

This doctoral thesis submitted to the The Protestant Theological Faculty of the Charles University in Prague in 2007 studies [in the framework of biblical onomatology] synchronic methods of interpretation of Hebrew proper names in the Old Testament and in rabbinic literature. The thesis reveals, denominates, and defines, through quoting examples, thirteen main methods of interpretation of Hebrew biblical proper names, which include the following: identification with words of identical consonants, derivation from verb roots, decomposition, repeated use of the consonants, notaricon, gematry, atbash, ahas bata, retrograde reading, metathesis, replacement of consonants, transposition of all consonants and derivation from other language. For every given method, the thesis cites the source of onomatological phenomenon, analyzes it and tries to apply the interpretation method on other Hebrew biblical proper names which are not yet decoded. The thesis attempts, in its conclusion, to apply all the potential methods of interpretation on one selected proper name. Following such application, the number of possible interpretations rises. When applied to the Hebrew proper name Simon, the number of possible interpretations of one proper name reached 22 interpretations. Application of all the possible methods of interpretation for one specific proper name, results in such diversity that it enables to “return” to its biblical context and verify, if the context of the specific Hebrew proper name allows for one of these interpretations. This opens a way to new interpretations of many texts of the Old Testament.