against her; that she shall not find her paths. And she shall follow after her lovers, but she shall not overtake them; and she shall seek them, but shall not find them: then shall she say, I will go and return to my first husband; for then was it better with me than now. For she did not know that I gave her the grain, and the new wine, and

mirth to cease, her feasts, her new moons, and her sabbaths, and all her solemn assemblies. And I will lay waste her vines and her fig-trees, of which she has said, These are my hire that my lovers have given me; and I will make them a forest, and the beasts of the field shall eat them. And I will visit upon her the days of the Baalim, to which she burned incense, when she decked herself with her ear-rings and her jewels, and went after her lovers, and forgot me, says

It is up to us to comprehend these lessons today and to recall these things to mind as examples for us, so that we do not end up in the same disastrous situation as did our forefathers.

dedicated His temple in Jerusalem. But, in not too many years, True Worship deteriorated into Baal worship, and this became a stumbling block from which Israel never really extricated themselves. Finally, Yahweh caused the nation of Israel to lose its independence and be conquered and taken into captivity: first, the ten northern tribes known as the House of Israel, then, the two southern tribes called Judah. It is up to us to comprehend these lessons today and to recall these things to mind as examples for us, so that we do not end up in the same disastrous situation as did our forefathers.

We may read a solemn warning in the book of the prophet Hosea, in the very enlightening second chapter of his prophecy Yahweh has passed judgment upon Israel. They have committed spiritual adultery, and He, the husband of Israel, is about to give them a writing of divorce. We read, beginning with verse 5, “***...for their mother has played the harlot; she that conceived them has done shamefully; for she said, I will go after my lovers, that give me my bread and***

the oil, and multiplied to her silver and gold, which they used for Baal.” How remarkable is this passage, and how applicable it is for our day! As a matter of fact, it is written to Israel who is *Lo Ammi— not my people*, Hosea 1:9-11. It is for Israel who does not know that they are descendants of the lost tribes of Israel. These people have been abundantly blessed with all of the very best in material blessings which this life has to offer. But rather than thanking Almighty Yahweh, the True Creator and Sustainer of the universe and Israel’s Mighty One, for these blessings, these people have committed spiritual adultery and are praising Baal, a foreign idol. Have you ever applied these prophecies to yourself?

Then Yahweh indignantly informs these people, “***Therefore will I take back my grain in the time of it, and my new wine in the season of it, and will pluck away my wool and my flax which should have covered her nakedness. And now will I uncover her lewdness in the sight of her lovers, and none shall deliver her out of my hand. I will also cause all her***

Yahweh. Therefore, behold, I will allure her, and bring her into the wilderness, and speak comfortably to her.” (Hosea 2:9-14). Now can you see just why this country of ours can expect such severe judgment from Almighty Yahweh in the near future? It is because the people of this modern time have not returned praise to the True Mighty One, but have persisted in offering their thanks to the Baals. You might be surprised to learn that people today are worshipping the Baals just as they did in ancient Israel. Please follow me closely as I continue with this prophecy found in the second chapter of Hosea.

In verse 15 we read, “***And I will give her her vineyards from there, and the valley of Achor for a door of hope; and she shall make answer there, as in the days of her youth, and as in the day when she came up out of the land of Egypt.”*** If we return to the book of Yahshua, we will find the historical reference to the valley of Achor. In Yahshua 6, Israel had conquered Jericho in a supernatural way. Almighty Yahweh had caused a miracle to happen

and the fortified wall of the town had fallen down, leaving Israel the victors without a single casualty. Israel had been ordered to destroy all the war booty (except all metals which were offered to Yahweh) found in the city, because everything was contaminated by idol worship. Then it was on to battle the city of Ai, which is described in chapter 7. It was only a small town, in the estimation of the scouts, requiring merely a few thousand soldiers to subdue it. However, the seemingly impossible happened, and Israel was put to flight, even suffering the loss of 36 men killed in the battle. Upon inquiring of Yahweh for the reason He had removed His protection from Israel, Yahshua learned that sin had entered the camp of Israel. The investigative lot which was ceremonially drawn revealed the culprit to be Achan. He was asked to confess his sin, and this is his confession: ***“Truly I have sinned against Yahweh, the Elohim of Israel, and this have I done: when I saw among the spoil a good Babylonish mantle, and two hundred shekels of silver, and a wedge of gold of fifty shekels weight, then I coveted them, and took them: and, behold, they are hidden in the earth in the middle of my tent, and the silver under it.”*** Yahshua 7:20-21. This seems exactly the sin which holds the people of our day in bondage. They have taken a form of the ancient Babylonian religion as their spiritual robe of righteousness, because it looks beautiful, instead of the pure white robes of righteousness spoken about in Revelation 19:8, signifying sinless lives. If you have never seen that our religious worship today is just about an exact copy of the ancient Babylonian worship, you should spend an afternoon in a library sometime. Besides false worship, the heart of Achan was fastened upon riches, just as are the hearts of the people today. Money seems to motivate the ambitions of most people. And, yet, money cannot buy happiness or contentment.

