

תַּפְּלָה לַחֲבִקּוּק

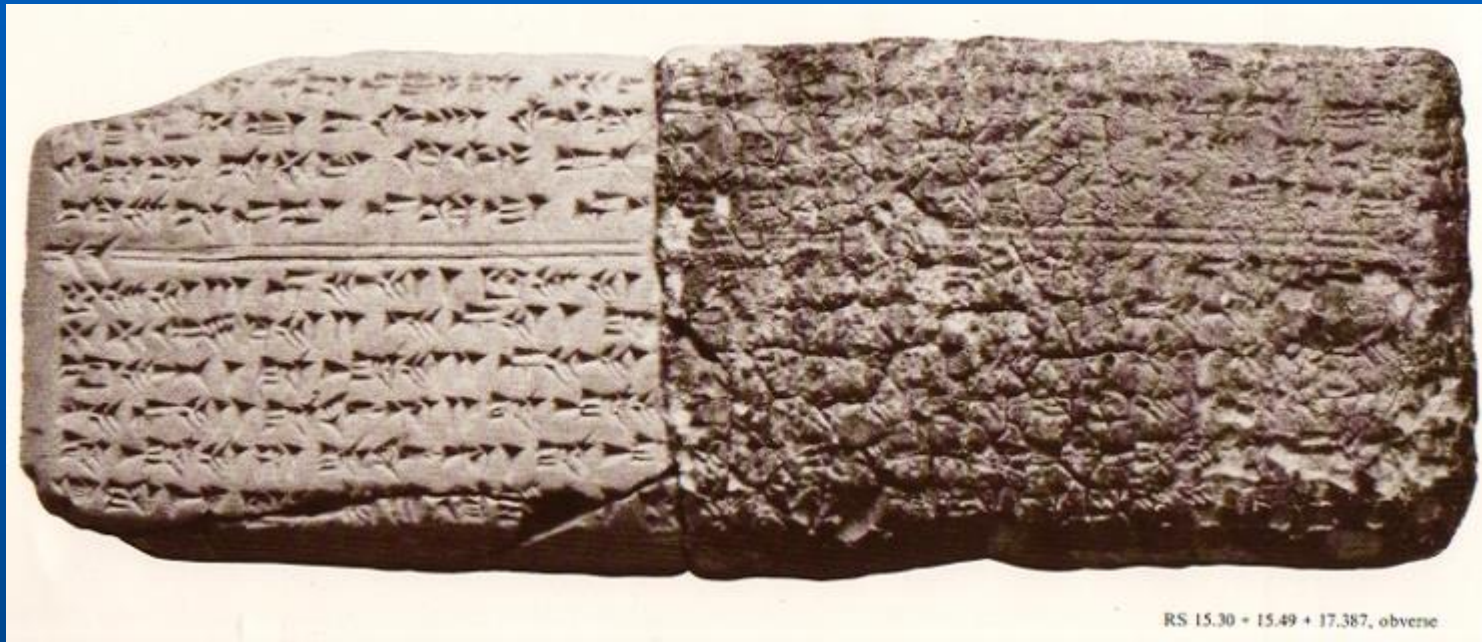
## Psalm Titles

לְמִנְצֵחַ בְּנִגְיֹנֹתַי

# Authenticity

- 116 of 150 psalms have titles
- Psalms outside Psalter have titles
  - 2 Samuel 22:1
  - Isaiah 38:9
  - Habakkuk 3:1, 19
  - Ezekiel 19:14
- Hurrian cult song has title

