

Hebrew – the language of redemption

1. Introduction

Shalom and welcome to this series in which we will be bringing you, our beloved listeners, some wonderful insights into the Hebrew language, spoken by our ancestors, by *Yeshua*, our redemption and many other people on earth. Some people may ask the question: Why would anyone who wasn't born into this language want to learn it? The answer is very simple, especially for students of Scripture: to have a better understanding of how and why certain words and expressions are used in the original texts of Scripture, thereby moving away from flaws and deliberate mistakes made by translators.

As a disclaimer, however, the following: all citation of texts will be done from the 2009 version of The Scriptures, unless stated otherwise. We will only be using the Hebrew terms and names, but with every first mention, we will render the word as found in standard English. Having said that, we should start with the Name of our Creator.

In the Hebrew Scripture the Name of our Creator is written with four Hebrew letters: *yud, hei, vav, hei*, which is also known as the tetragrammaton. This is a Greek word which simply means a word consisting of four letters. Unlike rabbinical Judaism who make many excuses and refuse to pronounce the Name of *YAH*, the shorter form we will be using throughout this series, Scripture commands us that His Name is to be used whenever we speak to Him or of Him, although it needs to be used in reverence. We find plenty of examples, mainly in the book of *Tehilim* (Psalms), that command us to use the Name of *YAH*. Nowhere does Scripture even suggest that mankind has some inalienable right to call upon *YAH* by a substitute name. Rather, it states everywhere that we are to praise, exalt, bless, respect, and thank the name of *YAH*. Esteem is to be given to no other. It is nothing less than arrogant for any human being to change the Name of our Creator to anything not found in Scripture, let alone substitute the name with meaningless titles such as lord, god or even *adonai*. The Name of our Creator is normally pronounced by most *Torah*-believers as *Yahweh* or *Yahuah*, as nobody is 100% certain of how it was pronounced by the Hebrew nation of old. We will delve into this during the future episodes.

Next is the Name of the son of *YAH*. Please note that he is not the saviour or redeemer. The Saviour or Redeemer is *YAH*, as we see in many places, but to quote one:

Yesha'yahu (Isaiah) 43¹¹ “*ו, I am יהוה, and besides Me there is no saviour.*”

The name of the son of *YAH* is *Yeshua*. Here, once again, there are as many variants as stars in the sky. Many believers purport to know more than others and offer different spelling and pronunciation. Every Tom, Dick and Harry seems to know better and have different ways of spelling as well as pronouncing the name. Once again, in a future delivery, this will also be discussed. We are long past the phase to prove the correct spelling or pronunciation, or to enter into a debate, as it only promotes division, something seriously forbidden throughout Scripture. For that reason, we will use the names as mentioned and trust that listeners will accept it as such.

Yeshua is not the saviour, but the salvation, the deliverance, as can be seen in many texts, of which we quote this one:

Tehilah (Psalm) 78²² *Because they did not believe in Elohim, Neither did they trust in His deliverance.*

The word *tehilah* just use here simply translates as 'praise', but resonates better with giving thanks to *YAH*. It is one of the words we will be looking at in more detail in a later teaching. In many English translations it is rendered as Psalm or Psalms.

To summarise: *YAH*, or *Yahuah*, is the Redeemer and *Yeshua* is the redemption or salvation. We can look at it this way: every person on earth is a sinner and needs to be redeemed. *YAH* has to buy the sinner out of his sinful nature, He achieves that by using *Yeshua* as the method, which we can refer to as spiritual money, to redeem or deliver the sinner from his sinful state. We trust this explanation will settle the matter.

To finalise the disclaimer, we must state emphatically that this entire series is based on information from various sources, most of which are deemed completely reliable. However, these sources are also dependent on the human factor, something that we all suffer from. When citing from sources, there may be listeners who differ in opinion, but due to the nature of this series, it will not be possible to enter into any discussions. We therefore ask in all humbleness not to stop listening, but send us your sources and opinions to the e-mail address we will give at the end of every teaching. All e-mail will be dealt with as promptly as possible.

