

~AVREKH (47)
(A-vrekh')

- The term of honor and dignity called out before the chariot of Joseph after Pharaoh made him second in the kingdom.
- Moreover, he had him ride in the second chariot of honor that he had, so that they should call out ahead of him, **Avrékh!** thus putting him over all the land of Egypt. (**Genesis 41:43**)
- If of Hebrew origin, as the ancient translator Aquila conjectured and as supported by the **Latin Vulgate**, it could mean **bow the knee**, and is so translated in many versions. [**AS, KJ, Da, Dy, ER, Ro, RS**] However, this view is rejected by many in favor of similar words in other languages. For example, some think it may be a Babylonian or an Assyrian title of a high official, meaning **seer** or **grand vizier**.
- Some turn to the Coptic and say it means **bow the head**, others observe that the **Arabs say something similar in commanding their camels to kneel down**. The **Syriac Peshitta** reads; **Father and Ruler!** Other investigators believe that it is strictly Egyptian.
- Origen, a native of Egypt, and Jerome think it means **a native Egyptian**, and because of the disregard Egyptians had for foreigners, they reason that it was a public proclamation of naturalization. A similar expression, appearing in a papyrus finding, means **your commandment is the object of our desire**, that is, **we are at your service**. [**The Life and Times of Joseph in the Light of Egyptian Lore**, by H. Tomkins, London, 1891, pp. 49,50]
- The exact meaning of this expression has therefore not yet been determined, hence some versions leave it untranslated. **NW, JP, JB** This non-Hebrew custom of making public acclamation before an honored one as he rode through town also finds an example in;
- And Haman proceeded to take the apparel and the horse and clothe Mordecai and make him ride in the public square of the city and call out before him; This is how it is done to the man in whose honor the king himself has taken a delight. (**Esther 6:11**)
- When Mordecai was publicly honored at the command of Persian King Ahasuerus.

