

# Chapter One: A general survey of the Alphabet:

## The beginning of alphabetic writing:

- Evidences elucidate the Near East in the second millennium BCE with:

- 17<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> Century BCE: Acrophonic scripts, a hieroglyphic with the first picture as the sentence noun.

- 14<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> Century BCE: Ugaritic clay tablets

- 13<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> Century BCE: Single inscriptions

- Generally, 20-ish characters:

- 28: Proto-canaanite

- 22: Hebrew

- 30: Ugaritic

- Phoenician artifacts from sea trade:

- Nora, Sardinia, and Crete bowls

- Arrowheads

- Tablets

- Coffins.

Countless photos  
in book

- Language heritage derives from:

- Similar history, tools, and calendars.

- Punic Wars (9<sup>th</sup> Century BCE):

- Phoenician was a major language in North Africa, with dialects, styles, and colonies.

- The language faded in trade by 300 BCE, proof by : lack of coins, popular writing methods, strokes, ligatures, and boldness.

- o Soon after the Punic wars, cultic objects led Hebrew's down:

- jars
- stone seals
- amulets
- tablets

- jars
- Ivory inscriptions
- Alabaster tablets
- the revalts an

- Ivory inscriptions
- Researchers studied the revolts and riots about the destruction of cultic items.

- o Primary items in the Neo-Punic era

- Gezer's Calendar

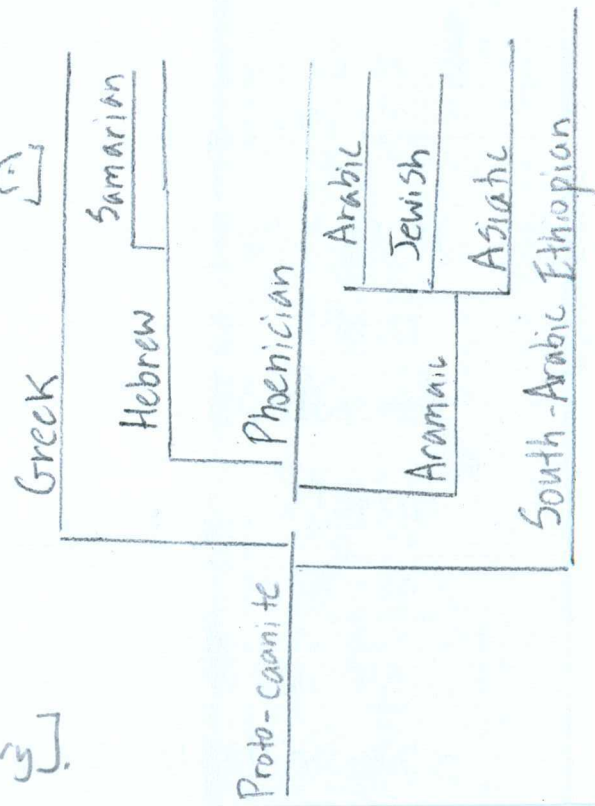
- Hazor's Inscriptions [9th BCE]

- Carthage [814 BCE]

- In Syria, (12<sup>th</sup> century BCE)

- Caaninites developed.

- Fragments in the Louvre, specifically Moabite inscriptions [9<sup>th</sup> century].



◦ Various alphabetic evidences:

- Phoenician: long-tailed letters, curved to the left
- Samaria: jars
- "Tell Qassileh": jars
- Jerusalem: cultic items, jars, gates, stones
- Judea: jars, ostracea, societal bearing.

◦ Aramaic language: ◦ Caves [3<sup>rd</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> century], and  
◦ scrolls [132-135 CE],  
◦ Semi-cursive, brush and ink,  
also had ligatures.

◦ Political influences characterize many regional alphabets in archeologic sites:

- Moabite
- Ammonite
- Edomite

- Philistine

◦ Semitic tribes evidences: ◦ Semitic tribes:

- Settlements
- clerks and scribes

- Scholars between regions

- Nationalities, regions, royalties across Asia minor, Egypt, and North Arabia



- Bricks with labels
- Funerarys
- Ostrachans to the islands with names/letters
- Tax collection on ships
- Elephantine Islands
- Aramaic graffiti
- No language connections between regions
- Ink vs Hard material
- Round vs cursive writing
- Ligatures vs Semi-ligatures [Pen-lift]
- Alexander the Great conquered Persia [323 BCE], a third-party source for rapid-regional exiles, migration, and new writing.
- First Near East w/ Alexander the Great:
  - Eastern Babylonians lost to Nebuchadnezzar [586 BCE]
  - Southwest Egypt destroyed Mesopotamia [6<sup>th</sup> BCE]
  - Jew's exiled to East Mediterranean
  - Bible and Torah juggled between Aramaic, Hebrew, and "Paleo-Hebrew", now in Rockefeller Museum of Antiquities, Jerusalem.

- Chapters Samuel, Jeremiah, and Exodus emerged from Qumran [3BCE]
- Ten commandments on Papyrus [2<sup>nd</sup> BCE]  
now in Cambridge University Library OR. 233.

## Chapter Two: A general survey of the Jewish Script and 'Square' Hebrew text:

- Museums:
- Ecole Biblique et Archeologic in Jerusalem
  - Rockefeller Museum of Antiques, Jerusalem
  - Israel Museum
  - Bible Land Museum
  - Institute of Archeology at Hebrew University
  - Hebrew Union College
  - Museum of Tiberias
  - Hecht Museum.

- Locations:
- Second Temple
  - Judean Desert
  - Jericho
  - Jerusalem

## ◦ Byzantine

Style/Purpose/Tools : ◦ Thin Calamus (Reed Pen)

◦ Carbon Ink

◦ Iron Ink

◦ Phylacteries

◦ Deeds [Greek/Aramaic, dated]

◦ Biblical scrolls

◦ Letters [Hebrew, Aramaic, Greek]

} Semi-legible  
by 30 BLE  
to a third  
year study.

Top pieces : ◦ Qumran Cave : Judean scripts, Second temple riots, Exodus, Samuel, and Jeremiah

◦ Nash Papyrus : Judean desert scroll in semi-cursive about the ten commandments

◦ Hidden scrolls : Various scrolls purchased by E.L. Sukenik, a professor, in antique shops or great antiquity shops.