

History of the Ancient and Modern Hebrew Language

By David Steinberg

David.Steinberg@houseofdavid.ca

Home page <http://www.houseofdavid.ca/>

http://www.adath-shalom.ca/history_of_hebrew.htm

Companion [E-Book](#) - *[Biblical Hebrew Poetry and Word Play - Reconstructing the Original Oral, Aural and Visual Experience](#)*

Table of Contents

[TERMS, ABBREVIATIONS AND LINGUISTIC SYMBOLS](#)

1. [Survey of the Semitic languages](#)

[Box 1 - What is a Semitic √Root?](#)

2. [History of Hebrew from its pre-history to the present](#)

2.1 [Pre-Exilic Hebrew \(PreExH\)](#)

a) [Varieties of Pre-exilic Hebrew](#)

b) [Social Base of Pre-Exilic Hebrew](#)

c) [Time, Aspect and Volition in Biblical Hebrew](#)

[Box 2 - Joüon-Muraoka on Time, Aspect and Volition in Biblical Hebrew](#)

[Table 1 - What Time does the Biblical Hebrew Participle Refer to when Used Verbally?](#)

[Box 3 - What is the "waw conversive"?](#)

[Box 4 - The Origin of the "waw conversive"](#)

[Table 2 - Time/Tense in Biblical Poetry](#)

d) [Changes Pending in Biblical Hebrew](#)

2.2 [Post-Exilic Hebrew \(PostExH\) - Written/Oral Diglossia](#)

[*Box 5 - Some Factors in the Rise of Post-Exilic Hebrew*](#)

[Background to Dialect, Koine and Diglossia in Ancient Hebrew Clarification from Colloquial Arabic](#)

a) [Development of Proto-Mishnaic Hebrew \(c. 586 BCE-c. 70 BC\).](#)

b) [The Impact of Aramaic](#)

[*Box 6 - Influence of Aramaic on Post-Exilic Hebrew*](#)

c) [Mishnaic or Rabbinic Hebrew](#)

[*Table 3 - Deriving the Construct State from the Absolute State is More Complex in TH than in EBHP*](#)

2.3 [Changes in the Pronunciation of Biblical Hebrew Between the Early 6th Century BCE and that Recorded in the Tiberian Masoretic Tradition \(early 10th century CE\)](#)

- [*Changes in Pronunciation Between the First Temple Period, Tiberian Biblical Vocalization and Modern Hebrew most of which Alter the Syllabic Structure*](#)
- [*Consonants that Were Distinct and Phonemic in the First Temple Period that Have Merged in Modern Pronunciation*](#)
- [*Consonants that Exist in Modern Pronunciation but were absent in Hebrew of the First Temple Period*](#)
- [*Linguistic Changes Affecting the Pronunciation of Biblical Hebrew 2000 B.C.E. - 850 C.E. According to Various Scholars*](#)
- [*Dialect, Koine and Diglossia in Ancient Hebrew: Clarification from Colloquial Arabic*](#)
- [*Words Significantly Different in Pronunciation in Pre-Exilic Hebrew*](#)
- [*Syllables Ending in Doubled Consonants in Pre-Exilic Hebrew*](#)

2.4 [Between the Mishnah and the Revival of Hebrew in the Late 19th Century](#)

2.5 [Modern or Israeli Hebrew](#)

[*Box 7 - Koineization, Creole and Decreolization in the Formation of IH*](#)

2.6 Major Changes Between Ancient Hebrew and Israeli Hebrew

2.7 Israeli Hebrew and Modern Arabic – a Few Differences and Many Parallels

Table 4 - Western-type Compound Nouns and Adjectives in Israeli Hebrew and MSA

Table 5 - Modern Hebrew and MSA Common Noun Patterns

3. Select Bibliography

4. Excurses

- Illustration - The Semitic Family of Languages
- *Box 8 - Scripts and Scripture*
- Excursus 1 - Phonemic Structure of Pre-Exilic, Tiberian and Israeli Hebrew Contrasted

A Note on the Use of Post-Exilic Evidence Regarding the pronunciation of BH

a. What is a Phoneme?

