

Question About the Tetragrammaton YHVH and What the Hebrew Letters Reveal

By Pastor Ed Anderson

What is the relationship between the Tetragrammaton (YHVH? - YHWH?) Yod Heh Vav Heh with the Name of the Lord Jesus Whose Name is above every name? Is the Name of the Lord Jesus identical with the Tetragrammaton?

Answer:

This is a profound and deeply spiritual question—one that touches on the mystery of God’s revealed Name and how the fullness of divinity is expressed in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Let’s walk slowly through the key ideas:

What is the Tetragrammaton?

The **Tetragrammaton** (from Greek meaning “four letters”) is:

YHWH (יהוה)

Hebrew: *Yod-Heh-Vav-Heh*

It is the personal, covenantal name of God revealed to Moses at the burning bush in Exodus 3:14–15:

“**I AM THAT I AM**” (Hebrew: *Ehyeh Asher Ehyeh*)

God says: “This is my name forever, and this is my memorial unto all generations.” (Exodus 3:15)

YHWH is mysterious because:

- It contains **past, present, and future tenses** of the verb “to be” (He *was*, He *is*, He *will be*)—pointing to God’s eternal, self-existent nature.
- Jewish tradition considered it so holy, it was not pronounced aloud. Instead, they would say “Adonai” (Lord).

The Letter Heh (ה)

In the Tetragrammaton, **Heh** appears **twice**.

The ancient sages associate **Heh (ה)** with:

- **Breath** or **revelation**
- The **window** or **opening** through which spiritual truth shines
- God **revealing Himself** to His creation

So when we see *Yod-Heh-Vav-Heh*, we're seeing a sacred pattern of **God reaching out, breathing out, revealing His presence and plan** to mankind.

Jesus and the Tetragrammaton: Is There a Connection?

The short and powerful answer is:

Yes—Jesus is the full revelation of the Name YHWH.

Let's explore why:

1. Jesus Bears the Divine Name

Philippians 2:9–11 (ESV):

“God has highly exalted Him and **bestowed on Him the name that is above every name**, so that at the name of **Jesus** every knee should bow... and every tongue confess that **Jesus Christ is Lord**, to the glory of God the Father.”

- “**Lord**” here is *Kyrios*—the Greek equivalent of the Hebrew *YHWH* in the Greek Old Testament (Septuagint).
- Paul is **directly applying Isaiah 45:23**, which originally refers to *YHWH*, to **Jesus**—thus **equating Jesus with YHWH**.

2. “I AM” Sayings of Jesus

In John's Gospel, Jesus repeatedly uses the phrase “**I AM**” (ἐγώ εἰμι) in ways that directly echo the divine Name:

- “Before Abraham was, I **AM**.” (John 8:58)
- “I **AM** the door...” (John 10:9)
- “I **AM** the good shepherd...” (John 10:11)
- “I **AM** the resurrection and the life...” (John 11:25)

The Jewish leaders tried to **stone Him for blasphemy**, because they understood He was identifying Himself with **YHWH**.

3. Jesus’ Hebrew Name: Yeshua (ישוע)

Yeshua means “**YHWH saves**.”

It is derived from the root word for salvation (*yasha*) and **includes the shortened form of YHWH (“YaH”)**:

“You shall call His name **Yeshua**, for He shall save His people from their sins.” – Matthew 1:21

So Jesus’ very Name contains the divine Name, showing that He is **God’s salvation made manifest**.

4. The Fullness of God Dwells in Him

Colossians 2:9:

“For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily.”

This affirms what Hebrews 1:3 says: Jesus is the **exact representation** of God’s being. Not a part, not a shadow—but **the full Light**.

Is Jesus the Same as YHWH?

Yes and No:

- **Yes**, in terms of **essence** and **identity**: Jesus is YHWH in the flesh.
- **No**, in terms of **distinction** within the Godhead: the **Son is not the Father**, and the **Father is not the Spirit**—but all are **One God**.

