

TESTIFYING TO

יהוה

THE NAME - YAHWEH

SEVEN THOUSAND WITNESSES

SEVEN ANCIENT WITNESSES

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by
Jacob O. Meyer

"Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us," Hebrews 12:1. The Apostle Paul throws out this electrifying challenge to stimulate the day to day endurance of the True Worshipers. He is summarizing the 11th chapter of Hebrews in which he recalls to memory the valiant struggles of the worshipers of Yahweh down through the long annals of Scriptural history. Those dedicated people of the Most High were examples of enduring Faith as they stood fast to the end, which many times meant the giving of their lives in martyrdom.

As the end-time warning message is going out in power over the air in these last days through the Sacred Name Broadcast and via the printed literature, people are first astounded that such error could have crept into their Bibles over the years. Some people become indignant that a minister could even suggest that such a presumptuous liberty has been taken in the Sacred Book which they hold so dear. Many people stop with the King James Bible and refuse to study any further to see if these things which are being taught by the Assemblies of Yahweh are correct, Acts 17:11. However, it is now apparent that there are still thousands of Bereans living on this earth today who are not afraid to scrutinize the Bible carefully because their salvation for eternal ages is at stake.

Almighty Yahweh has not left Himself without witnesses in these last days and if you are sincerely desirous of coming to a full and complete knowledge of the Truth of the Bible, you will be able to find it. When EliYah the prophet was overwhelmed by his feeling of discouragement and declared that he

was the only worshiper of Yahweh remaining after Jezebel had slain all of his colleagues, Almighty Yahweh spoke to him and said, "Yet I have left me seven thousand in Israel, all the knees which have not bowed unto Baal, and every mouth which hath not kissed him," 1 Kings 19:18. What a wonderful source of encouragement for the True Worshiper!

However, there is a tremendous thrilling analogy here! Did you know that the Sacred Name Yahweh appears in the original Hebrew version of your Bible a total of 6823 times? In addition, the scribes have admitted to removing it 134 times, according to Ginsburg's Massorah. Also, the abbreviated form of the Sacred Name Yah, is found in the text of the Bible 49 times. The combined total of all of the instances that the Sacred Name appears in the Hebrew Scriptures will then total just over 7000 times!

Almighty Yahweh has indeed not left Himself without witnesses! Even though the people professing His Name are so few and scattered as He prophesied that they would be (Deut. 7:7), Almighty Yahweh has down through history had at all times 7000 witnesses attesting faithfully to His Truth by the number of times His Name has appeared in the Hebrew text! How amazing when you pause to reflect upon this thought. Queen Jezebel, symbolic of nominal wayward religious organizations, has attempted to decimate all worship of Yahweh from this earth. Her name means "virgin of Baal" or "chaste to Baal." Although she has attempted to change the Bible to conform to her doctrines, when someone has read the **original Hebrew texts**, he is at all times confronted with the 7000 faithful witnesses for the Name of Yahweh! Prophecy informs us that eventually the children of this modern

day Jezebel will be killed since they do not allow themselves to be corrected from the pure Word of Yahweh, but continue to practice spiritual fornication. Solomon apparently had a sound understanding of these 7000 faithful witnesses for the Name of Yahweh when He wrote Proverbs 14:24-27. "The crown of the wise is their riches; but the foolishness of fools is folly. A true witness delivereth souls: But a deceitful witness speaketh lies. In the fear of Yahweh is strong confidence: And His children shall have a place of refuge. The fear of Yahweh is a fountain of life, to depart from the snares of death." If you are seeking a refuge to protect you in the time of universal judgment from a righteous Heavenly Father which is imminent, then you should accept the testimony of the faithful witnesses found in the original Hebrew Scriptures.

Even though you may feel isolated or apprehensive about accepting the Sacred Name of our Heavenly Father because so few believe it today, you need never fall into the abyss of depression such as was suffered by EliYah. Go to your Bible and begin to read the Psalms, returning the Sacred Name of Yahweh back into the text where it rightfully belongs. The term "Lord" is not a name, but a title. Yahweh is the Heavenly Father's Name! When you begin to allow a few of these 7000 witnesses to bring forth their testimony for you while you are reading, the Inspired Scriptures will again resume the warming glow of inspiration which was intended by the Hebrew writers. The oil of the Name has enlightened the lamp of the Word, Canticles 1:3 and Psalm 119:105. You are not alone now in your convictions, but you are encircled by a great cloud of witnesses which can never be silenced! □

SEVEN ANCIENT WITNESSES

For ages the only textbook of ancient Middle Eastern cultures was the Bible. Following the introduction of "modern scientific thought" in the 19th century, great doubt was cast on the accuracy of the Bible, and people began to call it a collection of Jewish fables. Then in the late 19th and early 20th centuries a new scientific field began to blossom. This interesting venture into the ancient past is called archaeology, and almost every year new documents and artifacts were found which verified the historical records chronicled in the Old Testament. One of the startling new discoveries concerned how well the Name of Yahweh had been known, and how frequently it had been used by the common people. Numerous documents and inscriptions have been unearthed using the Sacred Name. Some of the most outstanding examples shall be presented here.

