The Real Name of the One True God
Galen Currah, 2022

Exodus 3:13-15 NIV

[13] Moses said to God, "Suppose I go to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' Then what shall I tell them?"

[14] God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: 'I AM has sent me to you.'"

[15] God also said to Moses, "Say to the Israelites, 'The LORD, the God of your fathers — the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob —has sent me to you.' "This is my name forever, the name you shall call me from generation to generation.

Exodus 3:13-15 Reverse interlinear with
Hebrew transliterated in Roman characters[1]

YHWH (Yahweh, the LORD)

Translated

ʾEHYEH = "I AM" from the Hebrew verb hyh, "to be".

YHWH = "HE IS" from the Hebrew verb hwh, "to be".

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[1] *Lexham English Bible*, reverse interlinear, Logos Bible Software, www.logos.com

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The verbs hyh and hwh were interchangeable in ancient Semitic languages, including Hebrew.

The form hyh was more usual in western Semitic, and the form hwh more usual in southern Semitic.

Some scholars suggest that yhwh has a causal force, meaning "He who causes to be."

Transliterated

6th century BCE, paleo-hebrew

YHWH: 𐤇𐤅𐤄𐤉 h-w-h-y (◀ read Hebrew from right to left)

5th century BCE, Aramaic characters, without vowels

YHWH: יהוה h-w-h-y

12th century CE Latin: Yehowah (Latin has no v sound)

16th century CE Latin: Iehouah (Latin u and w sound alike)

16th century CE English: Jehovah (j sounded like i)

20th century CE Scholars: Yahweh (w or v sound)

Elohim (God) and Yahweh (the LORD)

10th century BCE, paleo-hebrew

Elohim: 𐤌𐤄𐤋𐤀 myhlʾ ; Yahweh: 𐤇𐤅𐤄𐤉 hwhy (◀ read Hebrew from right to left)

5th century BCE, Aramaic characters, without vowels

Elohim; אלהימ ; Yahweh: יהוה

10th century CE, Masoretic Hebrew with vowels

Elohim: אֱלֹהִים, mîhōlĕʾ ; Yahweh: יְהוָה*

Masoretic vowels and cantillation (for chanting)

Elohim: אֱלֹהֶים ; Yahweh: יְהוָה

*vowels borrowed from Adonai.