

God's Everlasting Covenant
Presents

Isaiah 9:6 – Anomaly in the Original Isaiah Scrolls

Many scholars have refuted the virgin birth. There have been arguments that the word used in Isaiah 7:14 for “virgin”, which is *almah*, can also mean “a young maiden.” They are correct. Many believing scholars have, perhaps justifiably, wondered why the word *betulah*, which clearly means “virgin”, wasn’t used. At this ministry, we are not Hebraic scholars. We are students, and as such, we are still learning. We do not know the answer to this question, but we are sure there is one.

However, at the inspiration of Pastor Mark Biltz at El Shaddai Ministries (<http://www.elshaddaiministries.us>) , I learned of an interesting anomaly in the Hebrew text that does appear later in the book of Isaiah, chapter 9, verse 6. What follows is what I discovered.

This comes from <http://www.ramsheadpress.com/messiah/ch05.html>

Below are the paragraphs of interest copied from the above website:

**“THE VIRGIN BIRTH IS JEWISH,”
SAYS PROFESSOR DAVID FLUSSER, PH.D.**

In dealing with Isaiah’s prophecy which predicted that the Messiah would be born of a virgin, many have said, as you have read, “This is a false Christian concept!” However, there is sufficient evidence to indicate that the hebraically predicted manner in which the Messiah would enter the world, preceding His thirty-three-year career, is genuinely Jewish.

Risto Santala documents a spectacular phenomenon found in the order of Hebrew letters in the original text of Isaiah 9:6 which relates to the Messiah. Let’s investigate in Hebrew. The closed *mem* (*mem* is the Hebrew letter for “m”) is always used in the Bible at the end of a word. The only exception, where it is placed in the middle of a word, is in a prophecy in Isaiah which indicates the increase of the Messiah’s government. That word למרבה; (*lemarbe*) meaning “to increase” should read למַרבה; with the underlined second letter (reading from right to left) of the word open, not closed, as you see in the first example which appears in the Hebrew Bible.

In order to understand the spectacular meaning of the closed *mem*, Santala consults one of the ancient rabbinical commentaries, he points out that: “*The zohar*^[1] on the other hand decides that the closed ‘m’ refers to the fact that the Messiah will be born from a ‘closed womb’. Perhaps such things were in Professor David Flusser’s mind when, on a visit to Finland in the summer of 1984, he was asked for his views on the New Testament’s most difficult questions. Of the resurrection of Jesus he stated categorically: ‘It is a historical fact... I was not there at the tomb myself, of course, but the resurrected Jesus did manifest himself to his disciples’....And the Virgin Birth? ‘Nor does that go against Jewish thinking.’ ”¹²

THE HEBREW SIGN, WHICH PROVES THE MESSIAH IS DIVINE, DAZZLES MOST RABBIS

Richard Wurmbrand, an eighty-five-year-old Jew I had the great pleasure of meeting at the 1994 Messiah Conference in Pennsylvania, is a Holocaust survivor who was persecuted for being both a Jew and a believer in Jesus. Wurmbrand explained the significance of the *mem* in his book, *Christ on the Jewish Road*: "I must add that, generally speaking, I have found many rabbis very ill-prepared to answer our arguments. I once talked to one of the Berlin rabbis, who had fled to Rumania. I showed him the text in the ninth chapter of Isaiah, which foretells the coming into the world of the Messiah, declaring: 'For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, 'The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end...' (Isa. 9:6-7). This passage contains an orthographical curiosity. In Hebrew, the letter M is written at the beginning and in the middle of a word with the sign, m, and only at the end of a word as a closed square. This orthography is rigidly adhered to throughout the Old Testament, except in one particular case. In this verse, in the word *lemarbe* (increase), a final Mem, appears in the middle of the word. This orthographical mistake has never been corrected. A final Mem which should occur only at the end of the word is written in the middle of one.

"I asked the rabbi if he could explain this, but he could give me no answer. I then told him of the Kabbalistic tradition, that Isaiah put a \square in the middle of the word, in order to show the reader who was destined to understand it that the Divine Child of whom this prophecy speaks would be born of the closed womb of a virgin."¹³

OUR PERSONAL EXPERIENCE WITH THE MESSIAH'S FINAL MEM AND A RABBI IN JERUSALEM

This closed *mem* has undoubtedly caused trouble for more than a few. Since this is the only place in the Bible where a closed *mem* appears in the middle of a word, ancient rabbis have seen it as a secret divine symbol concerning the Messiah being born of a woman with a closed womb (a virgin).

