

God's name in Sweden – the last 500 years

This PDF brochure will present a homepage which has collected hundreds of photos of God's name יהוה (the Hebrew letters for "Jehovah") from churches, books, coins, artwork and other sources.

From the middle of the 16th century onward Swedish people were well aware of this personal name of God.

Welcome to a short presentation of some photos from this homepage.

www.gudsnamnet.se



1: Official royal motto of King Charles IX of Sweden



In Latin it reads: "*Iehovah solatium meum.*" This king was one in a line of several generations of rulers in Sweden, from 1560 to 1697, who highlighted God's name in Hebrew or Latin characters on coins, on medals, or in personal mottoes.

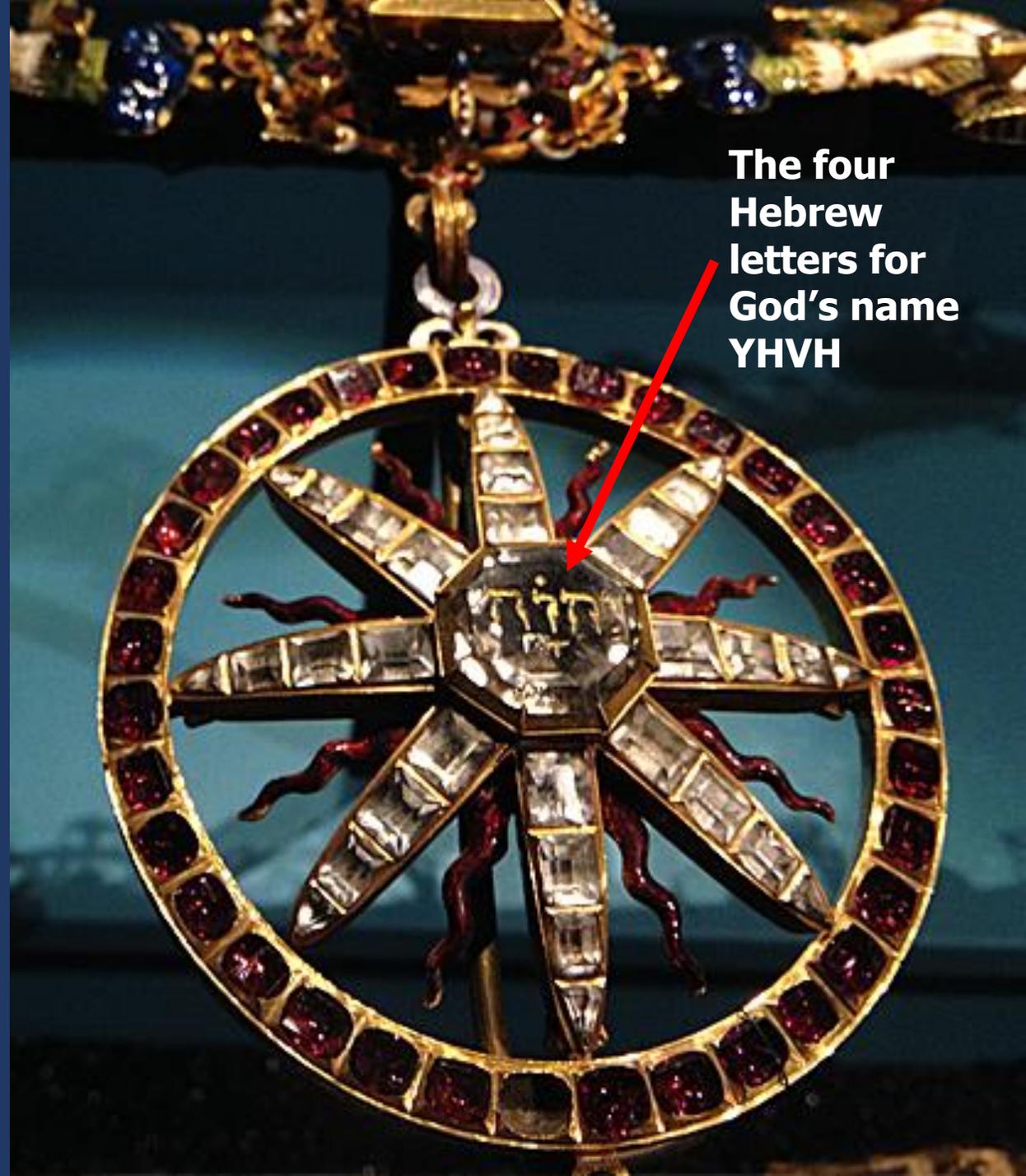
The photos show King Charles IX and his statue in the city of Gothenburg, Sweden. Above, the Swedish spelling of God's name at that time.

