

No. 4. THE TEXT OF THE BIBLICAL ARAMAIC.

The Aramaic portions of the Bible have come down through the same Massoretic tradition as that which supplied the apparatus for the Hebrew. This Apparatus was created for the Hebrew and was applied only secondarily to the Aramaic with somewhat awkward results, although in the main correct traditions were followed. Fortunately the very large number of variants appearing in Ezra and Daniel--as between Ketib and Qere and among the MSS--often afford readings of philological interest and value. The student should therefore consult as extensive an apparatus of the text as possible, and this can fortunately be had in the comparison of the modern critical editions of Baer, Ginsburg, Kittel, and the text prepared by Strack in his grammar, all of which vary greatly from one another. For the "Babylonian" punctuation, see portions of text ed. by Kahle in Strack, Grammatik, ed. 5.

No. 5. THE ALPHABET AND SCRIPT.

The alphabet and script of the BA are the same as in the Hebrew Bible; i.e., the so-called square Hebrew character, which character, however, actually belongs to the Aramaic type of the alphabet, for by the end of the pre-Christian era the Scribes had adopted the Aramaic ("Assyrian", i.e., "Syrian") script for the Scriptures. The papyri now exhibit to us the script and fashion of writing in which our Aramaic sections were doubtless composed.

Of these 22 letters it may be noted that $\text{ו}^?$ for the s sound is already beginning to disappear, becoming replaced by $\text{ו}^?$. (That $\text{ו}^?$ where it appears is a survival and not a Hebraic intrusion, appears from the papyri.)

For the most part letter stands for letter in equating the Hebrew and Aramaic consonantal sounds. But for the sibilants, dentals, palatals (and gutturals), we have to note the following permutations: