

'The Scriptures' name for God when Daniel and Ezra original in Aramaic language

<http://evidenceforchristianity.org/why-are-sections-of-daniel-and-ezra-in-aramaic/>

QUESTION:

A few sections of **Ezra (4:8-6:18;7:12-26)** and **Daniel (2:4b-7:28)** are written in Aramaic. From some of the research that I have read I've come to the conclusion that it's most likely "Official Aramaic", however I can't seem to find a good reason why the author would write in Aramaic and Hebrew. I was wondering do you have any thoughts on why the author would write both in Aramaic and Hebrew? Thanks!

Answer:

I answer this in my book on Daniel. Do you have a copy? If not, you should get one! www.ipibooks.com. The reason for inclusion of Aramaic in the books of Ezra and Daniel is clearly different. The reason Ezra has Aramaic text is that the original letters contained in it were in Aramaic. In order to have the Aramaic parts of be in Hebrew would have required that the letters be translated into Hebrew. Because the majority of Jews at that time spoke Aramaic, it would have been superfluous to translate the Aramaic letters. The reason that part of Daniel is in Aramaic is less clear. This requires some speculation. In my book, I speculate that the entire book was in Aramaic and that, for some reason, when an editor collected the final book of Daniel, he decided to include some material in Aramaic and some in Hebrew. I do not know why this was done. This is a bit of a mystery. In my book on Daniel, I speculate the the original of Daniel was written in Aramaic, not Hebrew. My guess (and it is a bit of a guess) is that the book was translated into Hebrew and, for some reason, the editor who produced the text of Daniel which ended up in the Jewish Bible used a combination of the original Aramaic and of the translated Hebrew. It is possible to argue for the reverse, that the Aramaic section was translated from Hebrew, but because Daniel probably spoke Aramaic as his primary language, I argue that the original was in Aramaic. Again, bear in mind that this is speculation.

John Oakes

The name of **God** in Aramaic:

Interlinear Bible Daniel 2:19-20

Bible / Interlinear Bible / New American Standard Bible / Daniel / Daniel 2

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19 Then the mystery was revealed to Daniel in a night vision. Then Daniel blessed the God of heaven;

0116 תַּסְמִינֵא דַּנִּיֵּל 01841 תַּסְמִינֵא דַּנִּיֵּא לְדַנִּיֵּא אֱלֹהֵי שָׁמַיָא דִּי 02376 תַּסְמִינֵא בְּחֻזָּא דִּי 03916 תַּסְמִינֵא לִילֵיָא 07328 תַּסְמִינֵא
גְּלִי אֲדִינֵן 01841 תַּסְמִינֵא דַּנִּיֵּא לְבָרְכָא לְאֱלֹהֵי 08065 תַּסְמִינֵא שְׁמַיָא

20 Daniel said, "Let the name of God be blessed forever and ever, For wisdom and power belong to Him.

01841 תַּסְמִינֵא דַּנִּיֵּא לְאָמַר 01932 תַּסְמִינֵא לְהוּא שְׁמֵהּ דִּי 0426 תַּסְמִינֵא לְהוּא
וְגִבּוֹרְתָא דִּי לְהוּא 01841 תַּסְמִינֵא דַּנִּיֵּא לְבָרְכָא מִנֵּי עֲלְמָא וְעַד- עֲלְמָא דִּי 02452 תַּסְמִינֵא חֲכֻמָּתָא

Interlinear Bible Ezra 5:11-12

Bible / Interlinear Bible / New American Standard Bible / Ezra / Ezra 5

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11 "Thus they answered * us, saying, 'We are the servants of the God of heaven and earth and are rebuilding the temple that was built many years ago, which a great king of Israel built and finished.

דִּי־ אֱלֹהִים 08065 תְּשַׁמְיָא 0772 תְּיַצְרֵהּ אֶת־ וְבָנִין 03660 תְּסִינְכֹנְמָא פִּתְנָמָא הַתִּיבֹנָא לְמִמֵּר 0586 תְּסִינְאַנְחָא
וְשִׁכְלָלָהּ 1005 תְּסִיבִיתָא דִּי־ הָיָא בְּיַד הַמֶּלֶךְ הַגָּדֹל 06928 תְּסִימְקִדְמַת 01836 תְּסִיחְדָּה שְׁנִין 1994 תְּסִיחְמוּ עִבְדֵיהּ
שְׁיִצְאֵן 04430 תְּסִינְמִלָּהּ לְיִשְׂרָאֵל 07229 תְּסִינְרַב בְּנֵהּ

12 'But because * our fathers had provoked the God of heaven to wrath, He gave them into the hand of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, the Chaldean, who destroyed this temple and deported the people to Babylon.