Charles IX: Royal Order of Jehovah

The Royal Order of Jehova was a Swedish dynastic order of knighthood instituted in 1606 by King Charles IX. The collar of the order was worn by the king.

What led these monarchs to such practices? Scholars believe that the Calvinist movement in Europe at that time, coupled with respect for the Bible, influenced them.

As well-educated Renaissance sovereigns, they were evidently familiar with the Latin version of God's personal name, Jehovah. Some no doubt realized that the name appeared thousands of times in the original Hebrew Bible text.



The four
Hebrew
letters for
God's name
YHWH



In a museum in Rudolstadt, East Germany, you can see on the collar of the suit of armor once worn by Gustavus II Adolph, the name IEHOVA in capital letters.

King Gustavus II Adolph,
1611 – 1632, son of Charles IX.



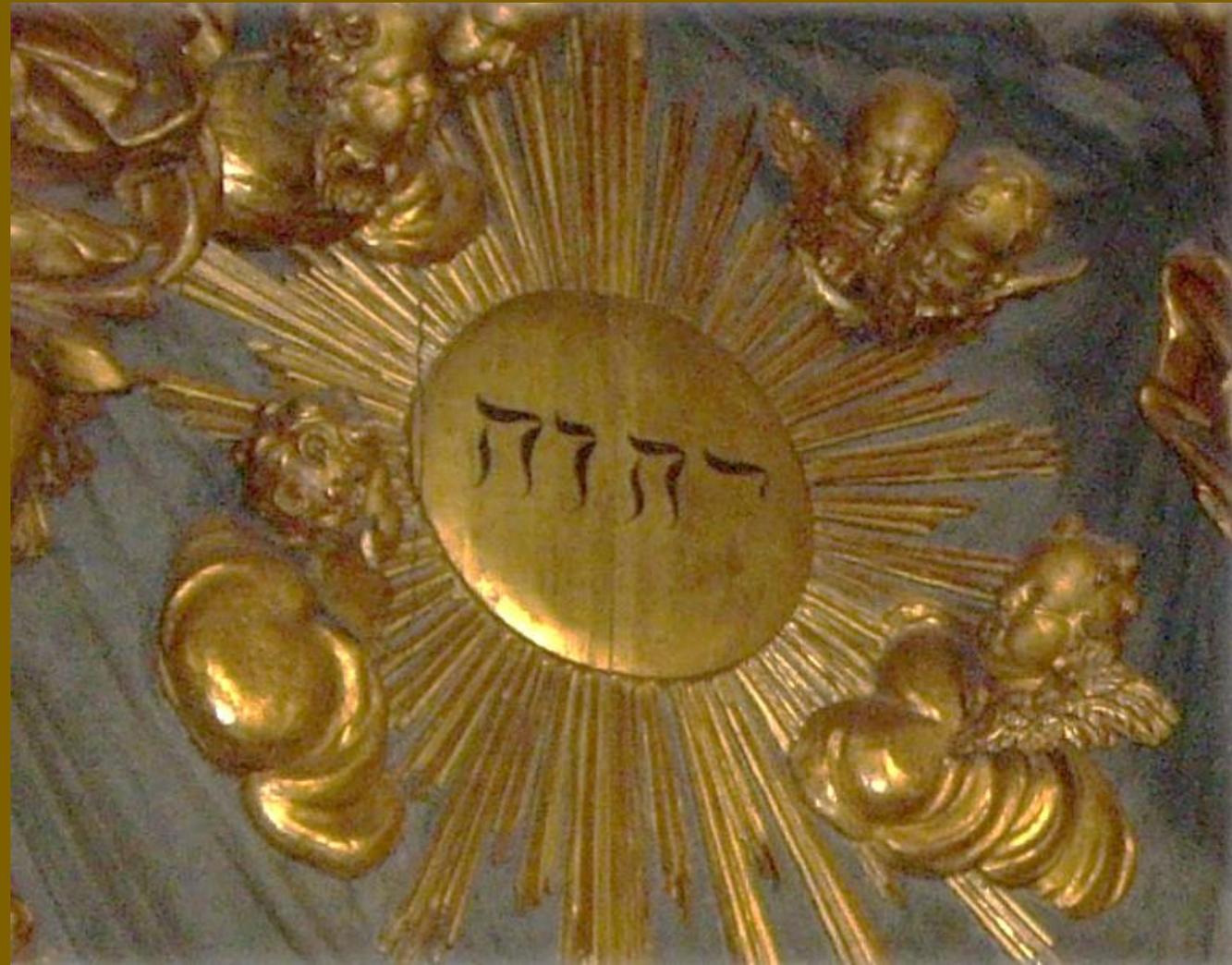
A 1631 infantry flag , where God's name in Hebrew letters received a prominent place.



