

to: Carroll Page

Some time ago you enquired about the reasons for my understanding of the names for deity, specifically Yahuah as the Sacred Name for our Heavenly Father, and Yahuashua as the name for the Heavenly Father's only begotten Son, our Savior and Messiah. You also mentioned that you articulated the Sacred Names in the same way.

Before reviewing any background material, I would like to state some points of personal conviction that I believe need to be understood as foundational to any study of Sacred Names:

- 1) salvation is not denied or granted on the basis of inability or ability to utter the names of deity in a technically perfect way. Nevertheless,
- 2) heaven expects us to act according to the best light we have about true worship, and we will be blessed according to our willingness to progress as our understanding increases.
- 3) after one learns the pagan origins of the name "Jesus," it becomes unacceptable to continue its use in worship for several reasons:

- a. we are told in scripture not to utter the names of pagan deities
- b. uttering deity names of pagan origin invokes demon spirits
- c. common names are devoid of heavenly-inspired meaning, whereas the sacred names of scripture are full of heavenly-inspired meaning

Until eight or ten years ago, I used the pagan and/or bastardized names "Jesus" and "Jehovah" exclusively, but then under the influence of literature from the Assemblies of Yahweh began to study and use the names "Yashua" and "Yahweh" in my worship and witnessing. While using these names and being blessed by the increased understanding their use makes available, I crossed paths with several brethren who have much more understanding of the Hebrew language than I do, and who felt that the Sacred Names were to be pronounced as "Yahuashua" and "Yahuah." I continued, however, to use forms of pronunciation I was comfortable with until the Feast of Tabernacles last fall ('97), at which time a sister in our group challenged us to act according to the best light we have available, and I changed to the pronunciation that I currently use.

I would refer you to the following brethren and sources of information for studies on the Sacred Name that lead to the understanding of pronunciation that we now use:

-Andrew Kohalmi: a brother here in Toronto who was one of the first to do major research on this matter, (phone: 1-416-247-0335)

-Brian Alien: has several written studies on the subject (address: P.O.B. 1502, Alvarado, TX 76009)

-Gary Strong: publishes the "Voice of Reformation" magazine and has several issues that deal with sacred names and correct pronunciation (e-mail: voiceofref@aol.com; phone: 502-366-7912; address: P.O.B. 16401, Louisville, KY 40256-0401)

-Connie Joiner: the sister who challenged us all at Feast of Tabernacles last fall (e-mail: joinent@aol.com)

-C. J. Koster: gives a good discussion on the pronunciation of the Sacred Name, as well as an in-depth review of the history of the name "Jesus" as originating in the name of a Greek goddess of healing, Ieso or Iaso, in his excellent book "Come Out of Her My People" (available for \$9.95 + \$3.00 S&H from the Institute For Scripture Research, 545 Newport Ave. #151, Pawtucket, R.I. 02861)

Could it be that we have more to learn about the sacred names and their meaning and pronunciation? I suspect so, and for that reason would suggest that we all avoid the type of dogmatism that defines the sphere of our fellowship according to a specific pronunciation of a name. On the other hand, let us not use the absence of 100% certainty on the fine points of pronunciation and practice to serve as a license to continue on in pronunciations and practices that are demonstrably pagan in origin, but rather let it cause us to petition the Father for more wisdom and understanding. "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy Elohim, I will also forget thy children." Hosea 4:6

I have appreciated your informative posts, and look forward to receiving more in the future. May our Heavenly Father bless all of us as we seek to rightly divide the Word of Truth, and thus enter into the image of our Creator and Redeemer.

Shalom!

Ron Buhler - Bible Student (905-775-9172)

"Salvation is of the Jews (Yahudi)... we know what we worship"

Yahuashua ha Mashiach John 4:22