

## Using BHS Worksheet

Reading Assignments for this Worksheet:

[1] Alt, A., O. Eißfeldt, P. Kahle, and R. Kittel. *Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia*. 5<sup>th</sup> ed. Stuttgart: Deutsche Bibelgesellschaft, 1997. Read the English “Foreword” (about 8 pp) and Consult the English Key (by Ruger) as needed.

[2] Scott, William R. *A Simplified Guide to BHS: Critical Apparatus, Masora, Accents, Unusual Letters & Other Markings*. 4<sup>th</sup> ed. N. Richland Hills, TX: BIBAL Press, 2007. Read Preface, Chapters 1-4; Consult Chapters 6-7 as needed.

[3] Brotzman, Ellis R. *Old Testament Textual Criticism, A Practical Introduction*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 1994. Read Chapter 5 (pp. 97-106).

Answer the following questions:

1. What is the Hebrew manuscript that underlies the printed text of BHS, and what is its date? [2 pts]

Look at BHS p. 680 (where Isa 3:9 begins) for the next questions:

2. In what language is the book heading for even pages, and in what language is the heading for odd pages? [2 pts]

3. On p. 680, there are small marginal notes on the right-hand side of the page beside the biblical text. What are these notes called in Latin, and what does it mean in English? [5 pts]

4. On p. 680, there are small marginal notes immediately below the biblical text. This section is a register of what? [4 pts]

5. At the bottom of p. 680, below the notes mentioned in #4, there is a final section of notes. What is this section called, and what is its function? [5 pts]

6. Look at Isa 3:18 in BHS. In the left margin you'll see the symbol ט with a smaller dotted ס to the left of it (סט). Explain the meaning of these two symbols. [4 pts]

7. Two of the words in Isa 3:18 are marked by a small circle above the middle of the words (called a *circule*). Corresponding to these words, immediately to the right in the margin at the same level of the line of biblical text where the words occur, are two masoretic notations. For the words below, write the masoretic notation that corresponds to it, and explain what that notation signifies. [6 pts]

וְהַשְׁבִּיטִים (small sun discs):

וְהַשְׁהִירָנִים (little moons):

8. Look at Isa 3:21 and notice the circle over הַטָּבָעוֹת ("the signet rings"). What masoretic notation is linked to this word, and what does it signify about this word? [6 pts]

9. You should now be aware of the existence of the Kethiv/Qere notations in BHS. Answer the following questions:

a. What do the terms Kethiv and Qere mean? [6 pts]

b. How is the Kethiv word/expression reflected in the biblical text? [4 pts]

- c. How and where is the Qere word/expression identified for the reader? [4 pts]
- d. Give an example of one of the “perpetual” Qere in the Hebrew Bible. [2 pts]
- e. Look up Isa 28:15 and notice that in line 3 (ESV “when the overwhelming whip passes through it will not come to us”) a circle rests above three words. Examine the third word, עֵבֶר.

As written, is this vocalized form grammatical? [2 pts]

What does the Qere in the margin suggest the Hebrew reading should be? (Rewrite the word with the correct consonants and vocalization, parse the form, and give an English gloss for the verb.) [6 pts]

Look in the Critical Apparatus under v. 15 at superscripted “c” and indicate how the editor of BHS Isaiah thought the Kethiv would have been vocalized. How would you parse the Kethiv? [4 pts]