

**Poetry of Song of Songs - Song 2:1-17<sup>1</sup>**  
 (as generally in the Song, mainly in "Qinah meter"<sup>2</sup>)

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.houseofdauid.ca/anc\\_heb\\_6.htm#guidelines](http://www.houseofdauid.ca/anc_heb_6.htm#guidelines)**  
**For convenience of students I have generally laid out the poetry as in modern translations.**

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**Reconstructed LBHP Vocalization with Sound Files**

by David Steinberg

<i>Chapter/ Verse</i>	<i>Reconstructed Vocalization</i> <i>[EBHP]<sup>3</sup></i>	<i>Reconstructed Vocalization</i> <i>[EBHP]<sup>4</sup></i>	<i>Masoretic Text<sup>5</sup></i>
2:1	'ʔeniː xebeːsːilt hejjeːroːn	ʔaniː h̄abaːʃilt haššaːrōn	אֲנִי חִבַּצְלֵת הַשָּׁרוֹן
	joːjeːnet heʃʃiːmeːkʰiːm	šōšaːnat haːccimaːqīm	שׁוֹשַׁנַּת הָעֵמְקִים
	<a href="#"><i>MP<sup>3</sup> sound file</i></a>		
2:2	kejoːjeːneː ˌbeːn heh̄noːʰiːm	kašōšaːnâ ˌbayn haːh̄oːhīm	כְּשׁוֹשַׁנָּה בֵּין הַחֹהִים
	ˌkeːn reʃyeːtiː ˌbeːn hebbeːnoːt	ˌkeːn raːyaːtī ˌbayn habbaːnōt	כִּן רַעֲיָתִי בֵּין הַבָּנוֹת

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	<a href="#"><u>MP<sup>3</sup> sound file</u></a>		
<b>2:3</b>	ketep'pu:h beʕ.ʕi,s'e: hey'yeʕär ,ke:n do:'di: be:n heb.be'ni:m bes.ʕil'lo: ħim'medti_ weye'ʕebti' wepir'yo: me'to:k' leħik'ki:	kaṭap'pu:h ba <sup>ce</sup> i,ʕay hay' <u>ya<sup>c</sup>r</u> ,ke:n do:'dī ,bayn habba'nīm baʕil'lo ħim'madti waya'šabtī wāpir'yō ma' <u>to:q</u> laħik'kī	כתפוח בעצי היער בן דודי בין הבנים בצלו חמדתי וישבתי ופריו מתוק לחכי
	<a href="#"><u>MP<sup>3</sup> sound file</u></a>		
<b>2:4</b>	hebi:'ʕeni' ʔel-,be:t hey'yeyn wedig'lo: ʕe'ley ʔeh'be:	ħibi:'anī 'il-,bayt hay'yayn wādig'lō ʕa'lay 'ah'bā	הביאני אל־בית ה'יין ודגלו עלי אהבה
<b>2:5</b>	semmi'ku:ni' beʔʔeʕi:'ʕo:t reppi'du:ni' betteppu:'ħi:m ,ki: ħo:,let ʔeh'be: 'ʕeni'	sammī'kūnī ba"ʔaši:'šōt rappi'dūnī battappu:'ħīm ,ki: ħō:,lat 'ah'bā "anī	סמכוני באשיות רפדוני בתפוחים כיחולת אהבה אני
<b>2:6</b>	ʔimo:'lo: ,teħt lero:'ʕi: weyemi:'no: teħebbi'k'ini'	šimō'lō ,taħt laṛō'šī wāyamīnō taħabbī'qinī	שמאלו תחת לראשי וימינו תחבקני
<b>2:7</b>	ħiʕbe'beʕti' ʔeṭ'kīm be,no:t <u>yuru:ʕe'leym</u> bes.ʕi.be'ʔo:t ,ʔo: beʔeyye,lo:t he'tte'de:	ħišba'ba <sup>c</sup> tī ' <u>at'kim</u> ba,nōt yurūša'laym baʕiba"ōt ,ō ba'ayya,lōt haśsa'dê	השבטתי אתכם בנות ירושלם בצבאות או באילות השדה
	ʔim-te'ʕi:ru' weʔim-teʕo:'ru' ʔeṭ-heʔʔeh'be: ,ʕed ʕettīħ'pes'	'im-ta'ei:rū wā'im-ta <sup>c</sup> ō'rīrū <u>'at</u> -ha"ah'bā ,ʕad šattīħ'paš	אם־תעירו ואם־תעוררו את־האהבה עד שתחפץ