A *mem sofi* or "final" *mem*, by Hebrew linguistic rule must always appear in words ending in "m." Only an **open** *mem* is allowed to be used in the middle or beginning of words. Most modern rabbis are unaware of the existence and meaning of this with regard to the ancient Hebrew mystical belief in the prophecy of the Messiah, until it is pointed out to them.

When I was visiting in Jerusalem in 1988, I attended one of Samuel Golding's¹⁴ so-called anti-missionary meetings in order to punch a few holes in his arguments against believers. I brought up the fact that the closed *mem* was considered of Messianic significance in connection with the supernatural conception of the Messiah within ancient rabbinical folklore. Golding laughingly denied this and even tried to say that this *mem*, the Hebrew letter in question, was a *samech* (one of the Hebrew letters for "s").

A *samech*, s, resembles a *mem* in its closed form but, of course, is not exactly the same. As you can see, the corners are rounded. In trying to disprove me, he asked "his rabbi" in the back of the room, who, to the immense embarrassment of Golding, confirmed that it was a *mem*.

Golding has criticized Christians in his book, *A Guide to the Misled*, for not knowing or taking time to study Hebrew. However, in this case, it turns out that he should take time to study Hebrew, doesn't it?¹⁵

This is all fascinating indeed. I am able to read Hebrew, and I am becoming more familiar with the ancient letters, although I still have to check to remember some of them. You can see this for yourself.

To see a copy of the original Isaiah scroll, follow the link below and use the cursor on the right side to scroll down to the book of Isaiah, and then click on the “9” to get the script for chapter 9. Then, you will need to use the scroll bar on the left side to scroll down to verse 6. [Click here.](#)

This won't mean much unless you can read ancient Hebrew. However, you can roll your cursor over each of the ancient letters, and it will give you the modern Hebrew letter to clarify. I have indeed verified that in the first line of verse 6, the letters go from right to left as follows:

למַרְבֵּה הַמִּשְׂרָה	
hamisrah	l'marbeh
government	increase
לְמַרְבֵּה הַמִּשְׂרָה	

In the script of the Isaiah scroll, reading from right to left, it does seem to me that the second letter is indeed a closed “mem” not a “samech”, as some have thought. In the first example above, the “mem” is “open”, meaning there is an opening at the bottom on the left side of the letter. This is the typical way the “mem” is written, except when the “mem” is at the end of a word, and then that little opening is closed, and looks more square, as in the second example. The closed “mem” is called a “mem sofit” because this “mem” is used at the *end* of a word.

In the Isaiah scroll, this closed “mem” is considered an anomaly. Most have thought it was a mistake, and so they can't explain it. As the above article points out, many rabbis have also declared it to be the letter “samech”, which looks like this: o. But the “samech” is more rounded, and the “mem sofit” letter is more square. ם I have checked my own Hebrew Bible which was published in 1972 by Sinai Publishing in Tel Aviv, according to the Masoric Text. The word *l'marbeh* is indeed written with a closed “mem!” Oh joyous joys! The same letter is also written as a closed “mem” in all modern Hebrew Bibles.

The scribes had a very strict code. They were not to change anything when they copied a scroll. They were to copy it exactly as the one they were copying from. Thus there are other anomalies that have been preserved, just like this one! I have studied many of them, and they do seem to point to mysteries that can only be understood as Messianic. These “mysteries” fit our theology about our Jewish Messiah!!!

According to many sages and scholars who have commented on the Isaiah text above, there is a belief that the second letter, the closed “mem” signifies that the Messiah would be born in a closed womb. This “mem sofit” may be speaking of a woman who has not experienced sexual relations. Her womb is “closed” because the hymen has not been

broken. This mystery seems to be teaching us that the mother of Messiah would be a young maiden, a virgin. Her womb would be “closed.” The letter “mem” in the ancient paleo-Hebrew means “water”. What is in a closed womb when a woman is carrying a baby? Water!

This gives new meaning to another beautiful passage in Isaiah 49, which is full of Messianic overtones.

“The LORD called Me from the womb; from the body of My mother He named Me...And now He formed Me from the womb to be His Servant, to bring Jacob (Israel) back to Him, so that Israel might be gathered to Him.” (Isaiah 49:1, 5)

Richard Wurmbbrand, a Jewish believer and survivor of the Holocaust says in his book “Christ on the Jewish Road” the letter is indeed a closed “mem”. This student agrees with him. This is another one of those “jots and tittles” which can only be seen in Hebrew. It is a Messianic sign hidden in the text for those who believe. Those who enjoy going on treasure hunting expeditions through the Jewish Scriptures will indeed find truckloads of precious gems like this one, hidden from the natural man’s eyes! Today, I found another priceless treasure! I am rich indeed!!!