03679 תְּסִיפְסִדָּא לְהֵן מִנֵּי־ 03028 תְּסִיחְדֵי 07265 תְּסִיחְרִגִין 02 תְּסִינְאַבְהִתָּא 0426 תְּסִינְלְאַלָּהּ 08065 תְּסִינְשַׁמְיָא
סִתְרָה וְעַמָּה הִגְלִי 0895 תְּסִינְלְבָבֶל יְהִיב הִמוּ בְּיַד 05020 תְּסִינְבֹכְדַנְצַר מֶלֶךְ־ 0895 תְּסִינְבָבֶל
וְבִיתָהּ 01836 תְּסִיחְדָּה



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'elahh (Aramaic)

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< 'Elah

'allah >

The KJV Old Testament Hebrew Lexicon

Strong's Number: 0426

Original Word

אלהה

Transliterated Word

'elahh (Aramaic)

Phonetic Spelling

el-aw'

Definition

- god, God
 - god, heathen deity
 - God (of Israel)

King James Word Usage - Total: 95

God 79, god 16

[Browse Lexicon](#)

KJV Verse Count

[Ezra](#)

[Jeremiah](#)

[Daniel](#)

Total

Word Origin

corresponding to (0433)

TDNT Entry

TWOT - 2576

Parts of Speech

Noun Masculine

elahh in Aramaic



'elahh (Aramaic) - Old Testament Hebrew Lexicon - King James ...

<https://www.biblestudytools.com/lexicons/hebrew/kjv/elahh-aramaic.html>

Anonymous View

Learn about 'elahh (Aramaic) original meaning using the Old Testament Hebrew Lexicon - King James Version.

'elahh (Aramaic) - Old Testament Hebrew Lexicon - New American ...

<https://www.biblestudytools.com/lexicons/hebrew/nas/elahh-aramaic.html>

Anonymous View

Learn about 'elahh (Aramaic) original meaning using the Old Testament Hebrew Lexicon - New American Standard.

H426 - 'elahh (Aramaic) - Strong's Hebrew Lexicon (KJV)

<https://www.blueletterbible.org/lang/lexicon/lexicon.cfm?t=kjv&strongs=h426>

Anonymous View

H426 - אֱלֹהִים 'ēlāhh, el-aw'; (Aramaic) corresponding to ; God:—God, god.

The Aramaic Name for God - Elah - Hebrew for Christians

https://www.hebrew4christians.com/Names_of_G-d/Elah/elah.html

Anonymous View

The origin of the Aramaic word Elah is somewhat uncertain, though it might be related to a root meaning "fear" or "reverence." It is found only in the books of Ezra ...

Elahi - Wikipedia

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Elahi>

Anonymous View

Elahi (אלהי, إلهي) is Aramaic and means "My God." Elah means God in Aramaic. The "-i" after Elah means "my." In the Old Testament Elahi is found only in the ...

bible - What word did Jesus use for God in Aramaic? - Christianity ...

<https://christianity.stackexchange.com/questions/20240/what-word-did-jes...>

Anonymous View

The normal generic word for God is "alaha"/"aloho" (אלהא), which is linguistically related to the Hebrew word for God "elohim". The translation ...

About the Sacred Name King James Version of the HTML Bible

<https://www.sacrednamebible.com/about.htm>

Anonymous View

List of Aramaic Words in the New Testament. ... Elahh is used exclusively in the books of Ezra and Daniel, as they were written during or after the Babylonian ...

"GOD" in Arabic and Aramaic sound the same - Answering Christianity

www.answering-christianity.com/allah2.htm

Anonymous View

7- The Hebrew word "Elohim" is the plural of "Elowah", which is derived from the Aramaic word "Alaha", or "Elahh"; the same as the Arabic word "Allah" or ...

עברית לנצרים

בס"ד

The Aramaic Name for God - Elah

Hebrew Names of God

Printer-Friendly Version 

Elah and Elah Constructs as given in the Tanakh

אלה *“awesome, fearful One”*

The origin of the Aramaic word *Elah* is somewhat uncertain, though it might be related to a root meaning "fear" or "reverence." It is found only in the books of Ezra and Daniel. Notice the Mappiq in the final Hey for this Name: e-la**H**.

<https://christianity.stackexchange.com/questions/20240/what-word-did-jesus-use-for-god-in-aramaic>

The name of God in the Hebrew Bible is YHWH, pronounced **Yahweh or **Jehovah**.**

There are many words used in the Hebrew Bible for the word 'God' (not the name of God), such as **EI**(god), **Elohim** (god, plural form), El Shaddai (god almighty), Adonai (master), Elyon (highest) and Avinu (our father) are regarded by many religious Jews not as names, but as **epithets** highlighting different aspects of YHWH and the various 'roles' of God ([source](#)).

From [Wikipedia article on Allah](#),

The term Allāh is derived from a contraction of the Arabic definite article al-"the" and ilāh "deity, god" to al-lāh meaning "the [sole] deity, God" (ὁ θεὸς μόνος, ho theos monos). Cognates of the name "Allāh" exist in other Semitic languages, including Hebrew and Aramaic. Biblical Hebrew mostly uses the plural form (but functional singular) **Elohim**. The corresponding Aramaic form is **ʿĒlāhā** ܐܠܗܐ in **Biblical Aramaic** and **ʿAlāhā** ܐܠܗܐ in **Syriac** as used by the Assyrian Church, **both meaning simply 'God'**.