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	<a href="#"><i>MP<sup>6</sup> sound file</i></a>		
<b>2:8</b>	,k'o:l do:'di:	,qōl do:'dī	קול דודי
	hinne:-'ze: 'be:	hinne:-'ze: 'ba:	הנהיזה בא
	mudal'le:g ʕel-həhħer'ri:m	mudal'le:g °al-haħhar'rīm	מדלג על ההרים
	muk.'ep'pe:s' ʕel-həg.gɪbe'yo:t	muqap'pe:ʃ °al-haggiɓa'gōt	מקפץ על ההגבעות
<b>2:9</b>	do:'me: do:'di: le's'ebi'	dō'mê do:'dī la'šaby	דומה דודי לצבי
	,ʔo: le'yupər heʔʔeyye'li:m	,ʔaw la'gupr haʔʔayya'līm	או לעפר האילים
	hinne:-'ze: ʕo:'me:d ʔe,xer kq t'lɪnu'	hinne:-'ze: °ō'me:d ʔa,ħar kut'linū	הנהיזה עומד אתר כתלנו
	meʃ'gi:h min-həhħelo:'no:t	maš'gi:h min-haħħalō'nōt	משגיח מן החלונות
	me's'i:s' min-hexxere'ki:m	mi'ʃi:ʃ min-haħħara'kīm	מצויץ מן החרקים
<b>2:10</b>	ʕe'ne: do:'di: weʔe'mer 'li:	°a'nâ do:'dī wə'a'mar 'lī	ענה דודי ואמר לי
	'k'u:mi: 'la:k reʕye'ti:	'qu:mī 'la(:)k ra'ya'tī	קומי לך רעיתי
	yep'e'ti: we'lɪki: 'la:k	yapa'tī wə'līkī 'la(:)k	יפתי ולכי לך
<b>2:11</b>	ki:-hin,ne: hessi'ta:w ʕe'ber	ki:-hin,ne: hassi'ta:w °a'bar	כִּי־הִנֵּה [הִסְתּוֹ ב] (הִסְתּוֹ ק) עֵבֶר
	həg'geʃm xe'lep he'lek 'lo:	hag'gašm ħa'lap ha'lak 'lō	הגשם חלף הלך לו
<b>2:12</b>	hennis'.s'e:'ni:m nir'ʔu: be'ʔers'	hannišša:'nīm nir'ū ba'arš	הנצינים נראו בארץ
	,ʕe:t hezze'mi:r hig'gi:ʕ	,ʕe:t hazza'mīr hig'gi:°	עת הזמיר הגיע

