

Usually it stands for the Children of Israel, but in iii, 87, and xix, 59, it is the name of the Patriarch otherwise called يعقوب.

Some of the exegetes endeavoured to derive it from سري "to travel by night", because when Jacob fled from Esau he travelled by night (cf. at-Ṭabarī, *Annales*, i, 359, and Ibn al-Athīr). It was very generally recognized as a foreign name, however (cf. al-Jawālīqī, 9; al-Khafājī, 11),¹ and is given as such by the Commentators Zam. and Baiḍ. on ii, 38.

Here also the absence of the initial ' stands against a direct derivation from the Heb. יִשְׂרָאֵל, and points to a Christian origin, cf. Gk. Ἰσραήλ, Syr. ܐܝܨܪܐܝܠ; Eth. ኢስራኤል. The probabilities are in favour of a Syriac origin² especially in view of the Christian Palestinian forms ܐܝܨܪܐܝܠ; ܐܝܨܪܐܝܠ (Schulthess, *Lex*, 16). The name was doubtless well enough known to the people of Muḥammad's day and though no pre-Islamic example of its use in N. Arabia seems to have survived³ ܐܝܨܪܐܝܠ occurs in S. Arabian inscriptions, cf. *CIS*, iv, 543, l. 1.

أُسْسِ (Ussis).

ix, 109.

Founded.

The verbal form أُسْسَ occurs in ix, 110. The verb is denominative from أُسَّ, a foundation, which Fraenkel, *Fremdw*, 11, noted was an Aramaic borrowing, cf. Aram. ܐܘܨܬܐ foundation, and in the Christian Palestinian dialect the verb ܐܘܨܬܐ = ἐθεμελίωσε; ܐܘܨܬܐ = τεθεμελίωτο, and ܐܘܨܬܐ = θεμέλιον (Schwally, *Idioticon*, 7), so classical Syr. ܐܘܨܬܐ (and see Nöldeke, *Mand. Gram.*, 98, n. 2; Zimmern, *Akkad. Fremdw*, 31; Henning, *BSOS*, ix, 80).

¹ al-Khafājī notes the uncertainty as to the spelling of the word, اسرائيل and اسرائيل being known besides اسرائيل.

² Mingana, *Syriac Influence*, 81; Horovitz, *KU*, 91. The *Qāmūs*, as a matter of fact, says that all forms ending in ܐܝܠ are سرياني, though Ṭab. on ii, 38, claims that ܐܝܠ is Heb.

³ All those given by Cheikho, *Naṣṣiṭ-nīya*, 230, are doubtless influenced by Qur'ānic usage.