

## Set-Apart Name Study: Bereshith (Genesis) 4:26b

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- “Then it was begun to call on the Name of Yahweh.” *The Scriptures*
- “Then to call on the Name of Yahweh became profaned.” *The Artscroll Chumash-Stone Edition*
- “ Az huchal likro be-sheim Yahweh” *Hebrew transliteration*

Most translations make this verse sound like that at this time men began to call on the Name of Yahweh. This is not an accurate translation of this verse. The *Artscroll Chumash* translates this verse correctly. The strange passive form of the Hebrew verb *chalal*, “to begin” (*huchal*, instead of the expected active form *heicheilu*), convinced the translators to use this verbal root in its secondary sense of “to defile”. In fact, the *Targum Yonatan* renders this phrase “In that generation...people invoked their OBJECTS OF DEFILEMENT (IDOLS) as [Yahweh].” *Hulchal* is now related to *chulin*, the opposite or antithesis of holiness or set-apartness. This was the beginning of the spread of idolatry. Men began to call upon their “lords –ba’alim and gods –elohim” as Yahweh. They profaned (made common) His set-apart Name. Yahweh’s Name should never be associated with the names of idols. It is *KADOSH, KADOSH, KADOSH!* It did not take long for Satan/Helel to pollute man’s worship of Yahweh. He /she got them to call upon these false mighty ones early in man’s history. So it is today, also. Do you call upon the Name of Yahweh as Yoel, Kepha, and Rav Shaul instructed us to, so you may be delivered? Or do you call upon the lords and gods to “save” you. This is an important issue for you to settle in your heart. Do you want to follow Scripture or man?

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