

The Uniqueness Of Hebrew The Language Of The Bible

“I (God) will give to the people a clear and pure speech from pure lips, changing their impure language so they may all call upon the name of the Lord, to serve Him with one unanimous accord, united shoulder to shoulder bearing the yoke of the Lord” (Zephaniah 3:9).

This pure language is Hebrew. Every other language worldwide is corrupted by commonly used unclean words or idolatry. For example, the days and months in the international calendar, the planets, many cities, Europe/Europa, Easter/Ishtar are all named after false gods or goddesses. The entire Bible was written in Hebrew because Hebrew is the only pure language on earth. The Lord would never allow His pure, holy Word to be written using any corrupted language so every word was written in Hebrew. Salvation comes solely from the Jewish people (John 4:22) so it makes logical sense to have the salvation message come from the Jewish language based in the Jewish Land of Israel. The Hebrew name of Jesus is Yeshua so we will be using His Hebrew name in this Bible study. To bring the purity of the salvation message to mankind, the Lord needed a pure language. This salvation message is no small thing. Yeshua came, taught and died to open the door to eternal life when before He came there was no way into heaven. Every person who has ever been born will one day face God to give an account of their earthly lives. Without Yeshua, we have no eternal life so for us to be saved from eternal damnation, salvation had to be made available to both Jewish people and Gentiles via the blood of Yeshua shed on the cross. It is no small thing to give up one's own life for a friend so imagine how much Yeshua loved all humanity to give up His life for sinners and strangers.

The depth of the Hebrew language, both ancient and modern is stunning. The ancient Paleo Hebrew alphabet (aleph bet) was a pictographic script with each letter or character being a picture and each having its own meaning. Alphabets in other languages do not have letters with an individual meaning so a group of letters is needed to make up one word. Words are grouped together to make up one sentence and sentences are grouped together to make up a text like we have done here. In Paleo Hebrew the meaning of each letter/character carries its message into the context or purpose of the root word it forms. The root word carries its meaning into any other word it forms. No other language on earth communicates in this way. No other ancient, almost dead language has been revived and restored to full use like Hebrew has. Hebrew is the only language God chose to communicate with His people so it has become the language of the whole Bible. When Hebrew became limited in its use, God promised to revive it because it is a pure language and it is the only pure language on earth. To prove the Bible was written in Hebrew, the verse, “Therefore wait for Me until the day (period of time) when I rise up to the prey, for My determination is to gather the nations so I may assemble the kingdoms, to pour on them My indignation, all My fierce anger for the entire earth will be devoured with the fire of my jealousy” says the Lord’ (Zephaniah 3:8) contains every character in the Hebrew aleph bet including the five final forms (characters) and no other verse in the Bible has this. These prophetic verses have only been fulfilled since the 1900's. Hebrew was considered a limited, almost dead language but since its restoration, millions of people speak it, study it and study the Bible using it. As a result of the restoration of the Hebrew language and the restoration of Israel according to ancient prophecies, the international church's understanding of God, Yeshua and the gift of salvation from Genesis to Malachi plus the teachings of our Hebrew speaking Messiah and Rabbi Yeshua from Nazareth, has brought unprecedented revival of Christianity throughout the world. Revival and growth of Christianity is the gift we have all received from the revival of Israel and the Hebrew language.

