

The Tetragrammaton

Before we can attempt to find the true pronunciation of the 4 letters we need to establish which letters in the English language represent the Hebrew.

Then by a process of elimination we should be able to arrive at the correct manner in which to address our Creator. First let us make a list of the most commonly used renditions of

THE NAME.

Jehovah Yahvah

Yahovah Yahveh

Yehovah Yahwah

Yahuweh Yahweh

Yahuwah

Yahowah

Spelt with the Hebrew letters "yood-hey-waw-hey"

   
hey waw hey yood

As consonants, the "yood" and "hey" are quite clearly "Y" and "H". It is the "waw" popularly called the "vav" and the final vowel 'ah' or 'eh' that cause so many of the disputes.

𐤆 = middle Hebrew "waw"
𐤅 = modern Hebrew "waw"
Is it a "V" leading to YHVH ?
or
Is it a "W" leading to YHWH ?

"The sound of waw a long time ago wasn't 'vav' at all but 'w' and 'w' is weak. The Yemenite Jews of Arabia who retain an ancient, correct, and pure pronunciation of Hebrew still pronounce the waw as 'w,' as does Arabic, the close sister language of Hebrew," **How the Hebrew Language Grew, Edward Horowitz,**

So that leaves us with YHWH and all the renditions that include a "v" sound can be eliminated. Which leaves us with the shorter list of:-

The Tetragrammaton

Yahweh Yahuweh (Yahueh)

Yahwah Yahuwah (Yahuah)

(Yes there are a few more renditions out there, right now however we want to concentrate on the most popular - the reason for this will become clear later.)

So far we have been looking at consonants, often it is stated that the Hebrew language only contained consonants. However this is not strictly true the Yode -

The Hey and the Waw (Uau) were all semi-vowels

that is they all had a vowel sound attached to them long before any Masoretic vowel points were invented.

As such the Tetragram could more properly be transliterated as EAUA.

The Historian Josephus Flavius told his Greek audience that the NAME was 4 vowels - now it really does not matter if he meant 4 Greek vowels or 4 Hebrew vowels.

The fact is, whatever the language the vowels are, those letters make the sounds of the word. We are trying here to transliterate the NAME into English, so what vowel sounds does יהוה make?

י	ה	= eY
ה	ו	= ah or hey
ו	ה	= u,oo or o
modern	middle	English vowel sound

From the above chart we see that the first 2 letters יה say "eYah" as in halleluYah.

From Strong's H3050 יהו yahh

Then with the next letter being "the Y "waw" we start to encounter controversy. Some say it is 'o' some 'u', rendering the 1st three letters as Yahu or Yaho, then there are also those who put no vowel here at all and have, 'Yahw' for the first three letters.

The Tetragrammaton

So how can we resolve this issue and what can we eliminate.

To look at some of these names a little more closely.

Please visit our web pages titled 'YAHWEH'

and 'YAHUWEH or YAHUWAH?'