

Learn to Read Biblical Hebrew



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Jeff A. Benner

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Biblical Hebrew

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A guide to learning the Hebrew
alphabet, vocabulary and sentence
structure of the Hebrew Bible



By Jeff A. Benner

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To my Father who set me on the
path of Biblical studies

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Introduction

Why Learn Hebrew?

A translation of the Biblical text is a translator's "interpretation" of the text. The translator's beliefs will often influence how the text will be translated and anyone using this translation is seeing it through the translator's eyes rather than that of the original authors. Only by studying the original language of the Bible can one see and understand the text in its original state.

Learning the Hebrew language can be both fun and exciting. By simply studying the pages that follow, for just a few minutes a day, you will soon be reading Hebrew, build a Hebrew vocabulary and even begin translating Biblical passages for yourself.

About Hebrew

The English word "alphabet" is derived from the first two letters of the Greek Alphabet--*Alpha* and *Beta*. Hebrew on the other hand, uses the word "alephbet," the first two letters of the Hebrew alephbet--*Aleph* and *Beyt*. The Hebrew alephbet consists of 22 consonants. The vowels (called *nikkudot*, *nikkud* in the singular) are dots and dashes added above and below the consonants. One advantage to Hebrew is that the sound for each letter remains consistent, unlike English where one has to memorize many variations. For instance, the word "circus"

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contains the letter “c” twice, the first time it is pronounced like an “S” while the second time it is pronounced like a “K.” In Hebrew, the letter כ (kaph) is always pronounced as a “K.”

Unlike English, which is read from left to right, Hebrew is read from right to left, just as many other Semitic languages are, including Aramaic and Arabic. This may sound difficult at first, but in a very short time, you will get used to it.

When sounding out a word, it will be easier if you remember the Consonant (C) and Vowel (V) patterns of Hebrew words. In English, the consonants and vowels may be arranged in any order, such as in the word “circle,” which has a C+V+C+C+C+V pattern. Hebrew on the other hand, is very consistent, and each word will usually follow a C+V+C+V+C pattern. The Hebrew word מֶלֶךְ (*melek* - king) contains the pattern C+V+C+V+C, מְלִכּוֹ (*meleko* - his king) is C+V+C+V+C+V and הַמֶּלֶךְ (*hamelek* - the king) is C+V+C+V+C+V+C.

The pronunciations of some of the consonants and vowels have changed over the centuries, but this does not affect the meaning of words, as the letters of a word define it, and not the sounds. We will learn to pronounce them according to Modern Hebrew pronunciation. Modern Hebrew pronunciation is also divided into two parts, *Ashkenazi* and *Sephardic*. Since *Sephardic* is the pronunciation adopted by the Modern State of Israel, we will use this pronunciation.

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About this Book

When I began to study the Hebrew language I used several different resources, but found that they were not compiled in a format easily understood by beginning Hebrew students. I began to arrange charts and lists with the necessary information as a ready resource for learning and reading the Hebrew Bible.

This book is the result. Included in this book are lessons for learning the alephbet, verbs, nouns, adjectives and sentence structure.

If at any time you have questions about the Ancient Hebrew Research Center, this book, its content or the lessons, please feel free to E-mail your questions or comments to our web site;

<http://www.ancient-hebrew.org>

Additional Resources

It should be kept in mind that this book is not meant to be used for in-depth Biblical study, but as a reference guide for Biblical reading practice, vocabulary building and sentence comprehension. More specific dictionaries and lexicons will be necessary for more in-depth study.

Through the process of Hebraic studies, you will want to dig deeper into the meaning of specific words and phrases. At this point, the purchase of a Hebrew Bible and a Hebrew Lexicon will be helpful. There are several different kinds of Hebrew Bibles. The standard Hebrew Bible will be a Bible written only in Hebrew. The Interlinear Bible

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will have the Hebrew on one line and the English translation for each word under each Hebrew word. A Parallel Bible will have the Hebrew text on one page and the English translation on the other

There are several different Lexicons, but be sure that the one you purchase includes all the words of the Bible with the prefixes and suffixes attached. This will allow you to look up a word, even if you do not know the root. I recommend Benjamin Davidson's *Hebrew and Chaldee Lexicon of the Bible*.