‘Speak to the Children of Israel and tell them they should make tassels on the borders of their garments throughout their generations and they are to weave inside the tassel of each border a cord of blue (blue represents purity). It will be to you a reminder so you may look on it and remember all the commandments of YHWH and do them, to remind you not to follow after your own heart and your own eyes so you are not unfaithful to the Lord your God’ (Numbers 15:38 & 39). These tassels are pronounced ‘tzeet tzeet’. The root word for ‘tzeet’ is blossom. Just as a blossom/tzeet is a sign fruit is being produced, so a tzeet tzeet is a reminder to blossom in God's goodness, follow His ways and bear spiritual fruit when serving Him. To the Hebrew reader, the Bible is full of word-plays, nuances and rhymes to help the reader remember and learn, and these are unique to the Hebrew language and are lost in other language translations. Sometimes these nuances are impossible to translate bringing confusion to some non-Hebrew speaking readers unless they are fully explained. Because the ancient Hebrew characters were pictures, everything in ancient Hebrew can be explained by something that is physical. In the days of Abraham and Moses, if what God was communicating did not relate to something they could understand with their five basic senses, then it did not exist in their world. God wants us to understand Him so He gives us knowledge by using the world we know. Yeshua taught the same way. He said, “Look at the birds; consider the lilies; look at the grass; you are the salt of the earth.” Many years of extensive archaeology and research conducted by Jewish and Christian scientists living in Israel have concluded, Yeshua spoke almost exclusively Hebrew, although He could speak Aramaic, Greek and Latin when He needed to. Hebrew text was etched onto first century ossuaries and coins unearthed by archaeology. The inscription on the top of Yeshua's cross was written in Hebrew,

Latin and Greek (John 19:20). In the first century, Josephus wrote his historical accounts in Hebrew. The entire Old Testament has been carefully written and preserved in the Hebrew language for centuries. The New Testament has idioms and nuances that only make sense in Hebrew, plus the word order, expressions and extended passages of Scripture can only be found in Hebrew. They can be translated into other languages but the base or root of them can only be found in Hebrew. The way Yeshua answered questions by asking other questions is a Hebrew custom.

The ancient Hebrew language can be traced back to Heber, also known as Eber, Noah's descendent through Shem's bloodline (Genesis 10:21 to 25). Eber was an ancestor of Abraham (Luke 3:34 to 36) and it is from Eber's name where we get the word Hebrew. At that time in history the entire world spoke only one language (Genesis 11:1), so we can assume Hebrew was the language spoken by Adam and Eve. Other languages did not occur until the Tower of Babel (Genesis 11:7 to 9). Moses spoke Hebrew and etchings found at the Mount Sinai area revealed the Paleo Hebrew was spoken and written during Moses' time. The original Ten Commandments and the Laws of Moses were written in Hebrew. Jewish people did not learn to speak Aramaic until their exile to Babylon where the Tower of Babel once stood. Persia also spoke Aramaic. Aramaic is a Semitic language quite similar to Hebrew in the same way Spanish and Portuguese are similar languages. When the Jewish people returned from Babylon they spoke Aramaic, which was assimilated into the original Hebrew language the Jewish inhabitants of Jerusalem still spoke. The poor, the farmers and other workers remained in Israel (Jeremiah 52:16) when most of the Jewish people were exiled to Babylon so Hebrew was spoken in Israel and has been all this time, although it was limited because of the other cultures and languages that overtook Jerusalem so many times. Occasionally Aramaic words were written in the Bible, like Raca (you fool, Matthew 5:22) and Talitha cumi (Mark 5:41 & 42), meaning, "Girl, I tell you, get up." The girl was about twelve years old. Yeshua may have said this because it is possible the young girl's parents spoke Aramaic. Some Jewish people knew Aramaic and used Aramaic words but that does not mean they spoke it fluently. Many Latin words are used in the English language but most English speakers do not speak fluent Latin.

