

Hebrew *ḥārûṣ* in Dan 9:25

[Note: One expects a range of meanings for any given word, but Hebrew *ḥārûṣ* is remarkable in this respect. The underlying meaning has to do with sharpness. It occurs in Dan 9:25 in a context that leaves its meaning unclear.¹ Apart from Dan 9:25, then, and 2 Kgs 21:19, where *ḥārûṣ* is used as a personal name, other passages which use this interesting word are as follows:

Maimed	Lev 22:22	Animal cut by something sharp
Threshing sledge	Job 41:22; Isa 28:27; 41:15; Amos 1:3	Board with sharp teeth
Fine gold	Ps 68:14; Prov 3:14; 8:10, 19; Zech 9:3	Engraved gold
Dilligent	Prov 10:4; 12:24, 27; 13:4; 16:16; 21:5	Requiring concentrated effort
Decision	Joel 4:14	Requiring sharp thought

Which of the above meanings stands the best chance of clarifying or matching the meaning of *ḥārûṣ* in Dan 9:25? There is nothing in that passage about animals. The reference is to a city, not to an agricultural setting, so threshing sledges would be out of place. Dilligence and decisiveness would fit part of the context, but whatever Daniel is talking about is something tangible.

What about gold? In this case the translation would be something like, "with streets (or square) and wealth." The city would prosper once again. Not all of the city's prosperity would return in a day, but over time it would return. If this is what the angel is actually saying, was the prediction fulfilled? Yes! Jerusalem became powerful under the Hasmoneans and beautiful under Herod. "It used to be said: He who has not seen the Temple of Herod has never seen a beautiful building."² I offer these thoughts as a possible suggestion.]

[*Meaning unclear*]

WTT Daniel 9:25
 וְתִדַּע וְתִשְׁכַּל מִן־מוֹצֵא דְבַר לְהָשִׁיב וּלְבַנּוֹת
 יְרוּשָׁלַם עַד־מוֹשִׁיחַ נָגִיד שִׁבְעִים שָׁבָעָה וְשִׁבְעִים שָׁשִׁים וּשְׁנַיִם
 תָּשׁוּב וְנִבְנְתָה רְחֹב וְחָרוֹץ וּבְצוֹק הָעֵתִים׃

^{NIV} **Daniel 9:25** "Know and understand this: From the issuing of the decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem until the Anointed One, the ruler, comes, there will be seven 'sevens,' and sixty-two 'sevens.' It will be rebuilt with streets and a trench, but in times of trouble.

^{NRS} **Daniel 9:25** Know therefore and understand: from the time that the word went out to restore and rebuild Jerusalem until the time of an anointed prince, there shall be seven weeks; and for sixty-two weeks it shall be built again with streets and moat, but in a troubled time.

^{TNK} **Daniel 9:25** You must know and understand: From the issuance of the word to restore and rebuild Jerusalem until the *time of the* anointed leader is seven weeks; and for sixty-two weeks it will be rebuilt, square and moat, but in a time of distress.

Maimed

WTT Leviticus 22:22
 עֹרֶת אֹ אוֹ שָׁבוֹר אוֹ־חָרוֹץ אוֹ־יִבְלַת אוֹ גֶרֶב
 אוֹ יִלְפַת לֹא־תִקְרִיבוּ אֵלָה לִיהוָה וְאִשָּׁה לֹא־תִתְּנוּ מֵהֶם
 עַל־הַמִּזְבֵּחַ לִיהוָה׃

¹ Brempong Owusu-Antwi alludes to the obscurity of this term in, *The Chronology of Daniel 9:24-27*, Adventist Theological Society Dissertation Series (Berrien Springs, 1995), pp. 300-1.

² *The Babylonian Talmud*, ed. Rabbi Dr I. Epstein (London: Soncino, 1935), Baba Bathra 4a [p. 12].

^{NIV} **Leviticus 22:22** Do not offer to the LORD the blind, the injured or the maimed, or anything with warts or festering or running sores. Do not place any of these on the altar as an offering made to the LORD by fire.

^{NRS} **Leviticus 22:22** Anything blind, or injured, or maimed, or having a discharge or an itch or scabs-- these you shall not offer to the LORD or put any of them on the altar as offerings by fire to the LORD.

^{TNK} **Leviticus 22:22** Anything blind, or injured, or maimed, or with a wen, boil-scar, or scurvy -- such you shall not offer to the LORD; you shall not put any of them on the altar as offerings by fire to the LORD.

Personal name

שְׁנַיִם מְלָךְ בִּירוּשָׁלַם וְשֵׁם אִמּוֹ מִשְׁלֵמֶת בַּת־חֲרוּץ מִן־יֹטְבָה: ^{WTT} **2 Kings 21:19**
בְּיָעֶשְׂרִים וּשְׁתַּיִם שָׁנָה אָמוֹן בְּמָלְכוֹ וּשְׁתַּיִם

^{NIV} **2 Kings 21:19** Amon was twenty-two years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem two years. His mother's name was Meshullemeth daughter of Haruz; she was from Jotbah.

^{NRS} **2 Kings 21:19** Amon was twenty-two years old when he began to reign; he reigned two years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Meshullemeth daughter of Haruz of Jotbah.