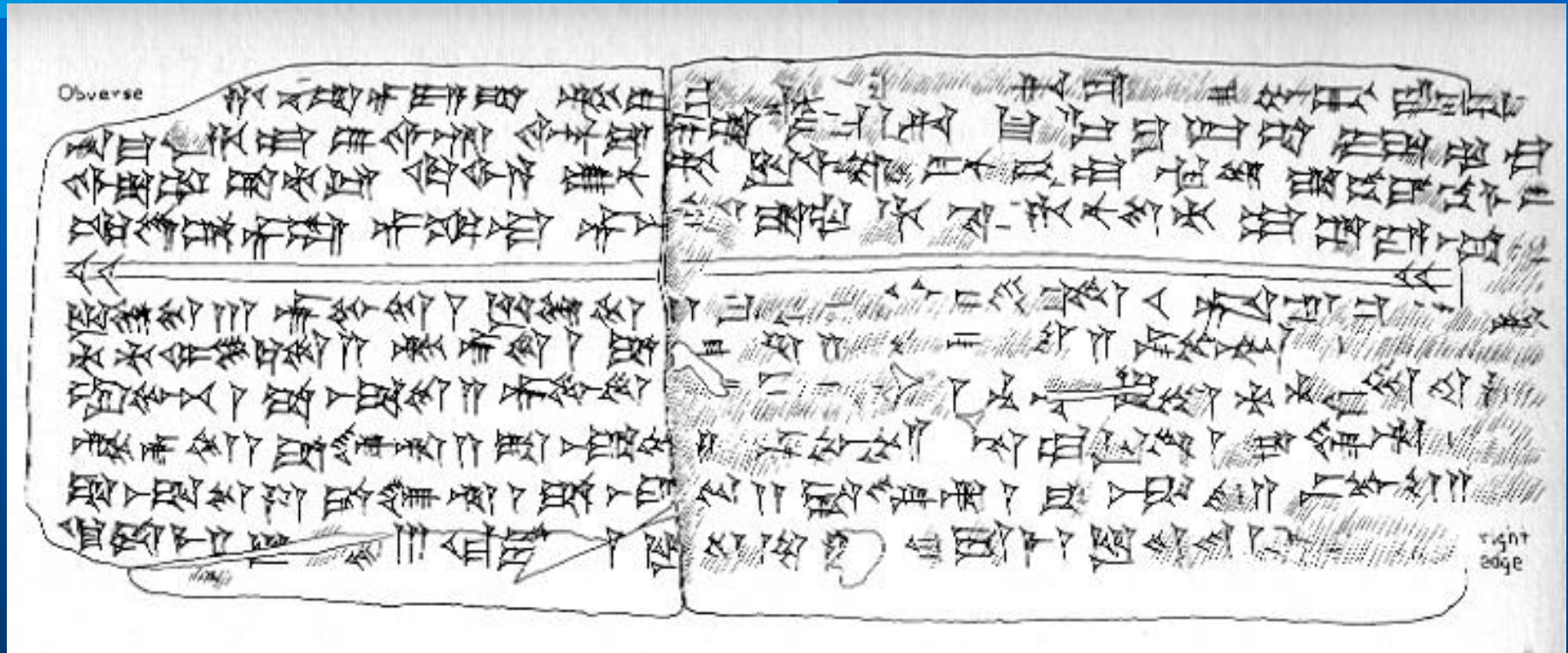
# Hurrian Cult Song



**FOR MORE INFO...**

**Anne Draffkorn Kilmer, Richard L. Crocker, and Robert R. Brown, *Sounds from Silence: Recent Discoveries in Ancient Near Eastern Music* (Berkeley, CA: Bit Enki Publications, 1976)**

# Hurrian Song Tablet from Ras Shamra



Obverse

# Hurrian Song Tablet from Ras Shamra

Figure 16. Transcription and Partial Translation of the Song Text RS 15.30 + 15.49 + 17.387 (by Kilmer)

Lyrics (in Hurrian)

1. [x(x)] ḥan[u]ta niyaša ziwe š[i]nute 'zutu'riya ubugara 'kud' -
2. HUMARUḤAT UWARI wanda[n]ita ukuri kurkurta išalla
3. WEŠAL TATIB TIŠIYA unu[g]a kabšili unugat akli šamšam me[x] -
4. KALITANIL NIKALA ni[hura?]šal ḥana ḥanuteti attayaštal