Especially when it is gotten in an illegal manner and then misused, it becomes a vicious curse to those who stoop to any level to obtain it. The sin of Achan was the sin which pervades modern society, and just as Achan, the people today have hidden this cancerous idolatry in their homes and in their spiritual houses, which is in their hearts. It is hidden deeply and is almost impossible to uproot. In Achan’s case, capital punishment was the only remedy to keep this sin from spreading throughout Israel. In the case of our people today, it will require the judgment of a wilderness condition, such as we read about in Ezekiel 20:35 and in Revelation 12:6, among other places. It will be a time in which there will be judgment and punishment to those who do not voluntarily and completely remove, eliminate, and purge out all sin from their lives.

In this wilderness condition, Almighty Yahweh will also do another mighty work. He will once and for all make Israel to understand that His Name is Yahweh, and not some humanly invented substitution. We read in Hosea 2:16-17, ***“And it shall be at that day, says Yahweh, that you shall call me Ishi [meaning my husband], and shall call me no more Baali [the Hebrew meaning is my L-rd, which you can check in any center-column reference Bible]. For I will take away the names of the Baalim out of her mouth, and they shall no more be mentioned by their name.”*** Israel will then, at that time, learn once and for all that her rich blessings are not received from “the L-rd” or “L-rds,” but from Almighty Yahweh, the Creator and Sustainer of this universe. Then, Almighty Yahweh will look at the final product of his love for His people, and He will say, ***“You are My people,”*** and the people will look up and say, ***“Yahweh is my Mighty One,”*** (Hosea 2:23 and Zechariah 13:9). Why not begin today to acknowledge the True Creator of Heaven and earth by His majestic, revealed Memorial Name,

and receive the blessings from Him who alone is the Giver?

I would like to leave this parting thought with you. The Psalmist makes a very shocking statement in Psalm 79:6, a warning which would be well for all the nations of this world to heed. We read there, ***“Pour out your wrath upon the nations that do not know you, and upon the kingdoms that call not upon your name.”*** Our prayer today should be that our great nation and all the earth will heed this warning so that we may remain great through the rich blessings of Yahweh and not have to suffer judgment at His hands. To those who repent now, the following promise is given: ***“And it shall come to pass, that whoever shall call on the name of Yahweh shall be delivered; for in mount Zion and in Jerusalem there shall be those that escape, as Yahweh has said, and among the remnant those whom Yahweh does call.”*** (Joel 2:32). Do you rely upon Yahweh for your protection in times of trouble? ✠

Continued from page 8.

hand, you, as a reader of this publication, are confronted with a choice. You can continue to reject sound doctrine as it is being proven in **The Sacred Name Broadcaster** and on **The Sacred Name Broadcast**. Or you can accept the facts as they are proven and humbly call upon the Name of Yahweh as the Scriptures direct us to do in Joel 2:32.

The doors are open! The light is shining forth once again after the darkness of many centuries, to enlighten sincere souls who will receive it. Will you allow the Almighty Heavenly Father to teach you of His Truth so that you can walk in His paths? Ponder the alternatives, and then take the pathway toward Truth—toward the Kingdom of Yahweh—as it one day soon will come to this earth in the form of the King, Yahshua the Messiah. ✠



The Sacred Name Broadcast

RADIO MESSAGE

by Elder Jacob O. Meyer

The Name and the Kingdom

A new resurrection of the Roman Empire is now imminent as we observe increasing momentum toward a consolidating merger among the nations of Europe and the Western world. Around us, in the world, all seems serene as the daily routine continues from week to week. The average person on the street emits an air of smug confidence, oblivious to the ominous storm which is lurking latently upon the horizon.