After the successful Maccabean war about 160 BC, Jewish nationalism brought Hebrew back as the national language of Jewish people living in Israel, pushing Greek into the minority. This was the time when the Lord was preparing Israel for the first coming of our Messiah Yeshua. The Land of Israel had to be an independent nation with the Hebrew language, culture, laws, feasts, holy days and everything Jewish so when Yeshua came, He could grow up wholly Jewish without any Greek influence. The Romans were there but the Jewish culture was strong. The Dead Sea Scrolls reveal Hebrew was the language spoken and written in Israel in the first century. The majority of the Scrolls were written in Hebrew and no Aramaic texts of the Old Testament were found. The Essenes who wrote the Dead Sea Scrolls spoke and wrote in Hebrew. Yeshua lived in a vibrant Jewish community where Hebrew was a constant written and spoken language. They all followed the Laws of Moses and were committed to reading and teaching the Old Testament to their children and to new converts to Christianity (Acts 13:42). The first century Jewish people did sometimes speak Aramaic, Latin or Greek but they were only secondary languages. In Israel today, the national language is Hebrew. Sometimes others speak English or Arabic but they are only secondary languages. Yeshua taught in the pure language or holy tongue given to them from God. To appreciate the salvation message more fully, we need to appreciate God's holy language, Hebrew, was the language He chose to bring His message to the entire earth, even if it is translated into many other languages and He chose only the Jewish people to bring His Word to the entire earth. No other people or language was asked to spread His oracles to the world. 'God shows His Word to Jacob and His statutes and His ordinances to Israel. He has not done this for any other nation. They do not know His ordinances. Praise Yah!' (Psalm 147:19 & 20). 'What advantage does the Jew have? ... Much in every way because they were entrusted with the oracles of God' (Romans 3:1 & 2). Just as God prepared Israel and revived the Hebrew language for the first appearance of Yeshua, He is once again preparing Israel and has revived Hebrew in time for Yeshua's second coming.

Anyone who studies the Bible will notice it often speaks in words and phrases that are difficult to understand and may cause confusion in other translations. The Scriptures come from a distant country, a language and script completely different from ours, a different time and era, and an ancient culture, all very different from our own. Many Christians use translations that have brought the Bible into our various cultures and languages, so we hardly notice its unique foreign 'accent'. We may be perplexed when the verses we are reading do not make sense to us or we may think we understand it when a deeper meaning slips our intellectual grasp. The prophets who wrote the Bible, wrote down what God Himself told them to write and record and because it was written in Hebrew, in a different land and culture, we may miss the deeper insights that are lost in translation from ancient Hebrew into our modern languages. These insights and words of wisdom are often the 'keys' to understanding the text so we can apply it to our own lives. This is especially true when we read the Old Testament, which was the Scriptures Yeshua and the Apostles used. The Bible is more than a book, it is the living thoughts and words of our Creator God, given to us so we can

live by God's precepts and holiness. The Bible is a living entity. Yeshua Himself is the Word of God Who came in the flesh to show us the way to eternal life. 'Yeshua is clothed in a garment sprinkled with (His own) blood. His name is called, "The Word of God" (Revelation 19:13).

When we are able make the Bible come into clearer Spiritual focus, grasp its meanings and hear the written Words of God as they were originally intended, it gives us exciting new insights into God's realm. When Constantine had the Bible translated into Greek then had most of the Hebrew writings destroyed, his actions made people believe the New Testament was written in Greek. Sadly, many people still believe that and it is taught in Bible colleges around the world. That is incorrect. Faithful Rabbi's in that time period carefully preserved the Bible, written in the original Hebrew and the Dead Sea Scrolls confirm the reality of the New Testament written in Hebrew. When Paul wrote his epistles, he said he wrote them in his own hand and used a scribe named Tertius only once (Romans 16:22). Paul could not speak Greek and when asked if he could speak Greek, Paul said he was Jewish (Acts 21:37 to 39) and he preached only in Hebrew (Acts 21:40; 22:2; 26:14). Since he could not write in Greek and wrote his epistles in his own hand (1 Corinthians 16:21; 2 Corinthians 13:10; Galatians 6:11; Colossians 4:18; 2 Thessalonians 3:17; Philemon 1:19) we can logically deduct, the New Testament was written in Hebrew then translated into Greek for the Greek speaking new converts. So much study time has been utterly wasted trying to make sense of a Greek New Testament, when if the Bible students had been studying the Scriptures in Hebrew they would have learned and understood so much more.

