

IOUO - THE ONLY NAME OF GOD

(Supplement of the book: IOUO – The Name of God)

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This Name of God in Hebrew is the Tetragrammaton הוה, which originally corresponded to the 4 long vowels I [i:], O [o:], U [u:] and O [o:]. Accordingly, the only correct transliteration is IOUO [i: o: u: o:], a word, which contains special holiness by exclusively consisting of four vowels, i.e. four strong and voiced sounds. It is interesting and also in complete accordance with this pronunciation, that already Flavius Josephus (30-100 C.E.) in his book "The Wars of the Jews" (Book V, Chapter V) in the description of the robe of the High Priest in his treatise on the temple wrote about God's name as follows: 10



"[...] another golden crown, in which was engraven the sacred name [of God]: it consists of four vowels." (Flavius Josephus. *The Works of Flavius Josephus*. Translated by William Whiston, Auburn and Buffalo: John E. Beardsley, 1895)

Heinrich Paret also translates: "Dieß sind die vier Vokale." [These are the four vowels.] (Heinrich Paret, *Des Flavius Josephus Werke*, 1855, p. 553)

The Greek original term that was rendered here as "vowels" reads as follows: φωνήεντα (Flavius Josephus, *De bello Judaico libri vii*, ed. B. Niese). According to the dictionary *Langenscheidt Altgriechisch – Deutsch Wörterbuch* the Greek term for vowel is: το φωνηεν, -εντος. The φωνήεντα of Flavius Josephus is derived from φωνήεις, which stresses the idea of voiced or vocal (Cf. the German translation of vowel: "Selbstlaut" means "self-sound").

Obviously Flavius Josephus – being of priestly background himself – knew that the Name of God exclusively consisted of four vowels, but which he believed not to be allowed to pronounce (Cf. Jüdische Altertümer, book II, chapter 12 § 4). But at least he left us the unequivocal proof - out of the immediate time after Jesus Christ - that the Name of God at that time was pronounced with four vowels, which the first Christians immediately wrote down in the NT.

⁹ According to Webster's Encyclopedic Unabridged Dictionary a vowel is "a speech sound produced without occluding, diverting, or obstructing the flow of air from the lungs (opposed to consonant)"

Latin: vocalis = with "vox" = with voice, sounding = Vokal (German) = vowel.

¹⁰ A link to my book posted by Franklin E. Rhoads on the Internet led me to Flavius Josephus. Hereby I want to convey my gratitude to this gentleman.