

『申命記6章9節の בְּשַׁעְרֵיךָ の意味』

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ABSTRACT Shigemitsu GOTOH, “The Meaning of בְּשַׁעְרֵיךָ in Deuteronomy 6:9”. Most of the modern translations render Deuteronomy 6:9 as follows: “And you shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates,” considering בְּשַׁעְרֵיךָ as the second adverbial phrase modifying the verb כָּתַב, and the conjunction waw of וּבְשַׁעְרֵיךָ as an ordinal waw meaning “and”.

In this paper, first I examined the usage of the Hebrew שַׁעַר and ascertained that there is no clear instance in the OT where שַׁעַר is used to refer to part of an ordinary personal house. In case of Deuteronomy 6:9 and 11:20, too, the possibility that שַׁעַר refers to the gate of an ordinary personal house is very low.

Next I examined the usage of the prepositional phrase בְּשַׁעְרֵיךָ and ascertained that in almost all cases בְּשַׁעְרֵיךָ is used in the sense of meaning “within your settlements” or “in your settlements”, whether it is used adjectivally or adverbially. In the book of Deuteronomy, the prepositional phrase “pl. of שַׁעַר + ב” is used 19 times, and in 17 of them it is used in the sense of “within your settlements” or “in your settlements”. In the two other cases also, that is, in Deuteronomy 6:9 and 11:20, the probability that בְּשַׁעְרֵיךָ is used in the sense of meaning “within your settlements” or “in your settlements” is high.

Then, I examined the relationship of the Hebrew verb כָּתַב and the prepositional phrase “pl. of שַׁעַר + ב”, and concluded that בְּשַׁעְרֵיךָ in Deuteronomy 6:9 is not one of the adverbial phrases modifying the predicate verb כָּתַב, but that considering the usages of ו in the OT, it probably rather is an adjective modifying בֵּיתְךָ linked with a “pleonastic waw”.

So the passage of Deuteronomy 6:9 should be translated, “And you

shall write them on the doorposts of your house that is in your settlements.”