If you have never studied the prophecies that are set forth for the True Worshiper in the Bible and understood them, don't you think that it is about time that you awakened from your spiritual slumber and began seeking candid answers? Certainly, anyone who believes the Bible, anyone who does not swallow the bland platitudes of the "social g-spel," cannot help but be apprehensive about the sensational prophetic developments which have occurred recently around the world. Let me recapitulate briefly.

Twelve nations have now affixed their signatures to the Treaty of Rome, with the inclusion of those who have entered recently into the pact. This union of nations is only

still an economic combine. It, however, took on the nature of a political coalition (such as is predicted in your Bible) in 1992. For complete fulfillment of Bible prophecy, it will be necessary for the rise of a strong man, a spokesman, who will unify these nations and the additional nations that will join them soon into a solidly concrete organization. This political union will be controlled by a religious system which will give its blessing to the maneuverings of this revived imperial empire.

This empire will become involved in the most colossal war in history soon after its inception, although the purported motive behind this union will be to insure a durable peace on this earth for a millennium. This universal time of conflict will signal the close of this age of man. The time of the trouble that the prophets predict will be the climax of the efforts of mankind to work out his existence on this earth by himself, apart from the direction of Almighty Yahweh, our Heavenly Father.

However, this message will not dwell upon the depressing predictions which will characterize the

devastation to be poured out in judgment by a righteous Almighty Heavenly Father upon a sinful world. I am going to take you across this tribulation period and reveal for you the bright future which will burst forth with inviting beauty from a new government. This authority will take over the control of this earth and rule it in righteousness from that time on—forever.

It is positively astonishing to note the volumes of Scripture which are being read today and the minute portion which is actually being understood. As frequently as you may have repeated the Savior's model prayer, have you ever comprehended its message? Let me repeat the first few verses, as found in Matthew chapter 6, verses 9 and 10. "***After this manner therefore pray: Our Father who is in heaven, Hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done, as in heaven, so on earth.***"

I wonder if you have ever heard the True Name of the Heavenly Father which He has revealed to us in His Word. Have you ever thought about this question? Did you know that "L-rd" is not a **name**, but a **title**,

and, actually, it is an inferior title at that. Why not call the Almighty **King**, which is what He really is! King is the supreme title in English nobility.

You may have thought that the Almighty's Name is "G-d." However, this is merely a term which has been used to translate the Hebrew word *Elohim* and the Greek word *Theos*. It is nowhere revealed in the Scriptures to be used in reference to the Name of the Almighty and it bears no sacred significance. Rather, we should not even speak it because of its pagan origin.

The Name which is to be hallowed, revered, and sanctified, the only Name to be used for the worship of the Almighty, is found almost 7,000 times in the Hebrew Scriptures, where the Almighty tells us Himself that His Name is **Yahweh**. If we offer sacrificial worship in the name of any other mighty one, we will be utterly destroyed, (Exodus 22:20).

You have undoubtedly heard the word *HalleluYah*. This does not mean *Praise you the L-rd*, but it means **Praise you YAH**. I hope that you are paying special attention to this message, because this Sacred Name is so important that it will be a matter of life or death to you in the near future, when the judgment of the Almighty is poured out upon this earth. The Psalmist writes in Psalm 79:6, "**Pour out your wrath upon the nations that do not know you, and upon the kingdoms that call not upon your name.**" Which Name could this conceivably be? Just a few verses further along we find the prayer of the people who will be protected during this time of world trouble, "**Help**

us, O Elohim of our salvation, for the glory of your name; and deliver us, and forgive our sins, for your name's sake." (Psalm 79:9). We could add little to the message of what these two verses bring to us; they are self explanatory. Nevertheless, Isaiah 42:8 tells us of the revealed personal Name of the Almighty. "**I am Yahweh, that is my name; and my glory will I not give to another, neither my praise to carved images.**" This is the name to be sanctified.