2: Some examples from churches around Sweden

The Tetragrammaton (JHVH), the four Hebrew letters for God's name, Jehovah

These two photos are from Storkyrkan in Stockholm



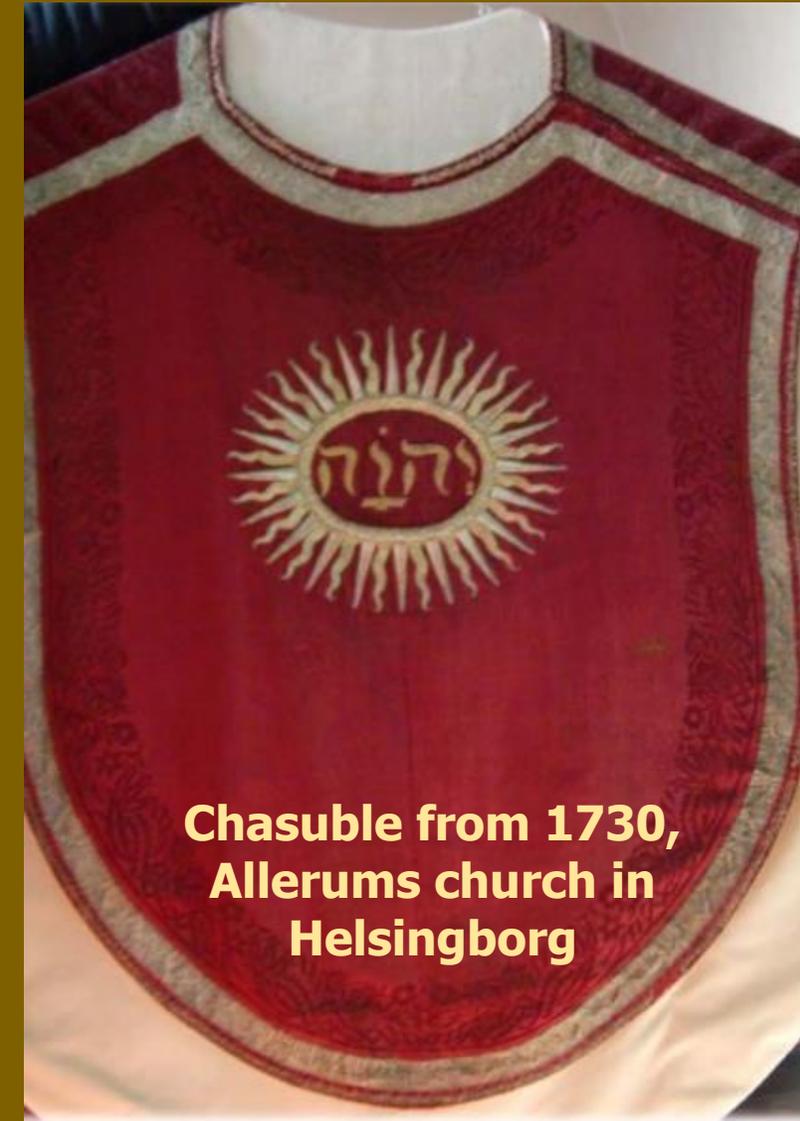
The homepage www.gudsnamnet.se displays photos with God's name from over 500 church buildings in all parts of Sweden. Often the churches display the tetragrammaton, the Hebrew letters for God's name.