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	we,kʰo:l het'to:r	wə,qōl hat'to:r <sup>6</sup>	וְקוֹל הַתּוֹר
	niʃ'meʃ beʔer's'ɪnuʹ	niš'maʕ baʹar'šinu	נִשְׁמַע בְּאַרְצָנוּ
<b>2:13</b>	hette:'ne: ʰe'net.ʰe' peg'ge:heʹ	hattê'nâ ʰa'naʔâ pag'gêha(:)	הַתְּאָנָה חֲנֻטָּה פְּגִיהַ
	weheg.gepe'ni:m simer'der ne'tenuʹ 're:h	wəhaggəpa'nīm sīmar'dar na'tanū 're:h	וְהַגְּפָנִים סִמָּדָר נִתְּנוּ רֵיחַ
	'k'u:mi: 'ɪkiʹ reʃye'ti:	'qu:mī 'līkī raʕya'tī	קוּמִי [לְכִי כ] [לָדָךְ ק] רַעֲיָתִי
	yəpe'ti: we'ɪki: 'la:k	yapa'tī wə'līkī 'la(:)k	יַפְתִּי וּלְכִי-לָדָךְ
	<a href="#"><i>MP3 sound file</i></a>		
<b>2:14</b>	yo:ne'ti: beʰege,wə: hes'seʃʃ	yo:na'tī baʰaga,wəy has'saʕ	יֹונָתִי בַחֲגוּי הַסֵּלַע
	be,ʃɪ.tər hemmedre'ge:	ba,ʃitr hammadri'gâ	בְּסֵתֶר הַמְּדַרְגָּה
	heʹʔi:ni: ʔet-mer'ʔeyk	har''i:nī 'at-mar''ayk	הַרְאֵנִי אֶת-מַרְאֵיךְ
	heʃmi:'ʃi:ni: ʔet-k'o:'le:k	hašmi:'ʕīnī 'at-qō'le:k	הַשְּׁמִיעֵנִי אֶת-קוֹלְךָ
	,ki: k'o:'le:k ʕe're:b	,ki: qō'le:k ʕa're:b	כִּי-קוֹלְךָ עָרֵב
	wemer'ʔeyk ne:'wə:	wəmar''ayk nâ'wê	וּמַרְאֵיךָ נְאוּהַ
<b>2:15</b>	ʔū'xuzuʹ 'lenuʹ ʃu:ʕe'li:m	'huzū 'lanū šu:ʕa'līm	אֲחֻזוּ-לָנוּ שׁוֹעֲלִים
	ʃu:ʕe'li:m k'eʃ'e'ni:m	šū:ʕa'līm qəʔa'nīm	שׁוֹעֲלִים קִטְנִים
	muxebr'li:m kere'mi:m	mūħabbi'līm qara'mīm	מִחֻבְּלִים כְּרָמִים
	wekere'mə:nuʹ simer'der	wəqara'maynū sīmar'dar	וּכְרָמֵינוּ סִמָּדָר

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<b>2:16</b>	do:'di: 'li:	do:'dī 'lī	דודי לי
	we'ʔeni' 'lo:	wə'ʔanī 'lō	ואני לו
	herro:'ʕe: beʃfo:ʃe'ni:m	harrō'ʕē baššōša'nīm	הרעה בשושנים
<b>2:17</b>	,ʕed ʃeyye'pu:h hey'yo:m	,ʕad šayya'pu:h hay'yôm	עד שיפוח היום
	we'ne:su' hes'.s'ī.lē'li:m	wə'na:sū haššīla'līm	ונסו הצללים
	'syo:b də'me: 'leke'	'sôb d'mê 'laka(:)	סב דמה-לך
	do:'di: le's'ebi'	do:'dī la'šaby	דודי לצבי
	,ʔo: le'ʕupər heʔʔeyye'li:m	,ʔaw la'ʕupr ha'ʔayya'līm	או לעפר האילים
	ʕel-her,ʕe: 'bītr	ʕal-har,ray 'bītr	על-הרי בתר
	<a href="#"><u>MP3 sound file</u></a>		

<sup>1</sup> I agree with Sáenz-Badillos (p. 123) paraphrased in *Wikipedia*

( [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Song\\_of\\_Songs#Language](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Song_of_Songs#Language) ) -

Song of Songs for the first time gives literary representation to the everyday post-exilic vernacular. It contains loan words from languages with which Hebrew had contact in post-exilic times, such as Persian, Greek, and Aramaic, and contains numerous items of vocabulary that are otherwise unknown in Biblical Hebrew but are known from Rabbinic Hebrew, and these expressions give the impression of being part of a living language and not the result of an archaic or artificial style. There are longer phrases that are typical of Rabbinic Hebrew in word order and are different from Biblical Hebrew.

