

Why use the term ‘G-d’?

Using the hyphenated letters ‘G-d’ to refer to God has become fashionable in many quarters as a result of the Messianic Christianity, Christian Zionism and Jewish Root heresies. Proving that these are dangerous heresies is not my purpose here, having done that many times before.¹

It really amazes me that people so quickly adopt a new teaching or language regarding Biblical matters when no sound teacher has done so in 2,000 years. Is it really likely that a fashion started by obscure and unqualified sectarians will be correct, on something as basic as this, when thousands of more godly and supremely intelligent men in church history have been wrong?

What then is the basis of this modern use of G-d?

The Messianic Jewish influence

A number of doctrines and semantic changes have arisen from the Messianic Christian focus upon Jewish things; sometimes these have even appealed to people outside their own fold. Examples would be calling Jesus, ‘Yeshua’ (see my paper on this); writing God as ‘G-d’; calling Saul ‘Rabbi Shaul’ (despite Paul himself distinctly repudiating this, Phil 3:1-10); calling the Five Books of Moses the ‘Torah’; using Jewish terms for the Biblical feasts, calling your meeting by a Jewish name, changing your name to a Jewish equivalent, and so on.

People do this in the sincere belief that they are being more Biblical but in fact they are being manipulated by a deception to focus their attention on Israel instead of God. The great error of the focus on Jews is the distraction from God and his word. In extreme cases this becomes blasphemy.

Another by-product is the diminution of the authority of the New Testament and a lack of understanding about progressive revelation. Some Jewish centred ‘Christians’ hardly read the NT at all but are fanatically pedantic about the literal interpretation of the OT. As a result, they fail to understand that the Old Covenant is merely a shadow of Christ and the NT is the reality of Christ and the fulfilment of progressive revelation. The OT cannot be properly understood except in the light of the NT; God’s final words to man and the explanation of the OT.

For an explanation of what the Bible teaches about Jews see my paper, ‘The True Position of Jews’. For an exposure of the deception behind the focus on Jews, Zionism and Israel see my paper, ‘The Depths of Deception’; especially the appendices; for a Biblical critique of Messianic Christianity see my book ‘The Veil of Moses’.

¹ See my book, ‘The Veil of Moses’ or my papers: ‘Does God love Jews especially’, ‘Jewish Root theology – what Scripture says’, ‘Jewish Root theology – an even simpler rebuttal’, ‘A simple catechism of the Jewish Root error’, ‘The twin problems affecting the early church’, and others.

Rabbinic Judaism

The use of 'G-d' comes from the Messianic focus upon rabbinic ideas.

Pharisaism

The first question is, 'Why would any Christian want to be influenced by the enemies of Jesus?'

Rabbinic Judaism is the anti-Christian development of post-temple Jewish religion by Pharisees, who came to dominate Judaism especially after 70 AD when the Sadducees were wiped out. This led to the writing of the Pharisaic Babylonian Talmud, the collation of rabbinic sayings and laws, which replaced the Torah as the authoritative scripture for Jews. This voluminous text is the most foul, wicked, blasphemous set of documents in the world. [For details of this see, 'The True Position of Jews'.]²

Now Jesus utterly condemned the Pharisees while on earth and opposed their godless, self-centred, hypocritical, murderous, lying ways. He even said that they were children of the devil and sentenced to hell. These are the people who developed rabbinic Judaism.

Why allow such people to influence you in the slightest? But this is where G-d comes from. Using the word G-d is a Jewish tradition, supposedly of respect for God's name (though 'God' is not God's name; it is a generic noun).

Rabbinic superstition

God's name not written down

The ancient rabbis were very superstitious and also believed in the magical properties of the name of God; thus they treated the written name of God as a magical fetish. Due to superstitious fear of offending 'the name' (not God himself, whom they offended all the time, but the name) they would not write down the name of God on a piece of paper in case it fell to the floor and they accidentally stepped upon it. Though the name could be written down, it was forbidden to erase or destroy the written name of God.

As a result most Jews do not write the name of God, or the term 'God', at all. Modern rabbis have taught that this does not apply to computers and digital forms until the document is printed out. This seems odd since even on screen the word is written down and readable.

