

THE HAPAX LEGOMENON דִּי (INK) IN THE CONTEXT OF  
'וּאֵנִי כָתַב עַל הַסֵּפֶר בְּדָיו' (JEREMIAH 36:18): A 'FALSE FRIEND' IN  
MODERN HEBREW DUE TO THE MASORETES' MISUNDERSTANDING  
OF THE PREPOSITION בְּדִי MEANING 'TO' OR 'FOR'

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This article deals with the *hapax legomenon* דִּי 'ink' which occurs only in the MT of Jer 36:18 in the form בְּדָיו and claims that the correct reading should be בְּדָיו meaning 'for him' as a form of the preposition בְּדִי 'to', 'for'. This reading was suggested in a footnote by H. L. Ginsberg more than 40 years ago – *JANES* 5 (1973), p. 143, n. 54 – and has been almost completely overlooked since then, although Ginsberg maintained that the preposition בְּדִי 'to', 'for' was originally extant in the Hebrew Bible no less than 12 times as follows: Isa 16:6; Jer 36:18; 48:30; 51:58 (twice); Nahum 2:13; Hab 2:13 (twice); Job 11:3; 17:16; 39:25; 41:4. All these contexts are fully analyzed in the present article (sections 1-7) both in order to present in detail all the philological innovations regarding these contexts in the light of Ginsberg's suggestion and to supply much new supporting philological evidence for each context. Ginsberg claimed in the same note that this preposition also occurred once as בְּדִי in the Phoenician Eshmunazar inscription (KAI 14:6) in the form בְּדָנִם 'to them' and that context has also been fully analyzed in the present study (section 8). Among the most important new pieces of supporting philological evidence that have been suggested here are the following: (1) The parallelism בְּדִי // ל (Nahum 2:13); (2) The equivalence בְּדִי רִיק (Jer 51:58; Hab 2:12-13) = לְלִרְיָק (Lev 26:16, 19-20; Isa 49:4; 65:23; Job 39:16-17) meaning 'to no purpose, for naught, to no avail'; (3) The equivalence בְּדִי + הַחֲרִישׁ + pron. suffix (Job 11:3; 41:4) = הַחֲרִישׁ + pron. suffix (Num 30:4-5, 7-8, 11-12, 14-15) meaning 'is/are silent and does/do not respond to your/his/her words'; (4) The equivalence בְּדִי + כָתַב + pron. suffix (Jer 36:18) = כָתַב + pron. suffix (Deut 17:18-19; 24:1-3 [twice]; Jud 8:14; Jer 30:2) meaning 'wrote for him/her'.

The article concludes by listing the six main conclusions of this study in the areas of biblical Hebrew and Phoenician philology, followed by an appendix entitled: The Emendation of the Two Occurrences of the Term בְּדָיִם (Isa 44:25; Jer 50:36) to the Term בְּרָיִם, based on *bārû*, the regular Akkadian term for 'diviner'. In light of the detailed evidence presented in this study, the Modern Hebrew word 'דִּי', 'ink', should be considered a 'False Friend' to the word בְּדָיו in Jer 36:18, i.e., one should not attempt to understand this biblical Hebrew term in its Modern Hebrew meaning.

Thus, this study should now be joined to my other four articles on this subject (see n. 79 in this article).