

Making Biblical Scholarship Accessible

This document was supplied for free educational purposes. Unless it is in the public domain, it may not be sold for profit or hosted on a webserver without the permission of the copyright holder.

If you find it of help to you and would like to support the ministry of Theology on the Web, please consider using the links below:



https://www.buymeacoffee.com/theology



https://patreon.com/theologyontheweb

PayPal

https://paypal.me/robbradshaw

A table of contents for Bibliotheca Sacra can be found here:

https://biblicalstudies.org.uk/articles bib-sacra 01.php

ARTICLE V.

SOME EVIDENCES OF ARYO-SEMITIC KINSHIP.

BY PROFESSOR ALLISON EMERY DRAKE, PH.D.

THE languages of Europe are divided by philologists into two families, the Aryan (Indo-European) and the Scythian (Ural-Altaic). The latter includes Lappish, Finnish, Hungarian, Turkish, and Basque, which last is the language of some 600,000 people living around and back from the angle of the Bay of Biscay.

The Aryan family of languages extends geographically from Iceland to India, not to speak of the continents seized and peopled by Aryan stock within the last four hundred years; and it has been classified into some ten or twelve groups. The original home of the Aryan family has been the subject of much and varied conjecture by scholars. The question is still sub judice, as it is likely to continue to be so long as the Aryan peoples are viewed by philologists as autochthonous, or fundamentally unrelated by speech to any other peoples. Philologists are extremely pessimistic regarding any question of possible kinship of the Aryan languages with any others. It is, moreover, assumed that, after all the thorough examinations made with a view to connecting the Aryan languages with others, if any such kinship ever existed, all traces of it have in the lapse of ages been mutilated past possible recognition; and that it is therefore futile at this late date to search for such traces. But so much depends upon the natural and the acquired equipment of the investigators in such matters that such assumptions seem to me to be quite unscientific.

It is the purpose of this paper to present some evidences (hitherto presented by no other writer) showing that the Aryan languages are fundamentally Semitic. I am pleased to liken the languages of Europe, not to so many pieces of stalagmite formed by chemical deposit in the quiet of some subterranean cavern, but rather to so many pieces of breccia or porphyry or, perhaps better still, bric-à-brac relics taken from the ashes of some great urban conflagration, and containing fragments of china vases, cups, dolls, and what not, more or less fused and cemented together. The propriety and helpfulness of this latter mode of representation will appear more fully as we proceed.

Let us consider the Latin phrase frater Ciceronis. The most elementary books on Latin tell us that the phrase may also be written Ciceronis frater; but exhaustive treatises on Latin grammar do not tell us which is the older way of writing such a phrase. The same is true regarding the corresponding phrases in Greek, in Sanskrit, and in other Aryan languages. The matter seems to me to be worthy of investigation.

In Japanese and in Chinese (Mandarin) the order of words in such a phrase is invariably as in Ciceronis frater. This is the regular Scythian order (being the invariable order in Basque and in Turkish). In English, too, the genitive is always prepositive; that is, we say Cicero's brother but cannot say brother Cicero's, though in Anglo-Saxon either order was permissible (sunu Wihstanes, Beowulf, 2753; Wihstanes sunu, Beowulf, 3077). The genitive is invariably prepositive in Swedish and in Dano-Norwegian, but may be either prepositive or postpositive in Icelandic, as also in German and

in Bohemian. In the Celtic languages, however, the genitive is invariably postpositive. Welsh lacks inflection to mark the case of nouns, but places the genitive invariably after the noun on which it depends. The following examples will help to fix the foregoing statements in mind (see Gen. xiv. 12):—

PREPOSITIVE GENITIVE.		Postpositive Genitive.
(Japanese)	onna no tamashii (a woman's soul) onna no fukusō (a woman's gar- ment)	(Greek) τὸν υἰὸν τοῦ ἀδελφοῦ "Αβραμ (Latin) filium fratris Abram (Bohemian) syna bratra Abra- mova
(Chinese)	Shang-ti-tih en- huei (God's grace) Shang-ti-tih shu (God's book)	(Welsh) fab brawd Abram (Gaelic) mac brathar Abraim (Old Gaelic) macc brathar athar (a father's brother's son)
(Finnish)	Abramin weljen pojan (Abraham's broth- er's son)	(Thesaurus Palæohibernicus, vol. ii. p. 109) (Hebrew) b²en-hah²y hab(e)- ram *
(Hungarian)	az Ábrám at(t)ya- flának fiját	
(Basque)	Abranen anaiaren semea	
(Swedish)	Abrams broders son	
(Dano-Norwe	egian) Abrams Bro- ders Son	
(German)	Abrams Bruders Sohn	
(Anglo-Saxon	i) Abrames brothor sunu	