This would have originally been the name 'Yahweh', which would have been written down as YHWH or YHVH; that is the transliteration of the original spelling of the name in Hebrew without vowels (the 'Tetragrammaton').³ This is translated as 'LORD' with small caps in the KJV.

God's names not spoken out loud

Again, as a result of superstitious superspirituality, Jews were careful about saying the personal name of God and refused to pronounce it aloud when reading the OT, except within the temple precincts. This arose as a result of a mistaken interpretation of Lev 24:16 ('Whoever blasphemes the name of the LORD shall surely be put to death'). Therefore, they substituted the word 'Adonai' (Lord). When the two words appeared together in a verse, they substituted 'Adonai' for the first and 'Elohim' (God) for the latter.

² It even supports paedophilia and murder.

³ The Hebrew letters Yod, He, Waw, He, pronounced as 'Yahweh' or 'Yahveh' (Waw can be Vav).

When the temple was destroyed pronunciation of 'Yahweh' fell into complete disuse. Initially scholars passed down the correct pronunciation but eventually this was lost and we can only guess at the proper pronunciation and what vowels were used, or even whether the Waw/Vav in the name was a vowel or a consonant (of which the consensus is 'Yahweh').

By the time of the Talmud it was customary to use substitute names for God and curses or even death were legislated for those who spoke the name 'Yahweh'. Jews today use Adonai or Ha-Shem ('the Name') as a substitute. In public even Adonai is not used as substitutes are now given to all God's names; Adonai becomes Adoshem or Ha-Shem, Elohim becomes Elokim etc. Adonai is usually only used in prayer or study. Even though it is a generic term not a personal name, Jews also give respect to the word 'God' by using G-d in writing. This is extreme superstition since it is not God's name.

Origin of Jehovah

Most modern scholars aver that the Masoretic vowel points used for Yahweh were those of the word Adonai, placed underneath, out of respect and showing that Adonai should be pronounced instead. This is one reason why the spurious name 'Jehovah' appeared as the creation of a pope's secretary in the Middle Ages.⁴ Thus the Masoretic vowel points do not give a true indication of how the word Yahweh would have originally sounded. The Masoretes did not actually know what vowels to use for YHWH anyway.

Superstition and the occult

So, the rabbis were superstitious about saying the personal name of God and of writing it down on paper. This sort of superstition was later developed into the word magic of the Jewish occult Kabbalah.⁵ Much of modern Judaism has been influenced by the occult Kabbalah.

The modern church abbreviation of G-d for 'God' follows in the same sort of rabbinic superstition and arises from a focus upon Jewish idioms. It claims to be out of respect but is really a form of superstition based upon word magic.

The idea of certain 'Christians' is that if Jews do something then it is OK for them to do it. This is nonsense. Most Jews curse Jesus every year; do Messianic Christians want to copy that also? The Talmud horribly blasphemes Christ and advocates lying, perjury, ritual murder, bestiality and paedophilia. Do Messianic Christians want to copy that?

Example of rabbinic superstition

As a Biblical example of Pharisaic / Talmud superstitious practices note:

Then the scribes and Pharisees who were from Jerusalem came to Jesus, saying, 'Why do Your disciples transgress the tradition of the elders? For they do not wash their hands when they eat bread'. Matt 15:1-2

This ritual washing of hands was not a matter of cleanliness or hygiene; it was a pharisaic (and Talmudic) doctrine that demons resided on fingers (especially in the morning after rising) and needed to be washed off by a special ritual cleansing. This is the sort of stupid Talmudic superstitious teaching that Jesus condemned and which is part of Judaism to this day. The pretence is that a practice is reverent when in fact it is a devilish deception.

⁴ This word was introduced, despite much opposition, in 1518 by the Pope's confessor, Franciscan theologian and Hebrew scholar Petrus Galatinus. He transliterated the Bible into Latin for the pope and wrote the name as it appeared with the consonants of YHWH (or YHVH) with the vowels of Adonai and came up with JeHoVaH (Y became J).

⁵ Most common is Gematria where words and letters have numeric values.