The Moabite Stone

The most commonly known inscription from ancient times is the Moabite Stone. This black basalt monument is about 3½ feet tall and 2 feet wide. Erected about 830 B.C.E. (Before Common Era), about 13 miles east of the Dead Sea and north of the Arnon River, it commemorates the victory of the Moabite King Mesha over Israel, in a revolt after Ahab's death.

The Stone was discovered in 1868 by a missionary and when Bedouins heard of the value, they broke it and sold its pieces separately. The greatest importance of the Stone to most people is its basic agreement with the account of 2 Kings 3:4 in most points. The two accounts, though speaking of the same instance, have a slight difference in time. Mesha's version was first, recorded when he struck Israel, and in triumph the stone was erected. Just after this Israel retaliated and destroyed Mesha and his army. One other impor-

tant discovery is found on line 17-18 of the text, "I took from thence the vessels of YAHWEH and dragged them before Chemosh." (Emphases ours throughout article). The Name of Yahweh is spelled exactly as it is in the Old Testament. This proves that the Moabites knew the Name of Yahweh and that the nations around Israel were familiar with it. This Moabite Stone reveals conclusively that the Name Yahweh is the personal Name of the Mighty One of Israel, just as Chemosh was worshiped by the Moabites.

The Lachish Letters

The Lachish Letters, located in the ancient fortified town of Lachish in 1935, are military documents written between 589-587 B.C.E. just before Nebuchadnezzar invaded Israel. After a two-year siege he burned Lachish. Twenty-one fragments, or ostraca, were found in the town, most of them in a gatehouse.

These letters are highly important because they list people, places and events of the time as did the Moabite Stone. The astounding thing about them is that they frequently use the Name of Yahweh in a common manner, much as "the Lord" is used today. Also, as in the text of the Moabite Stone it is spelled the same way as in the Old Testament. We shall deal with six of the 21 ostraca. These are the largest and most complete, and only a few words are illegible. You must remember that these pieces of letters are over 2,500 years old, and were not rewritten or translated over the centuries as was the Bible. These words are exactly as written 25 centuries ago!

The Name is used in fragments ii, iii, iv, v, vi and ix. The most common usage on these ostraca is in the greeting, "Yahweh give you to hear peaceable tidings." This is used in all six fragments, although worded differently

in some of them. Here you will find a quote of the translation of fragment ii, so you may see how it is worded. This translation is from **Syrian Semitic Inscriptions**, Vol. 1, by John C. L. Gibson; © 1971 Oxford University Press, page 37.

1. To my lord Jaush, YAHWEH give
2. my lord to hear peaceable tidings
3. even this day, even this day.
What is your servant
4. but a dog that my lord remembers his
5. servant? Let YAHWEH send an early sign! There
6. is no other matter which you do not know about.

The inscription is worded like a few verses from the Bible, all of the fragments are worded in this manner. Each fragment deals with a different subject, such as a conspiracy, or watching for fire beacons.

On fragment ii, we find the Sacred Name of Yahweh used twice. First, in line 2 the same greeting mentioned above is written. In line 9, there is an oath in which the writer uses the phrase, "As YAHWEH lives." Imagine the Name of Yahweh being used in a common oath! It surely was not a secret password of the temple priests or a "magic word" as some have ridiculed! In fragment i, another oath is written in lines 12-15 and is prefaced, "As YAHWEH your Mighty One lives..." So we are aware of Yahweh's Name in two oaths! This is definite proof that Israel worshiped Yahweh. Please see Jer. 10:10.

The Elephantine Papyri

At the beginning of the 20th century, some papyri bearing writing in Aramaic were sold in Assuan, Egypt. It was later discovered that they came from an island in the Nile near that city. Since the second world war more papyri

from Elephantine were found, on the island and in private collections. Elephantine was a military colony like Lachish. The papyri are dated from 495-400 B.C.E. Some of them are legal documents from which we can learn of the lives of the people through understanding their laws.

