

THE MEANING OF THE NAME YEHOVAH (JEHOVAH)

The name Yehovah (Jehovah) is made up of three syllables Ye –ho – va. יהוה (four consonants – Tetragrammaton). If we draw analogies between this name and names such as Zedekyahu and the like, the first syllable represented by the letter Y – (Yod) will be an abbreviation for the Hebrew word "Yihye" (יהי will be). The remaining syllables "Hova" have a striking resemblance to the Hebrew words "Hovee" and "Hava". it seems to us that the two are also simply abbreviations of words. The syllable "HO" represented by the letter ה = H) seems to represent the Hebrew word הוה(Hovee = is ; exists), and the syllable "Va" represents the Hebrew word הוה(Hava – Hawah = was). The name Yehovah is merely the combination of the three words Yihye, Hovee, Hava. (will be, is, Was)¹. The words Hove and Hava, resemble each other phonetically as to their consonants and differ only in their vocalisation. The letter He (ה – H) from the word "Hovee"and the letters "Va (וה)" from the word Hava were combined to form the two syllables "Hova". We can now understand why in the Bible the name Yehovah appears after the name Adonai namely, Adonai Yehovah. which means Adonai Yihye, Adonai Hovee, Adonai Hava. Which is: The God Adon; he will be, he is, and he was. This name comprises the essential credo of the Jewish religion and of any monotheistic religion, namely, the eternity of God. This principle is expressed in a different way in the Jewish book of prayers: "Adonai melech, Adonai malach, Adonai yimloch leolam vaed". (Heb.) "Adonai rules (is king), Adonai ruled, Adonai will rule for eternity", and "Vehu Haya, vehu Hovee, vehu Yihye betifhara"(Heb.)."and he was, and he is, and he will be in splendor".² It becomes clear that the name of the Israelite God is indeed Adon as conjectured before, and that the name "Yehovah" which Ezra (most probably) adds is only a surname for Adon–Adonai. The Jews do not pronounce the name "Yehovah" by its syllables, because Yehovah is simply an

1 Lately I found that Spinoza expressed the same idea writing: "If anyone considers without prejudice the recorded opinions of Moses, he will plainly see that Moses conceived the Deity as a Being Who has always existed, does exist, and always will exist and for this cause he calls Him by the name Jehovah which in Hebrew signifies these three phases of existence", (Tractatus theologico politicus – II, 380–of prophets) . English translation p. 288 the philosophy of spinoza, edited by J. Ratner the world's popular classics. Books, inc. new york.

2 Prayer "Adon Olam Asher Malach". (Heb.)

appellation of the God Adon – Adonai, Whenever the name Yehova appears by itself, the Jews read Adonai, but when it follows Adonai, they read "Adonai Elohim" – Adonai the God, to prevent duplication.

In the Book of Ezekiel (1: 1–2), the date of the time of his prophecy is indicated as follows; "Now it came to pass in the thirtieth year, in the fourth month in the fifth day of the month...which was the fifth year of king Jehoiachin's captivity" If we count back the given number of years (thirty) we realise that this calculation dates from the eighteenth year of Josiah's reign, the year in which he started with his religious reformation in Jerusalem. (2Kn. Chap. 22–23). Of king Josiah it is said: "And like unto him was there no king before him, that turned to the Lord with all his heart, and with all his soul, and with all his might. according to all the law of Moses; neither after him arose there any like him". (2Kn. 23: 25). Therefore if this year was used as a basis for chronology, it must have been an important date marking a fundamental turning point for reorientation. As pointed out, according to the Book of Kings this change consisted of a religious reformation. Perhaps it should be taken as the beginning of a process which reached its climax with Ezra.

To sum up, names such as Shefatyahu Zedkiyahu and the like, have no theophoric connection whatsoever, with the name Yehovah. The only link between them is the verb Yihye (future tense of to be), which is common to both of them.