Now for the second major point in this prayer which you may have overlooked. "**Your kingdom come. Your will be done, as in heaven, so on earth.**" This is quite an eye-opening statement when you ponder and analyze it. Whenever you pray this model prayer, you are asking the Heavenly Father to send His Kingdom to this earth, that HIS WILL MAY BE DONE AND OBEYED, just as it is in the heavens. When we look at the well-ordered, systematic heavens, the systematic orbits of the planets, the unerring accuracy with which the heavenly bodies move at a fantastic rate of speed through space, then we have no alternative but to conclude that there is a great, intelligent Being who supervises this fantastic stellar activity. We are praying, consequently, that this identical order and harmonious system will descend to this earth to establish order from the chaotic conditions which have dominated the world scene down through history. Have you ever realized that when you pray the Savior's model prayer, you are praying for this exact, same government to be established ON THIS EARTH, not in heaven, as you may have believed from childhood?

The Bible you use reveals that this orderly government will take over the rulership of the area which is to be governed by the end-time Beast empire. Our Savior, Yahshua the Messiah, will return to establish His Messianic reign—the Kingdom of Yahweh. The governments of the nations of this world will be totally destroyed, and from this rubble will rise an all powerful, super government, which will be controlled by Almighty Yahweh Himself through His anointed Son, Yahshua our Messiah.

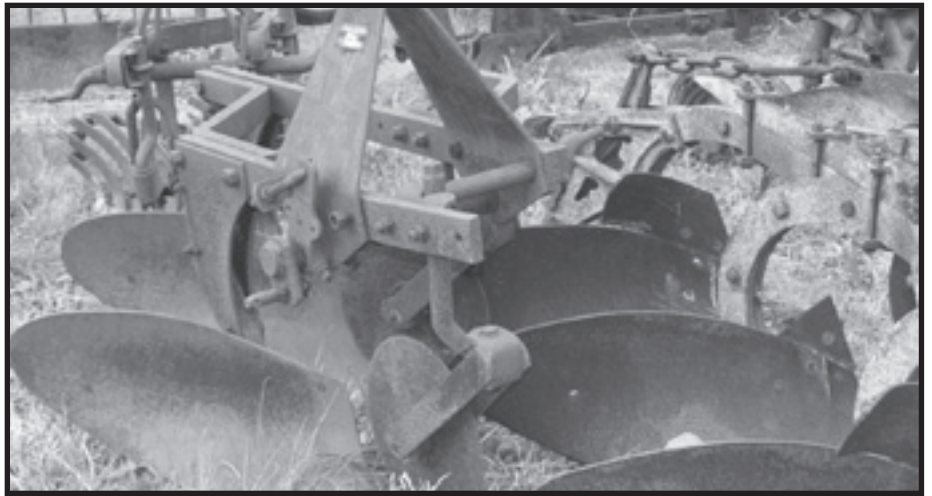
This government is described for us both in Isaiah chapter 2 and in Micah chapter 4. Let us turn to Micah chapter 4 and see exactly how this prediction relates to our time. The passage begins, "**But in the latter days it shall come to pass, that the mountain of Yahweh's house shall be established on the top of the mountains, and it shall be exalted above the hills; and peoples shall flow to it.**" The mountain, or the government, of the house of Almighty Yahweh, which will be from the Temple of Jerusalem, will be restored in the end of the days of wickedness. It will constitute the exclusive rule over this earth, people from far regions will flow into it and look to it for governmental supervision. They will say voluntarily in verse 2, "**Come, and let us go up to the mountain of Yahweh, and to the house of the Elohim of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths. For out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of Yahweh from Jerusalem...**" If you have never really concentrated your attention upon the affairs of

The Name which is to be hallowed, revered, and sanctified, the only Name to be used for the worship of the Almighty, is found almost 7,000 times in the Hebrew Scriptures, where the Almighty tells us Himself that His Name is YAHWEH.

the Middle East, you had better do so immediately. This is the place from which Yahweh's heavenly rule and His righteous regulations will be directed to all this earth when the Messianic Kingdom will be established.

Notice in verse 3, the methods this righteous King will employ to make His rule unique. ***“And he will judge between many peoples, and will decide concerning strong nations afar off: and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning-hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.”***

In the third chapter of Joel, we find that at the end of the age of man, when the nations of this world will be angry, they will beat their **plowshares** into **swords** and their **pruning hooks** into **spears**. When the Messiah reigns over this earth with supreme power, He will reverse this destructive tendency among His human subjects. No more military education will be implemented, no more war colleges, no more ROTC training, no more humanly recorded



“And he will judge between many peoples, and will decide concerning strong nations afar off: and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning-hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.”

