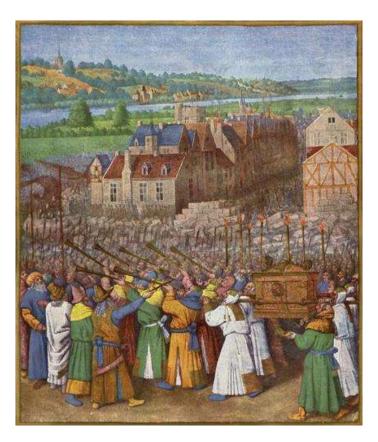
חצוצרות הכהנים

אבנר רמו



Jean Fouquet (1420-1481): Battle of Jericho

In the Book of Numbers we read:

וידבר יהוה אל-משה לאמר. עשה לך שתי חצוצרת כסף

"And YHWH spoke to Moses, saying: Make for yourself two trumpets of silver" (Num 10:1-2).

ובני אהרן הכהנים יתקעו בחצצרות; <u>והיו לכם</u> לחקת עולם לדרתיכם. "And the sons of Aaron, the priests, shall blow with the trumpets; <u>and they shall be</u> to you for a forever statute throughout your generations" (Num 10:8).

Th Greek translator wrote here: "and it shall be to you" which indicates that he believed that here the words: והית זאת לכם: is a letter substitution and a word deletion error of: והית זאת לכם:

Similarly, we read in the Book of Nehemiah:

ומבני הכהנים בחצצרות: זכריה בן-יונתן בן-שמעיה, בן-מתניה בן-מיכיה, בן-זכור בן-אסף.

"And of the priests' sons with trumpets: Zechariah son of Jonathan son of Shemaiah, son of Mattaniah son of Micaiah, son of Zaccur son of Asaph" (Neh 12:35; see also: Num 31:6; Ezr 3:10; Neh 12:41; 1 Ch 16:6; 2 Ch 13:12; 29:26).

Similarly, in the Book of Chronicles we read:

ושבניהו ויושפט ונתנאל ועמשי וזכריהו ובניהו ואליעזר, הכהנים מחצצרים (מחצרים) בחצצרות לפני ארון האלהים;

"And Shebaniah, and Joshaphat, and Nethanel, and Amasai, and Zechariah, and Benaiah, and Eliezer, the priests are trumpeting with the trumpets before the ark of God" (1 Ch 15:24; see also: 2 Ch 5:12).

In the Book of Chronicles we also read:

והנה עמנו בראש האלהים וכהניו, וחצצרות התרועה להריע עליכם; בני ישראל אל-תלחמו עם-יהוה אלהי-אבתיכם כי-לא תצליחו.

וירבעם הסב את-המארב לבוא מאחריהם; ויהיו לפני יהודה והמארב מאחריהם. ויפנו יהודה והנה להם המלחמה פנים ואחור, ויצעקו ליהוה; והכהנים מחצצרים (מחצרים) בחצצרות.

ויריעו איש יהודה; ויהי בהריע איש יהודה והאלהים נגף את-ירבעם וכל-ישראל לפני אביה ויהודה.

"And, behold, God is with us at our head, and His priests with the trumpets of the shouting for (signaling) the shouting against you. Sons of Israel, do not fight against *YHWH*, the God of your fathers; for you shall not prosper.

And Jeroboam turned the ambush to come behind them; and they were before Judah, and the ambush was behind them.

And when Judah looked back, behold, the battle was before and behind them; and they cried to YHWH, and the priests trumpeted with the trumpets.

Ans the men of Judah shouted; and as the men of Judah shouted, it came to pass, that God smote Jeroboam and all Israel before Abijah and Judah" (2 Ch 13:12-15).

In the Book of Numbers the function of the Priests' trumpets are as follows:

ובהקהיל את-הקהל תתקעו ולא תריעו.

"And in assembling the assembly, you shall blow, and you shall not shout" (Num 10:7).

