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fin.) or *decision*, must be combined with *maśšôr*, saw; cf. Syr. *mağzârâ*, ax, saw, and *gězirtâ*, decree, from *gězár*, to cut. In Hebrew we have *mağzerâ*, ax (also *garzén* = *gazrinn*) and in Dan. 4: 14. 21 Aram. *gězerâ* means *decree*. Cf. also Sum. *kut* and *tar* (SGI 126. 155). I shall discuss the term *Masora* in a special paper.

THE ORIGINAL MEANING OF SHEOL

Heb. *še'ôl* should be written *še'ôl* with *Cerê* in the first syllable: it is a form *qitṭâl* (cf. the Ethiopic form *Si'ôl*) from the stem *ša'al*, derived from the root *šal* which we have in Arab. *nâṭala*-'*r-rakîjata* and *talla*-'*l-bîra*. In Syriac we have this stem in *tallîl*, damp, moist, wet, while Syr. *tillâ*, hill, is an Assyrian loanword. In Assyrian this root *ṭal* appears in *šalû*, to sink; see *Kings* (SBOT) 175, 2 and cf. Heb. *šûḥâ* and *šaḥt*, pit, from *šûḥ*, to sink (Arab. *sâxa*, *jasûxu*). From the same stem we have *šilân* (= *šilyânu*) sunset (KAT³ 636; cf. AJSL 33, 48).¹ Arab. *nâṭal* is said to mean *pit*, and *tîllah* signifies *annihilation, death*; so Heb. *še'ôl* is a synonym of *šaḥt* (GB¹⁶ 821^a; cf. JBL 34, 81). For the *Aleph* in *še'ôl* cf. AJSL 21, 205 and the remarks on Heb. *nahâg* = Arab. *nâ'aja* = Assyr. *nagâgu* in *Nah.* 46. Hitzig's combination of *še'ôl* with *šû'âl*, fox (see his *Jesaiâ*, 1833, p. 52) is not impossible: the original meaning of *šû'âl* may be *burrower*, and the middle 'Ain may be secondary (see AJSL 23, 245; contrast 34, 210).

TORA = TAIIIRIRTU

Twenty-three years ago I pointed out in *Chronicles* (SBOT) 80, 48 that Heb. *tôrâ* corresponded to Assyr. *têrtu*, oracle (HW 51; AkF 68). For the Heb. ô = Assyr. ê see *Proverbs* (SBOT) 33, 51; *Est.* 7; JBL 36, 90. Assyr. *têrtu*, however, is not identical with Ethiopic *temhérít*, instruction (JBL 19, 58): the original meaning of *têrtu* is *entrails*; cf. Syr. *têrtâ*, internal parts of animal bodies, especially midriff (see AJSL 4, 214, 1. 218) which is used also for *mind* (cf. Heb. *me'îm*, Assyr. *kabîltu*, GB¹⁶ 333^b). Assyr. *têrtu*, oracle, denotes originally *interpreta-*

¹ Heb. *šalâ*, to be quiet, is not connected with Assyr. *šalâ*, to sink; this Hebrew stem has not a *š*, but a *š* (JAOS 28, 115).