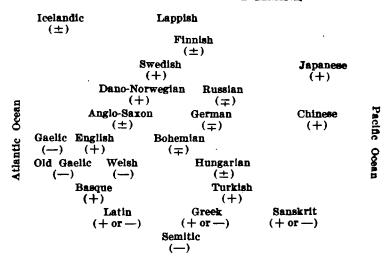
* My transliteration of the Hebrew alphabet is as follows: 1. h 2. b, b³ 3. g, g² 4. d, d² 5. h³ 6. v, (u, w) 7. z 8. h³ 9. t 10. y 11. k, k² 12. 1 13. m 14. n 15. s 16. h⁴ 17. p, p³ 18. z³ 19. q 20. r 21. s³ 22. s³ 23. t², t⁴.

It will be seen that I number the four gutturals in the order of their occurrence (h, h², h², h⁴); etc.

The order of the words in the phrases above quoted is fixed in English, Swedish, Dano-Norwegian, Basque, Welsh, Gaelic, Old Gaelic, and Hebrew. In the following exhibit, the sign plus (+) means an invariably prepositive genitive, the sign mi-Vol. LXX. No. 280. 5

nus (—) means an invariably postpositive genitive. The sign plus or minus (\pm) and the sign minus or plus (\mp) mean that the genitive may be either prepositive or postpositive, with a preference for the position indicated by the upper sign.

POSITION OF THE ADNOMINAL GENITIVE

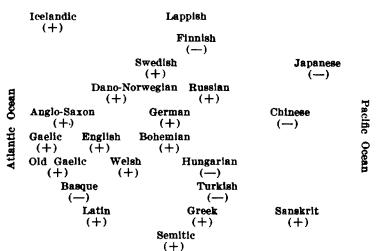


My interpretation of these phenomena is that the original Aryan order was like the Semitic, but in all but the Celtic languages became more or less modified through contact with Scythian.

The Aryan languages, it is well known, are all sharply and completely separated from Scythian, Chinese, and Japanese through the use of prepositions instead of postpositions, and in this respect are in agreement with Semitic, which uses only the preposition. It is likewise well known that prepositions and postpositions with their objects were originally nouns (used adverbially) with dependent genitives, the object of a preposition being a postpositive genitive and the object of

a postposition being a prepositive genitive. Evidences of this are abundant in Semitic and Scythian and are not wholly lacking in Aryan. Note the following "prepositional substantives" with dependent genitives: δέμας πυρός (like fire), δίκην ύδατος (like water), δρνιθος τρόπον (like a bird), τοῦ λόγου γάριν (for the argument's sake); (Latin) virtutis ergo (on account of valor), exempli gratia (for example), instar montis (like a mountain), apis more (like a bee), labrorum tenus (along the lips), id temporis (at that time). Note that these "prepositional substantives" (as some grammarians call them) are mostly postpositive. That, I take it, is because their assumption of the nature of prepositions is recent. The older prepositions in Aryan are in tenor strictly prepositive. For these additional reasons I conjecture again that the adnominal genitive in primitive Aryan was, as in Semitic, invariably postpositive. In the following exhibit the plus sign (+) indicates the use of prepositions, and the minus sign (—) the use of postpositions.

Postpositions and Prepositions.



The position of a finite verb with respect to its subject in independent declarative propositions is worthy of our attention. The subject nominative in such propositions is prepositive in Japanese and in Chinese, and regularly so in Scythian, as also in the Aryan languages except Gaelic. Note the position of the verb in the following Gaelic declarations:—

Is me solus an t-saoghail (I am the light of the world).

Is tu Righ Israel (thou art King of Israel).

Is cuilean leomhain Iudah (Judah is a lion's whelp).

Is da bhrathair dheug sinn (we are two brethren ten).

