*YHWH,* The Ineffable Name: AVOIDANCE, ALTERNATIONS and CIRCUMVENTIONS IN THE NON-BIBLICAL MANUSCRIPTS AT QUMRAN

**Abstract**

In the period of the Dead Sea Scrolls, the Tetragrammaton (*YHWH*) was so sacred that it had become an ineffable name. This thesis studies alternations to the Tetragrammaton in the non-biblical manuscripts at Qumran through an analysis of scriptural quotations from the *Torah* to the *Neviim* in the Dead Sea Scrolls citing the Tetragrammaton. As a result, thirty-three distinctive divine name alternations were identified. Additionally, a list of divine name alternation types and of Qumran non-biblical manuscripts featuring alternations were compiled.

Distinctive groups of scrolls were identified at Qumran: some exhibited no alternation to the Tetragrammaton, others circumvented the name. Our study focuses on determining alternations in square script and in writing traditions in the second group: *El*, Tetrapuncta and *paleo*-*El*. Two applications are investigated: the use of alternations to help determine the origins of scrolls and the distribution of divine names in paleo-Hebrew in these scrolls.