

Now there is an interesting thing in that in Hebrew we have the letter samech and sin. We can't make any difference in pronunciation of a samech and sin in English. We have no proof there was a difference in ancient times. But in Arabic there is no Samech, but in Arabic there is sin and a shin. Wherever you have a word in Hebrew that has a shin in it, Arabic at that point will have a sin. And where you have a ~~XXXX~~ word in ~~XX~~ Arabic with a shin in it, Hebrew will have a sin. So you see the two have just -- we don't know which is the earliest. But they have just changed places and it is a very interesting evidence of how the words changed. The probabilities are that they weren't either of them pronounced like we pronounce them today. They gradually changed so that the way we == they pronounce them today is just exact opposite in one case of what the other is.

(Cohen: Today in modern Israel where we for instance have learned Rebecca, they say Rivka. Solomon has Slomo which sounds very disappointing to us -- Slomo.

Why is it disappointing?

(Cohen: Well I don't know. I of Solomon as \int such a wonderful name and we hear someone Slomo. And the Israeli the boy says I'm ~~XX~~ Schlomo, and the girl will always say Schlomo is a pretty name.

Sure, it's all what you're used to. But the Greeks -- you see we got ours from the Greeks and the Greeks did not have any shin sound so they represented all these shins as s's. That's how we get the Solomon.

(Student: ~~XXXX~~ Is Hittite and Cuneiform ?

The Hittite is an Indo-European language. It is related to English, German, Latin all these languages. But the Hittite writing that we have is written in cuneiform and you will have Sumerian sign for an idea often with an ending which the Babylonians put on to show that they