

The Hebrew Corner

Is there Hebrew in your future? What follows may lead you to believe that Hebrew is more than just the language of the Old Testament.

Consider the names of the first people described in Genesis. All the names have a meaning in Hebrew, similar to how the name “Mr. Farmer” means something in English. For example, Adam (אָדָם, ah-DAHM) means man, and Noah is from a Hebrew root (נֹחַ, NOO-ahch) which means to rest. This suggests that, in the beginning, Hebrew was spoken. Also in Genesis, the story of the tower of Babel is told, and from this we know that the earth was all of one language. However, we learn that due to the pride and arrogance of the people of Shinar, they planned to make a tower to reach Heaven. Because of this, God confused their language, which is evidently the point in time that the earth became of many languages. Note that a son of Eber (עֵבֶר, AY-vehr, *the name that some believe is the origin of the name Hebrew*), was named Peleg (פֶּלֶג, PEH-lehg), or in English, cleft, canal, or channel, indicating division. The time of Peleg may have been near the time that this division of languages took place.

Now let's look at the prophetic book of Revelation, the last book of the New Testament (B'rit Hadashah). The following passage is from Revelation 5:14:

“And the four beasts said, Amen. And the four and twenty elders fell down and worshipped him that liveth for ever and ever.”

Hebrew is clearly being spoken in Heaven! The Hebrew word amen

(אָמֵן, ah-MAYN) means truly. Again, in Revelation 19:4 we see Hebrew spoken:

“And the four and twenty elders and the four beasts fell down and worshipped God that sat on the throne, saying, Amen; Alleluia.”

In the above passage, alleluia or in Hebrew, hallelujah (הללויה, hah-leh-loo-YAH), meaning praise Yah in English, is spoken in Heaven.

There are some pointed references to Hebrew being restored as the language of God's people in the Tanach. For example, Zephaniah 3:9 reads as follows:

“For then I will return to the people a pure language, that they may all call upon the name of the LORD, to serve him with one consent.”

So what will this pure language be? For a clue, we need only to look at the previous verse, Zephaniah 3:8, in the Hebrew text. Of the 23,213 verses in the Tanach, this is the only verse (verified by computer) that contains all 22 letters of the Hebrew alphabet plus all of the 5 final forms of letters which have a different form at the end of a word. This is a clear indication that Hebrew is the language that will be restored to the people. When will this happen? Let's look at the English translation of Zephaniah 3:8:

“Therefore wait ye upon me, saith the LORD, until the day that I rise up to the prey: for my determination is to gather the nations, that I may assemble the kingdoms, to pour upon them mine indignation, even all my fierce anger: for all the earth shall be devoured with the fire of my jealousy.”

The day being described here is the “day of the LORD”, the day of judgment referred to in Chapter 1 of Zephaniah and other books of

the Tanach.

It is worth noting that that there is an ironic twist to a verse from the book of Esther, which also has all 22 letters, but only 4 of the 5 final forms, missing the final tsaddi (ץ). Here is the verse (Esther 3:13):

“And the letters were sent by posts into all the king's provinces, to destroy, to kill, and to cause to perish, all Jews, both young and old, little children and women, in one day, even upon the thirteenth day of the twelfth month, which is the month Adar, and to take the spoil of them for a prey.”

A Hebrew word which contains the missing final form of tsaddi, is the word ayts (עץ, AYTS), which means tree, wood, or gallows. This is the very word used in Esther 5:14 to refer to the gallows built by Haman to hang Mordecai, the Jew. The missing final tsaddi of verse Esther 3:13 can be viewed as representing the futility of Haman's plot (and other similar plots over the years) to destroy the Jews, and to hang Mordecai on the gallows. In fact, as the book of Esther recounts, not only were Mordecai and the Jews spared, but Haman was hanged on the gallows instead, and the enemies of the Jews in the provinces of Persia were defeated. Likewise, their language of Hebrew has been revived, and is spoken in modern day Israel.

Further evidence of the future importance of the Hebrew language comes from the following passage, Isaiah 19:18:

“In that day shall five cities in the land of Egypt speak the language of Canaan; one shall be called, The city of destruction.”

Egyptians speaking Hebrew! Could this be referring to the great day

of Yahweh, the impending judgment of the nations, and the coming millennial reign of Jesus, our Yeshua? Will Hebrew be established as the universal language, on the day when all mankind is humbled? If so, amen and hallelujah! Blessings to each of you and your families. Shalom!