The letters in which we are interested deal with the problems which the large Jewish community on the island were having with their temple. Some one destroyed it, and in the course of getting permission to rebuild it several letters were written. We have translations of several of these letters and throughout reference is made to "Yah's temple." One of the interesting items in this collection is called the "Passover Papyrus."

Tell Arad

These ostraca all concern the business deals of a man named Eliashib who was in charge of the government stores of oil, wine, and grain at Arad. One of these ostraca deals with a minor business transaction and a mutual acquaintance of whom it is said, "He is staying in the house of YAHWEH." It is quite short and very unclear concerning of whom or what the author wrote. In line 2, the greeting is written, "May YAHWEH ask for your peace." In the book, **Syrian Semitic Inscriptions**, op. cit., pg. 53, Dr. Gibson writes in the note on line 2: "The greeting, unlike those on the Lachish ostraca, is paralleled in the Bible, (Gen. xliii: 27; 1 Sam. x:4), though not with (Yahweh) as subject; it must have been carelessly so used in everyday speech." The Name was "carelessly so used" in 580 B.C.E.! Again archaeology proves that before the Babylonian Captivity there was no prohibition against using the Sacred Name Yahweh.

Khirbet Beit Lei

In 1961 some road construction workers found an ancient burial cave five miles east of Lachish. On the walls

were carved several figures, and several inscriptions. We have translations of the two most readable inscriptions, and both use the Name of Yahweh. They read:

- A. 1. YAHWEH is the (mighty one) of all the earth. The
2. mountains of Judah belong to him, to the (mighty one) of Jerusalem.
- B. 1. The mount of Moriah thou hast favored, the dwelling of YAHWEH.

Both of these sound like verses directly from a Psalm. By the style of writing, and also from the formation of the letters they are dated from 500-400 B.C.E.

Two Final Witnesses

There are other places where the Name is found. One is in the ancient Fort Shalmaneser, or Nimrud. On a beautiful small block of ivory, the Name Yahweh is found, also on the neck of a bottle the inscription "to Yah" was revealed.

Proof Positive that "Yahweh" is the Pronunciation

It can be proved conclusively from all of the seven witnesses that the Sacred Name of Yahweh can be pronounced YAHWEH, and no other way! I would like you to try an experiment. Imagine that you cannot pronounce the letters "a", "e" and "o" and try reading a page of a magazine out loud without pronouncing these letters. It can't be done! Yet that is precisely what some people would have us do in the study of Hebrew! They would read and translate sentence after sentence of Hebrew, reading the **yod** (י) as ee, the **hay** (ה) as 'ah' or 'eh,' and the **waw** (ו) as 'o' or 'u' and yet when they come to the Name of the Heavenly Father (יהוה) comprised of these three letters, they forget (intentionally?) how to pronounce them! For example, Jaush, written as (יאוש) in Hebrew - note the **yod** (י) and the **waw** (ו). The name is pro-

nounced "ee - ah - u - sh," Yahush. Here we find TWO of the letters in the Heavenly Father's Name, and they both can be pronounced! The word "Moriah" is pronounced by many people, and has **yod - hay** (יה) at the end vocalized as "iah." Notice that the vowels (י) in "Moriah" make up the first half of the Name of Yahweh in Hebrew, and are pronounced as "Yah" or "iah." The **hay** (ה), the last letter is pronounced 'eh' (short 'e') and not 'ah' (short 'a') since 'eh' is masculine and 'ah' would be feminine at the end of a word.

So you see, if we can read and understand the text of these ancient documents then we can pronounce the Sacred Name of Yahweh. Do we need any more substantiation than this to begin using the Sacred Name? How long will we halt (jump back and forth) between opinions? Delay could be dangerous!

What Does It All Mean?

Now you have reviewed the testimony of seven ancient witnesses. They have proved beyond a doubt that the Name of Yahweh was still in common usage as early as 830 B.C.E. and as late as 400 B.C.E. This evidence is of vital significance because it refutes the arguments of those who would have us believe that there was some superstitious prohibition against pronouncing it at that time. We appeal to you as judge and jury to render a verdict in favor of calling upon our Creator by His one, personal, revealed Sacred Name--Holy and Reverend is His Name! (Psalm 111:9.)

The foregoing article constitutes only one tiny aspect of the monumental proof that we have accumulated relating to the importance of calling upon Yahweh by His true revealed, personal Name. If you have not read the other material we have available on this vital subject, we urge you to do so. It can be yours simply by writing a postcard. □

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**THE ASSEMBLIES OF YAHWEH
BETHEL, PA 19507**