והיו לך למקרא העדה ולמסע את-המחנות.

"And (the trumpets) shall be to you for calling the congregation, and for (ordering) the camps to journey" (Num 10:2).

We also find in this Book:

ובחדש השביעי באחד לחדש מקרא-קדש יהיה לכם, כל-מלאכת עבדה לא תעשו: יום תרועה יהיה לכם.

"And in the seventh month, on the first day of the month, you shall have a holy convocation: you shall not do any work; it will be to you a day of blowing the horn" (Num 29:1).

It is not known why in the English version of this verse the words: יום תרועה was translated to: "a day of blowing the horn." In the Book of Leviticus this day is for: זכרון תרועה, מקרא-קדש "a memorial proclaimed with the blast of horns, a holy convocation" (Lev 23:24).

In the Greek version of this verse instead of "horns" we find "trumpets" Yet both these verses suggest that the term: מקרא-קדש which appears once in the Book of Exodus (Ex 12:16); eight times in the Book of Leviticus, and six times in the Book of Numbers, is not about "holy reading" but about "holy calling with trumpets."

וכי-<u>תבאו</u> מלחמה בארצכם, על-הצר הצרר אתכם, ו<u>הר</u>עתם בחצצרת; ונזכרתם לפני יהוה אלהיכם, ונושעתם מאיביכם.

"And if <u>you come</u> [to] war in your land, against the adversary that oppress you, and you shall <u>sound an alarm</u> with trumpets; and you shall be remembered before *YHWH* your God, and you shall be saved from your enemies" (Num 10:9).

However, the logic of this verse suggests that here the words: וכי-תבאו מלחמה בארצכם are an order type error of: וכי-תב<u>וא</u> מלחמה בארצכם - "and if a war comes to your land." It is also suggested that here the words: והרעתם בחצצרת are a letter substitution error of:

מרעתם בחצצרת - "and you shall blow with the trumpets."

<u>וביום שמחתכם</u> ובמועדיכם ובראשי חדשיכם, ותקעתם בחצצרת על עלתיכם ועל זבחי שלמיכם; והיו לכם לזכרון לפני אלהיכם,

"And in the day of your gladness, and in your appointed times, and in your new moons, you shall blow with the trumpets over your burnt-offerings, and over the sacrifices of your peace-offerings; and they shall be to you for a memorial before your God" (Num 10:10).

Yet, the logic of this verse suggests that here the words: ובינם שמחתכם are a vowel letter exchange and order type error of: ובימיַ שמחתכם - "And in the days of your gladness."

Indeed, we read in the Book of Chronicles about King Hezekiah:

ויעמדו הלוים בכלי דויד והכהנים בחצצרות. ויאמר חזקיהו להעלות העלה <u>לה</u>מזבח; ובעת החל העולה החל שיר-יהוה, <u>והחצצרות ועל-ידי</u> כלי דויד מלך-ישראל.

וכל-הקהל משתחוים והשיר משורר, וה[]חצצרות מחצצרים (מחצרים): הכל עד לכלות העלה.

"And the Levites stood with the instruments of David, and the priests with the trumpets. And Hezekiah commanded to offer the burnt-offering upon the altar. And when the burnt-offering began, [the] song of YHWH began [also], and the trumpets, and with the instruments of David king of Israel.

And all the congregation prostrated themselves, and the song is sung, and the [] trumpeting; all this [continued] until the burnt-offering was finished" *2 Ch 29:26-28).

The Hebrew syntax, and the understanding of the English (but not the Greek) translators suggest that in verse 2 Ch 29:27 the word: להמזבח is a letter deletion and mis-division to words of: "upon the altar." In addition, it is suggested that in this verse the words:

is a letter deletion, a letter substitution, and word insertion error of: החל שיר-יהוה בחצצרות ועל-ידי c"begun the song to YHWH with trumpets and with the instruments of David."

