

The Specialness of Aramaic in Hebrew

In Daniel 7:13 we have “I was looking in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of the heavens was One like a Son of Man coming, *and* He was unto ancient times of days, and they approached before him.”¹ (MISB).

חֲזָה הָיִית בְּחֻזֵי לַיְלִיָּא וְאָרוּ עִסְעֵנְגִי שְׁמִיָּא כְּבַר אֲנָשׁ
אֲתָה הִנֵּה וְעַד־עֵתִיק יּוֹמִיָּא מְטָה וּקְדָמוּהִי הַקְרָבוּהִי:

This passage is in Biblical Aramaic which has none of the Greek features of the Peshitta. A key phrase here is “Son of Man” (בְּרִ אֲנָשׁ) “*Bar Enash*”. It occurs in only this one place in the Bible as a reference to the Messiah, and it is clearly used as a Messianic Title in the NT. What would make the significance of this term clear is when Yeshua spoke Hebrew that in the context of speaking Hebrew he inserted this phrase said in Aramaic: בְּרִ אֲנָשׁ. This would offset the term in Aramaic against a Hebrew backdrop, and as any foreign phrase plopped into the middle of one’s mother tongue would serve to emphasize it.

It would be like putting the term in italics in print, and saying, “look here...this is a special term”. But under the theory that Yeshua is only speaking Aramaic, the Aramaic phrase from Daniel “בְּרִ אֲנָשׁ” would be lost in the uniform background of Aramaic. Saying “Bar Enash” in the middle of Hebrew would connect with only one Biblical Passage, and that is Daniel 7:13. It would be to emphasize that Yeshua is the Messiah.

¹ The NAS gives the translation, “and He came up to the Ancient of Days and was presented before Him”. This is totally wrong. See appendix A.