THE ACCENTUATION OF WAYYOMAR IN JOB.

What is the reason for the frequent occurrence of רֹאֵל (accented on the penultimate) in Job?

1. The word is, of course, the pausal form of רֹאֵל (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, xlii 29, xlviii 9, Exod. ii 14. A question or exclamation is introduced by רֹאֵל, the answer or rejoinder by רֹאֵל. In Isa. vi 11 רֹאֵל 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 רֹאֵל where it is found 37 times, making a total of 123 occurrences in the O.T. The distribution is varied. Apart from the רֹאֵל 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 רֹאֵל it occurs once in Ps., never in Prov., and no less than 36 times in Job.

3. The accent, in all books except the רֹאֵל—and sometimes there also—is on the ultima. It is marked by 'Atnah 43 times prose and 4 poetic; by Zâkêp Gâdôl 14 times prose; by Zâkêp Kânôn 12 times prose and 2 poetic; by Šââîl tô 8 times prose and 2 poetic; by Re'êî' 7 times prose; by Šââîlôn Gâdôl 2 times prose; by Pûzîr 1 poetic; by 'Ôlê we'yôrêd 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, vii 1, viii 1, ix 1, xi 1, xii 1, xv 1, xvi 1, xviii 1, xix 1, xx 1, xxî 1, xxii 1, xxiii 1, xxv 1, xxvi 1, xxvii 1, xxix 1, xxxiv 1, xxxv 1, xxxvi 1, xxxvî 1, xli 1, 3, 6, xlii 1. The form here always occurs just before Sôp Pasîk, and the penultimate has Sîllûk. The preceding accent is always Re'êî', which according to Wickes (רֹאֵל מִיתמי p. 33 note 25, and p. 75) should be Re'êî' Mugrash.

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 (pp. 8) that in the Babylonian (supra-linear) punctuation the same accents are used in the אֱלֶה 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 Pattah before a rolling Res and a full stop is so naturally stressed as to give the word אֱלֶה a second full accent, the effect gained being a 'slow spondee'. On the musical character of רָבִּיתָ cf. Wickes, chap. viii.

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