

# Communication with Professor George Howard and his handwritten reply dated January 31, 2014

Author George Howard

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Dear Professor Howard:

A Jehovah's Witness friend of mine informs me about the information that the Watchtower and Tract Society have used as an evidence that the tetragram was removed from the New Testament and they state you as a reference. A new edition of their Bible was published late last year of 2013 and used you as proof regarding the Tetragrammaton. Which means, they are justifying the reinserting the name Jehovah throughout their whole translation. I would like to know if you agree with the Watchtower and Tract Society regarding the claim. I am sure you are very busy but this is very important to me. If it is convenient for you, please feel free to respond via email address. I will be looking forward to hearing from you soon!

Warm Regards,

M [redacted] P [redacted]

*— see pp. 229-232*

A Jehovah's Witness friend referred me to your book, "Hebrew Gospel of Matthew". I managed to purchase a copy of your book, which I shall be reading with interest. My friend informs me that the information in your book provides evidence that the tetragram was removed from the New Testament, which means his Watchtower organization is thus fully justified in reinserting the Name "Jehovah" throughout its translation of the New Testament. I would like to know if you agree with my Jehovah's Witness friend and with the Watchtower's actions. If it is convenient for you, please feel free to respond using my email address. Kind regards,

*I do not agree with your Jehovah's Witness friend. I demonstrated that an old manuscript from the 15th Century, including a Hebrew text of the Gospel of Matthew, used the Tetragram 19 times. There is no evidence that it was ever used anywhere else in the New Testament. I'm sure the JWs have the Tetragram in their Matthew translation more than 19 times. They use it some hundreds*

*Sent by email 1.10.2014 17 times in their translation of the New Testament. One book proves nothing for other books of the NT. If you will look at the top of p. 232, I have a note about the conservative attitude the author had for using the Tetragram.*

*(over)*

*1/31/14  
George Howard  
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In the Heb Matt the Tetragram itself <sup>uses only</sup> a symbol "יה" which is an abbreviation for יהוה (= the Name). The fully written Tetragram יהוה (Jehovah/Yahweh) never occurs. It is used in Old Testament quotations in Matthew where the Tetragram originally appeared in the Hebrew Bible. It is used in a few other instances in phrases like "angel of the Lord (יה)".

Many people <sup>are</sup> troubled about the use the Jehovah's Witnesses have made out of my research. I am very sorry for this. Of course, I have no control over what other people do with my book. I absolutely disagree with what they have done with my work.

For reference the tetragram symbol for "The Name" occurs at:

Matt 1:22, 12:4, 2:13, 2:19 3:3 4:7 4:10 5:33 15:18 21:9 21:12  
21:42 22:31 22:32 22:37 22:44 27:9 28:12 28:19