The logic of these verses suggests that in verse 2 Ch 29:28 the words:

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In contrast to what we read about the roles of the two silver trumpets of the Priests, we find in the Book of Joshua:

ויריחו <u>סגרת ו</u>מסגרת מפני בני ישראל: אין יוצא ואין בא. ויאמר יהוה אל-יהושע, ראה נתתי בידך את-יריחו ואת-מלכה, [] גבורי החיל. וסבת<u>ם</u> את-העיר כל אנשי המלחמה, <u>הקיף</u> את-העיר פעם אחת; כה תעש<u>ה</u> ששת ימים. ושבעה כהנים ישאו שבעה <u>שופרות היובלים</u> לפני הארון, וביום השביעי תסבו את-העיר שבע פעמים; והכהנים יתקעו בשופרות.

והיה במשך בקרן היובל, <u>בשמעכם (כשמעכם) את-קול השופר</u> יריעו כל-העם תרועה גדולה; ונפלה חומת העיר תחתיה, ועלו העם איש נגדו.

"And Jericho <u>was straitly shut up</u> from before the children of Israel: none is camming out, and none is camming in.

And YHWH said to Joshua: See, I have given into your hand Jericho, and its king, [] the mighty men of valor.

<u>And you shall compass</u> the city all the men of war, <u>going around</u> the city once. So you shall do six days.

And seven priests shall bear seven <u>rams' horns</u> before the ark; and in the seventh day you shall compass the city seven times, and the priests shall blow with the horns.

And it shall be, that when they make a long blast with the ram's horn, and when you hear the sound of the horn, all the people shall shout a great shout; and the wall of the city shall fall down flat, and the people shall go up every man straight before him" (Jos 6:1-5).

However, the Hebrew syntax suggests that in verse Jos 6:1 the words: מיריחו סגרת ומסגרת are a letter substitution, and a word insertion error of: ויריחו סגרה "and Jericho was shut up."

The logic of these verses suggests that in verse Jos 6:2 the word: את - "and the." The Hebrew grammar suggests that in verse Jos 6:3 the words: סבבו את-העיר כל אנשי המלחמה are a letter substitution error of: יסבבו את-העיר כל אנשי המלחמה - "And (all the men of war) shall encompass the city." It is also suggested that in this verse the words: הקיף את-העיר פעם אחת are vowel letter deletion error of: יַקיפוַ את-העיר פעם אחת - "and they shall encompass the city once."

The content of verse Jos 6:5 suggests that the marked words were inserted by a late scribe for explaining the unusual expression at the beginning of this verse: והיה במשך בקרן היובל. Yet the content of verses Jos 6:1-5 suggests that these words are a word substitution error of:
- "and it will be when they hear the Jubal's trumpet."

In verse Jos 6:4 we are told that priest carried seven שופרות היובלים (see also: Jos 6:6, 8, 13) which was translated to Greek as "sacred trumpets" (or "trumpets"), and to English as: "rams' horns". Yet it is not clear what is the basis for these understandings.

In the Book of Genesis we read:

ותלד עדה את-יבל: הוא היה אבי [] ישב אהל ומקנה. ושם אחיו, יובל: הוא היה אבי כל-תפש כנור ועוגב. וצלה <u>גם הוא</u> ילדה את-תובל קין, <u>לטש</u> כל-חרש נחשת וברזל;

"And Adah bore Jabal; he was the father of [] that dwell in tents and have herds. And his brother's name was Jubal; he was the father of every handler of the harp and the pipe.

And Zillah, she also bore Tubal-cain, the forger of every worker of brass and iron" (Gen 4:20-22).

The Syntax of these verses suggests that in verse Gen 4:20 the word: כל - "every" is erroneously missing, in verse Gen 4:22 the words: גם הוא are superfluous, and the word erroneously replaced the word: אבי - "the father of." It is also suggested that: שופרות היובלים are "brass trumpets" invented by - תובל/יובל - "Jubal/Tubal."