Is dee sibh (ye are gods).

Is da bhrathair dheug do sheirbhisich (thy servants are two brethren ten).

is magister insalmso (this psalm is magister) (Thes. Palaeo., vol. i. p. 85).

is briathar de insin tra (that then is the word of God) (id., i. 70).

Is acher ingaith innocht (bitter is the wind tonight) (id., ii. 290).

In all these foregoing declarations, the Gaelic verb, as is seen, stands first. This is its invariable position with respect to its subject. As witches and specters cannot cross a living stream, so the Gaelic mind cannot bring itself to place the subject before the finite verb. If the subject needs the emphasis that might come to it from occupying first position, recourse is had to pleonasm, with apologies as it were, thus: Mise agus an tAthair, is aon sinn (I and the Father, are one we). On the other hand, we English (and other Aryan peoples) have, as I see it, been so completely Scythianized in this matter that we are unable to put the finite verb first in the ordinary declarative proposition. If we cannot readily make the subject or some other important word or phrase precede the finite verb, we put in first place a meaningless expletive, such as there or it. Thus, we say, "It is good for

us to be here": for which the Gaelic has: Is maith dhuinne bheith an so ([it] is good for us to be here). Gaelic, therefore, it seems to me, has in this matter resisted Scythian influence or been but little, if at all, exposed to it. Doubtless the Welsh people, more widespread formerly than now, acted as a breakwater for the Gaels against the westward rolling tides of Scythians. It should, moreover, be remarked that other Aryan languages show unmistakable traces of what I conjecture to have been the original order of the finite verb and its subject in an Aryan declarative proposition. Thus, in English, in Greek, and in Latin, the usual order of words in certain parenthetical expressions is just like the Gaelic order of the main proposition; that is, the finite verb comes first. That the order of words in our parenthetical expressions, when different from the usual order elsewhere, is the more primitive is more than suggested by the fact that obsolescent words survive longest in parenthetical expressions. Witness quoth in English, inquam in Latin, ηδ ος (said he) in Greek, etc.

If now we turn to Semitic, we find that "most usually the subject follows the verb," quite in agreement with Gaelic, except that, in this matter, Gaelic seems to have kept to the ancient way even more closely than has Semitic.

The reader should further note that, alone of the Aryan tongues, Gaelic has kept the verb is distinct throughout the three persons and the two numbers. English has the form is only in the third person singular, Latin and Gothic only in the second person singular, etc. Gaelic, too, (and Welsh) has kept in use the nominative singular me, which most, if not all, of the other Aryan languages have replaced with a developed emphatic ich or ego or aham, etc.

Let the reader now compare the use of Gaelic is in the sen-

tences quoted above with the use of the Hebrew yes² (his²) in the following propositions:—

- yes' l(e)hel yady lah'as'out' h'immakem rah' ([it] is in the power of my hand to do you hurt) (Gen. xxxl. 29).
- 2. yest-ly rab (there is much mine) (Gen. xxxiii, 9).
- yes*-s*eber b*(e)miz*(e)rayim([there] (was) is corn in Egypt)
 (Gen. xlii. 1, 2).
- yes heloh ym l(e)yis (e) rahel (God is Israel's) (1 Sam. xvii. 46).
- 5. h'eynayim yes. . . lamou (eyes are . . . theirs) (Isa. xliii. 8).
- yes'-t*iq(e)vah² ([there] is hope) (Jer. xxxi. 17; Job xi. 18, (xiv. 7)).
- mah²-yes² t²ah²at²-yad(e)ka (what is under thy hand?)
 Sam, xxl. 4).
- 8. k³y-him-leh³em qodes³ yes³ (but [there] is holy bread) (1 Sam. xxi. 5).
- 9. him-yes'-millyn (if [there] are words) (Job xxxiii. 32).

These Hebrew quotations, if compared with the Gaelic quotations above given, cannot fail to impress the reader with the close similarity, as to form, position, and use, existing between Hebrew yes³ (his³) and Gaelic is, and with the discrepant features of what I am pleased to denominate Scythianized English. Note that Hebrew yes³ (his³) regularly stands first in its proposition, except that conjunctions, relative pronouns, and interrogative pronouns precede it. In these latter matters the Gaelic idiom is not essentially or noteworthily different from the Hebrew. In quotations 5 and 8 above given, Hebrew yes³ is postpositive. These two instances are the only ones I have met with in Biblical Hebrew (but my observations do not quite cover the entire text).

