History

The Tetractys is a triangular figure consisting of ten points arranged in four rows.

This first written record of this symbol was in the 5th century BC by the Pythagoreans.

A prayer of the Pythagoreans shows the importance of the Tetractys.

"Bless us, divine number, thou who generated gods and men! O holy, holy Tetractys, you that contains the root and source of the eternally flowing creation! For the divine number begins with the profound, pure unity until it comes to the holy four; then it begets the mother of all, the all-comprising, all-bounding, the first-born, the never-swerving, the never-tiring holy ten, the keyholder of all". Dantzig, Tobias, *The Language of Science*. p.42

Symbol of the Universe in Numbers

The Number 1

In Pythagorean school the first point is the number 1, representing unity. *The Emerald Tablet of Hermes* states “… all things are from one, by the mediation of the one, so all things have their birth from this one thing by adaptation…”

Thus the number 1 symbolizes, beginnings, inception, initiative, the Primal Will; unity, singleness, individuality, attention, and concentration.

The Number 2

The number one is a symbol of self-consciousness though its connection with Key 1, the Magician. The number 2 is associated with sub-consciousness through Key 2, the High Priestess.

The number 2 symbolizes separation for the unity inherent in the number 1. As Roman numeral the number 2 is II, the Duplication of the number I. Duplication is a function of sub-
consciousness and memory. Other ideas are opposition and polarity. The Pythagoreans called the number 2 the Dyad, and was associated with Power.

**The Number 3**

The uniting of 1 (the father) and 2 (the mother) produces the number 3 \((1 + 2 = 3)\). The ideas associated with the number 3 are multiplication, increase, growth and generation. The Pythagoreans called the number 3 Harmony, because the duality and opposition of the number 2 is brought together by the number 3.

**The Number 4**

The sum of all the numbers from 1 to 4 is 10 \((1 + 2 + 3 + 4 = 10)\). The number then is associated with the sephiroth Malkuth, the physical plane. Thus the number four is associated with ordering and arranged of the universe.

**Geometry**

Geometrically, number 1 is a point. In geometry a point exist in space without any dimensions, height, width or depth.

The number 2 is a line. A line is a length without thickness. You could describe it as an extension of a point or the number 1. In geometry this is on dimensions figure, it has length but no with or depths.

With three points you can describe a triangle or two dimensional figure that has length and width by no depth.

With four points you can define the simplest three dimensional object, the tetrahedron. Thus the number four defines the 4 dimensional world we live in.

**The Four Elements or Principles**

The four elements are the basic principles of life expression. Through the human personality they manifest as:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Element</th>
<th>Phenomena</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fire</td>
<td>Courage, fearlessness, irritability</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water</td>
<td>Feelings, moods</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Air</td>
<td>Intellect, reason</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Earth</td>
<td>Physical sensations, security, protection</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Music

The Pythagorean musical system was based on ratios. The most common are 4:3 (perfect fourth), 3:2
(perfect fifth), and 2:1 (octave). These ratios formed the basic intervals of the Pythagorean
scales.

The First Four Sephiroth.

**Kether, the 1st Sephiroth**

Kether is equated with the point and the most transcendent form of God that we can conceive. It
is the Self-Existing One, Pure Being.

Kether is symbolized by a point, “the Point within the Circle” [H. P. Blavatsky]. Kether is the
first manifestation or “First Cause.”

**Chokmah, the 2nd Sephiroth**

Chokmah is the Second Sephirah and is considered Supernal (Superior) Father, a male potency
and is pure force. Chokmah is pure activity which is dynamic, like a line it extends out infinitely
into the universe. Like a line, it is formless but can be conceived as a rushing forth of light.

**Binah, the 3rd Sephiroth**

Binah brings stability to the rushing forth of energy of Chokmah. Binah contains the unlimited
force (Chokmah) represented by the infinite line into a two dimension structure of the triangle,
which has length and width but to depth.

**Chesed, the 4th Sephiroth**

Chesed is first Sephirah of the manifested universe, represents the formulation of the archetypal
idea, the concretion of the abstract. When the abstract principle is formulated envisioned into
new activity, we are operating in the sphere of Chesed.

Many religions state that god ordered and arranged the chaos and thus formed the world. In this
respect to Chesed can be described as a demiurge.