Box 9 - Phones and Phonemes

b. Vowel and Consonant Length

Box 10 - Nature of Consonant and Vowel Length

Box 11 - Were Vowel Quantity and Consonant Quantity Phonemic in Biblical Hebrew?

Box 12 - Trade-off Between Vowel and Consonant Length

Box 13 - Pausal Forms

Table 6 - Distinctive Vowel Length and Syllable Type in EBHP and their Reflex in TH

Table 7 - Phonemic Status of Vowel and Consonant Length and Quality and of Word Stress over the History of the Hebrew Language

Table 8 - Phonemic Status of Vowel and Phonetic Realization of Vowel and Consonant Length in EBHP, TH and BH_{IH}

c. Consonantal Phonemes

Table - Reflexes of Proto-Semitic sounds in daughter languages

Table 9 - Consonants in EBHP, TH, [BH_{IH}] and [TH_{CSP IS-ENG}]

[Table 10 - EBHP Heterogeneous Diphthongs and their Development in LBHP, TH and BH_{IH}](#)

[Box 14 - Consonantal Polyphony in Biblical Hebrew](#)

[Table 11 - Consonantal Minimal Pairs in Biblical Hebrew No Longer Valid in Later Hebrew](#)

[Table 12 - Voiced, Voiceless and Emphatic Consonants in Biblical Hebrew](#)

[Table 13 - Proto-Semitic Phonemes \(Consonants\) Exhibiting Sound Shifts in Hebrew and Their Equivalents in Aramaic and Classical Arabic](#)

[Table 14 - Biblical Hebrew Phonemes \(Consonants\) of Multiple Origin and their Equivalents in Proto-Semitic, Classical Arabic, Aramaic and Ugaritic](#)

d. [Vowel Phonemes](#)

d.1 [Diachronic Development of the Biblical Hebrew Vowel System](#)

[Box 15 - Distinctive Features of Hebrew Vowels](#)

[Table 15 - Proto-Semitic to Tiberian Hebrew - Vowel Phonemes with Possible Allophones](#)

[Box 16 - Semitic Vowels and their Actualization](#)

[Table 16 - Long Vowels in EBHP by Origin](#)

[Table 17 - Shifts in Proto-Semitic Vowels as Hebrew Developed](#)

[Table 18 - Vowel Length Minimal Pairs in Biblical Hebrew and their Transformation in Later Hebrew](#)

[Table 19 - Vowel Phonemes Minimal Pairs in *EBHP/](#)

[Box 17 - Distinctive Features of TH Vowels](#)

[Table 20 - Vowel System Tiberian Hebrew](#)

[Table 21 - Tiberian Vowels of the Same Quality often Have Diverse Origins](#)

[Box 18 - Vowel System - Modern Israeli Hebrew \(IH\)](#)

d.2 [Conventional Scholarly Transcription of the TH Vowel System \(TH_{cst}\)](#)

[Table 22 - TH_{SBL} Transcription of TH Vowel System](#)

e. [Ancient Hebrew Orthography Provides Some, But Not Much, Guidance Regarding the Placement, and Nature of Vowels](#)

[Box 19 - Diphthongs](#)

[Box 20 - Origin of Matres Lectionis \(Vowel Letters\)](#)

[Box 21 - Matres Lectionis in Hebrew](#)

[Matres Lectionis in JEH](#)

[Box 22 - Matres Lectionis in the Biblical Text](#)

[f. Reading Traditions of Biblical Hebrew](#)

[Table 23 - EBHP, TH and the Phonetic Realizations of BH in Key Modern Pronunciations](#)

• [Excursus 2 - Evolution of Pronunciation and Stress Patterns](#)

[Box 23 - The Nature of Stress in Ancient and Modern Hebrew](#)

[Box 24 - The Independent Pronouns in EBHP and Colloquial Arabic Dialects](#)

[Box 25 - The Case System of Proto-Hebrew and the Pronominal Suffixes of the Noun](#)

[Box 26 Nouns - Absolute, Construct and Pronominal Forms](#)