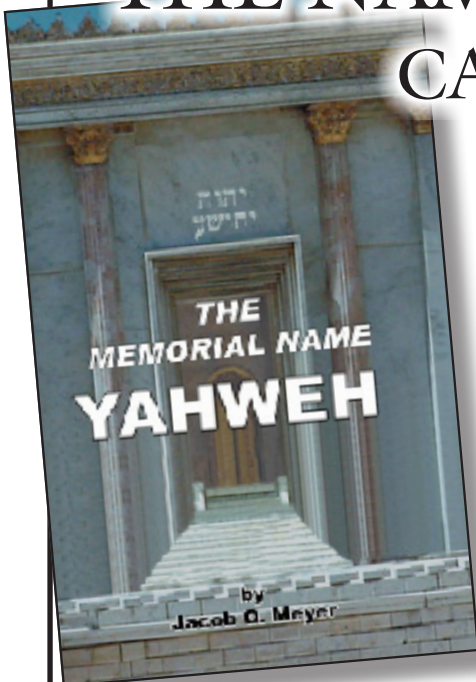
historical records which deal almost exclusively with the accounts of wars fought over principle. I recall a common advertisement which appeared in farm papers during the Second World War: *“The scrap behind your barns belongs at the*

front,” showing a picture of some old rusty farm machinery which stood behind a barn. The assertion was that it was needed at the fighting front. In Isaiah 11:9, the prophet summarizes his verbal portrait of the changed nature of both man and animals that will occur at the time that Yahweh's Kingdom will be established, when he predicts, ***“They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain; for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of Yahweh, as the waters cover the sea.”*** Do you comprehend that this prophecy refers to the earth, not heaven, or even cloud nine, which is customarily portrayed as the place which will be the reward of the saved?

Quite an authoritative statement may be found in Proverbs 11:31 in regard to the reward of the saved. ***“Behold, the righteous shall be recompensed in the earth: How much more the wicked and the sinner!”***

If you have never seen these truths in your Bible, you should begin now to obtain this fundamental, truthful understanding so that you may prepare yourself with sound doctrine to have a part in this age of righteousness when all things will be made new. 5ND

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Is the Book of John GREEK to You?

by Elder Jacob O. Meyer

Have you always supposed that the “unlearned and ignorant” John of Acts 4:13, whose native tongue was Aramaic, wrote the book of John in Greek? Haven’t you always been told that the entire New Testament was inspired in Greek? Would it surprise you to learn that an educated man such as C. F. Burney, M.A., D. Litt., Oriel Professor of the Interpretation of Holy Scripture at Oxford in 1922, had amassed such a wealth of evidence that the book of John was written in Aramaic (a Hebrew dialect), that it places this fact beyond the range of reasonable doubt? For a thorough study of Dr. Burney’s thesis, you may want to obtain a copy of his enlightening volume entitled, **The Aramaic Origin of the Fourth Gospel**, but for the meantime allow these thoughts gleaned from his work, presented here in resume form, to suffice. The book was published in 1922 by the Oxford at Clarendon Press and reveals a great deal of study on the part of the author.

Looking at the book of John from a linguistic point of view, there are just too many “ands” to indicate Greek authorship. In other words, the recurring use of “and ... and,” known as *parataxis*, reflects Semitic influence and is set forth as contributing evidence that the book of John was translated into Greek from an Aramaic original. It was subsequently translated into English from Greek.

You have probably been told since early grammar school days never to make a sentence such as the following, “The gentleman who used to ride that horse—he lost his arm

in the war.” You’ve probably even heard this same kind of anacoluthon crop up in daily conversation. But you would certainly not use such an anacoluthon in a term paper that your semester’s grade depended upon. In John, however, it is remarkably obvious in frequent occurrences.

Please note especially at this point, that both the “repetitive and” and the “grammatical blunder” mentioned above are properly used in the literature of Semitic-speaking peoples.

As an aside in reference to the Aramaisms and Hebraisms that appear in John, Professor Schmiedel is quoted as stating that Mark Hebraizes still more strongly than does Matthew. That Luke also has Hebraisms “*and not only where he is dependent on Mark or Matthew but also where he had no exemplar before him.*” Such statements make one wonder if the entire New Testament was inspired in Hebrew and Aramaic. Someday we may have positive proof that such a conclusion is justified.

