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Lamentations 3:1-15

("Qinah meter"[1])

by David Steinberg

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N.b. The Guidelines I Have Used in Reconstructing the Pronunciation of First Temple Period Hebrew are found at http://www.houseofdavid.ca/anc_heb_6.htm#guidelines

For convenience of students I have generally laid out the poetry as in modern translations.

Return to Table of Contents

Companion E-book - History of the Hebrew Language

Lamentations 3:1-15

Reconstructed Late First Temple Orthography and Vocalization (EBHP) with Sound Files

by David Steinberg

Verse	Reconstructed Vocalization [EBHP][2]	Reconstructed Vocalization /EBHP/[+3]	Reconstructed Text JEH Style Spelling (9th - 6th c. BCE)	Masoretic Text[4]
3:1	'ʔeni· heg'gebr re'ʔe: 'ʕunĭy/'ʕuni· beʃɪbt° ɣebre'to:	"anī hag'**gabr** ra"**â** ᶜuny bạšibṭ g̣ibra'**tô**	אני הגבר ראה עני בשבט עברתה	אֲנִי הַגֶּבֶר רָאָה עֳנִי בְּשֵׁבֶט עֶבְרָתוֹ
3:2	ʔo:'ti: ne'**heg** wey'**yawl**ɛk '**ħuʃ**k weˌlo: 'ʔo:r	'ō'**tî** na'**hag** way'**yawl**ịk '**ħušk** wạlô "**ōr**	אתי נהג וילך חשך ולא אר	אוֹתִי נָהַג וַיֹּלַךְ חֹשֶׁךְ וְלֹא־אוֹר
3:3	ˌek 'bi: 'yeʃọb 'yɪhpọ k yẹdo: kʊll-hey'yo:m	ˌak 'bî 'yašub[5] 'yihpuk[6] ya'd**ô** kʊll-hay'**yōm**	אכ בי ישב יהפכ ידה כל הים	אַךְ בִּי יָשֻׁב יַהֲפֹךְ יָדוֹ כָּל־הַיּוֹם
	MP³ sound file			
3:4	bɪl'**le**: beˀe'ri: weʃo:'ri: ʃɪb'**ber** ʕeˌˀemo:'**tey**	bil"**lâ** bạśa'**rî** wạᶜō'**rî** šib'**bar** ᶜaṣamō'**tay**	בלה בשרי וערי שבר עצמתי	בִּלָּה בְשָׂרִי וְעוֹרִי שִׁבַּר עַצְמוֹתָי
3:5	be'**ne**: ʕe'**ley** wey'**yek**ˀɛp 'ro:ʃ wetele'ʔe:	ba'**nâ** ᶜa'**lay** way'**yaq**ip 'rôš wạṭala"**â**	בנה עלי ויקפ ראש ותלאה	בָּנָה עָלַי וַיַּקַּף רֹאשׁ וּתְלָאָה
3:6	bemeħʃe'**ki:m** họwʃi:'**beni**· kemẹˌ:tɛy ʕo:'**lem**	bạmaħša'**kīm** hawši:'**banī** kạmẹ̄tay ᶜō'**la:m**	במחשכמ הושבני כמתי עלמ	בְּמַחֲשַׁכִּים הוֹשִׁיבַנִי כְּמֵתֵי עוֹלָם
	MP³ sound file			
3:7	ge'**der** beʕ'di: weˌlo: 'ʔɪ**ṣ**ɛ**ʔ** hɪk'**bi:d** nọ ħọtɪʃ	ga'**dar** baᶜ'**dî** wạˌlô "**i**ṣ**i**·[7] hik'**bi:d** nụħuš'**tî**	גדר בעדי ולא אצא הכבד נחשתי	גָּדַר בַּעֲדִי וְלֹא אֵצֵא הִכְבִּיד נְחָשְׁתִּי
3:8	ˌgem ˌki: 'ʔɪ**ṣ**ʕ**ek**° weʔʔe'**ʃew**wɪ**ʃ** ɬe'**ter** tepɪlle'ti:	ˌgam ˌki: "**iz**ᶜaq wa"ạ'**šaw**wi**ᶜ**[8] śa'**tar** ṭạpilla'**tî**	גמ כי אזעק ואשוע שתמ תפלתי	גַּם כִּי אֶזְעַק וַאֲשַׁוֵּעַ שָׂתַם תְּפִלָּתִי
3:9	ge'**der** dere'**key** bege'**zi:t**	ga'**dar** dạra'**kay** bạga'**zīt**	גדר דרכי בגזת	גָּדַר דְּרָכַי בְּגָזִית