Our Hebraic roots give us a deeper meaning to the Scriptures if we study the Bible from a Hebrew/Jewish point of view. Every language and culture sees the world in their own way. When we study the Scriptures through Jewish eyes we find the simplest words express ideas about God and our relationship with Him that encompass our lives. Looking at life through another culture lets us see the world from a different perspective and we find rational wisdom in the Scriptures when we see how the ancient prophets viewed life. This wisdom can impact how we live our day-to-day lives. Ancient Hebrews expressed themselves with images built on the world around them. When we enter their world and see it through their eyes we can comprehend their teachings more deeply. The Hebrew word-pictures and characters contain vibrant images to teach new things. The ancient Hebrews viewed their family life very differently than modern families. Life revolved around raising children in the Lord and the family was an expression of a successful life. Modern life focuses on wealth and finance and they think being wealthy is success. Scripturally, raising children in the Lord is true success. In modern times, young children are rarely raised by loving mothers but are sent to childcare to be raised by paid babysitters who have no emotional attachment to the children, resulting in millions of emotionally broken children growing up to be broken young adults. We only have to see the level of emotional and mental illness, depression, suicides, divorces, violence, crime, rebellion and a breakdown in society in young adults to see the damage the separation from mothers at a young age does to these children. That is not success, that is failure. When we understand the ancient family and how it forms the core of society, it will help us grasp the importance of children revealed in the Scripture message. No ancient Hebrew child was raised in childcare. They were raised in the Lord, educated and taught the Scriptures by their parents along with a united extended family and society.

Prayer is central to our walk with God. Yeshua prayed differently to how we pray today and He taught us how to pray in a way many modern people would not be able to understand. When we look at how Yeshua prayed we will learn how we should pray. Yeshua gave us the example in the Lord's Prayer when He said, "Pray like this" (Matthew 6:9 to 13; Luke 11:2 to 4). "Our Father, Who is in heaven, hallowed (kept holy) is Your name. Let Your Kingdom come. Let Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive our sins as we have forgiven (left, remitted, let go of the sins and have given up resentment against) those who have sinned against us. Lead (bring) us not into temptation but deliver us from the evil one, for Yours is the Kingdom, the power and the glory forever, Amen." The Bible says we should give thanks (Ephesians 5:20), bless the Lord (Psalm 18:46), pray with a clean heart (Psalm 24:3 to 5), persist in prayer (Luke 18:1) which means to pray without ceasing or pray without giving up (1 Thessalonians 5:17 & 22) and always abstain from every kind of evil.

'Amen' in Hebrew means, 'let it be so' or 'let it happen' or 'I agree'. It has to do with faith, belief, trust and truth. Ancient prophets spoke a lot about the coming Messiah. The Jewish population understood but some of them rejected Him anyway. Many words and phrases used by Yeshua are foreign to us. He spoke in the third person most of the time using phrases like, 'Son of Man', 'Good Shepherd' and He spoke in parables, all different to our mode of speech. We need to understand Yeshua's culture so we can then absorb His Scriptures. The words of Yeshua and the rest of the New Testament are self-explanatory when read in the context of the Hebrew language and culture. The Gospel teaching becomes awkward when trying to explain the parables in a language other than Hebrew. The parables, vibrant imagery and 'word pictures' make little sense outside of Hebrew because they are written in the Hebraic language nuances, patterns and idioms that point towards the Hebrew culture and context. This reveals the importance of understanding the style of

the Hebrew language so we can understand the entire Bible. We need to remember, much of the New Testament is copied from the Old Testament as Yeshua and the Apostles taught from the ancient Hebrew texts. The New Testament had not been written when Yeshua was on earth so the Old Testament was the only Bible He had. Peter knew the Apostles' epistles were going to be added to their sacred Scriptures he called 'the other Scriptures'. 'Regard the patience of our Lord as salvation as our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given to him (from God) wrote to you. In all of his letters, speaking in them of salvation, there are some things that are hard to understand, which the ignorant and unsettled twist as they do to the 'other Scriptures' to their own destruction' (2 Peter 3:15 & 16), and we know Paul wrote in Hebrew.