[Table 24 - History of Stress and Pronunciation of the Independent Pronoun](#)

[Table 25 - History of Stress and Pronunciation of the Pronominal Suffixes of the Noun](#)

[Table 26 - Pronominal Object Suffixes of the SC Verb](#)

[Table 27 - Pronominal Object Suffixes of the PC Verb](#)

[Table 28 - History of the Accusative Particle 'et and its Inflected Form' otō = "him"](#)

[Table 29 - Stressed Noun Suffixes in Biblical Hebrew](#)

[Table 30 - Locative ך](#)

A. [The Proto-Hebrew SC and its Carry-Over into BH](#)

[Table 31 - Reconstructed PC Forms in PH and EBHP](#)

[Table 32 - Disappearance of Formal Distinctions between PC_{imp}, PC_{jus} and PC_{pret} \(not preceded by waC-\) in Strong Verb Except for Parts of Hiphil](#)

B. [The Biblical Hebrew Verbal System](#)

1. [Classes of Verbs](#)

[Table 33 - Comparison of the Development \(PH to TH\) of Qal \(a-u class\) Jussive, Imperative, Infinitive Construct and Infinitive Absolute](#)

[Table 34 - Common Stative and Similar Qal Verbs](#)

2. [Background on Biblical Hebrew Prefix Conjugation](#)

[Time and Modal Implications of PC in Various Categories of BH Poetry](#)

[Table 35 - History of Stress and Pronunciation of the Hebrew Verb Prefix Conjugation](#)

3. [Background on Biblical Hebrew Suffix Conjugation \(traditional "perfect"\)](#)

[Table 36 - History of Stress and Pronunciation of the Hebrew Verb - Suffix Conjugation](#)

4. [Participles, Imperatives and Infinitives](#)

[Table 37 - History of Stress and Pronunciation of the Hebrew Imperatives, Participles and Infinitives](#)

• [Excursus 3 – Some Differences Between Biblical and Israeli Hebrew](#)

[Table 38 - Some Key Phonemic Distinctions in EBHP, TH and IH](#)

[Table 39 - Original Typical Semitic 3 Way Opposition in EBHP and TH Reduced to 2 Way in IH with Loss of Emphatics](#)

[Table 40 - Sound Shifts Between EBHP and IH](#)

[Table 41 - Some Impacts of Sound Shifts Between EBHP, TH and IH](#)

[Table 42 - Verbal Stems \(Binyanim\) in EBHP TH, and IH](#)

• [Excursus 4 - Background to Dialect, Koine and Diglossia in Ancient Hebrew Clarification from Colloquial Arabic](#)

• [Excursus 5 - Growth in the Number and Range of Israeli Hebrew Verbs](#)

• [Excursus 6 - New Word Formation](#)

• [Excursus 7 - Changes in Syntax](#)

• [Excursus 8 - Is Israeli Hebrew Unique in Being a Western Language \(semantics, use of tenses etc.\) Under a Semitic Skin \(grammar, vocabulary, semantics, syntax\)?](#)

