Edition 1.

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## Vocalization of the Siloam Inscription

## by David Steinberg

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

In Paleo-Hebrew inscriptions: (a) the words are normally separated by dots; (b) there is no division by paragraph or sentence<sup>1</sup>; and, (c) writing is generally continuous with the breaks between lines occurring whenever space runs out i.e. in any place within or between words. For convenience of students I have generally laid out the poetry as in <u>IPS</u> Hebrew-English TANAKH

## See also

- > Richter's Transcription (p. 41) http://www.houseofdavid.ca/anc\_heb.htm#richter99\_inscr
- Vocalization of the Siloam Inscription Based on Beyer http://www.houseofdavid.ca/anc\_heb\_siloam\_beyer.pdf

Companion E-books - History of the Hebrew Language

**Return to Table of Contents** 

|          | Paganetruoted Vasalization (EDLID)                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                         | Reconstructed                                                                                    | Original Orthography                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | My own york                                                                                                                              |
|----------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b> </b> | Reconstructed Vocalization [EBHP] <sup>2</sup>                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                         | Vocalization                                                                                     | Original Orthography                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | My own very<br>literal                                                                                                                   |
| Line     | Transposed into                                                                                                                                 | Latin Characters                                                                                                        |                                                                                                  | Modern<br>Soriet4                                                 | Judean Script                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | translation                                                                                                                              |
|          | <u>Tiberian</u>                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                         | <u>/EBHP/</u> +3                                                                                 | Script4                                                           | of late 8th century                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | แลกราสแบท                                                                                                                                |
|          | Graphemes                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                         | <u> </u>                                                                                         |                                                                   | BCE <sup>5</sup>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                          |
| 1        | [תַ <b>ּמָה</b> ] הַנַּקּ' <b>בָּה</b><br>נַ'זֶּה הַ'יָה דַ,בַּר<br>הַנַּק'בָּה<br>בַּ,עֲוָד[הַחּ'צִ <b>'בִּים</b><br>מֶגִ' <b>פִּים ,</b> אֶת] | [ tem'me:] hen_nek.\fe'be: we'ze: he'ye: de,ber hin.nek.\fi'be: be,\fowd [hex.xo:s.\fi'bi: m mini:'pi:m ,\footnote{2} ] | [ tam'mâ] hannaqa'bâ wa'ze: ha'yâ da,bar hinnaqi'bâ ba,cawd [haḫḫ ōṣi'bīm mini:'pīm ,at]         | [תמה] הנקבה<br>וזה היה דבר<br>הנקבה<br>בעוד[החצבמ<br>מנפמ את]     | · 49974[:45x] · 494·444·4-4 · 49974 · 49974 · 59944 · 59944 [* † 59795                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | the tunnel was completed. And this how its breakthrough <sup>6</sup> was made. While the miners were still wielding the                  |
| 2        |                                                                                                                                                 | hegger'ze:n ''i:f  ?el-re'fo:  webe, fowd  fe'lof ?em'mo:t                                                              | haggar'ze:n 'îš 'il-ri'oo waba,oawd <u>ša</u> 'lōš 'am'mot lahinna['qe:b [niš'ma]o ,qōl ''i:š qō | אש אל רעו<br>הגזנ<br>ובעוד שלש אמת<br>להנ[קב<br>נשמ]ע<br>קל אש ק  | **************************************                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | pick (the gangs digging) toward one another; while there still remained 3 cubits to be tunnelled; a man shouting to his fellow was heard |
| 3        | וֹבֵ'אָ אֶל־רִ'עוֹ<br>קי הַ'יָת זִ'דָּה <sup>7</sup><br>בִ'אָר<br>מִיַּ'מִיז<br>נַוְעַד הַשַּׂמְ'אֹלּ]<br>וַבְּיִם הִ                           | 're:? ?el-re'so: ,ki: he'ye:t zıd'de: bess's'u:r mıyye'mi:n [we,sed hel- lem'?o:l] webe,yo:m hi                         | 're:' 'il-ri'oô ,ki: ha'ya:t zid'dâ baş'şūr miyya'mīn [wacad-haś- śam''ôl] waba,yôm8 hi          | ר]א אל רעו<br>כי הית זדה<br>בצר<br>מימינ<br>[ועד השמאל]<br>ובימ ה | · \( \gamma \cdot | as there was a crack in the rock running from south (to north or right to left). So on the day its break                                 |
| 4        | נַק'בָ <b>ה</b> הִ'כּוּ<br>הַהּ'צִ'בִים                                                                                                         | n.nek. <sup>ç</sup> ı' <b>be</b> :<br>hık <b>'ku</b> :                                                                  | nnaqi <b>'bâ</b> hik <b>'k</b> <u>ū</u><br>haḫḫōṣi' <b>bīm</b>                                   | נקבה הכו<br>החצבמ<br>אש לקרת רעו                                  | .404.×4p/.m+                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | through was accomplished,                                                                                                                |