Arguments against this superstition

Superstition

Christians are warned by God's word not to listen, or pay any sort of attention, to superstitions and fables. Such things underlie the basic principles of the world and are wicked, as they do not rely upon faith in God but fear of dark forces. Paul even mentions avoiding Jewish fables; the Greek word can mean 'invention' or 'falsehood'.

Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ. Col 2:8

O Timothy! Guard what was committed to your trust, avoiding the profane *and* idle babblings and contradictions of what is falsely called knowledge -- by professing it some have strayed concerning the faith. 1 Tim 6:20-21

Nor give heed to fables. 1 Tim 1:4

Not giving heed to Jewish fables. Titus 1:14

Using G-d instead 'God' is mere superstition of this kind; it is a Jewish fable (invention) and falsehood.

Galatians' arguments

Getting people to use the term G-d is but the thin end of the wedge to Judaise Christians. It is a deception which seems to be reverential at first, but it is a superstition that leads to more and more Jewish elements entering the church. This was a massive problem in the first century and Paul speaks openly in condemnation of Judaism and Judaisers in several books; but we will examine one.

Paul speaks directly against the rabbinic Judaism of his time in Galatians, written to multiple churches in Galatia. The word 'Judaism' only occurs twice in the NT and both are in Galatians.

A full discussion of this topic is beyond our remit here, but in essence, Paul describes the Judaising of the Gentile church as a bewitching:

O foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you that you should not obey the truth. Gal 3:1

'Bewitched' has many meanings, including: to cause harm with unfavourable words; cast the evil eye on with evil intent; to put a spell on someone; to practice magic on someone; and figuratively, to cunningly deceive. NB Paul is comparing the Judaising of Christians by 'Christian' teachers focused upon Judaism with having a spell put upon you. Getting people to worry about writing down the name of God is part of this bewitching.

Paul's stern warnings about Judaisers

Paul's warnings in the opening verses of Galatians regarding such Judaising teachers are severe:

- It is a turning away to a different Gospel: 'I marvel that you are turning away so soon from Him who called you in the grace of Christ, to a different gospel', Gal 1:6.
- It is a perversion of the Gospel: 'there are some who trouble you and want to pervert the gospel of Christ', Gal 1:7.
- It is an 'other' Gospel that is cursed: 'if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed ... I say again, if anyone preaches any other gospel to you than what you have received, let him be accursed', Gal 1:8-9.

The book of Galatians was not just targeted at extreme Judaisers, who would have insisted upon circumcision and following the Law of Moses in order to be saved. It was directed against any type of Judaising that distracted people away from Christ, and Paul particularly mentions (negatively): keeping the Sabbath (a 'special day') and celebrating Jewish seasons, fasts and feasts. In Colossians he also mentions: observing festivals, new moons, and Sabbaths which distract believers from Christ who is the reality which these shadows pointed to.⁶

Judaisers bring Christians into bondage and a curse

The purpose of Judaising false teachers is to bring you into bondage and a curse; it is a satanic plot to deceive and enslave you. In the worst cases it shows that professing Christians who adopt Jewish practices cannot be saved at all.

- **'This occurred because of false brethren secretly brought in (who came in by stealth to spy out our liberty which we have in Christ Jesus, that they might bring us into bondage)', Gal 2:4.**
- **'As many as are of the works of the law are under the curse; for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who does not continue in all things which are written in the book of the law, to do them"', Gal 3:10.** In other words, if you start adopting certain parts of Judaism (Mosaic Law, such as celebrating feasts or Sabbaths) you are committed to adopting the whole system, which is a system of death and condemnation. Cursed are people who do not fulfil it all (which is impossible, which is why the Gospel is by faith, Gal 3:11-12).
- **Paul's earlier life in rabbinic Judaism was in bondage until the Gospel freed him (Gal 4:4-7). 'When we were children, were in bondage under the elements of the world', Gal 4:3.**
- **'How is it that you turn again to the weak and beggarly elements, to which you desire again to be in bondage?', Gal 4:9.**
- **'They zealously court you, but for no good', Gal 4:17**
- **Physical, fleshly Jerusalem is in bondage, as are all her children (Jews): 'This Hagar is Mount Sinai in Arabia, and corresponds to Jerusalem which now is, and is in bondage with her children', Gal 4:25. [Fleshly Jews are typified by Hagar; Christians by Isaac, the type of the Seed that is Christ.]**
- **The whole Jewish system must be cast out from Christianity: 'what does the Scripture say? "Cast out the bondwoman and her son, for the son of the bondwoman shall not be heir with the son of the freewoman"', Gal 4:30.**
- **'Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage', Gal 5:1.**

