

# JOURNAL OF NORTHWEST SEMITIC LANGUAGES

VOLUME 48/1

2022

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Department of Ancient Studies

Stellenbosch University

The *Journal of Northwest Semitic Languages*  
(ISSN 0259-0131) is published half-yearly

*JNSL* is an accredited South African journal. It publishes peer reviewed research articles on the Ancient Near East. As part of the *peer review policy* all contributions are refereed before publication by scholars who are recognised as experts in the particular field of study.

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The Editor: *JNSL*  
Department of Ancient Studies  
Stellenbosch University  
Private Bag X1, Matieland, ZA-7602  
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*Damian Klop (Shijiazhuang Tiedao University)*

## **THE STATUS OF BEER AND WINE IN ANCIENT EGYPTIAN SOCIETY**

### *ABSTRACT*

*This contribution compares the status of beer and wine in ancient Egypt to ascertain the validity of Homan's (2004:84) argument that scholars exaggerate the lower status of beer. The respective status of Egyptian beer and wine was determined and compared to scholarly opinions justifying a lower status for beer in terms of how production, consumption, economic exchange, health and religion influenced their status to ascertain which view is the most convincing. It was determined that beer held a lower status in general but that Homan is justified in asserting that its status was exaggerated as beer demonstrated a high status in general and a higher status than wine in certain aspects.*

*Journal of Northwest Semitic Languages 48/1 (2022), pp. 25-41*

*Scott B Noegel (University of Washington)*

## **ON THE DYSPHEMISTIC BAAL NAMES IN 2 SAMUEL**

### *ABSTRACT*

*In this essay I argue that the names Ishbosheth, Mephibosheth, and Jerubbesheth in 2 Samuel are not merely dysphemistic efforts to avoid pronouncing the name Baal, but constitute a literary device that functions to mark the shame of these figures. As such, they figure on a par with other devices like the mnemonic of odium examined previously in this journal and various forms of appellative paronomasia which feature prominently in Samuel.*

*Joshua J Spoelstra (Stellenbosch University)*

## **THE LITERARY SHAPES OF THE PRIMEVAL HISTORY: A CASE FOR CHIASM IN GENESIS 1-11**

### *ABSTRACT*

*This article concerns the macro literary structures which encompass the Primeval History (Gen 1-11). One type of literary structure often proffered, with some variation, is the parallel or matching sequence; this device is surveyed and assessed, evaluating its strengths and weaknesses. It is argued that a simultaneous structuring device is present in the Primeval History: the chiasmus. Through insights from source- and redaction-critical methods as well as thematic, linguistic observations, a chiasm is constructed which accounts for the entirety of Gen 1-11. Reading/interpreting the Urgeschichte as a concentrically shaped overture to the HB, especially the Primary History (Gen 12-2Kgs 25), has a cyclical rhetorical effect; this is addressed and elaborated, which also indirectly validates the thesis.*

*Clemens Steinberger (Universität Göttingen)*

**DAS VERSMUSTER A-B | A<sup>(n)</sup>-B<sup>(n)</sup>  
IN DER AKKADISCHEN UND UGARITISCHEN POESIE**

*ABSTRACT*

*The verse pattern A-B | A<sup>(n)</sup>-B<sup>(n)</sup> is attested in Akkadian as well as in Ugaritic poetry. It occurs in both verses and strophes. In the a-b // a<sup>(n)</sup>-b<sup>(n)</sup>-verse, two cola each composed of two syntactically independent units, are linked: the a-part of the first colon matches the a-part of the second colon; likewise, the b-parts of the two cola correspond. The A // B | A<sup>(n)</sup> // B<sup>(n)</sup>-strophe, on the other hand, connects two or more verses that mostly consist of two non-parallel cola: the A-colon of the first verse equals the A-colon of the second (and third, fourth, etc.) verse; similarly, the B-cola correspond.*