E-book Biblical Hebrew Poetry and Word Play - Reconstructing the Original Oral, Aural and Visual Experience by David Steinberg

|      | Reconstructed Vocalization [EBHP] <sup>2</sup>                                                                        |                                                                                                          | Reconstructed                                                                                | Original Orthography                                         |                                            | My own very                                                                                                |
|------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Line | Transposed into                                                                                                       | Latin Characters                                                                                         | Vocalization                                                                                 | Modern                                                       | Judean Script                              | literal                                                                                                    |
| Line | <u>Tiberian</u>                                                                                                       |                                                                                                          | <u>/EBHP/</u> +3                                                                             | Script4                                                      | of late 8th century                        | translation                                                                                                |
|      | Graphemes                                                                                                             |                                                                                                          |                                                                                              |                                                              | BCE <sup>5</sup>                           |                                                                                                            |
|      | 'אָיש לַקְ,רֶת רִ'עוֹ<br>גַרְ'זֵן עַלֹּ- [גַ]רְ'זֵן<br>וַיֶּ'לָּכוּ                                                   | hex.xo:s. <sup>c</sup> 1'bi:m  ''i:f lek <sup>c</sup> ,re:t  re'fo: ger'ze:n Sel- [g]er'ze:n  weyye'liku | "īš laq,ra:t ri'cô<br>gar'ze:n cal-<br>[g]ar'ze:n<br>wayyi'likū                              | גרזנ על [ג]רזנ<br>וילכו                                      | g=9[1].60.g=91<br>[·]zy62z.                | the miners struck, one gang towards the other, pick against pick; and                                      |
| 5    | הַ'פַּים מִזְ־הַמְּוְ'צָּא<br>אֶל־הַבַּרֶ' <b>כָּה</b><br>בַמִּאַ'תִי<br>[ם נַ] 'אַלְףְ אַ' <b>מָּה</b><br>נִמִּ[,אַ] | hem'meym min- hem.mows''e: ?el- heb.be.re'ke: be.mi.?e'tey[m w]e'?elp ?em'me: we.me,?e                   | ham'maym min-<br>hammaw'şâ<br>'il-habbari'kâ<br>bami'a'tay[m<br>w]a''alp 'am'mâ<br>wami,'a   | המימ מנ המוצא<br>אל הברכה<br>במאתי<br>[מ ו] אלפ אמה<br>ומ[א] | †*************************************     | the water flowed [n.b. waw consecutive] from the source to the pool, a distance of 1,200 cubits. A hundred |
| 6    | ת אַ' <b>מָה</b> הַ'יָ <b>ה</b> ,גַּבְהָ<br>הצר על־,ראש<br>הַהּ'צִ'בִי[ם]                                             | t ?em'me: he'ye: ˌgobh hes <sup>ç</sup> 's <sup>ç</sup> u:r Çel- ˌro:ʃ hex.xo:s. <sup>ç</sup> ı'bi:m     | t ʾam <b>ˈma</b> ː ha <b>ˈyâ</b><br>ˌgubh haṣ <b>ˈṣūr</b><br>ˁal-ˌrôš<br>haḫḫōṣi' <b>bīm</b> | ת אמה היה גבה<br>הצר<br>על ראש<br>החצב[מ]                    | ·343.34+.x<br>·9243397<br>[·9]32243.w+9.60 | cubits was the height of the rock over the head of the miners.                                             |
|      |                                                                                                                       | sound file                                                                                               |                                                                                              |                                                              |                                            |                                                                                                            |

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> This is clearly evident in e.g. the Samarian Ostraca, Mesha Stele, Siloam Inscription, Arad Ostraca, and 11QpaleoLev.

 $<sup>^{2}</sup>$  Note, in reconstructed [EBHP] transliterations and sound files -

<sup>1.</sup>there is no spirantization of the *bgdkpt* consonants - http://www.houseofdavid.ca/anc\_heb\_tequ.htm#bgdpt;

<sup>2.</sup> 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.
- <sup>3</sup> See *Phones and Phonemes* http://www.houseofdavid.ca/anc\_heb\_6.htm#phone\_phonym.
- 4 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.
- 5 Legible photo and line drawing found at http://www.katapi.org.uk/BAndS/SiloamInscription.htm .
- <sup>6</sup> I am assuming that /naqa'bâ/ [naqa'ba:] = "tunnel" see Gibson 1971 p. 23 while *hinnaqi'ba:* is the niphal infinitive construct (suffixed form) *hinna'qib* = "was pierced" plus the suffix *a:* = "her" referring back to *hannaqa'ba:* "tunnel".
- <sup>7</sup> Gibson (p. 23) writes "זדה probably = [ziddā] from ZND not elsewhere extant in Hebr.... 'narrow, straightened place'."
- 8 Joüon-Muraoka 1991 §98f