To print this e-book use the files below -

File Name	Title	Pages
http://www.adath-shalom.ca/history_of_hebrewtoc.pdf	Table of Contents	9
http://www.houseof david.ca/anc_heb_abb_dia.pdf	TERMS, ABBREVIATIONS AND LINGUISTIC SYMBOLS	21
http://www.adath-shalom.ca/history_of_hebrew.pdf	History of the Ancient and Modern Hebrew Language	72
http://www.adath-shalom.ca/history_of_hebrew1.pdf	Tables and Excurses	5
http://www.adath-shalom.ca/history_of_hebrew2.pdf	Phonemic Structure - Consonants	38
http://www.adath-shalom.ca/history_of_hebrew2a.pdf	Phonemic Structure - Vowels	35
http://www.adath-shalom.ca/history_of_hebrew3.pdf	Evolution of Pronunciation and Stress Patterns - pronouns etc.	22
http://www.adath-shalom.ca/history_of_hebrew3a.pdf	Evolution of Pronunciation and Stress Patterns - verbs	54
http://www.houseof david.ca/anc_heb_diglossia.htm	Background to Dialect, Koine and Diglossia in Ancient Hebrew Clarification from Colloquial Arabic	47
http://www.adath-shalom.ca/history_of_hebrew4.pdf	Key Differences Between Biblical and Israeli Hebrew	10
http://www.adath-shalom.ca/history_of_hebrew5.pdf	Growth in the Number and Range of Israeli Hebrew Verbs	3
http://www.adath-shalom.ca/history_of_hebrew_archTOC.pdf	Archaizing Poetry - Table of Contents	1
http://www.adath-shalom.ca/history_of_hebrew_arch_a.pdf	Archaizing Poetry - Table A -Tense Implications of SC and PC in the Same Verse	12
http://www.adath-shalom.ca/history_of_hebrew_arch_b.pdf	Archaizing Poetry - Table B - Present Tense Indicated by the use of the SC of a Stative or Quasi-stative Verb and the PC_{imp} of an Action Verb in the Same Verse	3
http://www.adath-shalom.ca/history_of_hebrew_arch_c.pdf	Archaizing Poetry - Table C - PC_{pret_sim} and PC_{pretWC} in the Same Verse Referring to the Past	3
http://www.adath-shalom.ca/history_of_hebrew_arch_d.pdf	Archaizing Poetry - Table D - PC_{pret_sim}	5

File Name	Title	Pages
	and SC in the Same Verse Referring to the Past	
http://www.adath-shalom.ca/history_of_hebrew_arch_e.pdf	Archaizing Poetry - Table E - PC_{pretWC} and SC in the Same Verse Referring to the Past	3
http://www.adath-shalom.ca/history_of_hebrew_arch_f.pdf	Archaizing Poetry - Table F - PC_{pret_sim} without PC_{pretWC} or SC in the Same Verse Referring to the Past	4
http://www.adath-shalom.ca/history_of_hebrew_arch_h.pdf	Archaizing Poetry - Table H - A.P. Substitutes for PC_{imp}	1
http://www.adath-shalom.ca/history_of_hebrew_prof_pret.pdf	PC_{pret_sim} in Prophetic Poetry	6
http://www.adath-shalom.ca/history_of_hebrew_psalmsTOC.pdf	Aspects of the Use of Tenses in Psalms Table of Contents	1
http://www.adath-shalom.ca/history_of_hebrew_psalmsa.pdf	Psalms - Table A - Tense Implications of SC and PC in the Same Verse	13
http://www.adath-shalom.ca/history_of_hebrew_psalmsb.pdf	Psalms - Table B - Present Tense Indicated by the use of the SC of a Stative or Quasi-stative Verb and the PC_{imp} of an Action Verb in the Same Verse	6
http://www.adath-shalom.ca/history_of_hebrew_psalmsc.pdf	Psalms - Table C - PC_{pret_sim} and PC_{pretWC} in the Same Verse Referring to the Past	6
http://www.adath-shalom.ca/history_of_hebrew_psalmsd.pdf	Psalms - Table D - PC_{pret_sim} and SC in the Same Verse Referring to the Past	11
http://www.adath-shalom.ca/history_of_hebrew_psalmse.pdf	Psalms - Table E - PC_{pretWC} and SC in the Same Verse Referring to the Past	10
http://www.adath-shalom.ca/history_of_hebrew_psalmsf.pdf	Psalms - Table F - PC_{pret_sim} without PC_{pretWC} or SC in the Same Verse Referring to the Past	6
http://www.adath-shalom.ca/history_of_hebrew_psalmsg.pdf	Psalms - Table G - PC_{pretWC} Should be Revocalized as PC_{imp} Due to Contextually Required Meaning	4
http://www.adath-shalom.ca/history_of_hebrew_psalms_h.pdf	Psalms - Table H - Substitutes for PC_{imp}	3

File Name	Title	Pages
http://www.adath-shalom.ca/history_of_hebrew_ghrain.pdf	Lexicon /g/ [y]	23
http://www.adath-shalom.ca/history_of_hebrew_khet.pdf	Lexicon /h/ [x]	48
Total pages		485