Sollentuna church,
Sollentuna



Stenkyrka church,
Skärhamn, Tjörn



Chasuble from 1730,
Allerums church in
Helsingborg

The Swedish spelling of God's name is also displayed in many churches.

To see all the photos from the many church buildings, click on the link below:

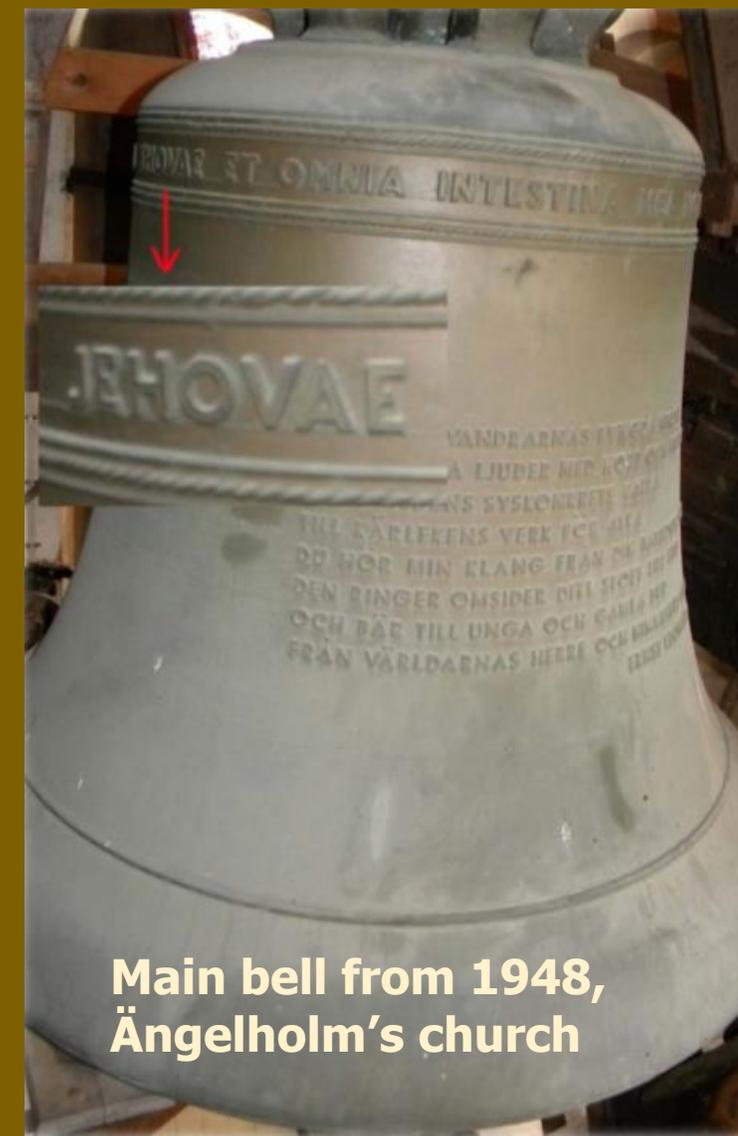
<http://www.gudsnamnet.se/start.htm>



**Ivetofta church,
Bromölla**

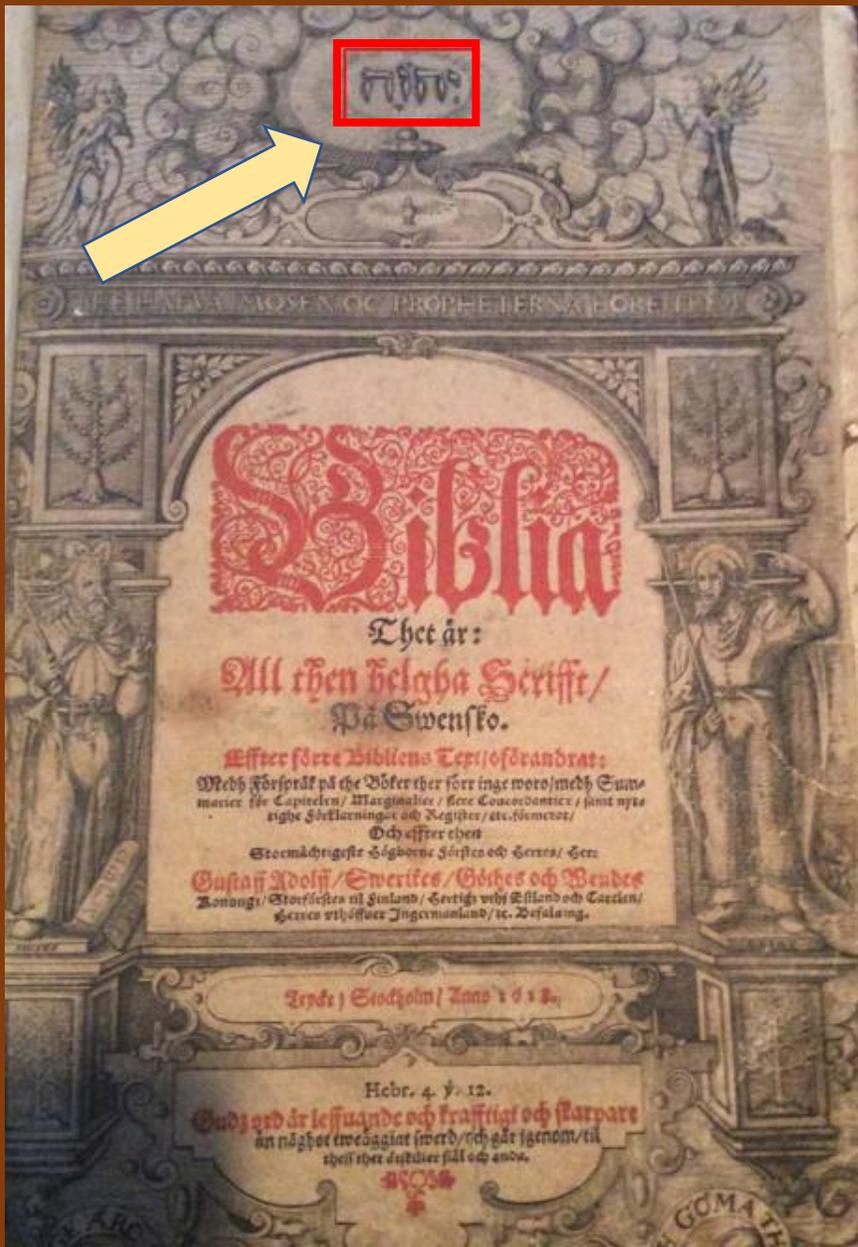


**Onsala church
Kungsbacka**



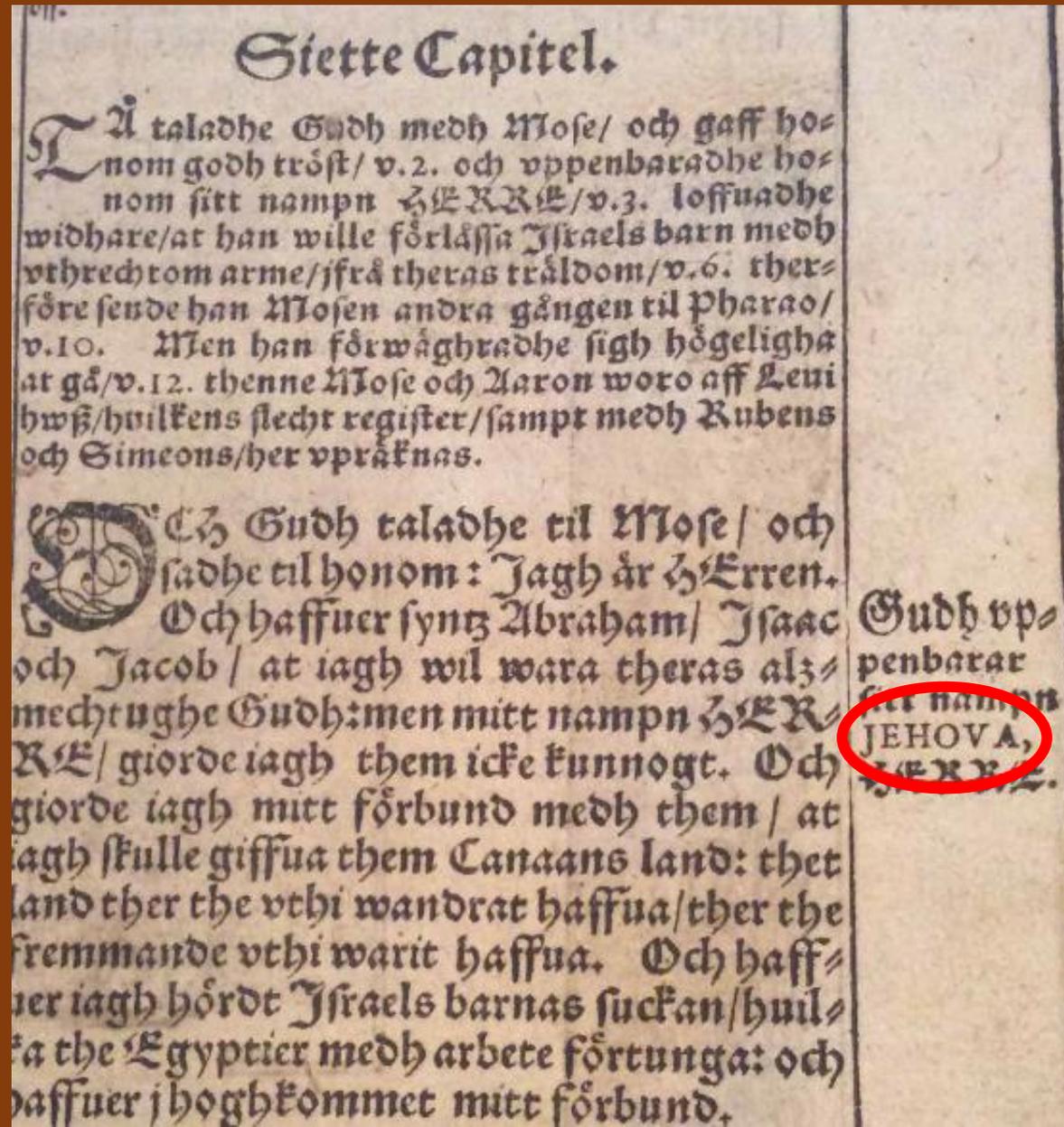
**Main bell from 1948,
Ängelholm's church**

