

Hashem: Pronunciation - Part 3

Use with the full teaching and a Bible. Read or watch first, complete the questions, then discuss and apply. For family study, an adult can select suitable portions and accept spoken answers.

Test the teaching's explanations against the cited passages. Keep the answer key and facilitator notes separate when distributing learner pages.

[Open the full teaching](#)

Teaching summary

This study draws on analysis from the Ancient Hebrew Research Center to examine possible pronunciations of YHWH. It introduces open and closed syllables and uses those patterns in its argument. We should treat this as an introductory explanation of the teaching's reasoning, not a complete historical grammar or proof of every sound in the divine name.

The teaching discusses yod and waw as consonants or as letters indicating vowels. Examples such as Torah, mitswot, and Yawan illustrate the proposed analysis. Its central point about Yehudah is that removing dalet does not automatically preserve every other sound. The resulting form needs independent grammatical examination.

Hebrew names can be built from nouns and verbs. The study connects YHWH with hawah, meaning to exist, and the yod prefix with "he." It then considers possible vowel patterns while acknowledging that identifying a related verb does not settle every vowel in the divine name.

Yah is a shortened form of the name found in Scripture and in names such as Elijah, Jeremiah, and Isaiah. Hallelu-Yah means praise Yah. These forms, together with the evidence discussed earlier in the series, lead to Yahweh as the preferred possibility. This remains an educated conclusion rather than certain knowledge of the ancient pronunciation.

The study returns to the meaning of shem and the priestly blessing in Numbers 6. Putting YHWH's name on his people concerns his character and blessing. Declaring his name should therefore include making his authority known. Pronunciation debates must not become tests of salvation or excuses to rebuke and divide fellow believers.

Summary points

- Hebrew pronunciation follows grammatical and syllable patterns.
- An open syllable consists of a consonant and a vowel.
- A closed syllable ends with a consonant.
- Yod and waw can serve as consonants or vowels.
- Removing a letter can change the syllable structure of a word.
- Hebrew names can contain nouns and verbs.
- The study connects YHWH with the idea of existence.
- Yah is a shortened form used in Scripture.
- Yahweh is preferred without claiming absolute certainty.
- Honoring YHWH's character must guide discussion of his name.

Fill in the blank

Use the teaching and the cited Bible passages. Equivalent wording is welcome when it expresses the same meaning.

Basic

1. A consonant followed by a vowel forms an _____ syllable.
2. A consonant-vowel-consonant pattern forms a _____ syllable.
3. The Hebrew letters yod and _____ may serve as consonants or vowels.
4. The teaching connects hawah with the meaning to _____.
5. Hallelu-Yah means “_____ Yah.”
6. The pronunciation preferred as a possibility is _____.

Challenging

1. The letter removed from Yehudah in the argument examined is _____.
2. In the teaching’s analysis of YHWH, the yod prefix carries the meaning _____.
3. The name Ishmael is explained as “God _____.”
4. The shortened form Yah first appears in the cited song in Exodus _____.
5. The priestly blessing discussed is found in Numbers chapter _____.
6. The study warns against making pronunciation a _____ issue.

Group discussion

Discuss respectfully and support answers from the passages. Use these lines for brief notes or a notebook for longer responses.

1. How do open and closed syllables help test pronunciation proposals?

2. Why does removing the dalet from Yehudah require more analysis than deleting a sound?

3. How are Hebrew names connected with nouns and verbs in the examples?

4. What role do Yah and Hallelu-Yah play in the preferred pronunciation?

5. How does Numbers 6 connect YHWH's name with his character and blessing?

6. What would a humble discussion of these linguistic arguments look like?

Answer key

For the leader or parent. Answers follow the teaching and the passages. Accept equivalent wording that expresses the same meaning.

Basic

1. open

Teaching opening syllable explanation

2. closed

Teaching opening syllable explanation

3. waw

Teaching discussion of yod and waw

4. exist

Teaching proposed analysis of YHWH and hawah

5. praise

Teaching discussion of Yah and Hallelu-Yah

6. Yahweh

Teaching concluding pronunciation preference

Challenging

1. dalet

Teaching discussion of Yehudah and dalet

2. he

Teaching proposed analysis of YHWH

3. hears

Teaching explanation of Ishmael

4. 15:2

Exodus 15:2; teaching discussion of Yah

5. 6

Numbers 6:24-27

6. salvation

Teaching conclusion

Facilitator notes

These responses give direction for discussion. They are not a test of identical wording. Invite participants to explain the passages and consider a faithful practical response.

1. They give a framework for examining how proposed sounds form syllables. The teaching uses those patterns as part of its argument, but a simplified lesson does not replace a full historical grammar or establish every vowel of the name.

Teaching opening syllable discussion

2. The teaching argues that deleting a letter changes the arrangement of syllables and the possible function of waw. We should examine that claim within the historical language rather than assume the sounds of Yehudah minus one letter automatically give the name.

Teaching discussion of Yehudah and dalet

3. The examples show names related to ordinary Hebrew words and, in some cases, a combination of a verb and a divine element. Ishmael is explained as God hears. Name analysis can inform a proposal without settling every sound.

Teaching examples of Adam, Noah, Jacob, and Ishmael

4. The short form Yah and its use in praise and names support the teaching's preference for an initial Yah sound. The proposed full pronunciation still requires further reasoning and remains uncertain.

Exodus 15:2; teaching discussion of Yah and Hallelu-Yah

5. The blessing speaks of YHWH's keeping, grace, favor, and peace, then says his name is placed on Israel. The teaching connects this with representing his character and receiving his blessing; pronunciation alone is not its focus.

Numbers 6:24-27

6. Explain the proposal and its limits, listen to questions, and avoid calling another believer unsaved over a pronunciation. We can seek understanding while maintaining the kindness the teaching urges.

Teaching conclusion; Numbers 6:24-27

Put it into practice

Choose one response to the passages. What will we do, and when will we revisit it? Share only what you are comfortable sharing.