FOR ALL REFERENCES TO JUSSIVE (PC<sub>jus</sub>), IMPERFECT (PC<sub>imp</sub>) AND PRETERITE (PC<sub>pret\_sim</sub>/PC<sub>pretWC</sub>) SEE -

- [http://www.adath-shalom.ca/history\\_of\\_hebrew3a.htm#indic\\_jus](http://www.adath-shalom.ca/history_of_hebrew3a.htm#indic_jus) AND
- [http://www.adath-shalom.ca/history\\_of\\_hebrew3a.htm#Prefix\\_Conjugation](http://www.adath-shalom.ca/history_of_hebrew3a.htm#Prefix_Conjugation)

<sup>2</sup> Marvin H. Pope, Anchor Bible *Song of Songs*, Doubleday, NY 1977, pp. 37-40.

<sup>3</sup> Note, in reconstructed [LBHP] transliterations and sound files -

1. vowel qualities are outlined here - [http://www.houseofdauid.ca/anc\\_heb\\_6.htm#ebhp\\_vow\\_qual](http://www.houseofdauid.ca/anc_heb_6.htm#ebhp_vow_qual);
2. I use the most probable form. Where no one form stands out as most probable, I select the one closest to the MT vocalization.
3. when multiple forms are possible, the form used is underlined.

<sup>4</sup> I assume the following changes between /EBHP/ and /LBHP/ -

- /iy/ > /i/ - /hišy/ ['xɪsʰy] or ['xɪsʰi] (EBHP) > /hišî/ ['xɪsʰi] (LBHP) = "half"; /yihy/ ['yɪhy] or ['yɪhî] (EBHP) > /yihî/ ['yɪhi] (LBHP) = "may he be" [http://www.houseofdauid.ca/anc\\_heb\\_tequ.htm#yhy](http://www.houseofdauid.ca/anc_heb_tequ.htm#yhy)

- Elision of syllable or word-final *aliph*. [http://www.houseofdauid.ca/anc\\_heb\\_tequ.htm#ALIPH](http://www.houseofdauid.ca/anc_heb_tequ.htm#ALIPH).

- [ś] > [s]

- Reduction of final doubled consonants [http://www.houseofdauid.ca/anc\\_heb\\_tequ.htm#gem](http://www.houseofdauid.ca/anc_heb_tequ.htm#gem)

- Disappearance of intervocalic [h]

- Spirantization of the *bgdkpt* Consonants [http://www.houseofdauid.ca/anc\\_heb\\_tequ.htm#bgdpt](http://www.houseofdauid.ca/anc_heb_tequ.htm#bgdpt)

- Philippi's Law by which short [i] changes to [a] in closed stressed syllables e.g. šō'mirt > šō'mart  
MT שְׁמִירַת [http://www.houseofdauid.ca/anc\\_heb\\_tequ.htm#aram\\_Philippi](http://www.houseofdauid.ca/anc_heb_tequ.htm#aram_Philippi)

- Law of attenuation by which short [a] in closed unstressed syllables changes to [i]  
[http://www.houseofdauid.ca/anc\\_heb\\_tequ.htm#aram\\_law\\_atten](http://www.houseofdauid.ca/anc_heb_tequ.htm#aram_law_atten)

- /ay/ or /āy/ = ê [e:]; [aw] > ô [o:] (see [http://www.houseofdauid.ca/anc\\_heb\\_tequ.htm#dip\\_ctr](http://www.houseofdauid.ca/anc_heb_tequ.htm#dip_ctr) ;  
[http://www.adath-shalom.ca/history\\_of\\_hebrew2.htm#het\\_dip](http://www.adath-shalom.ca/history_of_hebrew2.htm#het_dip)

<sup>5</sup> From The Westminster Leningrad Codex <http://www.tanach.us/>.

<sup>6</sup> *Q//* form see Joüon-Muraoka 1991 §88Bc.