The Alephbet

Each of the following eleven lessons introduces two new consonants. They may or may not introduce new vowels. Each lesson will also include a practice section, new vocabulary words and sentences. The practice session will allow you to practice the new letters and vowels and refresh yourself on previous ones. The vocabulary section will consist of a few words using the new letters and vowels to begin building your Hebrew vocabulary. The Sentences will allow you to begin using your new words in sentences.

To assist you in learning the letters and words, I recommend that you put the letters and words you are learning on flashcards so that you can study them at any time.

Transliterations for the Hebrew in each lesson are included. When reading these transliterations, remember to use the correct Hebrew sound for each vowel. For example, the transliterated Hebrew vowel sound “o” is the long “o” sound as in the English word “rope.” So the Hebrew transliteration “do” would be pronounced like the English word “doe,” and not like the English word “do.”

Alephbet and Vowels

The following is a chart of all the consonants in the Hebrew Alephbet. This chart includes all the variations for each letter. For example, the letter *beyt* can be written as ב

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or ם. Several of the letters have a final form, a form of the letter that is different when it appears at the end of a word, as well and are also included (such as ם, the normal form and ם, the final form).

<i>Lamed</i>	ל	<i>Aleph</i>	א
<i>Mem</i>	מ ם	<i>Beyt</i>	ב ם
<i>Nun</i>	נ ן	<i>Gimel</i>	ג
<i>Samehh</i>	ס	<i>Dalet</i>	ד
<i>Ayin</i>	ע	<i>Hey</i>	ה
<i>Pey</i>	פ ף	<i>Vav</i>	ו ם
<i>Tsade</i>	צ ץ	<i>Zayin</i>	ז
<i>Quph</i>	ק	<i>Hhet</i>	ח
<i>Resh</i>	ר	<i>Tet</i>	ט
<i>Shin</i>	ש ם	<i>Yud</i>	י
<i>Tav</i>	ת	<i>Kaph</i>	כ ם ן

The Vowels

Below are the names for each of the Hebrew vowels.

<i>Hholam maley</i>	ו	<i>Qamats</i>	אָ ¹
<i>Qubbutz</i>	אֲ	<i>Patahh</i>	אִ

¹ The letter *aleph* (א) is added only to show the placement of the vowel and is not part of the vowel.

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<i>Shuruq</i>	ך	<i>Segol</i>	ֿ
<i>Hhataph qamats</i>	ֿ	<i>Tsere</i>	ֿ
<i>Hhataph patahh</i>	ֿ	<i>Sh'va</i>	ֿ
<i>Hhataph segol</i>	ֿ	<i>Hhireq</i>	ֿ
		<i>Hholam</i>	ֿ

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Letter Comparisons

Several of the Hebrew letters are very similar. In the beginning, they are easily confused with other letters that look similar. Below is a chart showing letters of similarity in order to make the reader familiar with the slight differences.

<i>Beyt</i>	ב	<i>Dalet</i>	ד	<i>Kaph</i>	כ
<i>Kaph</i>	כ	<i>Resh</i>	ר	<i>Pey</i>	פ
<i>Beyt</i>	ב	<i>Vav</i>	ו	<i>Mem</i>	מ
<i>Pey</i>	פ	<i>Zayin</i>	ז	<i>Tet</i>	ט
<i>Gimel</i>	ג	<i>Vav</i>	ו	<i>F. Mem</i>	ם
<i>Nun</i>	נ	<i>F. Nun</i>	ן	<i>Samehh</i>	ס
<i>Hey</i>	ה	<i>Zayin</i>	ז	<i>Samehh</i>	ס
<i>Hhet</i>	ח	<i>F. Nun</i>	ן	<i>Tet</i>	ט
<i>Hey</i>	ה	<i>Hhet</i>	ח	<i>Ayin</i>	ע
<i>Tav</i>	ת	<i>Tav</i>	ת	<i>Tsade</i>	צ

Lessons

Lesson 1 – aleph, beyt

Consonants

- א The “*Aleph*” is the first letter of the Hebrew alphabet. This consonant is silent.
- ב The “*Beyt*” is pronounced two ways, a “*b*” as in “ball” and as “*v*” as in “visit.” When a *dagesh* (a dot in the middle of the letter) appears in the middle of the letter (בּ) it will have the “*b*” sound. When the letter appears without the *dagesh* (ב) the letter is pronounced “*v*.”