Elohim is not the name of God, it is simply 'God' in Hebrew. Many languages have some similarities because many of them share the same origin. 'God' in English, 'Elohim' in Hebrew, 'Elaha' in Aramaic, 'Alaha' in Syriac etc. but the name of God in the Bible is YHWH, not Allah as some Muslim scholars may try to relate them. Hence, **the God in the Bible is YHWH and the god in the Qu'ran is Allah**. The most specific Hebrew name for God is YHWH, also mistakenly referred to as Yehovah, meaning self-existent and eternal. YHWH is rooted from 'Hayah', the to be verb, which is from 'Hava', to breathe, or to be, which connects to 'Ayil'. Finally 'Ayil' leads us back to 'El', which is the root of all the Semitic names for God. YHWH is spoken aloud on rare Jewish celebrations as just "Ya." Jews often replaced the actual name of God for Adonay (Lord) orally and in their written scripts.

For instance, see this [typical translation of Exodus 20:7](#)

Thou shalt not take the name of **YHWH thy Elohim** in vain; for YHWH will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain.

Jesus spoke Aramaic many times during His ministry, hence, he must have used the word 'Eli' or 'Elaha' ('Ēlāhā) many times to say 'God'. For instance, while Jesus was on the cross, He [cried out in Aramaic](#).

About three in the afternoon Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "**Eli, Eli[a], lema sabachthani?**" (which means "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?") [[Matthew 27:46, NIV](#)]

[a] Some manuscripts **Eloi, Eloi**

Can you please give me some sources for proving "Eli, Eli[a], lema sabachthani" is Aramaic. (I have to submit some reasonable proven source for helping one of my friends who engaged on a Muslim - Christian debate). - [manuthalasseril](#) Oct 26 '13 at 8:49

•1

@manuthalasseril Scholars agree that it is Aramaic. See this [Wikipedia article](#). Even if it is Hebrew, it still doesn't mean that Jesus was calling for Allah the Muslim god. Islam came 600 years after Jesus. - [Mawia](#) Oct 26 '13 at 9:16

•It would be interesting to note how one goes from pronouncing the tetragrammaton direct YHWH as Jehovah. Not sure if it is off the subject, but if my name is Bubbles in english, my name is still bubbles in aramaic. I wouldn't recognize it otherwise. - [Bubbles](#) Jun 4 '14 at 0:27

•4

To address what I think is the underlying point here: I think most linguists say that the Hebrew words "El" and "Elohim" share common origins with the Arabic word "Allah". But that hardly proves that Jews worshipped the God of Islam. Both "Elohim" and "Allah" are general words meaning "God". Consider: There have been plenty of times in history that two men both claimed to be "king" of a particular country. The fact that supporters of Henry call him "king" certainly does not mean that when supporters of Richard use the word "king" that they are referring to Henry! - [Jay](#) Jun 17 '14 at 5:14

Eloi Eloi lama sabachthani?" is Greek transliteration of Aramaic words. If it was Hebrew, then azabthani would have been used instead of Aramaic word "Sabachthani."

Check this link for Hebrew NT of [Mark 15:34](#).

In Hebrew, "Eloi Eloi lama sabachthani?" will become "Eliy 'Eliy lamah `azab'taniy?"

The spoken language of first century Israel was Aramaic. Not Hebrew or Greek. Check this link for more information.

[Why didn't the Jews understand "Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani"?](#)

The word for God in Aramaic was Eil and Elaha (also written as Alaha). In first century Judea, they used both "Eil" and "Elaha" for God. But in Samaria, Galilee, Lebanon, and in Syria during first century, they mostly used Elaha (also written as Alaha).

Since Jesus Christ grew up in Galilee, he would have used Elaha.

If you check Matthew 27:46 of Aramaic Peshitta (Aramaic NT), then you will see "Eil Eil." This was somewhat clumsily transliterated by Greek scribe as "Eli Eli." Sometimes Greek scribes have difficulty transliterating Aramaic words into Greek. For Example, Aramaic words "Khqel Dama" in Acts 1:19 is transliterated as "Akeldama" in Greek.

YHWH is Hebrew. **But Jesus spoke Aramaic. Not Hebrew.**

In first century Israel, Jews used Aramaic Old Testament known as Peshitta Tanakh.

The information about Peshitta Tanakh is available [here](#).

YA (in Aramaic OT and Aramaic NT Peshitta) is the Aramaic form of Hebrew "YH" in "YHWH."

Because of this, Hebrew name "Yehochanan" becomes "Yochanan" in Aramaic. Another example is Hebrew name "Yehonathan" becomes "Yonathan" in Aramaic and Hebrew name "Yehoseph" becomes "Yoseph" in Aramaic.

For Respect, "YA" is addressed as "MarYA" (Master YA) in Aramaic OT, in Aramaic NT, & in First century Israel.

CONCLUSION: The favoring of the Hebrew version of the Bible known as “**The Scriptures**” to define the proper name for “God” as only being Hebrew names is not legitimate when Aramaic was used in Daniel and Ezra and in the gospels to also used to specify the name of “God”.