Another striking piece of evidence in favor of Aramaic authorship is the overuse of locutions coincident with locutions of Aramaic which are repeatedly found to occur in the book of John. Inasmuch as it is impossible in translating to con-

vey every nuance of meaning that would be understood in reading the original, there is a distinct loss in translating from Hebrew into Greek and then again into English. One such loss in the book of John is the Jewish doctrine of the *Shekina*, or a visible dwelling of Yahweh among His people, typified by the pillar of cloud standing above the tent of meeting, as subsequently in Solomon’s Temple (see Exodus 33:7-11 and 1 Kings 8: 10-11).

In Hebrew, passages in which Yahweh is said to dwell, or to cause His name to dwell, in the midst of Israel, the Aramaic phrase is “He caused His *Shekinta* (Hebrew *Shekina*) to dwell there. For example, Leviticus 26:12 would be rendered in Aramaic, “And I will cause my shekinta to dwell among you.” Aramaic employs the term *yekara* like *shekinta* in paraphrasing passages which describe the actual appearance of Yahweh in bodily form. The Aramaic paraphrase of Isaiah 6:5, for example, is “**For mine eye has seen the yekara of the shekinta of the king of the ages.**”

Therefore, it can be proven beyond a shadow of a doubt that when John describes Yahshua’s manifesting His glory in such verses as 2:11, 11:40, and 17:24, he has in mind the Aramaic *yekara*.

If you had been alive in the

days of Yahshua and had heard the Hebrew Scriptures expounded in the synagogue in Aramaic, you would have recognized in Yahshua the fulfillment of the *shekinta* and *yekara* glory. If you will review the first chapter of John with this in mind, you will see that this is actually what his glad tidings were all about. You would have discerned superhuman power shining through the Master's personality in His mighty acts and teachings and have apprehended that in His presence on earth Yahweh had sent His Son to dwell among men.

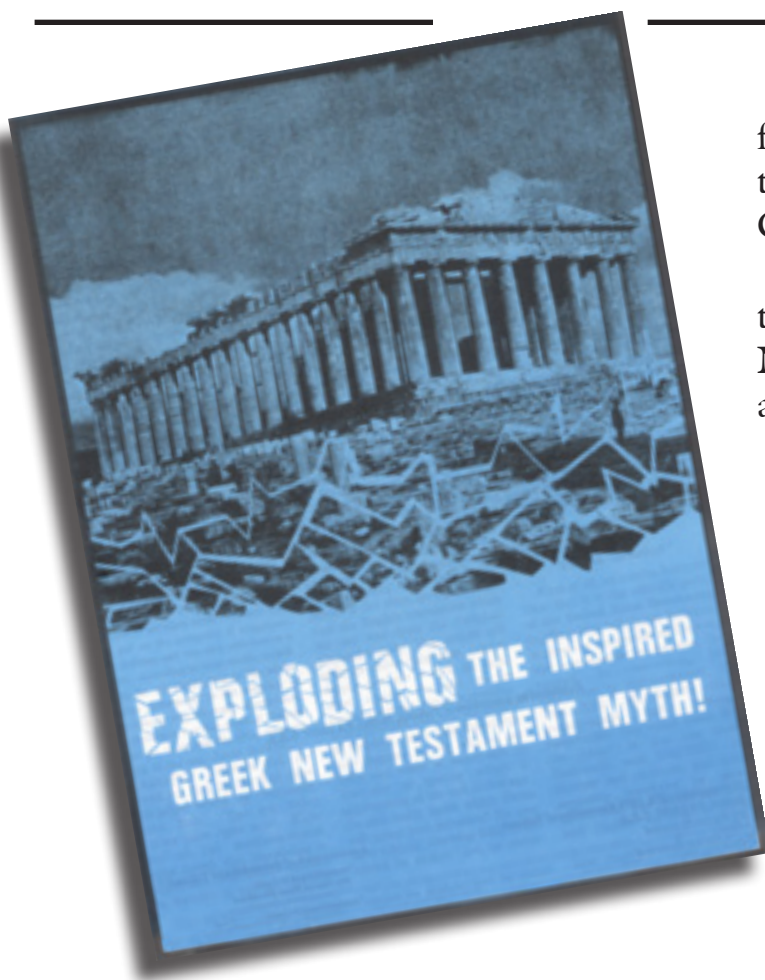
Another lamentable loss in translating John's glad tidings into Greek and then English is the beautiful sacred song, flowing in Aramaic meter, which constitutes the first eleven verses of the book. In the poetic Aramaic, the thought emerges forcefully that just as Yahweh's first creative act was the formation of light, so the birth of Yahshua was the dawn of light in the midst of

