

to the sounds of our own language that we do not realize this fact. When we learn another language we are apt to pronounce its sounds like the sounds of our own language, and this often makes our words very difficult to understand. If a Frenchman or a German tries to speak English he finds it almost impossible to pronounce our sound of *th*. Some pronounce it like a *z*; others like a *d*. Few of us realize the fact that we write *th* to represent two entirely different sounds, as in the words "this" and "think". Few of us realize that the sound that ends the word "is" is entirely different from the sound that ends the word "us".

Many English words are pronounced in various ways in the different areas where English is spoken. The pronunciation of every language is constantly changing. I have heard it said that if we were to hear George Washington speak today we would probably have great difficulty in understanding him. Letters give only a very rough idea of pronunciation, unless it is possible to talk with the people who make the sounds.

Until long after the time of Christ, Hebrew manuscripts contained only consonants, and gave no indication of the vowels. There is no conclusive evidence as to how the Hebrews originally pronounced the sacred name of God. It was incorporated in some of their personal names, as at the end of "Adonijah" and at the beginning of "Jehoiakim." Towards the end of the Old Testament period the Jews decided that they should be very careful not to take the sacred name on unclean lips, so they actually stopped speaking the name and eventually forgot how it had been originally pronounced. In their manuscripts it was represented by consonants that correspond roughly to our English letters *y*, *h*, *w*, *h*. When they read the Old Testament they would not try to pronounce it, but instead would say "the name" or would substitute the words "the Lord." When the Greek translation called the Septuagint was made it always represented this personal name by the Greek words for "the Lord." A few years ago a number of scholars thought that the original pronunciation was something like *Yah-hu*. More recently they incline to the guess that it was something like *Yah-weh*. Actually no one knows how it was originally pronounced.

The name "Jesus" is the Greek form of the Hebrew name "Joshua," which means "the Lord saves." In Acts 7:45 and Hebrews 4:8 the King James Version reads "Jesus," though it is