3: Some example from early Swedish Bible translations



Title page to Gustavus II Adolph's Bible. Printed in Stockholm 1618.

God's name in the margin of the same Bible.



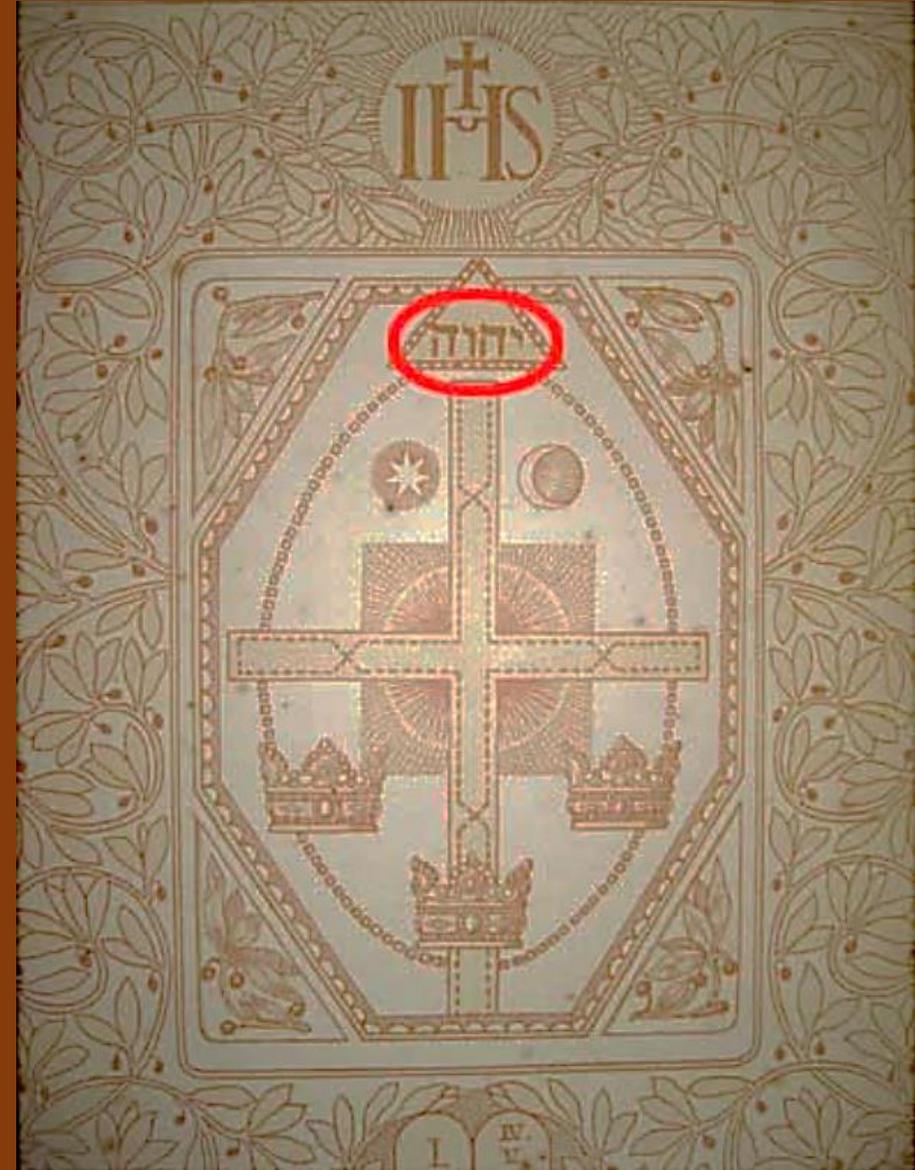
One Swedish translation from 1911, Helge Åkessons, shows God's name as Jehová, 6,864 times.