The mode of naming the numbers from 11 to 19 in the languages with which we are dealing is a subject not unimportant for our discussion, only we must bear in mind that those numbers are but little used, and that the manner of naming them is not fixed, among the more barbarous peoples. Moreover, a fixed mode of naming those numbers can be easily borrowed by a people having no such fixed mode. Thus, the Japanese are known to have borrowed the Chinese mode of naming the numbers from 11 to 19. For "eleven men," "twelve men," "thirteen men," etc., the Chinese have expressions meaning, literally, "ten-one men," "ten-two men," "ten-three men," etc. The Scythian mode is the same, except that the Finns are, in this matter, to be classed with Aryans. The Semitic names of the numbers from 11 to 19 are in strong contrast with the Chinese names, and mean, literally, "one-ten," "two-ten," "three-ten," etc. (Latin undecim, duodecim, tredecim, etc.). The following exhibit will be instructive:—

NUMBERS FROM 11 TO 19.

```
Icelandic
                    Lappish
(three-ten men)
                          Finnish
                     (three-ten men)
                 Swedish
                                             Japanese
            (three-ten men)
                                         (ten-three men)
        Dano-Norwegian
                                 Russian
        (three-ten men)
                            (three-on-ten men)
 Anglo-Saxon
                        German
                                            Chinese
(three-ten men)
                                        (ten-three men)
                    (three-ten men)
                     English
                                     Bohemian
    Gaelic
(three men ten) (three-ten men)
                                   (three-ten men)
   Old Gaelic
                        Welsh
                                      Hungarian
(three men ten) (three men on ten) (ten-three men)
         Basque
                               Turkish
     (ten-three men)
                           (ten-three men)
                                             Sanskrit
          Latin
                             Greek
   (three-ten men)
                     (three-and-ten men) (three-ten men)
                              Semitic
                          (three-ten men)
```

With the exception of Finnish, the languages with which we are dealing in this paper are classified by the foregoing exhibit virtually the same as by the exhibit of postpositions and prepositions; that is, the Aryan languages are in harmony with the Semitic in the matter of naming the numbers from 11 to 19, as against the Scythian and Chinese (and Japanese) mode. English eleven and twelve (with their Teutonic cognates) are anomalously formed, unless, as I think, the -lev- of eleven (as also the -lv- of twelve) means "ten." Note Hebrew helep, meaning "thousand" ("ten (hundred)"?). The Gaelic mode of naming the numbers from 11 to 19 seems unlike any other, but is really, I think, not radically different from the Semitic (and regular Aryan) mode. Note here a Hebrew phrase in Jer. xxxii. 9: s2ib(e) h^4ah^2 $s^2(e)$ galym $vah^4as^2arah^2$ (seven shekels and ten). I conjecture that the Gaelic, as also the Semitic (and regular Aryan), mode of saying "thirteen men" was originally like this: "three men ten men." Very naturally, in fact almost inevitably, one of the words for "men" had, sooner or later, to drop out. Gaelic then simply dropped the second noun, and her sister languages dropped the first. The oldest Gaelic records are like the most recent in this matter, as the following quotations show:---

- coic brot(t)u deac (five points ten) (Thes. Palseo., vol. i. pp. 18, 123, 202).
- 2. coic bliadn(a)i deac (five years ten) (id., i. 18, 123).
- 3. dimili deec (two thousand ten (12,000)) (id., i. 600).
- 4. di huair deac (two hours ten) (id., ii. 10, 10, 13, 21).
- 5. trimis deacc (three months ten) (id., ii. 33).
- crist conadib napstalaib deac (Christ with his two apostles ten) (id., ii. 254).
- 7. -111- parsa deac (three particles ten) (id., ii. 255).
- 8. se mbliadnae deac (six years ten) (id., ii. 808).