Vowels

- אֲ This vowel, called a “*qamats*,” (the little “T” shaped mark under the *aleph*) is pronounced “*a*” as in “father.”
- אִ This vowel, called a “*patahh*,” is also pronounced “*a*” as in “father.”

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Practice

1. בָּא אָבָא בָּא אָבָא בָּא אָבָא
2. בָּא אָבָא בָּא אָבָא בָּא אָבָא

Practice (transliteration)

1. *ba² a va ba a a ba a a va*
2. *va ba av ba av ba*

Vocabulary

1. אָבָא *av* Father
2. בָּא *ba* Came

Sentences

1. אָבָא: ³בָּא
 av ba
 Father came.

² While Hebrew is written from right-to-left, transliterations using the Roman alphabet are written left-to-right.

³ The “:” is a Hebrew period (.).

2. אֵי אֵי⁴ בִּי בִּי מִי אֵם אֵם

Practice (transliteration)

1. *vi⁵ bey vey bi ey i mi mey ma ma*
2. *ey iy viy biy miy eym im*

Vocabulary

1. אֵם *eym* Mother
2. מִי *miy* Who

Sentences

1. מִי בָּא?
miy ba?
Who came?
2. אָבִי בָּא:
aviy ba.
My father came.

⁴ The *hhireq* vowel has an “ee” sound and the letter *yud* has a “y” sound, but when this vowel and letter are combined, they still have the “ee” sound.

⁵ This is pronounced “vee.”

Lesson 3 – Nun, Hey

Consonants

- נ The “*Nun*” is pronounced “*n*” as in “no.”
- ן The “*final Nun*” is only used when it appears at the end of a word. The pronunciation does not change.
- ה The “*Hey*” is pronounced “*h*” as in “hello.” (When the letter ה is prefixed to a word it means “the” such as in sentence #6 where the letter ה is prefixed to the word נְבִיא - prophet, forming הַנְּבִיא - the prophet.)

Practice

1. הָ הָ הָ נִי נִי בֵּן בָּה הַב
2. הוּ הוּ נָה נָה נִה נָב מָה מִן נָא
3. הִי נָא נִי הִיא נִיא נְבָה בְּנָה

Practice (transliteration)

1. *ha hi hey na ney ney beyn bah hav*
2. *han heyh nah nih neyh nav mah min na*
3. *hiy na ney hiy niy na-vah ba-nah*

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Vocabulary

- | | | | |
|----|------------|---------------|-----------|
| 1. | אֵי | <i>ey</i> | Where |
| 2. | אֲנִי | <i>aniy</i> | I |
| 3. | הִיא | <i>hiy</i> | She |
| 4. | בֶּן | <i>beyn</i> | Son |
| 5. | בָּאָה | <i>ba'ah</i> | Came (f.) |
| 6. | נְבִיא | <i>na-viy</i> | Prophet |
| 7. | מָה or מַה | <i>mah</i> | What? |

Sentences

- | | |
|----|-------------------------------|
| 1. | מִי הִיא |
| | <i>miy hiy</i> |
| | Who [is] ⁶ she? |
| 2. | אֲנִי אָב |
| | <i>aniy av</i> |
| | I [am a] ⁷ father. |

⁶ The English verb “to be” and its various tenses (am, is, are, etc.) do not exist in Hebrew and need to be added in the translation.

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3. בְּנֵי בָא

bey-niy ba

My son came.

4. אֵי אָבִי

ey a-viy

Where [is] my father?

5. מָה נְבִיא

mah na-viy

What [is a] prophet?

6. הַנְּבִיא בָא

ha-na-viy ba

The prophet came.

⁷ English has two indefinite articles, “a” and “an,” which also do not exist in Hebrew and must be added in the translation.