King Charles XII Bible from 1703.



Illustrated family Bible from 1917



4: Some examples of other publications

Below: Collection of laws from 1608 and 1638

Right: The Swedish Psalm Book from 1695

Swertes Rikes

LANDLAGH

Som af Rikssens Råd blef öfwer-
sedd och förbättrat: Och af K. Christofer / Swertes /
Danmarks / Norikes / Wendes och Göttha Konung / Valde-
grefve widd Keen / och Hertigh af Wexheren / Årom efter C. D. 1442.
Udgif: Och af menige Swertes Rikes Ständer samtycke gillat och wedert-
taghet: Swillen och alt stöban de allmänneligen
brukat worden

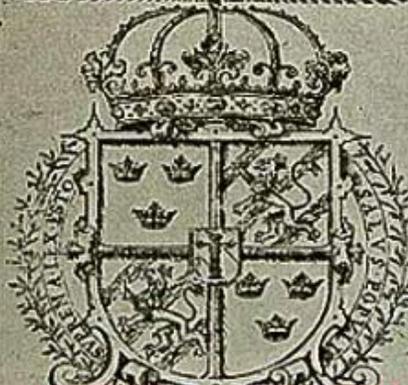
Efter

Then Stormechtige / Höghborne Furstes och
Hertes / **CARL** then nittondes / Swertes / Götthes /
Wendes / Finmars / Carelers / Lappers / Storlanden / the Casjners / och
Esters / Ålstand etc. Konunge / nådighe befallning / af
Trycker regängen.



יהוה

INSIGNIA REGIS ET REGNO.



IEHOVA SOLA DIVM. MEVM

RVN SVEDIA ET GOTHIA.

Stockholm / Åhr 1608.

ALTISSIMO SVORVM

GLORIA REEVGIO



Swertes

Landlagh

Efter

Sens hem är aff fordem then Storr-
mächtige Rikets Konung och Herts /
Hert
CARL then IX,
Swertes / Götthes / Wendes / Finmars / Carelers /
Lappers / Storlanden / the Casjners och Esters
Konunge / nådighe befallning / af
Trycker regängen

STOCKHOLM,
Tryckerijet aff Gertich Råyser
widd 1638



ANNO 1638

LEGES SANCTE ET INVIO-
LABILES SYNTO

POE-
NA VIO-
LATI-
IVRIS
ESTO.

Then Swenska

PSALMBOK

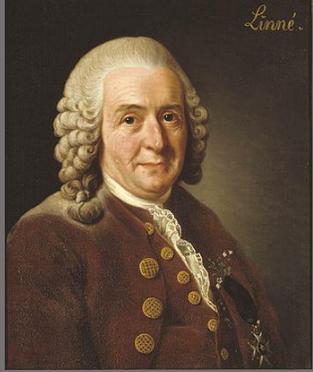
Med the Stycker, som ther til
höra, och på följande sida uppteckade
finnas.