This series of teachings is aimed at giving every *Torah*-believer more understanding of the original words used in Scripture, their actual meaning regardless of the translations we see in various other languages. However, before examining the words, it may be advantageous to know what every letter in the Hebrew *alephbet* (the Hebrew version of the alphabet) is all about – its meaning, numeric value, also known as *gematria*, as well as where, how and why they are used the way they are. Lastly, we will also render the correct Hebrew pronunciation of each letter, later also the words, when we get to that point. It is unfortunate that some dialectic nuances have been adopted, depending on the country the language is used, causing many Hebrew words to suffer from incorrect localised pronunciation.

During this introduction we will let you into some secrets of what you can expect to learn, but every delivery promises to bring deeper insights into a language that was used extensively by our Creator, by the nation of *Yisra'el* (Israel), by *Yeshua* and his *talmidim* (disciples or student followers) and many others.

Hebrew as we know it today hasn't always been like this. Modern Hebrew is different from Scriptural Hebrew in many ways. Although some words still correspond, many new words have been added due to technology and other factors. We must also take into consideration that the Hebrew of the ancient near East is closely linked to the traditions that existed at that time. It is therefore important that we may sometimes sketch some background in order to understand certain expressions and idioms better.

Unlike the way we read and write, from left to right, Hebrew is written and read from right to left. It obviously takes time getting used to for new students, as do the totally different characters, which we will be looking into. Hebrew is classified as a Semitic language, also known as Shemitic, after *Shem*, the second son of *Noach* (Noah). It is assumed that this language was spoken by everyone until after the flood, since we are taught:

B'reisheet (Genesis) 11 ¹And all the earth had one language and one speech.

The original text uses the word 'lip' for language and 'word' for speech. In his book, A Verse-by-Verse Commentary of Genesis 1-11, Andy McIntosh writes the following:

The double statement of 'lip' and 'word' gives great force and emphasis to what Nimrod had done in establishing a one-world dictatorship under himself. Many think that the language could have been Hebrew since the names of many people and locations have great descriptive depth in that language.

Scripture never commits to any specific name for languages, but only mentions languages of nations *per se*. The language spoken by YAH when He created the earth, also the language He spoke in with *Adam*, was therefore never given a name. The Hebrew bible is also known as the *TaNaKh*, an acronym for *Torah*, which translates a ‘instructions’, *Nevi’im* which translates as ‘prophets’ and *K’tuvim*, which translates as “poetic writings”. Most people know the original Hebrew Scripture by the erroneous phrase, “old testament”, which contains the first five books ascribed to *Mosheh* (Moses), the writings of all the prophets and poetic sections of Scripture, such as *Tehilim* (Psalms), *Mishle* (proverbs), *Shir HaShirim* (Song of Solomon) and many more. The first five books, known by many also as the Pentateuch, contain all the rules that YAH has laid down for every true believer and obedient follower of *Yeshua*. It is known as *Torah*, as it contains instructions for mankind, but *hasatan*, the enemy, managed to twist the minds of translators to render it as ‘law’.

As most of the *TaNaKh* was written in this specific language, it became known as the Hebrew bible. The word Hebrew is first encountered in *B’reisheet* 14:13 where *Avram* (Abram) is called a Hebrew. This word is pronounced ‘ivriy’ in the Hebrew language. We find two explanations for this:

1. One of the descendants of *Noach* was a person named *Ever* (Eber/Heber). *Ever* was *Noach*’s great-grandson, from *Shem*, the second son of *Noach*. The word ‘*Shem*’ simply translates as ‘name’ and the etymology of this name is very similar to the term ‘Hebrew’, which refers to a much wider group than what we simply know today as the Jews. *Shem* is considered the father of all the children of *Ever* (cf. *B’reisheet* 10:21).
2. The Hebrew spelling of *Ever*, when using the same letters but different vowel indicators, translates as “to cross over”. This signifies that *Avram* crossed the large Euphrates river from a pagan country to the land that YAH had promised him – a long, unknown journey only by faith. *Avram* distinguishes himself by distancing himself from *Bavel* (Babylon) by ‘crossing’ a river. He ‘crosses’ from his homeland to a new area YAH designates him to, as we see:

Y’hoshua (Joshua) 24² And *Yehoshua* said to all the people, “Thus said יהוה *Elohim* of *Yisra’el*, ‘Long ago your fathers dwelt beyond the River – *Terah* (Terah), the father of *Abraham* (Abraham) and the father of *Nahor* (Nachor). And they served other mighty ones.

