



Reading the Tanakh with Baruch and Shlomi

Dear Friend:

Over the past decade, Brian and Eileen have made good connections with several young Israelis who have gone to work in Canada for the “Christmas season”. They write:*

The first few groups of Israelis we met were mainly from kibbutzim (communal agricultural settlements in Israel)...they were very nice, and very appreciative of our friendship, so we had them over for Shabbat meals and to celebrate the Festivals; and sometimes took them sightseeing.

A young man named **BARUCH** arrived here to work for a few months. He had made the acquaintance of a friend of ours who was living in Israel. She told him to contact us, and we invited him to stay with us for a while. He gratefully accepted our offer.

Baruch was Sephardic (from Middle East Jewish descent) and quite ‘observantly Jewish’. He had been in a top combat unit in the army, where he’d been wounded and couldn’t return, to his frustration.

One of the things we enjoyed doing together with Baruch was having him teach

us some Hebrew by reading aloud from the Tanakh (the Hebrew Old Testament), while we silently read along in English. We knew enough Hebrew that we could listen and usually figure out which verse he was reading.

We really appreciated how Baruch explained the meaning of certain Hebrew words that just didn't have the same 'impact' in English. We had some wonderful discussions—especially about certain Messianic passages from the Prophets that Baruch had never read before.

Later that season, we met **SHLOMI**, a young Israeli working as a salesman who was frustrated because he didn't feel he could continue doing high-pressure sales work. Shlomi had just arrived in Canada, and was about to go back home to Israel in defeat. So of course, we had to invite him to stay with us too, but we told him he'd have to share a bedroom with Baruch.

These two young Israelis were as different as night and day. Shlomi was Ashkenazi (of European Jewish descent) and completely secular. He had hated being in the army. They couldn't stand each other's music...

The difference we noticed the most though, was that when we would open up the Hebrew-English Bibles to read together, Shlomi couldn't read or understand it very well. We thought that was really strange. Shlomi understood the English better than the Hebrew.

Baruch seemed to be able to read it fine—but he told us that was because he had studied the Ancient Hebrew with the rabbis.

This was the first time we'd ever heard of such a strange phenomenon: that native Israelis couldn't read the language of the Hebrew Bible and understand it without special training! It turns out this is a common problem for the majority of Israelis, who do not have the benefit of a 'religious education' such as studying at a yeshiva (religious Jewish school).

Additionally, many new immigrants from the former Soviet Union and Europe have little or no Jewish religious education. Furthermore, as more regular Israelis are drifting away from their traditional Jewish roots, most are becoming less and less knowledgeable about the Ancient biblical language.

Will you please pray with us that soon we will have a Modern Hebrew Bible. It would have been so wonderful to have had a Hebrew Bible with the Modern Hebrew in it, so both Baruch and Shlomi could have read to us and participated fully in our discussions.

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We believe that the Lord has called us to lead the translation of the Tanakh into Modern Hebrew in order that all Israel may understand the Way of the Lord. Would you consider partnering with us to introduce the Word of God to Israelis in their contemporary language of the 21st century? We extend a warm invitation to you to partner with us through your giving towards this project. Together, we can make God known to Israelis through His word.

» **PLEASE CLICK HERE TO MAKE YOUR GIFT**

Please pray with us:

...that the Lord will help us fulfill the vision to which he has called us, to help the Israeli nation understand God's word and God's will for their lives.

Thank you for partnering with us as we serve God in order that Israelis may use Scripture individually and in community to know God and to make Him known.
Yours for the Salvation of Israel,



Pe'er & Mimi SOLOMON

Project Coordinators

If you would like to visit us online, please visit www.ModernHebrewBible.com.

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