NOTES AND COMMUNICATIONS

1. A UNIQUE COMBINATION OF ACCENTS

The third edition of Biblia Hebraica reads at Ezek. xx, 31:

אֲשֶׁר יִמְסְרוּ לֶךָ בֶּן יִחֲלַלֶם

The marginal massoretic remark to this, "לֶךָ בֶּן יִחֲלַלֶם" ("does not recur with this accentuation") becomes intelligible only on consulting the original MS according to which BH was printed, Leningrad B19a.\(^1\) There the second word of the quotation reads רִמְסֵרִים. Apparently the editors of BH overlooked this curious accentuation, which recurs, with the same massoretic note, in the Aleppo and Cairo Codices.

The massoretic note is quite right in drawing attention to the uniqueness of this accentuation. Two accents on one word are by no means rare in the Hebrew Bible, but the first of the two always appears in a place where Ga'ya would be expected, i.e. at a position of secondary stress at one remove from the main stress. The two accents in the word discussed here, Qadma and Mahpakh, are found together in one word in this normal fashion seven times, e.g.

כַּלּוּ יְבִלָּתֵלִית Num. xx, 1; יְבִלָּתֵלִית Ezek. xlilii, 11.\(^2\)

The verse discussed here, however, shows both accents on one and the same syllable. The usual reason for combining the two accents does therefore not account for our case. I would suggest that we have here a "conflict of accents": the word ought, on the one hand, to have been accented with Mahpakh, this being the servus of Pashta, while Qadma does not immediately precede Pashta; on the other hand Qadma invariably follows Little Telisha (here in בָּשָׁן). To satisfy these two requirements of his system, the accentuator put both accents on the same syllable.

There is one other case in the Hebrew Bible where two accents stand on one and the same syllable: this is the combination of Great Telisha and Geresh, found five times, as is indicated in the notes of the Massorah Magna at Gen. v, 2: יְבִלָּתֵלִית רִמְסֵרִים, etc. ... יְבִלָּתֵלִית רִמְסֵרִים, etc.

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1. I have consulted this in a photograph kept at the National and University Library, Jerusalem, to whom I herewith express my thanks.

("five words are accented with two accents, namely Telisha and Gereš; their
mnemonic is..., and the reader must intone the Gereš before the Telisha,
despite the fact that Great Telisha is written at the beginning of the word").

The word נִבְּרַיָּה is accented in the same way as here not only, as already
stated, in A L C, but also in Ginsburg's MS ד (BM Harl. 5720, ca. 1100–1120
C. E.), where the massoretic note reads: א:ו. In Ginsburg's
MSS א (Ar. Or. 16, ca. 1120) andה (Add. 4708, ca. 1180–1200), the accentuation
already is reduced to הֵּֽנֵֽיְּבָּרָֽיָּה, and the same we find in many other MSS. In
late MSS and in the printed editions, however, this was felt to be contrary to
the accentuation rules, and was "improved" by writing נִבְּרַיָּה with Qadma, as
we find it in Letteris and in the usual Rabbinic Bibles. We have thus an instruc-
tive example of an early accentuation not being understood by later editors
and emended.

I. YEIVIN

2. A BRIEF REPORT ON THE HEBREW UNIVERSITY BIBLE PROJECT

The project of a new critical edition of the Hebrew Bible was first put forward
by M. H. Goshen-Gottstein towards the end of 1955. After preliminary
discussions throughout the ensuing two years, the project was finally adopted
by the World Union of Jewish Studies at the Second World Congress of
Jewish Studies in the summer of 1957. Work in most sections of the HUBP
started in 1958.

The HUBP is a project of the Hebrew University, attached to the Institute of
Jewish Studies.

The aim of the Project is to edit the Massoretic text according to the most
authentic MS of the Ben Asher school, viz. the Aleppo Codex, and to provide

3. The exact form in which this double accentuation is executed is worthy of notice.
In BC the Telisha invariably precedes the Gereš, but not in AL. In A two of the
five possible occurrences are preserved; in both the Gereš precedes the Telisha:

הֶלְסָּה (Ezek. xlvi, 10; L הָלְסָּה; in BH erroneously only one Gereš);

נָּשָּׁה (Zeph. ii, 15; so L; in BH erroneously only Gerešhayim).

Two further occurrences in L:

נָּשָּׁה (Gen. v, 29; = BH); נָּשָּׁה (II Kings xvii, 13; BH only Telisha).

In L, Telisha precedes the Gereš only in נָּשָּׁה (Lev. x, 4; possibly there is an
erasure here); so also B.

this text with critical apparatuses. These will be such as to enable the user to
trace the development of the Hebrew Bible text in all its documented forms.
It will exhaustively utilize the following groups of documents:

a) The Masoretic text: Ben Asher codices, selected other Hebrew codices,
   Geniza fragments.

b) Pre- and Extra-Masoretic Hebrew traditions: The scrolls and fragments
   from the Judaean Desert, the Samaritan version, and quotations in
   Rabbinic and Karaite literature and liturgy.

c) Ancient Versions: The Aramaic, Syriac, Greek, Latin, and Arabic versions
   and the versions derived from these; quotations in the Apocrypha and
   Pseudepigrapha, the New Testament, Hellenistic Jewish literature, and
   early Christian literature.

While it is not the aim of the HUBP to prepare editions of the texts used,
manuscript research is carried out with regard to those versions and traditions
which are not available in critical editions. This concerns especially the quota-
tions from Rabbinic literature, the Syriac Peshitta, and the Arabic translation
of Saadiah Gaon.

At present work proceeds along the following lines:

1. Preparation of the first volume of the planned Bible edition. This will be
   the Book of Isaiah, edited by M. H. Goshen-Gottstein. It is hoped that
   the material will be ready for printing within two years.

2. Publication of studies on textual matters in Textus.

3. A series of Publications, under the general editorship of C. Rabin. The
   following items are planned: The Massorah of the Aleppo Codex (D. S.
   Loewinger); The System of Accents and Metheg in the Ben Asher Codices
   (I. Yeivin); Remnants of the Syro-Hexapla (M. H. Goshen-Gottstein);
   The Arabic Translation of Saadiah to Isaiah (J. Shunnari); The Syro-
   Palestinian O.T. (M. H. Goshen-Gottstein with the assistance of H.
   Shiron).

4. Preparation of an Index of Rabbinic quotations from the O.T. (S. Talmom),
   and of a Bibliography of Textual Studies (S. Talmom).
   The Editors are responsible for the following sections:
   M. H. Goshen-Gottstein: Septuagint, Peshitta, Targums, Hebrew MSS.
   C. Rabin: Vulgate, Vetus Latina, Arabic and Ethiopic versions, Hellenistic
   and Inter-Testamental literature, and New Testament.
   S. Talmom: Dead Sea Scrolls, Samaritan tradition, parallel texts in the O.T.
   Quotations in Rabbinic and Karaite literature, and Bibliography.
   In addition to the editors, Mr. E. Eliner is responsible for Rabbinic literature,
   and Dr. D. S. Loewinger for Masorah studies.