

THE NAME?

The Journey of the Hebrew Language


Part One

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Things we will cover

- Something that need's to be known!
- Nikkud/Niqqud
- Masoretic Vowel Points
- The Matres Lectionis Vowel Letter System
- Charles William Wall
- Ancient Hebrew Alphabet



Something that
need's to be
known!

In that particular time, the language that was spoken was Ancient Hebrew. When doing a comparison between the ancient Hebrew language with Modern Hebrew language, there are many differences. For instance the Ancient Hebrew language has only one vowel letter, which was the letter A (Ah), with the exception of the letter I in modern Hebrew translating to (Ayin). Other than the two vowel letters there are NO VOWEL points or extra vowel letters in the ancient Hebrew alphabet.

Nikkud/Niqqud

“A system of [diacritical](#) signs used to represent [vowels](#) or distinguish between alternative pronunciations of letters of the [Hebrew alphabet](#). Several such diacritical systems were developed in the [Early Middle Ages](#). The most widespread system, and the only one still used to a significant degree today, was created by the [Masoretes](#) of [Tiberias](#) in the second half of the first Millennium AD in the [Land of Israel](#) (see [Masoretic Text](#), [Tiberian Hebrew](#)).”

Hebrew vowel points / Niqqud (נִקּוּד טִבְרָנִי)

This system of indicating vowels was devised by the Masoretic scholars in Tiberias in around 750 AD. It is known as Tiberian vocalization, Tiberian pointing, or Tiberian niqqud, or נִקּוּד טִבְרָנִי in Hebrew.

						
חֲטַף סֵגוֹל	חֲטַף פָּתַח	חֲטַף קָמֶץ	חִירִיק	צִירֶה	סֵגוֹל	פָּתַח
ḥataf seggol	ḥataf pataḥ	ḥataf kamats	ḥirik	tsere	seggol	pataḥ
e	a	o	i	e	e	a
[e]	[a]	[o]	[i]	[e]	[e]	[a]
						
	שׁוּרוּק	קֻבּוּץ	חוֹלָם	קָמֶץ קָטָן	קָמֶץ גָּדוֹל	שְׁוָא
	shuruk	kubbutz	ḥolam	kamats katan	kamats gadol	sh'va
	u	u	o	o	a	e/
	[u]	[u]	[o]	[o]	[a]	[e/Ø]

Masoretic Vowel Points

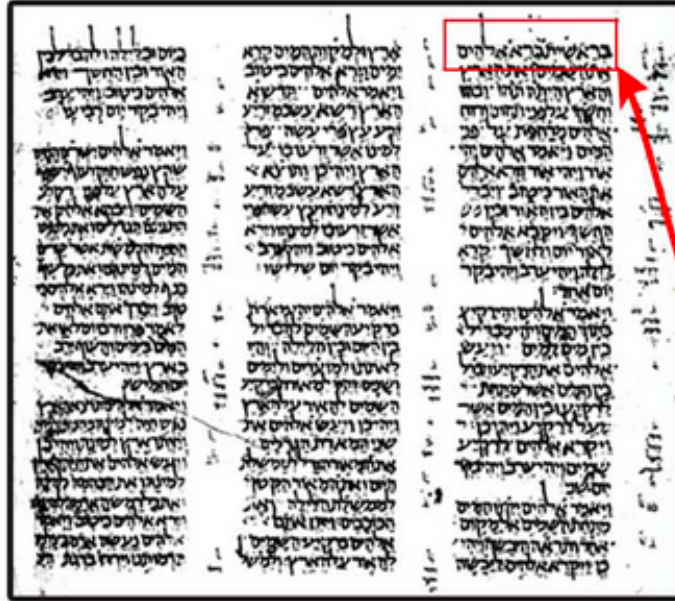
- “The oldest copies of the Masoretic Text only date back to the 10th century, nearly 1000 years *after* the time of Christ. And these texts differ from the originals in many specific ways. The Masoretic text is named after the [Masoretes](#), who were scribes and Torah scholars who worked in the Middle East between the 7th and 11th centuries. The texts they received, and the edits they provided, ensured that the modern Jewish texts would manifest a notable departure from the original Hebrew Scriptures. Historical research reveals five significant ways in which the Masoretic Text is different from the original Old Testament: The Masoretes admitted that they **received corrupted texts** to begin with. The Masoretic Text is written with a **radically different alphabet** than the original. The Masoretes **added vowel points**, which did not exist in the original. The Masoretic Text **excluded several books** from the Old Testament scriptures. The Masoretic Text includes **changes to prophecy and doctrine.**”



“Masoretic Text”

The oldest Hebrew manuscript of the Old Testament: 1008 AD

Genesis chapter 1 The MT underlies most modern Bibles



The Masoretes were a small pocket of scribes working at Tiberias who developed a meticulous counting system for copying scripture. They added vowels and punctuation to the Aramaic-Hebrew script of the first century AD as seen in the **dots** and **dashes** in modern Hebrew.

