



The illustration to the left is Merneptah Baenre Hotephir-maat worshipping Ptah and "other gods". It is seen on items 37 and 40 of Plate XV (15) of Volume I,

- (1) Behudet Winged Disk.
- (2) Hieroglyph for 'a', 'ah' or 'eh'.
- (3) Hieroglyph for 'd', 'de' or 'deh'.
- (4) Determinative for a place. In ancient Egyptian and modern Hebrew this is expressed as "B" or from, in or of. It is a preposition in grammar. Here it is read as the first sound in the word.
- (5) Determinative for a plural or denoting "many" as one would find in a town, region or country. Either pronounced 't' or as in the French plural ('s') it is not pronounced.
- (6) Hieroglyph for 'p'.
- (7) Hieroglyph for 't'. This is also the same as the determinative 't' for many or a plural as in 5. Normally written as 't' as in "Ptah" but may be silent as in "pe-ah".
- (8) Hieroglyph for 'h' or 'ah' where the emphasis is on expressing the 'h'.

To read "B'ehudet" from these hieroglyphs, one has to read the determinative 'b' (4) first, followed by the letters 'eh' (2) and 'deh' (3) then the other determinative 't' (5). The 't' is probably not pronounced so we should read "B'eh-(u)-deh". The 'u' is interpolated and we find this situation on the seal of Hezekiah which has only recently been published in Biblical Archaeological Review (July/August 2002). The Jewish king also leaves out the 'u' in his "Y-eh-de-eh" or Yehudah (Judah). These ancient languages do not normally use vowels although we do find the Jewish scribes using the 'u' (Hebrew vav) sometimes. This makes things difficult! Hieroglyphs 6, 7 & 8 read "P-t-ah" or Ptah. Here the 't' seems to be pronounced and written by most Egyptologists. If it is just a separator between two vowel sounds as in "pe" and "ah", it probably should be read and spoken "P'ah". This is probably a principle that should be applied to words like Hotephir-maat, Punt, Sut or Swt, Pereset or Peleset, Khent-en-ofir etc. Thus Merneptah Baenre Hotephir-maat (1210 BC) could easily be Merneptah Baenre Hophra-maat and the same person as Jeremiah's Hophra (586 BC).

"Determinative": A sign attached to a word in any of various forms of writing (as hieroglyphic) to indicate its class, number or other feature, thereby serving to distinguish the word from its homographs (words spelled alike but differing in derivation, meaning or pronunciation). [Webster's Third New International Dictionary]