Examples of succumbing to Judaising and its accompanying ruin

If you turn to Judaism you have fallen from grace and cannot be saved.

- **Celebrating Jewish rituals, such as feasts and Sabbaths, means that the Gospel was in vain (i.e. you cannot be saved): 'You observe days and months and seasons and years. I am afraid for you, lest I have laboured for you in vain', Gal 4:10-11. [Thus Paul sought to bring them into life once more; their conversion had not been true if they turn to Judaism, Gal 4:19. Paul doubted their salvation, Gal 4:20.]**
- **Circumcision: 'If you become circumcised, Christ will profit you nothing. And I testify again to every man who becomes circumcised that he is a debtor to keep the whole law. You have become estranged from Christ, you who attempt to be justified by law; you have fallen from grace', Gal 5:2-4.**

⁶ 'So let no one judge you in food or in drink, or regarding a festival or a new moon or sabbaths, which are a shadow of things to come, but the substance is of Christ.' Col 2:16-18

Why do Jews seek to Judaize Christians?

Jews persecute Christians and seek to destroy them (the Talmud constantly demands this); deception is one means of doing this.

As he who was born according to the flesh then persecuted him who was born according to the Spirit, even so it is now. Gal 4:29

Paul, the apostles, the NT writers (such as Luke) and deacons (such as Stephen) refer to this many times in the NT; for example 1 Thess 2:14-15.

Thus Judaisers stop Christians from obeying the truth:

Who hindered you from obeying the truth? Gal 5:7

Such teaching is not from God but from the devil:

This persuasion does not come from Him who calls you. Gal 5:8

These false teachers will be judged by God:

He who troubles you shall bear his judgment, whoever he is. Gal 5:10

Paul is so exasperated with this evil deception that he wishes the false Jewish teachers (who taught circumcision) would castrate themselves by accident!

I could wish that those who trouble you would even cut themselves off! Gal 5:12

This shows how serious Paul thought that this matter was.

The idea (taught by Messianic Christian teachers) that Paul was proud of his rabbinic heritage and brought a Hebraic flavour to his teaching of Gentiles is a complete fabrication. Paul rejected his former rabbinic training as 'dung' in comparison to knowing Christ (Phil 3:8). Jesus condemned the Pharisaic rabbis to hell.

Jewish Root and other Messianic false teachers want you to be brought back to what Paul thought was dung and what Christ said was of the devil. Judaizing only leads to bondage and a curse. True elect Christians will not fall for it, at least not for long.

The Hebrew OT

The chief name for 'God' in the OT is Elohim [properly 'Elōhim] a masculine plural form; this is the first name of God ever spoken (Gen 3:3). It appears as a name of God only in Hebrew and not other Semitic languages, unlike El or Elah. The emphasis in this word is on might or strength.

The Masoretic Hebrew text of the OT does not abbreviate this word by removing the vowels. It is the common word for God and also foreign gods. If God would have wanted Israelites to shorten the word for God then his Bible would have both prescribed this and included the abbreviated form. Neither is the case.

The Hebrew text gives us no sanction to shorten the word for God by removing vowels.

The Greek NT

God providentially provided for a universal peace and cultural development in the Mediterranean under the Greek Empire. This led to the lingua franca of Koine Greek for trade and commerce, diplomacy and culture. Thus most Jews involved in any sort of commerce would use Greek, certainly in common writing (though most personal speech

was in Aramaic). This had already led to a Greek OT (the Septuagint Translation) 200 years before Christ.