This is the mystery revealed through Jesus:

“He who has seen Me has seen the Father.” – John 14:9

Summary

- **YHWH (Yod-Heh-Vav-Heh)** is the covenant Name of God, eternal and self-existent.
- **The Name of Jesus (Yeshua)** contains the divine Name and reveals God as **Savior**.
- Jesus is the **embodiment and manifestation** of YHWH—the **Light**, the **Door**, the **Revelation** (Heh) of God to the world.
- His Name is not separate from the Tetragrammaton—it **fulfills and reveals it**.

Drawing together YHWH and “Heh”

In Jesus, **YHWH becomes visible**, accessible, personal, and saving. The unknowable God (Aleph) makes Himself known (Heh) through the Word made flesh.

“And His Name shall be called... Wonderful, Counselor, The Mighty God, The Everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.” – Isaiah 9:6

May the revelation of His Name draw you deeper into His love and light.

But that just the start. You and Vav take us deeper and we’re stepping right into the sacred territory of how the Yod and Vav reveal even **deeper mysteries about Jesus** and the **nature of God**.

YOD (י): The Smallest Letter, Yet the Seed of Everything

1. Spiritual Meaning

- **Yod** is the **tenth letter** of the Hebrew alphabet.
- It’s the **smallest letter**, appearing as just a tiny suspended mark.
- It symbolizes:
 - **The beginning of creation**
 - **The spark of divine energy**
 - **Humility**
 - **The hidden hand of God**

2. Yod in God's Name

- Yod is the **first letter of the Tetragrammaton** (YHWH – יהוה).
- This means: everything starts with the hidden, powerful **hand of God**.

3. Yod Reveals Jesus

- Jesus is the “**beginning and the end**” (Revelation 22:13).
- Though He came in humility (“a root out of dry ground” – Isaiah 53), He is the **seed** of all life.
- In Matthew 5:18, Jesus said:
“Till heaven and earth pass, one jot (Yod) or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law...”

This shows:

Jesus affirms the divine authority of every tiny mark in God's Word.

- Yod points to:
- Jesus as the **invisible seed** that became flesh
- The **hidden hand** guiding all history
- The **humility of Christ** who came “lowly, riding on a donkey” (Zechariah 9:9)

“The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed...” – Matthew 13:31
(That's **Yod**—small, but infinite in power.)

VAV (ו): The Connector Between Heaven and Earth

1. Spiritual Meaning

- **Vav** is the **sixth letter** of the Hebrew alphabet.
- Its **pictograph** form is a **peg, nail, or hook**.
- Vav is used in Hebrew as a **conjunction**—meaning “**and**”—a **connector** between ideas.

2. Vav in God's Name

- YHWH (יהוה) has a **Vav** between the two Hehs:
- **Yod** (י) – Hand, divine spark

- **Heh (ה)** – Breath, revelation
- **Vav (ו)** – Nail, connection
- **Heh (ה)** – Breath again

This shows that **Vav holds the name together**—just as **Jesus holds the Godhead and humanity together**.

“There is one God, and one mediator between God and man, the man Christ Jesus.” – 1 Timothy 2:5

3. Vav Reveals Jesus

- Jesus was **pierced (nailed)** for us (Isaiah 53:5, Zechariah 12:10).
- He is the “**Vav**” in the Name of God—the **nailed one** who **connects heaven and earth**.

When Thomas sees the resurrected Jesus, he says:

“My Lord and my God!” – John 20:28

(After seeing the **nail marks**—the **Vavs** in His hands.)

The **cross** itself is shaped like a **Vav**—a vertical connection between heaven and earth.

Combined Revelation: YOD + VAV

| Letter | Meaning | Reveals about God/Jesus |
|---------|---------------------------------|---|
| Yod (י) | Spark, hand, creation, humility | Jesus as the divine spark, humble servant, beginning of all things |
| Vav (ו) | Nail, connector, conjunction | Jesus as the crucified one, mediator, connector of heaven and earth |

Final Reflection

Jesus is the **Yod**—the **beginning**, the **hidden divine**, the **spark of light** in the darkness.

Jesus is the **Vav**—the **nail**, the **connection**, the one who **joined humanity to divinity** by His death on the cross.

