II

THE ALLEGED HEBREW VERB *HITRAPPES*, AN EGYPTIAN COUNTRY-NAME.

Twice we find in the Bible, in very difficult passages, the verb התרפס, usually connected with the other verb רפש. In *Psalms* LXVIII, 29 ss. we read : מהיכלך על־ירושלם לך יובילו מלכים שי׳ גער חית קנה עדת אבירים : בעגלי עמים מתרפס ברצי־כסף בזר עמים קרבות יחפצו : יאתיו חשמנים מני מצרים כוש תריץ ידיו לאלהים : ממלכות הארץ שירו לאלהים זמרו אדני סלה :

We have here a description of kings and countries, doing homage to God at his sanctuary in Jerusalem. But some expressions need a fuller interpretation. Thus the words יובילו שי (v. 30) do not mean, as universally believed, "to bring donation", but, as I have shown in an article in *Tarbiz*, XIII (1942), p. 213-217 : "to acknowledge as king", this expression being a development of the Accadian *bēlishu*, "his lord", used for "the king", which through the medium of the Hittite language passed into Hebrew as well as into Greek, changed here into βασιλεύς, the king. Among the countries doing homage, and also bringing donations, one in v. 30 is described as "the beast of the reed" (חית קנה) the band of mighty among the calves of the nations. The name of this country is apparently not given; but as it seems to me, we have to recognize it in the word גער at the beginning of v. 31, usually translated as the imperative : rebuke! Such an imperative, however, does not fit the context, describing nations and kings doing homage to God. This new name *Gʿr* must be another name for Egypt as a whole, but as this country is described here as *the beast of the reed* גער may simply mean *the roaring* (*gōʿēr*) *lion*, just as רהב, another name of Egypt originally means : the dragon; for the continuation also speaks of other names of Egypt, enumerating its parts and its surroundings, as the countries acknowledging God as their King and Lord. Thus מצרים, Egypt, and כוש, Ethiopia are expressly mentioned in v. 33. Here מנים of חשמנים is only a reduplication of the following (מני מ)צרים, and so we have to read (cf. Aquila) : יאתיו חש מני מצרים "they come quickly from Egypt, Ethiopia