◀◀

◀◀

Notation (using Hurrianized Akkadian terms)

5. (a) qablite 3 irbute 1 qablite 3 'ša? šini?' (b) titimišarte 10 uštamari
6. titimišarte 2 zirte 1 šaḥri 2 zi[rt]e 2 irbute 2?
7. umbube 1 šaššate 2 irbute [1] ša[šš]ate 2? titarqabli 1 titimišarte 4
8. zirte 1 šaḥri 2 šaššate 4 irbute 1 nadqabli 1 šaḥri 2?
9. šaššate 4? šaḥri 1 šašš[at]e 2 šaḥri 1 šaššate 2 irbute 2
10. kitme 2 qablite 3 kit[me] 1 qablite 4 kitme 1 qablite 3? [x x x(x)]

lower edge of obverse

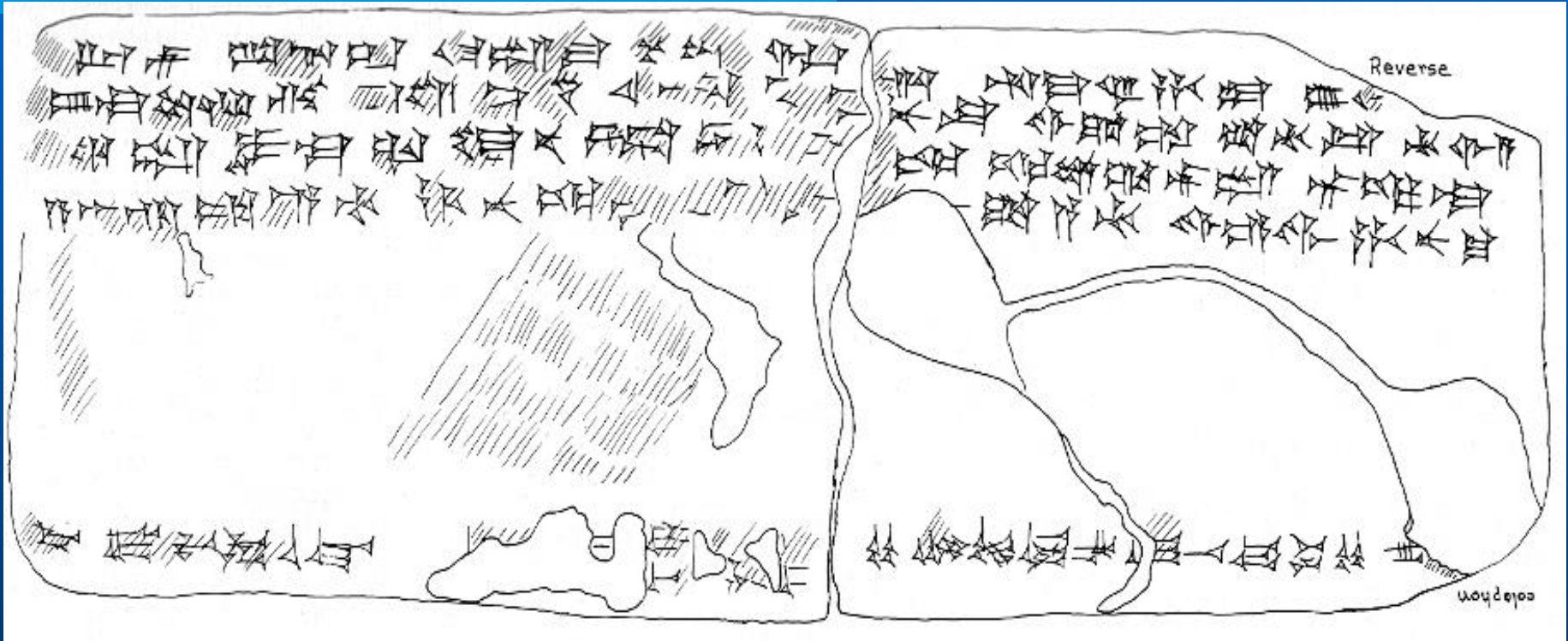
Obverse

# Hurrian Song Tablet from Ras Shamra



Reverse

# Hurrian Song Tablet from Ras Shamra



Reverse

# Hurrian Song Tablet from Ras Shamra

urni tašal killa [z]ili šipri HUMARUḤAT UWA[R]I  
 ulali kabgi a[l]li[x]gi širit [mur<sup>2</sup>]nušu WEŠAL TATIB TIŠIYA  
 lil ukkal tununita<sup>1</sup>ka<sup>2</sup> [ḥanu<sup>2</sup>]ka KALITANIL NIKALA  
 attari ta(?)eti ḥanuka [ x x x x x x x x ]-šati WEWE ḤANUKU

## Translation of Notation

5. (a) “middle” 3; “fourth” 1; “middle” 3; repeats(?). (b) “bridge of the normal” 10: closing phrase(?).
6. “bridge of the normal” 2; “. . . .” 1; “song” 2; “. . . .” 2; “fourth” 2
7. “reed pipe” 1; “third” 2; “fourth” [1]; “third” 2; “bridge of the middle” 1; “bridge of the normal” 4
8. “. . . .” 1; “song” 2; “third” 4; “fourth” 1; “fall of the middle” 1; “song” 2
9. “third” 4; “song” 1; “third” 2; “song” 1; “third” 2; “fourth” 2
10. “closed” 2; “middle” 3; “closed” 1; “middle” 4; “closed” 1; “middle” 3

“This is a song of the Fall-of-the-Middle (tuning/scale), a hymn(?) of the gods, from Uḫiya; copied by Ammurapi.”