There is a remarkable point of agreement between Gaelic and Hebrew in the construction of the infinitive to express

purpose. In Hebrew, infinitives with l(e) prefixed "serve to express the most varied ideas of purpose or aim" (Gesenius-Kautsch). In Gaelic, le placed before the infinitive "gives the idea of intent, purpose, to perform what is expressed by the verb" (Bourke's College Irish Grammar). Illustrative examples are very numerous both in Hebrew and in Gaelic, and the beginning of the third chapter of Ecclesiastes (ver. 2-8) contains a long series of infinitives expressing purpose. Hebrew here uses only the preposition l(e) with the infinitives, but Gaelic, apparently for the sake of variety, uses one or another of four prepositions: cum, do, le, and re (the last two being really the same word).

- (Hebrew) h⁴et² lip(e)rouz² v(e)h⁴et² lib(e)nout² (a time to break down and a time to build up);
 (Gaelic) aimsir do leagadh sios agus aimsir do chur suas.
- (Hebrew) h⁴et² 1(e)baqqes² v(e)h⁴et² 1(e)hab²b²ed (a time to get and a time to lose);
 (Gaelic) aimsir le faghail agus aimsir le caill.

Aside from this extraordinary agreement between Gaelic and Hebrew in the use of the preposition le, l(e) with the infinitive to express purpose, a circumstance of no little importance is the interchange of Gaelic le with Gaelic do. It will be of service to us to recall this interchange a little later on.

This same preposition (Hebrew l(e), Gaelic le) has another frequent use important for the present discussion. In our English versions of the Bible the last words of the tenth commandment (Ex. xx. 17) are: nor anything that is thy neighbor's. The last word here quoted is a predicate possessive (predicate genitive), translating a Hebrew prepositional phrase (predicate): $l(e)reh^4e$. Gaelic likewise has here a

prepositional phrase (predicate): le do chomharsain. This agreement between Gaelic and Hebrew in using a prepositional phrase (predicate) might be nothing but a coincidence, but can hardly be classed as such, in view of the fact that the Hebrew preposition here used is l(e), and the Gaelic le. Examples of this use of the preposition l(e), le, is to be met with passim both in Hebrew and in Gaelic; also in Old Gaelic: is ladia cid calldea (even Chaldea is God's) (Thes. Palæo., vol. i. p. 134).

In Gen. i. 5 (and often elsewhere) Hebrew uses this same preposition l(e) in a way that must seem very strange to all Aryan students of Hebrew, save the Gaelic. The Hebrew of this passage is: vayyiq(e)rah heloh2ym lahour youm (and God called to the light Day). Now Gaelic has here this same strange idiom, only the Gaelic preposition used is not le but do, which, however, we saw above interchanged with le in forming infinitive phrases of purpose, so that the Gaelic preposition as well as the Gaelic idiom here used is really identical with the Hebrew. Old Gaelic has the same idiom: ainm maice asbered saul duduaid (Saul used to call the name of son to David) (Thes. Palæo., vol. i. p. 180). Furthermore, the ground form of the Hebrew word for called above quoted is garah, and the modern Gaelic word for the same is goir, which is virtually the same in form as the Hebrew qurah; that is, Hebrew q corresponds to Gaelic g.

Turning now to Anglo-Saxon (and other Aryan languages), we shall here likewise find some very distinct fragments of Semitic syntax. Thus, Hebrew has only two tenses, traditionally known as preterite (perfect) and future (imperfect); and Anglo-Saxon has only two tenses, preterite and another tense which is translated as present or future according to

the demands of the context. Hebrew has two infinitives, the infinitive construct or inflected infinitive and the infinitive absolute or uninflected infinitive; and Anglo-Saxon has two infinitives, one inflected and one uninflected. The Hebrew infinitive construct or inflected infinitive is very frequently used as the object of the preposition l(e). The Anglo-Saxon inflected infinitive is always the object of the preposition to, cognate with Gaelic do, which we saw above interchanged with Gaelic le. Let us compare now the uses of the Hebrew construct infinitive with l(e) prefixed and the inflected Anglo-Saxon infinitive with to prefixed:—

The Hebrew infinitive construct with l(e) prefixed is used

- (with great frequency) to express purpose: and God set them in the firmament of the heaven l(e)h²ahyr h²alh²aharez² (to give light upon the earth) (Gen. i. 17);
- With the copula, like the Latin participle in -rus: vay(e) h²y
 h²as³s³emes³ labouh (and the sun was about to go down)
 (Gen. xv. 12);
- with the copula, like the Latin participle in -dus: vay(e)h'y
 h'as's'ah'ar lis(e)g'our (and the gate had to be shut) (Josh.
 il. 5).