So Hebrew wasn't even spoken in Christ's day, the common Palestinian tongue was Syriac (Aramaic). In fact Greek culture dominated the big Jewish cities in architecture, clothing, entertainment, trade and so on. Note that Paul, even though he was a rabbinical trained Hebrew scholar, could quote Greek poets in Greek.

Thus, in the sovereignty of God, the NT was written in Greek so that it could be disseminated to all nations in an understandable language. All the books of the NT were originally written in Greek and only later translated into other languages (such as Latin, Syriac, Coptic, Gothic and Saxon). There is not a shred of evidence for any NT book being originally written in Hebrew. Even the Gospel of Matthew, directed chiefly at Jews, alone emphasizes that Christ's disciples were to be from all nations ('Gentiles', Matt 28:19).

Thus God had removed all possibilities of any sort of rabbinic influence upon early Christianity. This was deliberate, as God had condemned the Pharisees / rabbis through Christ and the apostles [see, 'The True Position of Jews'].

The cultural reference for the original text of the NT was Greek. Furthermore, even the supposed Hebraisms (apart from two words) are not Hebrew at all but Aramaic.⁷ The Lord went out of his way to remove Hebrew idioms and ideas from the NT; indeed the Jews as a people were condemned by Christ and the apostles, while the house of Israel was left desolate:

That on you may come all the righteous blood shed on the earth, from the blood of righteous Abel to the blood of Zechariah, son of Berechiah, whom you murdered between the temple and the altar. Assuredly, I say to you, all these things will come upon this generation. O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under *her* wings, but you were not willing! See! Your house is left to you desolate.⁸ Matt 23:35-38

The destruction of Jerusalem and the temple by the Romans in 70 AD was the fulfilment of this which extinguished the people completely. Later Jews (the base of the Jews of today) were Idumaeans (Edomites who were cursed by God) and Khazars (who were not even Semitic).⁹

So there is no linguistic or cultural basis in NT theology for adopting a rabbinic type of name for God with the vowel removed.

Theos

We have God's inspired and certain word given to us in the Greek text of the NT. This cannot be doubted; it is God's choice of words.

In the NT the main word used for 'God' is '*Theos*', which appears hundreds of times. This is the Greek term for 'God'.

⁷ See my paper, 'The Name of "Jesus"'.

⁸ '*Eremos*' = A desert, wilderness, lonely place, deserted. This was Christ's curse on Israel; figuratively pictured by the curse on the fig tree.

⁹ See my paper, 'The True Position of Jews' and 'The Depths of Deception'; especially the appendices. The Sephardim are really Edomites while the Ashkenazi are Khazars from the Georgia-Belarus region; a Turkic-Mongol people.

Now the NT never alters this word to make it more reverent, such as by removing the vowels ('THS'). The NT gives no encouragement to start being superstitious about the name of God.

The origin of the English word 'God', the translation of *Theos*, is from the Old English, which is of Germanic origin and is related to Dutch 'God' and German 'Gott'.

Our job is to obey God and follow his precedents. His inspired word gives us an ordinary Greek word for 'God' which requires no further alteration. Changing the word by removing its vowels is an affront to common language meaning but also an act of disobedience to God because he uses the ordinary word himself in his word.

Conclusion

False teachers seek to bring you into bondage. Paul makes this eminently clear in his arguments in Galatians, which he directly applies to the Judaisers of his time. These sought to bring Celtic people in what is now Turkey into the bondage of Judaism. His letter is convincing proof that this is evil; people who fall for this error are said to be 'bewitched' by Paul. Those who seek to bring you into dependence upon things Jewish are servants of the devil trying to deceive you.

Teaching that it is necessary to use the term G-d in reference to God is superstitious nonsense that derives from rabbinic Judaism. This is the same Pharisaic Judaism that blasphemes the Lord Jesus every day; the same rabbinic teaching that Jesus condemned as devilish taught by the descendants of those whom Jesus sentenced to hell.

The only people who use the term G-d are those who side with the enemies of God and whose mind has been seared by false teaching. It is a deception. If you are guilty of this, I urge you to repent and get in line with Scripture.

There is nothing wrong in using the word 'God' in speech or writing.

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