

Vocalization of the Siloam Inscription

Reconstructed First Temple Vocalization and Transposition into Tiberian Graphemes

Adapted from Beyer¹

See also -

- [Richter's Transcription](#) (p. 41)
- [Vocalization of the Siloam Inscription by David Steinberg](#)

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Companion [E-book](#) - [History of the Hebrew Language](#)

| Line | Reconstructed Vocalization [EBHP] | | Original Orthography | | My own very literal translation |
|------|--|---|---|---|--|
| | Transposed into Tiberian Graphemes ² | Latin Characters | Modern Script ³ | Judean Script of late 8 th century BCE ⁴ | |
| 1 | הנקבה [תמ].. נ'זה ה'יה ד,בר הנקבה [מנ'פם את] ב'עוד [החצ'בים] | ... [tamm] hinnaqi'bo: wa'zɛ: ha'yo: da,bar hinnaqi'bo: bi'o:d [haḥ-ḥo:ʃi'bi:m meni:'pi:m ,at-] | [תמה] הנקבה וזה היה דבר הנקבה בעוד[החצבם מנפם את] | .hbqnh[.hmt]hbqnh.rbd.hyh.hzw [taimpnmimbxjh.]dwub | ... its tunnelling was completed. And this how its breakthrough was made. While the miners were still wielding the |
| 2 | הגר'זין אש, אל ר'עו | tag-gar'zin 'i:š ,il ri'ɕ:w wabi'o:d | הגזג אש אל רעו | iwurilaicainzrgh | pick (the gangs digging) toward one |

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| | <p>וב'עוד שלש אמת לה [נ'קב נש'מ]ע קל אש ק</p> | <p>ša'lo:š 'am'mo:t lahinna'qib [naš'ma^e] ,qo:l 'i:š qo:</p> | <p>ובעוד שלש אמת להנ[קב נשמ]ע קל אש ק</p> | <p>itmaicldwubw [[mcnibq]nhl qicailqi</p> | <p>another; while there still remained 3 cubits to be tunnelled; a man shouting to his fellow was heard</p> |
| 3 | <p>א, אל ר'עו כי ה'ית 'זדה [הש'מאל] [ר] בצר, מימין. וב, ים ה</p> | <p>'ri: ,il ri'ē:w ki: ha'yata: 'zeda: baš- su:r ,miy-ya'mi:n wa,min-[naš-šam''o:l] wabi,yo:m hi</p> | <p>[ר]א אל רעו כי הית זדה בצר מימין [ועד השמאל] ובימ ה</p> | <p>iwurilaia[r] irxbihdzityhiyk [lamciduwi] nmym himybwi</p> | <p>as there was a crack in the rock running from south (to north or right to left). So on the day its break</p> |
| 4 | <p>נק'בה יהכו החצ'בם אש לקרת ר'עו גר'זן, על גר'זן וילכו</p> | <p>nnaqi'bo: 'hiku: haḥ- ḥo:ši'bi:m 'i:š laq,ro:t ri'ē:w gar'zin ,al gar'zin waya'liku:</p> | <p>נקבה הכו החצבם אש לקרת רעו גרזן על [ג]רזן וילכו</p> | <p>imbxjhiwkhihbqn iwuritrqlica nZR[g]iluinzrg [i]wklywi</p> | <p>through was accomplished, the miners struck, one gang towards the other, pick against pick; and</p> |
| 5 | <p>המים, מן המוצא אל הברכה במאתי [נ]אלף אמה נ,מ[א]</p> | <p>ham-meḥ:m ,min-nam- mo:'šo: ,il-hab- ba'rika: bimi'a'te:m wa"alp "amma: wa,mi'a</p> | <p>המים מן המוצא אל הברכה במאתי [מ ו] אלף אמה ומ[א]</p> | <p>axwmhinmimymhi ihkrbhilai hmaipla[wim]ytamb [a]mwi</p> | <p>the water flowed [n.b. <i>waw</i> <i>consecutive</i>] from the source to the pool, a distance of 1,200 cubits. A hundred</p> |
| 6 | <p>ת אמה היה על [ם], גבה הצר ראש החצ'ב</p> | <p>t "amma: ha'yo: ,gubh-haš-su:r ,al ,ro:š haḥ-ḥo:ši'bi:m</p> | <p>ת אמה היה גבה הצר על ראש החצב[מ]</p> | <p>irxhihbgihyhihmait [im]bxjhicarilu</p> | <p>cubits was the height of the rock over the head of the miners.</p> |
| | | <p>MP3 sound file</p> | | | |

¹ **Althebräische Grammatik: Laut- und Formenlehre** by Klaus Beyer: Göttingen : Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht, 1969 p.68.

² For simplicity's sake, I transposed both [ɔ:] and [o:] as ḥōlem in this example.

³ In my transcription I have replaced separation dots by spaces and have not used final forms of letters in order to better reflect the original.

⁴ Legible photo and line drawing found at <http://www.katapi.org.uk/BAndS/SiloamInscription.htm> .