

QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES

On December 4, 2014, we received the following comment and inquiry:

“Quick question for you guys...Why you keep calling the Father: Jehovah... if that is a name invented by a Catholic monk? Isn't Yahweh more appropriate? In fact, we shouldn't be using the NAME in vain... right? So why use it at all? Looking forward for your response!”

To the author, thank you for your email. We addressed a similar question in **Question and Response 9/14/12**. Feel free to read that in addition to what we present here.

History does indicate that the name Jehovah did not come into use until about the 12th or 13th century and originated as a hybrid of the tetragrammaton YHWH and the vowel points of the word “Adonay.” Controversy continues as to whether “Jehovah” is an appropriate rendering of the tetragrammaton. But these historical matters have little meaning to us. We refer to God as “Father” unless we are quoting from the New World Translation or appealing directly to Jehovah’s Witnesses. To us, we view it as disrespectful to call our heavenly Father by a name, just as it would be for a human child to call his or her father by his name. To us, God is Father, Papa, Abba. (*Romans 8:15; Galatians 4:6*) We deal with God in terms of a parent/child relationship, not as a friend or a subject.

We know there are many who are conditioned to use the name Jehovah for our heavenly Father, and we respect their decision to do so. But we follow in Jesus footsteps. While in his model prayer, he prayed that the Father’s name be sanctified (*Matthew 6:9*), we find it interesting that Jesus never used the name in that prayer. And though he said he made the Father’s name known (*John 17:6*), there is no record that he ever used the name, though it is speculated that he may have said the name Yahweh or some form of the tetragrammaton when reading from Hebrew scriptures. We think Jesus meant that he was making the Father’s **fame** known, not necessarily a literal name.

“Elaia Luchnia”