^{TNK} **2 Kings 21:19** Amon was twenty-two years old when he became king, and he reigned two years in Jerusalem; his mother's name was Meshullemeth daughter of Haruz of Jotbah.

Threshing sledge

תַּחְתּוֹ חֲדָדֵי חֲרָשׁ יִרְפָּד חֲרוּץ עַל־יִטֵּיט: ^{WTT} **Job 41:22**

^{NIV} **Job 41:30** His undersides are jagged potsherds, leaving a trail in the mud like a threshing sledge.

^{NRS} **Job 41:30** Its underparts are like sharp potsherds; it spreads itself like a threshing sledge on the mire.

^{TNK} **Job 41:22** His underpart is jagged shards; It spreads a threshing-sledge on the mud.

עַל־כַּמְּוֵן יוֹסֵב כִּי בַמַּטֵּה יִחַבֵּט קֶצֶח וְכַמְּוֵן בַּשֶּׁבֶט: ^{WTT} **Isaiah 28:27**
לֹא בַחֲרוּץ יוֹדֵשׁ קֶצֶח וְאוֹפֵן עֲגָלָה

^{NIV} **Isaiah 28:27** Caraway is not threshed with a sledge, nor is a cartwheel rolled over cummin; caraway is beaten out with a rod, and cummin with a stick.

^{NRS} **Isaiah 28:27** Dill is not threshed with a threshing sledge, nor is a cart wheel rolled over cummin; but dill is beaten out with a stick, and cummin with a rod.

^{TNK} **Isaiah 28:27** So, too, black cumin is not threshed with a threshing board, Nor is the wheel of a threshing sledge rolled over cumin; But black cumin is beaten out with a stick And cummin with a rod.

תִּדְוֵשׁ הָרִים וְתִדְק וְגִבְעוֹת כַּמְּוֵן תִּשִּׂים: ^{WTT} **Isaiah 41:15**
הִנֵּה שִׁמְתִּיךָ לְמוֹרֵג חֲרוּץ חֲדָשׁ בְּעַל פִּיפְיוֹת

^{NIV} **Isaiah 41:15** "See, I will make you into a threshing sledge, new and sharp, with many teeth. You will thresh the mountains and crush them, and reduce the hills to chaff.

^{NRS} **Isaiah 41:15** Now, I will make of you a threshing sledge, sharp, new, and having teeth; you shall thresh the mountains and crush them, and you shall make the hills like chaff.

^{TNK} **Isaiah 41:15** I will make of you a threshing board, A new thresher, with many spikes; You shall thresh mountains to dust, And make hills like chaff.

וְעַל־אַרְבָּעָה לֹא אֲשִׁיבֶנּוּ עַל־דּוֹשֵׁם בַּחֲרָצוֹת הַבְּרוֹזֹל
אֶת־הַגִּלְעָד: ^{WTT} **Amos 1:3**
כֹּה אָמַר יְהוָה עַל־שְׁלֹשָׁה פְּשָׁעֵי דַמָּשֶׁק

^{NIV} **Amos 1:3** This is what the LORD says: "For three sins of Damascus, even for four, I will not turn back my wrath. Because she threshed Gilead with sledges having iron teeth,

^{NRS} **Amos 1:3** Thus says the LORD: For three transgressions of Damascus, and for four, I will not revoke the punishment; because they have threshed Gilead with threshing sledges of iron.

^{TNK} **Amos 1:3** Thus said the LORD: For three transgressions of Damascus, For four, I will not revoke it: Because they threshed Gilead With threshing boards of iron.

Fine gold

אִם-תִּשְׁכְּבוּן בֵּין שְׂפָתַיִם כְּנָפַי יוֹנָה נֶחֱפָה ^{WTT} Psalm 68:14
בְּכֶסֶף וְאַבְרוֹתֶיהָ בִּירְקָרָק חָרוּץ:

^{NIV} **Psalm 68:13** Even while you sleep among the campfires, the wings of *my dove* are sheathed with silver, its feathers with shining gold."

^{NRS} **Psalm 68:13** though they stay among the sheepfolds-- the wings of a dove covered with silver, its pinions with green gold.

^{TNK} **Psalm 68:14** even for those of you who lie among the sheepfolds there are wings of a dove sheathed in silver, its pinions in fine gold."

כִּי טוֹב סִחְרָהּ מִסִּחְרֵי כֶּסֶף וּמִחָרוּץ תְּבוֹאָתָהּ: ^{WTT} Proverbs 3:14

^{NIV} **Proverbs 3:14** for she is more profitable than silver and yields better returns than gold.

^{NRS} **Proverbs 3:14** for her income is better than silver, and her revenue better than gold.

^{TNK} **Proverbs 3:14** Her value in trade is better than silver, Her yield, greater than gold.

קַח-מוֹסְרֵי וְאַל-כֶּסֶף וְדַעַת מִחָרוּץ נִבְחָר: ^{WTT} Proverbs 8:10

^{NIV} **Proverbs 8:10** Choose my instruction instead of silver, knowledge rather than choice gold,

^{NRS} **Proverbs 8:10** Take my instruction instead of silver, and knowledge rather than choice gold;

^{TNK} **Proverbs 8:10** Accept my discipline rather than silver, Knowledge rather than choice gold.