The Tiberias Masoretes
“diacritical accents marks”
600-950 AD

Codex Leningrad (Masoretic) 1008 AD
(Masoretic Hebrew script)

Modern Hebrew 1915-present
(Masoretic Hebrew script)

English translation Gen 1:1

בְּרֵאשִׁית בָּרָא אֱלֹהִים
בְּרֵאשִׁית בָּרָא אֱלֹהִים
God created the beginning In

The Matres Lectionis Vowel Letter System

- “In the spelling of [Hebrew](#) and some other [Semitic languages](#), *matres lectionis* (English: [/ˈmeɪtriːz lɛktiˈoʊnɪs/](#); from [Latin](#) "mothers of reading", singular form: *mater lectionis*, from [Hebrew](#): 'מָתֵר לִקְרִיאָה, *em k'ri'a*) refers to the use of certain consonants to indicate a vowel. The letters that do this in Hebrew are [aleph](#), [he](#), [waw](#) and [yod](#). The yod and waw in particular are more often vowels than they are consonants. In [Arabic](#), the *matres lectionis* (though they are much less often referred to thus) are [alif](#), [wāw](#), [yā'](#) and to some extent [hā'](#). The original value of the *matres lectionis* correspond closely to what is called in modern linguistics [glides](#) or semivowels”

Charles William Wall



An author by the name of Charles William Wall has a book on Matres Lectionis called “ *Proof of the interpolation of the vowel letters in the text of the Hebrew Bible*”. In Charles book he talks about how this vowel pointing system was not apart of the ancient hebrew text or manuscripts. On page 5 of the introduction section it states, “the Hebrew Bible, as it issued from pens of it’s inspired authors, was written without vowel-signs of any kind, whether points or letters.” Page 19 it states “ I may here by anticipation add, will be found equally to apply to the matres lectionis, after it shall have been proved that those letters do not, any more than the points, constitute part of the Hebrew scriptures as originally written”. Author Charles also speaks upon how **the Greeks came into power and forced the vowel letter system into the language**. Page 8 in the introduction section it states,

- “ In the first place, then, about two centuries after the termination of the Babylonian captivity, and while a considerable number of persons still continued to speak pure Hebrew as their vernacular dialect, Asia was invaded by a people who had introduced into the original alphabet the vast improvement of vowel-letters; and the Jews were, in consequence, forced in spite of their prejudices to learn a species of writing that made them acquainted with the use of such letters. In the second place, their scriptures were very soon afterwards translated into the tongue connected with this writing, by the order, as tradition tells us, of a Pagan government, and at any rate in a country in which they and their religion were peculiarly hated and despised.”

- Changing the original text and language of a culture is bad in itself, but the fact that it was coming from a corrupt religious government by the Pagans made it worse. What's interesting is the ancient Hebrew language was an unambiguous language. Meaning there were no vowel points because the ancient Hebrew text was not open to more than one interpretation. The pronunciation of the ancient Hebrew alphabet was clear, and it wasn't open to different interpretations. Ancient Hebrew language is a simple language with a simple sound.

Ancient Hebrew Alphabet

Ka ya Ta Chaa Za Wa Ha Da Ga Ba Ah

𐤀 𐤁 𐤂 𐤃 𐤄 𐤅 𐤆 𐤇 𐤈 𐤉 𐤊

𐤋 𐤌 𐤍 𐤎 𐤏 𐤐 𐤑 𐤒 𐤓 𐤔 𐤕

Tha Sha Ra Qa Taza Pa I Sa Na Ma La

In Conclusion

- Hebrew language unambiguous language no need for more than one interpretation.
- Changes in the language and text came hundreds of years later after the Messiah's death and resurrection.
- The changes within these text brought about incorrect pronunciations leading to changing the overall meaning of the text.

Next Lesson Part 2

- We will cover the History of the Messiah's Name.
- <https://www.bible.ca/manuscripts/Septuagint-LXX-Hebrew-ancient-earliest-writing-Bible-scripts-alphabets-origin-Mosaic-heiroglyphic-Paleo-Aramaic-Masoretic-Jewish-Greek.htm>