Appå Kongl. Maj:ts
Nådigste Befallning, År MDCXCV.
Öfversedd, och nödtorfteligen förbättrad.



STOCKHOLM,

Uplagd i för detta Kgl. Tryckeriet med stæude Stof,
hos Ålshoren Johan Pfeiffer År 1774.



Example: Carl Linnaeus, 1707 – 1778

A Swedish botanist, physician, and zoologist who formalized the modern system of naming organisms. He is known as the "father of modern taxonomy".

The first edition of *Systema Naturae* was printed in the Netherlands in 1735. It was a twelve-page work. By the time it reached its 10th edition in 1758, it classified 4,400 species of animals and 7,700 species of plants.

The photo shows a quotation from Psalm 104:24 in Latin: "How many your works are, O Jehovah! You have made all of them in wisdom. The earth is full of what you have made." (New World Translation)

CAROLI LINNÆI, SVECI,
DOCTORIS MEDICINÆ,
SYSTEMA NATURÆ,
SIVE
REGNA TRIA NATURÆ
SYSTEMATICE PROPOSITA
PER
CLASSES, ORDINES,
GENERA, & SPECIES.

O JEHOVA! *Quam ampla sunt opera Tua!
Quam ea omnia sapienter fecisti!
Quam plena est terra possessione tua!*
Psal. civ. 24.

Exemplar Auctoris.

LUGDUNI BATAVORUM,
Apud THEODORUM HAACK, MDCCXXXV.

EX TYPOGRAPHIA
JOANNIS WILHELMI DE GROOT.

Biblia Neerlandica



GESCHIEDENIS

BIOGRAFIEËN

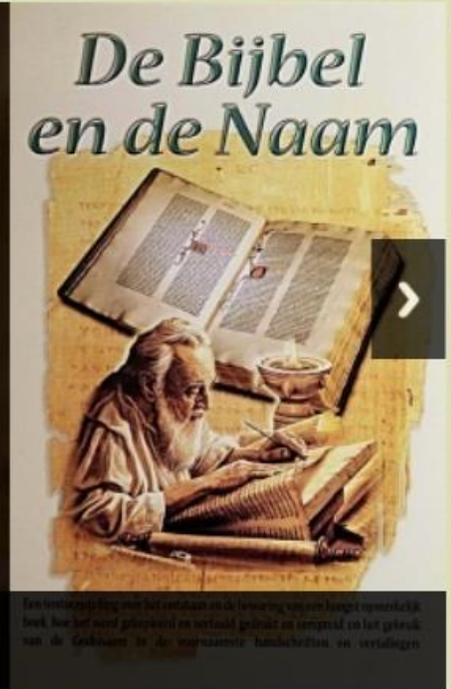
GODSNAAM

GODSNAAM IN BIJBELS

KAARTEN IN BIJBELS

BIJZONDERE BIJBELS

NIEUWS



NIEUWSFLASH

De Bijbel en de Naam

<https://gudsnamnet.se/start.htm>

The homepage gudsnamnet.se also has links to similar homepages in other European countries.

The Dutch homepage is seen here.

Awake! Magazine, 2017 No. 6 page 15 "God's Name"

WHAT IT MEANS FOR YOU

Knowing God's name will change the way you think about him. You will find it easier to draw close to him. After all, how can you be close to someone whose name you do not know? Why, the very fact that God has revealed his name to you shows that he *wants you to draw close to him.—James 4:8.*

You can be certain that Jehovah will always live up to his name as a God who makes things happen. That is why the Bible states: "Those knowing your name will trust in you." (Psalm 9:10) You develop that trust as you learn that Jehovah's name is inseparably linked to his qualities, such as loyal love, mercy, compassion, and justice. (Exodus 34:5-7) How reassuring to know that while Jehovah will always keep his promises, he will never act contrary to his qualities.

Clearly, to know Almighty God by name is a privilege. It can open up blessings for you now and in the future. God promises: "I will protect him because he knows my name."—Psalm 91:14.

"Everyone who calls on the name of Jehovah will be saved."—Joel 2:32.