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Practice (transliteration)

1. *lai*⁸ *vai vey ley la le li la ve va viy lai liy*
2. *vev vav lel vel veyl val leyh heyl lah hal*
3. *va-viym li-bah la-yil leyv-mah ma-ley*

Vocabulary

- | | | | |
|----|---------------------|-----------------|-------|
| 1. | לַיְלָה | <i>lai-lah</i> | Night |
| 2. | אֵל | <i>eyl</i> | God |
| 3. | מַיִם | <i>ma-yim</i> | Water |
| 4. | אָמֵן | <i>a-meyn</i> | Amen |
| 5. | הִנֵּה ⁹ | <i>hin-neyh</i> | Here |
| 6. | יָם | <i>yam</i> | Sea |

⁸ When one of the “a” vowels (*qamats* or *patahh*) is followed by the consonant “*yud*” in the same syllable, the pronunciation is a long “*i*” as in “*lie*” and NOT “*ay*” as in “*lay*.”

⁹ When the dagesh (the dot in the middle of a letter) is placed within some letters, such as in the nun in the word הִנֵּה, it doubles the letter. Therefore, this word is pronounced “*hin-ney*” rather than “*hi-ney*.”

Sentences

1. לַיְלָה בָּא
lai-lah ba
Night came.
2. מֵיִם¹⁰ בַּיָּם
ma-yim ba-yam
Water [is] in [the] sea.
3. בְּנִי בָּא לִי¹¹
bey-niy ba liy
My son came to me.
4. אִם בָּאָה בַּלַּיְלָה
eym ba-ah ba-lai-lah
Mother came in the night.
5. אָבִי¹² וְאִמִּי הֵינָה
a-viy v-ey-miy hin-neyh
My father and my mother [are] here.

¹⁰ When the letter “*beyt*” is prefixed to a word it means “in,” so this word means “in [the] sea.”

¹¹ When the letter “*lamed*” is used as a prefix it means “to” or “for.” This prefix is followed by the ך suffix meaning “me,” so this means “to me” or “for me.”

¹² When the letter “*vav*” is prefixed to a word it means “and.”

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Practice (transliteration)

1. *she*¹³ *sha sey rey ri rai shey sey ro sho so*
2. *sheysh sar shiyr shor sir rash rosh*
3. *neyr yar rav mish sav siym hesh shel*

Vocabulary

- | | | | |
|----|----------|-------------------|-------------|
| 1. | שָׁלוֹם | <i>sha-lom</i> | Peace |
| 2. | שָׁמַיִם | <i>sha-ma-yim</i> | Heaven |
| 3. | אָמַר | <i>a-mar</i> | Said (m) |
| 4. | בָּרָא | <i>ba-ra</i> | Created (m) |
| 5. | שֵׁם | <i>sheym</i> | Name |
| 6. | אָמְרָה | <i>am-rah</i> | Said (f) |
| 7. | שָׂר | <i>sar</i> | Ruler |
| 8. | יוֹם | <i>yom</i> | Day |
| 9. | אוֹר | <i>or</i> | Light |

¹³ Remember, this is not the English word “she,” but a Hebrew word, and the “e” is pronounced with a short “e” and not a long “e” as it is in the English word “she.”

10. רַבִּי *rab-biy* Rabbi

Sentences

1. שַׂר שְׁלוֹם

sar sha-lom

Ruler of Peace.

2. יוֹם וְלַיְלָה

yom v-lai-lah

Day and night.

3. שְׁמִי לֵוִי

sh-miy ley-viy

My name [is] Levi.

4. מַה שְׁמוֹ¹⁴

mah sh-mo

What [is] his name?

5. שְׁמוֹ אַבְרָהָם

sh-mo av-ra-ham

His name [is] Abraham.

6. בָּרָא¹⁵ אֵל שָׁמַיִם

ba-ra eyl sha-ma-yim

God created heaven.

¹⁴ When the consonant/vowel combination “*hholam maley*” is suffixed to a word it means “of him” or “his.”

¹⁵ In Hebrew, the verb usually appears before the object of the verb.

7. אָמַר רַבִּי לִי שָׁלוֹם

a-mar rab-biy liy sha-lom

Rabbi said to me, Shalom.