טוֹב פְּרִי מִחָרוּץ וּמִפֶּז וְתְבוֹאָתִי מִכֶּסֶף נִבְחָר: ^{WTT} Proverbs 8:19

^{NIV} **Proverbs 8:19** My fruit is better than fine gold; what I yield surpasses choice silver.

^{NRS} **Proverbs 8:19** My fruit is better than gold, even fine gold, and my yield than choice silver.

^{TNK} **Proverbs 8:19** My fruit is better than gold, fine gold, And my produce better than choice silver.

כָּנֵה-חֲכָמָה מִזֶּה-טוֹב מִחָרוּץ וּקְנֹת בִּינָה ^{WTT} Proverbs 16:16

נִבְחָר מִכֶּסֶף:

^{NIV} **Proverbs 16:16** How much better to get wisdom than gold, to choose understanding rather than silver!

^{NRS} **Proverbs 16:16** How much better to get wisdom than gold! To get understanding is to be chosen rather than silver.

^{TNK} **Proverbs 16:16** How much better to acquire wisdom than gold; To acquire understanding is preferable to silver.

וַתִּבֶּן צָר מְצוֹר לָהּ וַתַּצְבֵּר-כֶּסֶף כַּעֲפָר וְחָרוּץ

כְּטִיט חוֹצוֹת:

^{NIV} **Zechariah 9:3** Tyre has built herself a stronghold; she has heaped up silver like dust, and gold like the dirt of the streets.

^{NRS} **Zechariah 9:3** Tyre has built itself a rampart, and heaped up silver like dust, and gold like the dirt of the streets.

^{TNK} **Zechariah 9:3** Tyre has built herself a fortress; She has amassed silver like dust, And gold like the mud in the streets.

Dilligent

רָאשׁ עֲשֵׂה כְּפִי רְמִיָּה וְיֵד חָרוּצִים תַּעֲשִׂיר׃^{WTT} Proverbs 10:4

^{NIV} Proverbs 10:4 Lazy hands make a man poor, but diligent hands bring wealth.

^{NRS} Proverbs 10:4 A slack hand causes poverty, but the hand of the diligent makes rich.

^{TNK} Proverbs 10:4 Negligent hands cause poverty, But diligent hands enrich.

יַד־חָרוּצִים תִּמְשׁוּל וְרְמִיָּה תִהְיֶה לְמָס׃^{WTT} Proverbs 12:24

^{NIV} Proverbs 12:24 Diligent hands will rule, but laziness ends in slave labor.

^{NRS} Proverbs 12:24 The hand of the diligent will rule, while the lazy will be put to forced labor.

^{TNK} Proverbs 12:24 The hand of the diligent wields authority; The negligent are held in subjection.

לֹא־יִחַרֵּךְ רְמִיָּה צִידוֹ וְהוֹן־אָדָם יִקַּר חָרוּץ׃^{WTT} Proverbs 12:27

^{NIV} Proverbs 12:27 The lazy man does not roast his game, but the diligent man prizes his possessions.

^{NRS} Proverbs 12:27 The lazy do not roast their game, but the diligent obtain precious wealth.

^{TNK} Proverbs 12:27 A negligent man never has game to roast; A diligent man has precious wealth.

מִתְאַנָּה וְאֵין נַפְשׁוֹ עֲצֵל וְנַפְשׁ חָרָצִים תִּדְשֵׁן׃^{WTT} Proverbs 13:4

^{NIV} Proverbs 13:4 The sluggard craves and gets nothing, but the desires of the diligent are fully satisfied.

^{NRS} Proverbs 13:4 The appetite of the lazy craves, and gets nothing, while the appetite of the diligent is richly supplied.

^{TNK} Proverbs 13:4 A lazy man craves, but has nothing; The diligent shall feast on rich fare.

מַחְשְׁבֹת חָרוּץ אֶדְ-לְמוֹתֵר וְכָל־אֵץ
אֶדְ-לְמַחְסוֹר׃^{WTT} Proverbs 21:5

^{NIV} Proverbs 21:5 The plans of the diligent lead to profit as surely as haste leads to poverty.

^{NRS} Proverbs 21:5 The plans of the diligent lead surely to abundance, but everyone who is hasty comes only to want.

^{TNK} Proverbs 21:5 The plans of the diligent make only for gain; All rash haste makes only for loss.

Decision

הַמוֹנִים הַמוֹנִים בְּעַמֶּק הַחֲרוּץ כִּי קָרוֹב יוֹם
יְהוָה בְּעַמֶּק הַחֲרוּץ׃^{WTT} Joel 4:14

^{NIV} Joel 3:14 Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision! For the day of the LORD is near in the valley of decision.

^{NRS} Joel 3:14 Multitudes, multitudes, in the valley of decision! For the day of the LORD is near in the valley of decision.

^{TNK} Joel 4:14 Multitudes upon multitudes In the Valley of Decision! For the day of the LORD is at hand In the Valley of Decision.

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