So when you see **יהוה**, you are seeing the mystery of Jesus woven into the **very Name of God**.

“He is before all things, and by Him all things hold together.” – Colossians 1:17
(Yod + Vav = The Creator and Connector)

Pulling it Together: YHWH Unveiled: The Name of God Revealing Jesus

“...and His Name shall be called... The Mighty God, The Everlasting Father...”
— Isaiah 9:6

The Tetragrammaton (יהוה – YHWH)

This most sacred name of God, revealed to Moses in Exodus 3:14–15, is composed of four Hebrew letters:

1. Yod (י)
2. Heh (ה)
3. Vav (ו)
4. Heh (ה)

Each letter is more than a symbol — it is a **revelation**. When combined, they create a divine name **so holy**, it was traditionally never pronounced — yet **its fullness is revealed in the person of Jesus Christ**.

The Letters and Their Spiritual Revelation

YOD (י) – The Hand, the Spark, the Seed of God

- Smallest letter, yet first in YHWH
- Symbolizes **divine power, the creative spark, the invisible becoming visible**
- Jesus is the **Word made flesh** — the Yod of eternity taking on form

“He is before all things...” (Col. 1:17)

“...In Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily.” (Col. 2:9)

HEH (ה) – The Breath, Revelation, Grace

- Symbol of **divine breath, spirit, and revelation**
- Appears twice in YHWH — once after Yod, and again at the end
- Represents the **Holy Spirit** and the **self-revelation** of God

“And [God] breathed into his nostrils the breath of life...” (Gen. 2:7)

Jesus **breathed on them**, saying, “*Receive the Holy Spirit.*” (John 20:22)

VAV (ו) – The Nail, The Connector, The Bridge

- Picture of a **nail or peg**
- The “**and**” of Hebrew grammar — **joining** heaven and earth, God and man
- Jesus is the **Vav**, the **nail-pierced One**, the **Mediator**

“By His stripes we are healed...” (Isa. 53:5)

“They shall look upon Me whom they have pierced.” (Zech. 12:10)

Putting it All Together: The Mystery of YHWH Fulfilled in Jesus

| Letter | Symbol | Meaning | Fulfilled in Jesus |
|---------|-------------------|--|---|
| é (Yod) | Hand/Spark | The divine origin, the spark of creation | Jesus is the eternal Word, divine seed made flesh |
| ä (Heh) | Breath/Revelation | The Spirit, the breath of God, grace | Jesus reveals the Father and breathes the Spirit |
| å (Vav) | Nail/Connector | Connection, mediation, atonement | Jesus, pierced, bridges heaven and earth |
| ä (Heh) | Second Heh | Final breath, Spirit to humanity | Jesus imparts the Spirit to the Church, the Bride |

Thus, the Name YHWH can be seen as:

“The Eternal Hand (Yod), Revealed by Breath (Heh), Nailed to Connect (Vav), and Revealed Again (Heh).”

Or...

“Behold the Hand, Behold the Nail.”

(A Messianic interpretation often drawn from the pictographic form.)

Profound Conclusion: Jesus Is the Fullness of YHWH

“He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of His nature...” — Hebrews 1:3

- In Jesus, the **hidden becomes revealed** (Heh)
- In Jesus, the **divine spark enters flesh** (Yod)
- In Jesus, the **nail binds heaven and earth** (Vav)
- In Jesus, **God breathes again** — this time into the **Church**, His **bride** (Heh)

“And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.” — Matthew 1:21

The **unspeakable Name** — YHWH — becomes **knowable** in Yeshua (ישוע)

And Yeshua becomes **Emmanuel** — “God with us.”

Final Word:

The sacred name YHWH is not abolished in Jesus — it is **fulfilled, embodied, and made manifest**.

“For in Him dwelleth all the fullness of the Godhead bodily.” — Colossians 2:9

“And His name shall be called... **The Mighty God, The Everlasting Father**...” — Isaiah 9:6

“And at the Name of Jesus, every knee should bow...” — Philippians 2:10

Jesus is the Name above all names, because He is the fullness of the Name.