Verse	Reconstructed Vocalization [EBHP][2]	Reconstructed Vocalization /EBHP/[+3]	Reconstructed Text JEH Style Spelling (9th- 6th c. BCE)	Masoretic Text[4]
	neti:bo:ˈtey ɣɪwˈweː	nᵆ̣tībōˈtay ġiwˈwâ	נתבתי עוה	נְתִיבֹתַי עִוָּה
	MP³ sound file			
3:10	**ˈdubb** ʔo:ˈrẹːb **ˈhû** **ˈli:** ʔɛrˈyẹː bemɪsteˈriːm	**ˈdubb** ʾọ̄ˈrẹːb **ˈhû** **ˈlî** ʾạrˈyẹː bạmistaˈrīm	דב ארב הא לי אריה במסתרם	דֹּב אֹרֵב הוּא֙ לִ֔י [אַרְיֵה כ] (אֲרִי ק) בְּמִסְתָּרִים
3:11	dereˈkey so:ˈrẹːr weyyepeʃʃɪˈħɪni : ɬaːˈmeni· ʃo:ˈmẹːm	dᵆ̣raˈkay sọ̄ˈrẹːr wayyᵆ̣paššᵢ̣ˈħinī śạːˈmanī šọ̄ˈmeːm	דרכי סרר ויפשחני שמני שמם	דְּרָכַי סוֹרֵר וַיְפַשְּׁחֵנִי שָׂמַנִי שֹׁמֵם
3:12	deˈrek kᵉʃˈto: weyyesˤsˤiːˈbɪni kemetˤtˤeˈrẹː leħˈħɪsˤsˤ	daˈrak qašˈtô wayyạṣṣi:ˈbinī kạmaṭṭaˈrâ laħˈħiṣṣ	דרך קשתה ויצבני כמטרא לחץ	דָּרַךְ קַשְׁתּוֹ וַיַּצִּיבֵנִי כַּמַּטָּרָא לַחֵץ
	MP³ sound file			
3:13	hɪˈbiːʔ bekɪleyo:ˈtey beˌnɛy ʔɛʃpeˈto:	hiˈbiːʾ bạkilạyọ̄ˈtay bạˌnay ʾašpaˈtô	הבא בכליתי בני אשפתה	הֵבִיא בְּכִלְיוֹתָי בְּנֵי אַשְׁפָּתוֹ
3:14	heˈyiːti· **ˈɬuħŭkˤ** lekull-ʕemˈmi: negi:nˈta:m kʊll-hey·ˈyo:m	haˈyîtī **ˈśuḥq** lạkull-ᶜamˈmî nᵆ̣gi:nˈta(ː)m kull-hay·ˈyōm	היתי שחק לכל-עמי נגנתם כל הים	הָיִיתִי שְׂחֹק לְכָל-עַמִּי נְגִינָתָם כָּל-הַיּוֹם
3:15	hɪɬbiːˈʔeni· bemmerọ̣ˈrɪːm hɪrˈweni· leʃˈneː	hiśbi:ˈʾanī bammᵆ̣ruˈrīm hirˈwanī laᶜˈnâ	השבעני במררם הרוני לענה	הִשְׂבִּיעַנִי בַמְּרוֹרִים הִרְוַנִי לַעֲנָה
	MP³ sound file			

"According to Budde, the formal unit in Lamentations is a line divided into two parts by a break in sense. The first part of each line is a normal half-line (colon) of Hebrew poetry, while the second part is shorter than the normal colon.Theis second half-line cannot be only a single word, however, but must be a group of two or more words. Since the first half-line must be at least one word longer, the lines are of the pattern 3+2, 4+3, 4+2, and so on.

... Budde's view must be modified by saying that the "*Qinah*" line is at best the dominant line in Lamentations.... (In addition, the "*Qinah*" line) cannot properly be called "*Qinah*" (Lament) meter, because it is used in various classes of Hebrew poems having nothing to do with laments for the dead.

[2] Note, in reconstructed [EBHP] transliterations and sound files -

1.there is no spirantization of the *bgdkpt* consonants - http://www.houseofdavid.ca/anc_heb_tequ.htm#bgdpt;

2. vowel qualities are outlined here – http://www.houseofdavid.ca/anc_heb_6.htm#ebhp_vow_qual;

3. I use the most probable form. Where no one form stands out as most probable, I select the one closest to the MT vocalization.

4. when multiple forms are possible, the form used is underlined.

[3] See *Phones and Phonemes* - http://www.houseofdavid.ca/anc_heb_6.htm#phone_phonym.

[4] From The Westminster Leningrad Codex http://www.tanach.us/.

IN EBHP and LBHP THE JUSSIVE (PCjus), COHORTATIVE (PCcoh), IMPERFECT (PCimp) AND PRETERITE (PCpret_sim/PCpretWC) are, in some forms, distinguished by the placement of syllabic stress when not carrying object suffixes. See -
- http://www.adath-shalom.ca/history_of_hebrew3a.htm#indic_jus AND
- http://www.adath-shalom.ca/history_of_hebrew3a.htm#Prefix_Conjugation

[5] This is PCpret_sim 'yašub not PCimp ya'šu:b.

[6] This is PCpret_sim 'yiḥpuk not PCimp yiḥ'puk.

[7] This is PCpret_sim ''iṣiʾ not PCimp ʾi'ṣiʾ.

[8] This is PCpret_sim ''izcaq not PCimp ʾiz'caq and PCpretWC waʾʾaˈšawwic not PCimp waʾaṣaw'wic ie " when I called and cried for help, he shut out my prayer " **not** " though I call and cry for help, he shuts out my prayer ".