11. [am]ā zammaru ša mid-qibti za[luzi] ša DINGER.MEŠ TA mUḫiya] ŠU mAmmu-rapi  
 (Colophon (in Akkadian))

Reverse



# Hurrian Song Tablet from Ras Shamra

## Colophon (in Akkadian)

11. [ann]û zammaru ša nid-qibli za[luzi ša DINGER.MEŠ TA <sup>m</sup>Urḫiya] ŠU <sup>m</sup>Ammu-rapi

“This is a song of the Fall-of-the-Middle (tuning/scale), a hymn(?) of the gods, from Urḫiya; copied by Ammurapi.”

Translation of Notation

5. (a) “middle” 3; “fourth” 1; “middle” 3; repeats(?) (b) “bridge of the normal” 10: closing phrase(?)  
 6. “bridge of the normal” 2; “. . . .” 1; “song” 2; “. . . .” 2; “. . . .” 2; “. . . .” 2  
 7. “reed pipe” 1; “third” 2; “fourth” [1] 1; “third” 2; “bridge of the middle” 1; “bridge of the normal” 4  
 8. “. . . .” 1; “song” 2; “third” 4; “fourth” 1; “fall of the middle” 1; “song” 2  
 9. “third” 4; “song” 1; “third” 2; “song” 1; “third” 2; “fourth” 2  
 10. “closed” 2; “middle” 3; “closed” 1; “middle” 4; “closed” 1; “middle” 3

urni rašal killa [z]ih šipri ḪUMARUḪAT UWA[R]I  
 ulali kabgi a[l]h[x]gi širti [mur?]nušu WEŠAL TATIB TIŠIYA  
 hi ulkal tumunita'ka? [ḫanu?]ka KALITANIL NIKALA  
 attari ta(?)eti ḫanuka [ x x x x x x x x x x ]-kan WEWE ḪANUKU

Reverse

# Thirtle' s Theory

- Other ANE poetic texts with musical subscriptions.
  - “the ancient tendency to place generic labels in the superscripts or subscripts of the texts.” (Sparks, 85)

## FOR MORE INFO...

Kenton L. Sparks, *Ancient Texts for the Study of the Hebrew Bible: A Guide to the Background Literature* (Peabody, MA: Hendrickson Publishers, 2005), 85.