Hebrew has a small vocabulary compared to other languages and each word usually has a deeper meaning than the corresponding word in another language. Hebrew has many homonyms. It will help our understanding if we can grasp the fact, the translators had to choose which meaning to use. The Hebrew word 'Bith' or 'Bayit' or 'Beth' can mean household, family home, homestead, animal barn, tent, blood lineage as in 'house of Judah' and sometimes a Temple. Did the translator mean the family home, the holy Temple or the bloodline? Words like stubborn and stiff-necked are interchangeable. Bethel is a city but it also means, 'House of God', which is the Temple. To 'listen' can mean to hear or to obey when an instruction has been spoken. The Hebrew word Shema means something like 'listen, hear and obey'. This means to listen to what our God is telling us, pay attention and obey Him. When we know the full meaning of Shema we will be able to understand what Yeshua meant when He said many times, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear." Let them hear, understand, listen with their heart not just their ears and obey the Lord's instructions (Matthew 11:15 plus 13:15 & 16). The Bible is full of these subtle nuances. It is not only words that are different. Names can be confusing. Some Hebrew names, both personal and locations, are interchangeable. Jacob is also Israel (Genesis 35:10). Esau is also Edom (Genesis 36:8). Jerusalem is also Zion (Psalm 147:12). Bethlehem is also Ephrath (Genesis 35:19). Bethel is also Luz (Genesis 35:6). The cultural differences can make some Bible narratives difficult to understand. Cultural differences are very apparent when we compare them with other languages. We can be deeply blessed simply by studying the ancient Hebrew culture written within the Scriptural context. Jewish people have spoken Hebrew for thousands of years and they have consistently and diligently studied their Scriptural scrolls over the centuries so they know much more about the Bible than Gentiles. Jewish teachings shed light on the language of the Bible during Yeshua's time on earth. Studying ancient Jewish history helps us to understand the world and culture Yeshua grew up in and His teachings take on new meaning when read within the original context, language and setting.

All humanity has some knowledge of God and His existence, even the unbelievers who pretend not to. In Hebrew, having knowledge of God runs much deeper and is more than acknowledging His existence or knowing about Him. It means to know God intimately in the way Moses knew Him when they conversed face to face like friends (Exodus 33:11). "Oh, that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection" (Philippians 3:10). Knowing God is more than knowing information, it is being acquainted with Him, knowing His ways and knowing His actions. 'Please show me Your ways so I may know You, so I may find favour in Your sight' ... 'Show me Your ways Lord. Teach me Your paths. Guide me in Your truth and teach me, for You are the God of my salvation' (Exodus 33:13; Psalm 25:4 & 5). Knowing God is loving Him with very fibre of our being. 'You will love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul and with all your might' ... 'You will love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind and with all your strength. This is the first commandment' (Deuteronomy 6:5; Mark 12:30). When people refuse to walk with God here on earth, Yeshua will not accept them on Judgement Day because they did not want to know Him intimately. On Judgement Day Yeshua will tell them, "I never knew you. Depart from Me, you who work iniquity" (Matthew 7:23). Knowing God in the deepest sense is being devoted to our Creator no matter what the circumstances, being filled with respect and reverence, understanding His desire to save humanity from a lost eternity, which culminates in being part of His holy Bride (Revelation 19:7). Knowing God in the Hebrew sense leads to eternal life.

One of the most beautiful words in any language is the Hebrew word 'Shalom'. Shalom means more than just hello, goodbye and peace, it is a verbal blessing for completeness, health, prosperity, safety, well-being, wholeness, a lack of trouble as well as a holy peace that passes all human understanding and emotion (Philippians 4:7). The Lord's peace is a lack of trouble, calmness of spirit and a sense of well-being. 'The Lord bless you and keep you. May the Lord make His face to shine on you and be gracious to you. May the Lord turn His face toward you and give you peace' (Numbers 6:24 to 26). 'Mercy to you, peace and love be multiplied' (Jude 1:2). All of this from one word Shalom. 'The Lord will give strength to His people and will bless His people with peace. Shalom' (Psalm 29:11).

Amen and God bless you.

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