

**SOME PRELIMINARY TRANSLATIONS OF "NEGEV THAMUDIC"  
AS A KENITE/ISRAELITE SCRIPT EXPRESSING  
A PROTO-CANAANITE LANGUAGE**

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*Summary*

Building upon the presentation "Was Thamudic of the Negev a Midianite Script Derived from Proto-Sinaitic?" this paper will actually examine a detailed comparison of the parent Proto-Sinaitic script with three geographically time separated offspring (Thamudic of the southern Negev, Thamudic of the central Negev and Proto-Canaanite/Phoenician). Twenty-six inscriptions are utilized to provide a reasonable sample of Thamudic and archaic signs used in the Negev. Thirteen of these inscriptions will be translated with the reasonable possibility that they should be read as a Proto-Canaanite language and not as one of the pre-Arabic dialects of north Arabia. Selections of inscriptions were made to include the longer inscriptions, those still utilizing archaic forms in single signs or ligatures, and borrowed words. The selections should provide a basis upon which to check a possibility that these inscriptions were of Kenite/Israelite origin. The preliminary translations suggest that the earliest Biblical script could have been written in this early Negev Thamudic script. The rock inscriptions certainly have a biblical flavor, laced with Biblical phrases. These may be among the earliest inscriptions known to carry the sacred name of God.