# Thirtle's Theory

- Other ANE poetic texts with musical subscriptions.
  - “special subscript at the end of the composition, resembling the superscript of the biblical psalter.”

## FOR MORE INFO...

Yitschak Sefati, “Love Poems,” in *The Context of Scripture*, 3 vols., ed. by William W. Hallo and K. Lawson Younger (Leiden, The Netherlands: Brill, 2003), 1:540-43.

# Antiquity

- LXX translators did not understand the psalm titles

## Psalm 4:1

Εἰς τὸ τέλος,  
ἐν ψαλμοῖς, ᾠδὴ  
τῷ Δαυιδ.

## Psalm 4:1

לְמִנְצָח בְּגִיטָה  
מִזְמֹר לְדָוִד:

# Antiquity

- LXX translators did not understand the psalm titles

## Psalm 45:1

Εἰς τὸ τέλος, ὑπὲρ τῶν  
υἰῶν Κορε, ὑπὲρ τῶν  
κρυφίων ψαλμός.

## Psalm 46:1

לְמִנְצָחַ לְבְנֵי-קֹרַח  
עַל-עֲלֻמּוֹת נָשִׁיר

# Antiquity

- LXX translators did not understand the psalm titles

## Psalm 57:1

Εἰς τὸ τέλος, μὴ  
διαφθείρης,  
τῷ Δαυιδ εἰς  
στηλογραφίαν.

## Psalm 58:1

לְמִנְצָחַ אֱלֹהִים  
לְדָוִד מִכַּתָּם

# Accuracy

- NT writers specify the author in the MT psalm heading.

**Luke 20:42**

αὐτὸς γὰρ Δαυὶδ  
λέγει ἐν βίβλῳ  
ψαλμῶν

**Psalms 110:1**

לְדָוִד מְזִמּוֹר

# Accuracy

- NT writers specify the author in the MT psalm heading.

## Acts 13:35-36

Δαυὶδ μὲν γὰρ ἰδίᾳ γενεᾷ  
ὑπηρετήσας τῇ τοῦ θεοῦ  
βουλῇ ἐκοιμήθη καὶ  
προσετέθη πρὸς τοὺς  
πατέρας αὐτοῦ καὶ εἶδεν  
διαφθοράν·

## Psalms 16:10

כִּי לֹא-תֵעָזֵב נַפְשִׁי  
לְשִׂאֵוֹל לֹא-תִתֶּן  
תְּסִיֵּדֶךָ לְרֵאוֹת שָׁחַת



# Thirtle's Theory

- **Superscriptions: historical and literary**
- **Subscriptions: musical**
- **Cf. Habakkuk 3:1, 19**

## FOR MORE INFO...

John Richard Sampey, "Psalms, Book of," in *ISBE*, edited by James Orr (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1939), 4:2487-94.

James William Thirtle, *The Titles of the Psalms: Their Nature and Meaning Explained* (London: Henry Frowde, 1904).

# Habakkuk 3

1 תַּפְלֵה לְחַבְקוּק הַנָּבִיא עַל שְׂגִינֹת:

**Historical & Literary Superscription**

**Musical Subscription**

19d לְמִנְצֵה בְּגִינוֹתַי

# Psalm Heading Samples

- Psalms 55:7–8 and 56:1

לְמִנְצָחַ | עַל-יְוֹנֵת אֲלֵם רַחֲקִים

- Psalms 87:1, 7 and 88:1

... לְבְנֵי-קִרַח מְזֻמֹּר נְשִׁיר

וְנְשָׂרִים כְּחִלָּלִים כָּל-מַעֲיָגֵי בָד:

נְשִׁיר מְזֻמֹּר לְבְנֵי קִרַח לְמִנְצָחַ עַל-מִחְלַת לְעֲנֹת

מִשְׁפִּיל לְהִימֹן הָאֲזָרְקִי: