Yahweh and *Jehovah* are two common mispronunciations of:

יהוה

יהוה

Yod Hey Waw Hey

YHWH

HaShem : The Name

Tetragrammaton : 4 Letters

This Name of God cannot be pronounced *Jehovah* because there is no J sound in Hebrew. Most modern Biblical scholars have agreed upon the pronunciation *Yahweh.* However, some current writers have said it should be pronounced *Yehweh, Iahveh, Yaho, Yahu, Yahaweh, Yehowah,* or *Yahuveh*, so the pronunciation *Yahweh* is not authoritative. When God revealed His Name to Moses in Exodus 3:14, He said *Ehyeh asher Ehyeh* (I will be what I will be) and continued that when He's referred to in the third person He is called The Name *(He will be)* which means He is self-existent and eternal.

The sanctity of The Name in Judaism. When it comes to The Name, which appears over 6000 times in the Old Testament (Christian scriptures) and *Tanakh* (Hebrew scriptures), the Jews make a distinction between what is to be written *(Ketiv)* and what is to be read *(Qere).* They write and see The Name, but read and think *Adonai* (Lord). During the Second Temple period (535 BCE – 70 CE), the correct pronunciation of The Name was restricted to being spoken during Yom Kippur, only by the High Priest, and only in the Holy of Holies. Eventually, this practice stopped and the correct pronunciation was lost. In the Septuagint, the Greek translation of the Old Testament (3rd century BCE), The Name is not translated, but is given in the Hebrew or Paleo-Hebrew letters without vowel points. In some manuscripts a blank space is left where The Name would appear.

The sanctity of The Name in Christianity. No Greek manuscript of the New Testament uses The Name. It is written as *κύριος* (kyrios, Lord) in quotations of the Old Testament. The Latin Vulgate (4th century CE) uses *Dominus* (Lord) in place of The Name. During the Reformation, Luther used the German word *der Herr* (the Lord) in place of The Name. The Preface of the Revised Standard Version of the Bible from 1952 states "the use of any proper name for the one and only God was discontinued in Judaism before the Christian era and is entirely inappropriate for the universal faith of the Christian Church." The vast majority of English Bible versions, following the example of the apostles and two millennia of tradition, use *Lord* to translate The Name. In 2001, the Vatican's Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments released the Liturgiam Authenticam which prohibits the use of *Yahweh* and *Jehovah* in Roman Catholic liturgy. It called on all translators of the scriptures to use an equivalent of *Dominus* (Lord) where The Name is found. This rule was reinforced in 2008 with the Letter to the Bishops Conferences on The Name of God.

Conclusion. The above examples illustrate how the pronunciation of The Name is a sacred thing, something set apart. It is my hope that my fellow Christians will cease trying to pronounce it out of respect for our Jewish, biblical, Catholic, and Protestant heritages. If you want to use a Hebrew name to call upon God, why not choose from the following that describe His attributes?

El : God of strength, might, power

Elah : Aramaic name for God as Awesome One

Elohim : God as the Creator and Judge of the universe

Hakadosh : The Holy One

Adonai : Lord

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