The Anglo-Saxon inflected infinitive (with to prefixed) is used

- (with great frequency) to express purpose: ge comon this land to sceawienne (ye are come to spy out this land) (Gen. xlii. 12);
- 2. with the copula, like the Latin participle in -rus: sende thone the thu to sendenne eart (send him whom thou art going to send) (mitte quem missurus es) (Ex. iv. 13);
- 3. with the copula, like the Latin participle in -dus: mannes sunu ys to syllene on manna handa (the Son of Man must be given into the hands of men) (filius hominis tradendus est in manus hominum) (Matt. xvii. 22).

The Hebrew infinitive absolute (uninflected infinitive) has two main uses:—

- 1. The infinitive absolute is put before (or after) a finite mode of the same verb, usually to strengthen the meaning or to express the long continuance of an action. Thus, most to me, may well be the prototype of the reduplication in the preterite of the oldest Anglo-Saxon verbs and of verbal reduplication in other Aryan languages. "Reduplication of a root (originating doubtless in its complete repetition) has come to be a method of radical increment or strengthening in various formative processes" (Whitney's Sanskrit Grammar, sect. 259).
- The infinitive absolute frequently appears as a substitute for any finite mode of any tense and person. Compare with this the Latin historical infinitive and the Greek infinitive for the imperative.

The agreement in use between Hebrew l(e) and Anglo-Saxon to deserves our attention once more. The closing words of Gen. i. 29 in Hebrew are: lakem yih 2(e) yeh2 l(e) hok(e) lah2 (it shall be to you to meat); for which the Anglo-Saxon is: thatt hig been eow to mete (that they be to you to meat). Here Anglo-Saxon to translates Hebrew l(e); but Anglo-Saxon omits the first preposition. The use of to in the sense of for is very common in Anglo-Saxon and corresponds regularly to Hebrew l(e); but survives in modern English, it would seem, only in the archaic phrase to wife and the colloquial phrase to boot. For additional examples note the Hebrew phrases in Gen. i. 14: $v(e)h^2ayw l(e)hot^2ot^2 \tilde{w}l(e)$ mouh adym wl(e) vamym v(e) s anym (and let them be to signs, and to seasons, and to days and years); and the Anglo-Saxon: and been to tacnum and to tidum and to dagum and to gearum (and be to signs and to seasons and to days and to years). This construction was more widely used in Hebrew than in Anglo-Saxon as we know it; thus, in Lev. xxvi. 12, Hebrew has $v(e)h^2ayyt^2y$ lakem lehloh2ym (and I shall be to you to God); Anglo-Saxon: and ic beo eower God (and I shall be your God); but note the Latin: malo est hominibus

avaritia (avarice is to men to an evil). "This use of the dative ['to denote the Purpose or End'], once apparently general [in Latin], remains in only a few constructions" (Allen and Greenough's New Latin Grammar).

In the foregoing pages I have presented a few of the evidences of Aryo-Semitic kinship that meet the observer at every turn. It is hoped they may stimulate the reader to further investigation of the subject. The conclusions which I have drawn here and in my other published works are in keeping with the findings of craniologists and ethnologists, who assign to the fundamental stratum of the so-called Aryan peoples a Semitic origin. The ruling Aryan philologists of to-day, however, trusting in the dicta of the scholars of seventy and eighty years ago, have come into mature years without having gained an acquaintance with the Semitic languages and are quite content to pursue their investigations in the Aryan languages without troubling themselves with the question of Aryo-Semitic kinship. Evidently, to determine the true perspective of the development of the Aryan languages will require a younger generation of scholars, energetic enough to embrace in their scheme of serious studies various Semitic, Aryan, and Scythian languages.

[We regret to announce the death of the distinguished author of this article almost immediately after he had finished reading the proof. Dr. Drake received the degree of Ph.D. from Columbia University in 1895. He was the author of "Discoveries in Hebrew, Gaelic, Anglo-Saxon, Latin, Basque, and other Caucasic Languages," and "The [Triple] Authorship of the West Saxon Gospels [a Discovery]." His work has attracted the attention of scholars everywhere.—The Editor.]