

The Silver Scrolls (amulets)

Discovered: 1979, Ketif Hinnom, by Gabriel Barkay and 13 year old assistant

Chamber 25 of the repository (part of the burial cave) – the ceiling had collapsed entombing all of the artifacts

Chamber 25 was one of 5 burial chambers coming off the central hall of burial cave 24 (common in the Iron Age)

First one was found in situ – 3” above the floor of the repository

Second one was found by sifting operation – in the middle of the repository

Date:

- Paleography (the shape and form of the letters) date them to the late 7th century
- Pottery found at the same level in the repository dates to the late Iron Age
- Stragraphically it (K.H. I) was found near the floor (3” above the floor) under 2’ of stratum



Amulet 2 contains the Priestly blessing of Numbers 6

Description:

	Ketif Hinnom I	Ketif Hinnom II
Size	4” long x 1” wide	1.5” x .5”
Make Up	99% silver; 1% copper (reminiscent of Jer. 10.9)	99% silver; 1% copper (reminiscent of Jer. 10.9)
Number of lines	18 lines (prob. 19 originally)	12 lines (prob. 18 originally)
Letters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 1.7mm to 5 mm high ▪ scratched shallowly with a sharp instrument (reminiscent of Jer. 17.1) ▪ width of letters were approximately the width of a hair 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 1.7mm to 5 mm high ▪ scratched shallowly with a sharp instrument (reminiscent of Jer. 17.1) ▪ width of letters were approximately the width of a hair
Language	Paleo-Hebrew	Paleo-Hebrew
Biblical Echoes	Exodus 20.6 Deut. 5.10; 7.9 Daniel 9.4 Neh. 1.5	Numbers 6.24-26 Deuteronomy 7.9
Interesting Facts	Starts off with YHWH (<i>tetragammaton</i>)	

Importance:

- Oldest Biblical Text that we possess
- Functions as the earliest clear confessional statements about the God of Israel and Judah

Purpose:

A blessing to protect a person in the after life