the spiritual darkness of the world. That just as the introduction of light into the world at creation did not immediately abolish physical darkness, but resulted in a division between light and darkness, so now the spiritual light introduced by Yahshua would divide the True Worshipers from the false.

The most weighty form of evidence in proving that a document is a translation from another language is the existence of difficulties or peculiarities of language which can be shown to be mistranslations from the assumed original language. There are a considerable number of such in the book of John. One example of this is a statement "***out of his belly shall flow rivers of living waters.***" This conception cannot be connected with any Old Testament passage. The difficulty here vanishes when you see that the Aramaic word for *fountain* is absolutely identical with *belly*. What Yahshua was saying then is that

"Rivers shall flow forth from the fountain of living waters." (compare Ezekiel 47).

There is much technical evidence set forth in Dr. Burney's work which would require at least a basic understanding of Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek to fully grasp it. Therefore, it would not be proper to set such evidence forth in an article of this nature. Once we understand that there is no such thing as an "inspired Greek New Testament" we can only conclude that in matters pertaining to salvation we should "trust no translator," but "work out our own salvation with meekness and fear." Although corruptions have been allowed in the translations, it is possible for the sincere Truth seekers to discern the Truth and know how to "refuse the evil and choose the good." Yahweh's Spirit will guide such worshipers into all Truth—for the Father seeks such to worship Him (John 4:23). **5ND**



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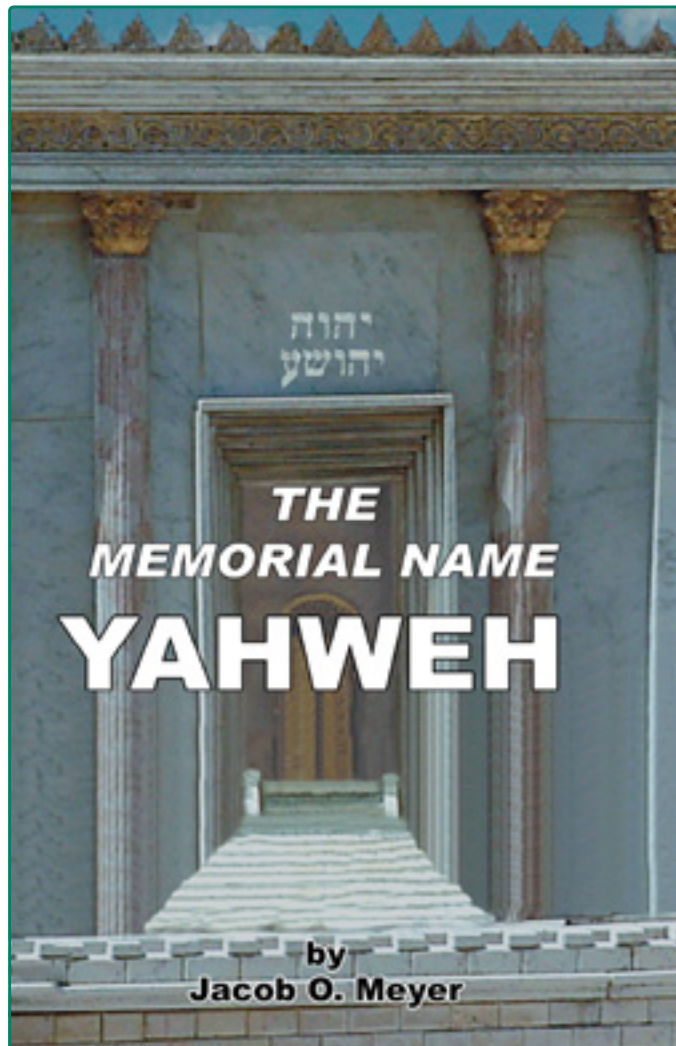
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