This second explanation certainly makes much more sense, as it is exactly what YAH desires of us: to leave our old, maybe even pagan, ways behind and fully trust in Him only to rule our entire life. In that way we will be seen as Hebrews, obedient followers that have come out of our evil ways, that have “crossed over”, to follow diligently in the footsteps of our Messiah, *Yeshua*.

Getting back to our topic, we notice that the language used by the descendants of *Ever* is never called Hebrew, but is rather referred to as “the language of *Kena’an* (Canaan) in *Yeshe’yahu* 19:18, but also as the language of *Y’hudah* (Judah) as seen in *M’lakhim Bet* (2 Kings) 18:28 and a few other verses. In spite of never reading in Scripture that the nation of YAH spoke the Hebrew language, many archaeological discoveries in Israel point to Hebrew being the language used. The learned scholar, William Smith, responsible for the Smith’s Bible Dictionary confirms this in collaboration with many Jewish and Christian scholars.

Hebrew was therefore the one language we read of in Scripture that was spoken when the rebel, *Nimrod*, decided to build the tower of *Bavel*, the point we left off earlier before going on this tangent. Since the time of the *Bavelian* exile, Hebrew as a language became seriously neglected, to such an extent that it was mainly used as a scholarly and sacred language. Writers, philosophers, and poets used Hebrew to produce religious and philosophical texts, ensuring its continuity despite its limited role in spoken communication.

The result of 10 tribes scattering over the earth also didn't help much in keeping the language alive, as it started getting mixed up with other languages. Two main dialects were born: Yiddish and Ladino. Yiddish is a combination of German and Hebrew which is still spoken today by many Ashkenazi communities. Ladino is a combination of Hebrew and Spanish and mostly spoken in the western parts of Europe by mainly Sephardic communities.

However, during the late 19th and early 20th century, much of this changed when Eliezer Ben-Yehuda made it his personal mission to revive Hebrew as an acknowledged spoken language. He compiled the first modern Hebrew dictionary, drawing from Biblical, Mishnaic, and medieval Hebrew, as well as borrowing from other languages to fill lexical gaps. By the time of Israel's founding in 1948, Hebrew was not only widely spoken but also recognised as a unifying, national language.

This is where we can now start examining the language loved by so many, hated by others, but will remain the language used in the original text of Scripture and directly communicates the love of *YAH* for all people on earth, those who have an ear to hear. One thing we should never forget, is that this compilation of manuscripts was not written for every person, but to and for the Hebrew nation, the first-born of *YAH*, the nation He formed outside the promised land, gave rules and instructions to be His people for ever and then moved them into the promised land. If you have been called by *Ruach HaQodesh* (holy Spirit) to follow *Yeshua*, you will find the rules and instructions in this manual. However, as with any other manual, there are no parts you may skip or ignore. If you want to call this book your guide for a different lifestyle, you must accept everything in it, every page, every sentence, every word – nothing is to be left out. This lifestyle is not a pick-and-choose lifestyle; it is a solid commitment, every complete day, every complete week, every complete month, for the rest of your life.

We will endeavour to handle letters separately, but it may sometimes happen that two letters are brought in one delivery. As soon as we have completed the *alephbet*, we will start examining words, taking them apart letter by letter, if necessary, explaining what *YAH* is trying to communicate to us. For this reason, some programs may be shorter or longer than others, but we will try to keep it less than 30 minutes per session. We trust you will keep us company during all of these teachings and will appreciate your feedback.

All teachings will be available on our website after every broadcast, should anyone want to make their own notes on the information shared. Our website is available at <https://silvertrumpet.godaddysites.com>. The e-mail address is theway146@mailfence.com and we are also available on both Telegram and Whatsapp, as well as Substack. These links are provided on the website.

May *YAH* bless all of us going through these teachings. It is our prayers that we may learn from one another in every way possible. Until tomorrow... Shalom!