

## The Name at Qumran

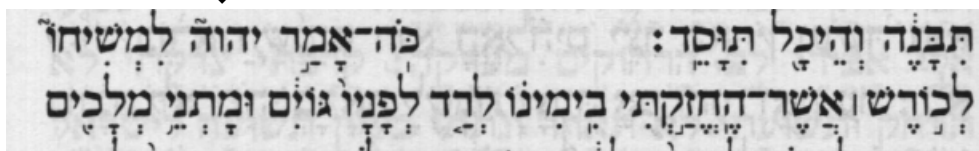
In post-biblical Jewish tradition, the personal Name of God was considered too sacred to pronounce. The Name—spelled in Hebrew consonants יהוה (Y-H-V-H)—is called the Four Letter Name or *Tetra-grammaton*. Eventually, when the Hebrew Scriptures were read out loud, the word *Adonai* (“Lord”) was spoken in place of YHVH.

Most English Bibles duplicate this substitution tradition by using “the LORD” (small caps) when the Hebrew has YHVH. Treating the Name specially, by substitution or some typographical method, goes back at least 2000 years.

Below are samples of the sacred Name in Hebrew and Greek texts from the Qumran area.

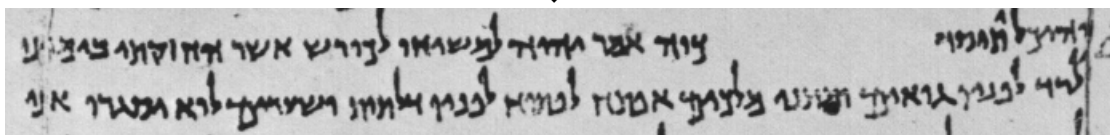
**Modern Hebrew Bible** (Jerusalem: Koren Publishers, 1984, Isaiah 45:1)

Note that the NAME is printed without vowel points.



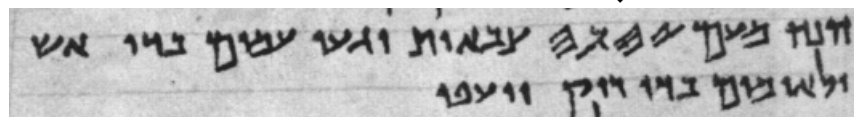
**Qumran: Great Isaiah Scroll** (1QIsa<sup>a</sup>, Isaiah 45:1. Date: 100 BCE)

Note that the NAME does not receive special treatment in this manuscript.



**Qumran: Commentary on Habakkuk** (1QpHab 10:7-8. Date: 30-1 BCE)

Note that the NAME is printed using the Ancient or “Paleo” Hebrew alphabet, not the “Herodian” script used throughout this document.



**Hahal Hever (south of Qumran)—Septuagint Greek text of Minor Prophets**

(Zechariah 9:1-2. Date: ?) (*Discoveries in the Judaen Desert*, Vol. 8, Plate 19)

Note that the NAME is printed using the Ancient or “Paleo” Hebrew alphabet.