*Dmytro Tsolin (Ukrainische Katholische Universität)*

**ZUR VERWENDUNG DER VERBALFORMEN IN  
SYRISCHEN BEDINGUNGSSÄTZEN.  
TEIL 2: DIE KONTRAFAKTISCHEN  
KONDITIONALSÄTZE**

*INHALTSANGABE*

*Die Vielfalt der Prädikatformen in syrischen Bedingungssätzen fordert eine ausführliche theoretische Erklärung und deutliche Bestimmung ihrer morphosyntaktischen Funktionen, da manche von diesen Prädikatformen austauschbar zu sein scheinen und sich für ihre Alternierung in den vorhandenen Grammatiken keine ausreichenden Erklärungen finden lassen. In diesem Artikel wird eine Analyse der alternierenden Verbformen in Hinblick sowohl auf ihre temporalen, aktionsartigen und modalen Charakteristiken als auch auf ihre diskursiven Funktionen in Bedingungssätzen geboten. Berücksichtigt werden dabei auch moderne theoretische Ansätze zur Logik der Konditionalität. Außerdem werden einige wichtige Schlüsse bezüglich der Haupttendenzen der Entwicklung der syrischen Verbmorphosyntax gezogen, deren wichtigste Aspekte die zunehmende Verwendung des Partizips und der zusammengesetzten Verbformen darstellt.*



## BOOK REVIEW

Callaham, S N 2021. *Biblical Aramaic for Biblical Interpreters: A Parallel Hebrew-Aramaic Handbook*. Wilmore: GlossaHouse. 266 pages. ISBN 978-1636630151 (Hardback); ISBN 978-1636630144 (Paperback). \$49.88 (Hardback) / \$34.99 (Paperback).

In his new teaching grammar, *Biblical Aramaic for Biblical Interpreters* (or *BABI*), Scott Callaham provides students of Biblical Hebrew (BH) with an elegant and accessible presentation of Biblical Aramaic (BA). Teaching grammars of BA can be difficult for students to navigate and often fail to recruit from a student's prior knowledge of BH. Callaham's book seeks to repair this gap by providing a fresh approach to teaching BA. In the introduction, he states the method and goals of the grammar: to present BA by "extending learning patterns already established through students' study of BH" (viii). He writes, "An ideal sequence of study would entail a year of BH, then this BA course, and lastly a course in BH and BA exegesis". *BABI* then is meant to serve as a fulcrum in this course structure.

The first chapter begins with an introduction to word formation, where great similarities are shared with BH – a helpful encouragement to students who may feel intimidated at first by the new language. Callaham is careful to note differences both in the lexicon ("false friends") and phonology to ensure students are not misled by apparent similarities. Chapters 2-4 review particles. Here he provides a useful visual representation of common prepositions in BA. Chapter 5 then introduces questions in BA, noting how these illocutionary acts rely on universals of human behavior and are therefore similar in both BH and BA. Callaham also cites important recent research on *wh*-words in BH. This is a real advantage of this book: not only is the layout eminently clear, but Callaham distils the most recent research in BH/BA linguistics in his description of each language. Students receive not only a comparative description of the grammars of BH and BA but highlights from recent scholarship as well. Students interested in reading outside the Bible will enjoy the fact that Callaham is also careful to note areas of Aramaic grammar that are incompletely attested in BA but present in other literature (e.g., locative *wh*-questions in the Targums).

Chapters 6-10 address determiners and the nominal domain, and he provides valuable comments on their syntax outside biblical literature (e.g., resumption). This is a good example of the various levels of depth that Callaham engages with in his comparative description of these languages,

a great asset to students interested in interpretation. Chapters 11-19 conclude by reviewing the verbal system. This is an area where *BABI* shines, as Callaham's prior work on the verbal system can be seen in the accessible and excellent introductions to complicated issues at the syntax-semantics interface. For example, he compares the TAM system and word order in BH and BA, noting where they share or diverge from broader features of Semitic, and then follows with a color-coded diagram visualizing the differences. An area where these chapters are extremely useful can be seen in the various visual aids he has created for the verbal system, especially for weak verbs (pp. 116-117).

Overall, this is an excellent teaching grammar in an attractive format. It deserves no serious criticisms, although one might mention that certain linguistic analyses of BH/BA deserve further treatment: *waw* is not polysemous but triggers different meanings as implicatures, differential object marking is not addressed, and selectional restrictions of certain verbs in BH vs BA are sometimes generalized. Callaham also cites recent scholarship on באדין / דיין that relies on a questionable reading of supposed "Aramaisms" in the Septuagint. Readers may also have benefited from an entire chapter dedicated to discourse rather than occasional footnotes. However, the book more than accomplishes its stated goal to introduce students to the grammar of BA *via* BH. And it is to be praised for accomplishing even more by doubling as an intermediate refresher of BH, as well as an introduction to aspects of recent research in Northwest Semitic linguistics.

As a final note, the author has also released *BABI* in a Mandarin Chinese edition. This is not a translation of the English version but the author's original composition, making it the first teaching grammar of BA *composed* entirely in Mandarin Chinese. A Mandarin Chinese edition represents an exciting future for BA teaching and scholarship throughout the world.

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