

THE ACCENTUATION OF *WAYYOMAR* IN JOB.

WHAT is the reason for the frequent occurrence of וַיֹּאמֶר (accented on the penultimate) in Job?

(1) The word is, of course, the pausal form of וַיֹּאמֶר (always accented on the penultimate), and seems to differ from it only as e.g. *inquit* from *his verbis locutus est*. Sometimes both forms occur close together, e.g. Gen. xviii 29, xxvii 36, xxxiii 5, xliii 29, xlvi 9, Exod. ii 14. A question or exclamation is introduced by וַיֹּאמֶר, the answer or rejoinder by וַיֹּאמֶר. In Isa. vi 11 וַיֹּאמֶר has perhaps the effect of a *quick* reply. The pausal form invariably introduces *oratio recta* immediately; in 19 passages it is the first word in the verse.

(2) This pausal form occurs 86 times in the O.T. excluding the וַיֹּאמֶר where it is found 37 times, making a total of 123 occurrences in the O.T. The distribution is varied. Apart from the וַיֹּאמֶר it comes oftenest in Gen.—21 times. Kings is next with 15, Num. 11, Sam. 20, Judges 7, Exod. 6, Chron. 4, Deut., Jonah, Zech., Dan. 2 each, Joshua, Isa., Amos, Ruth 1 each. In the וַיֹּאמֶר it occurs once in Ps., never in Prov., and no less than 36 times in Job.

(3) The accent, in all books except the וַיֹּאמֶר—and sometimes there also—is on the ultima. It is marked by 'Atnâh 43 times prose and 4 poetic; by Zākēp Gādōl 14 times prose; by Zākēp Qātōn 12 times prose and 2 poetic; by Sēgōltâ 8 times prose and 2 poetic; by Rēḥiā' 7 times prose; by Šālšēlet Gādōl 2 times prose; by Pāzēr 1 poetic; by 'Ōlè wēyōrēd 1 poetic. In these 96 occurrences the accent is on the ultima.

(4) But in the following 27 verses in Job the accent is on the penultimate, i.e. *in precisely the same position as in the non-pausal form*: iii 2, iv 1, vi 1, viii 1, ix 1, xi 1, xii 1, xv 1, xvi 1, xviii 1, xix 1, xx 1, xxi 1, xxii 1, xxiii 1, xxv 1, xxvi 1, xxvii 1, xxix 1, xxxiv 1, xxxv 1, xxxvi 1, xxxviii 1, xl 1, 3, 6, xli 1. The form here always occurs just before Sōp Pasûk, and the penultimate has Sillûk. The preceding accent is always Rēḥiā', which according to Wickes (וַיֹּאמֶר p. 33 note 25, and p. 75) should be Rēḥiā' Mugrâsh.

(5) Can the received text be correct in these 27 passages? I am much indebted to the Rev. G. Margoliouth, of the British Museum, for some interesting facts as to the evidence of certain fifteenth- and sixteenth-century MSS and early printed editions where the accent is usually on the ultima. To this may be added the remarkable fact

noticed by Wickes (טעמי אמ"ת p. 8) that in the Babylonian (supra-linear) punctuation the same accents are used in the אמ"ת as in the other books ; consequently the accent there also is on the ultima.

(6) It would thus appear—I quote from Mr Margoliouth's letter—'that an examination of the point *de novo* is very desirable. A careful survey of the MSS and printed editions might lead to some interesting results'. Perhaps some reader of *J.T.S.* may care to go into the matter. It will be interesting to consult the Notes in Dr Ginsburg's forthcoming edition for the B. F. B. S.

Meanwhile I would ask whether, if the received text is correct, the unusual accent may not be due to metre and music. Final Pataḥ before a rolling Rêš and a full stop is so naturally stressed as to give the word 'אָמֵר' a second full accent, the effect gained being a 'slow spondee'. On the musical character of Rêḥîā' cf. Wickes, chap. viii.

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