The demiurge is a concept from the Platonic schools of philosophy. The demiurge is described
as an artisan-like figure responsible for the fashioning and maintenance of the physical universe.
The word 'demiurge' is a Latinized form of the Greek word, dēmiourgos, meaning: craftsman or
artisan. It has been described by the Masons as “The Great Architect of the Universe.”
The 4 worlds of the Qabalah

In the Qabalah, the planes of existence are divided into four worlds. They are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Worlds</th>
<th>Attributes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cabala</td>
<td>Concept</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Atziluth</td>
<td>pure idea, a concept or plan in absolute perfection</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Briah</td>
<td>Mind, thought</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Yetzirah</td>
<td>Image</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Assiah</td>
<td>Physical existence</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

These are abstract concepts. Let’s use an example to make these concepts more real. Let’s say we desire to *dwell*, to be in a particular place and a particular time. The world of Atziluth is not part of space and time. The action to dwell, is independent of time, space or existence. It IS. The infinitive form of the verb, to dwell is independent of time or space. It express an action in the most abstract sense of human language. This is the best that I can describe the world of Atziluth.

In Briah this idea *to dwell* is contemplated. The concept of a house, enclosure or space is conceived. It is a thought that is developed in the Mind. The *Idea* is apprehended Mentally. The idea is considered and given attention so it is *Understood*. This idea exist in space but not in time.

In Yetzirah both time and space exist, but not physical form. The idea is *visualize* and can take form, but not physical form. In Yetzirah the concept of “to dwell” can take form as a visualization of a person sitting under there fig tree, or in a house.

In the Assiah they concept that is considered takes physical form. The physical world is the culmination of all the activities that originated in the higher worlds.

The Tetractys and the Names of God

The first instance that I could find of arranging the four letter name of God in Tetractys is in Agrippa’s book, *Opera* written in in the early 17th-century.
The Letter Yod "y"

The Gates of Light states:

“The first Spheres are contained in the letter Yud [י] of the unique Name: For the crown the letter Yud is the essence of Kether and the body of the letter yud is the essence of Chokmah.

Thus the first letter in the Tetractys, Yod י, reaches into the Kether and body is the essence of Chokmah.

Yod is the simplest letter in the Hebrew alphabet, it is considered a flame and is the component of each Hebrew letter.

Yod means hand and means that the works of Man as the manifestation of God.

The Divine Name Yah, יָה

The name Yah is used 46 times in the Old Testament, it is the short form of the divine name, Yahweh (יהוה), because when Yah is spelled in Yod (י) Heh (ה) it is numerically 26, which is the value of Yahweh.

In Gates of Light, Yah is the divine name associated with Hokmah, the second sphere on the Tree of Life. Hokmah means Wisdom and is the head of the Pillar of Mercy on the Tree. This pillar
is considered the masculine side, represents qualities of unity, harmony, and benevolence. For this reason many beneficent angels have Yah as a suffix (ending) to their names.

**The Divine Name Yahoo, ייה**

The letters of Yahoo, Yod (י), Heh (יה) and Vav (ו) are used in The *Sepher Yetzirah* to seal the six directions of space (above, below, east, west, south and north).

“He chose three letters... And He set them in His great Name and with them, He sealed six extremities. He seals above and face upward and sealed it with Yud, Heh Vav (ייה)...”

A fragment of Leviticus 26 in the Dead Sea scrolls written in Greek have the name ιαω (IAO) which is equivalent to ייה. In the Gnostic mysteries IAO is the Demiurge who created the universe. This god stands between humanity and God transcendent (Eheyeh).

**The 4 Letter Name of God, Yahweh, ייהו**

Yahweh is the god of the Israel. In the Old Testament his name is used over 6,000 times. It is also called Tetragrammaton or the four letter name of God. The earliest use of the name Yahweh occurs in the Victory Stela text written by Mesha, a Moabite king from the 9th century BCE.

The name Yahweh is from the 3rd person masculine singular imperfect form of the verb “to be.” Yahweh could be translated as “He is,” or “God manifests himself as present” or “He causes to be, calls into existence.” This suggests that Yahweh is a creator god or Demiurge.

**Gematria**

Each Hebrew letter has its corresponding numerical value. The values of the 4 letters are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Letter</th>
<th>Value</th>
<th>Number of Uses</th>
<th>Total Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yod</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heh</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vav</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Thus the total value of the letters of the Tetractys is 72.
Seventy-two is the numerical value of the word Chesed \( \text{τὸν} \), the forth Sephiroth. Chesed is the sphere of Jupiter, the Lord of Fortune. Thus the Tetractys is the summation of the powers expressed by the order and arranging of the Universe through the beneficial powers.

Additionally, 72 is η αλήθεια. heh aletheia (Gr). the truth. In John 14:6: "Jesus says to him "I am the way, the truth, and the life."

Tetractys τετρακτύς

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>τ</th>
<th>ε</th>
<th>τ</th>
<th>ρ</th>
<th>α</th>
<th>κ</th>
<th>τ</th>
<th>ύ</th>
<th>ζ</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>300</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

TOTAL: 1,266