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Vocabulary

- | | | | |
|----|------------|-------------------|----------|
| 1. | טוֹב | <i>tov</i> | Good |
| 2. | עֶרֶב | <i>e-rev</i> | Evening |
| 3. | עַל | <i>al</i> | Over, on |
| 4. | יִשְׂרָאֵל | <i>yis-ra-eyl</i> | Israel |
| 5. | הוּא | <i>hu</i> | He |
| 6. | הִיא | <i>hiy</i> | She |
| 7. | שׁוּמֵר | <i>sho-meyr</i> | Keep (m) |

Sentences

- | | |
|----|--------------------------|
| 1. | עֶרֶב ¹⁶ טוֹב |
| | <i>e-rev tov</i> |
| | Good evening. |
| 2. | מָה ¹⁷ שְׂמָם |
| | <i>mah sh-mam</i> |

¹⁶ In Hebrew, the adjective follows the noun, such as the word טוב (good) which comes after עֶרֶב (evening).

¹⁷ When the letter “Mem” is suffixed to a noun it means “of them” or “their.”

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What is their name?

3. שְׁמוֹ יִשְׂרָאֵל

sh-mu yis-ra-eyl

Their name is Israel.

4. שְׁלוֹם עַל יִשְׂרָאֵל

sha-lom al yis-ra-eyl

Peace over Israel.

5. מִי בָּא בְּעֶרֶב

miy ba ba-e-rev

Who came in the evening?

6. הוּא בָּא בְּעֶרֶב

hu ba ba-e-rev

He came in the evening.

7. הִיא בָּאָה בְּעֶרֶב

hiy ba-ah ba-e-rev

She came in the evening.

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2. *dat det dot dot tod ted deyt dad*

3. *tod veyt dav el mot tan miyd*

Vocabulary

- | | | | |
|----|-----------------------|------------------|----------|
| 1. | אֱלֹהִים | <i>e-lo-hiym</i> | God |
| 2. | מֹשֶׁה ¹⁸ | <i>mo-sheh</i> | Moses |
| 3. | נָתַן | <i>na-tan</i> | Gave (m) |
| 4. | אֶת ¹⁹ | <i>et</i> | (With) |
| 5. | תּוֹרָה ²⁰ | <i>to-rah</i> | Teaching |

¹⁸ Remembering the C+V+C+V rule, the Hebrew word for Moses, מֹשֶׁה, appears to be missing a vowel after the *mem*. Since Hebrew requires a vowel after each consonant, the vowel is the *hholam* and is placed above the letter *shin* in the same place as the dot above the right leg of the shin. The dot in this case serves two purposes.

¹⁹ The Hebrew word אֶת is occasionally used in the text to mean “with” but is more frequently used (about 7,000 times) as markers for the definite object of the verb and is untranslatable into English. For example, in the sentence; “I made the dinner”; the phrase “the dinner” is the definite object and would be preceded by the word אֶת. If the sentence were; “I made a dinner,” אֶת would not precede it since “dinner” in this sentence is not a definite object.

²⁰ The word תּוֹרָה, while often translated as “law,” actually means “teaching” and is also the Hebrew name for the first five books of the Bible as they contain the “teachings” of God.

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- | | | | |
|-----|------------------------|--------------------|-------------|
| 6. | שַׁבַּת | <i>shab-bat</i> | Sabbath |
| 7. | תַּלְמִיד | <i>tal-miyd</i> | Student (m) |
| 8. | תַּלְמִידָה | <i>tal-miy-dah</i> | Student (f) |
| 9. | לוּמַד | <i>lo-meyd</i> | Studies (m) |
| 10. | לוּמַדַּת | <i>lo-me-det</i> | Studies (f) |
| 11. | רֵאשִׁית ²¹ | <i>rey-shiyt</i> | Beginning |

Sentences

1. שַׁבַּת שְׁלוֹם
shab-bat sha-lom
Peaceful Sabbath.
2. וְשָׁמְרוּ אֶת הַשַּׁבַּת
v-sham-ru et ha-shab-bat
And they will keep the Sabbath.
3. בְּרֵאשִׁית בָּרָא אֱלֹהִים
b-rey-shiyt ba-ra e-lo-hiym
In the beginning God created.
4. תַּלְמִידָה לוּמַדַּת תּוֹרָה

²¹ An exception to the rule requiring the C+V+C+V pattern is the word רֵאשִׁית. The aleph does not always require a vowel after it.

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tal-miy-dah lo-me-det to-rah

A student studies Torah.

5. נתן לנו משה את התורה²²

na-tan la-nu mo-sheh et ha-to-rah

Moses gave to us the Torah.

6. תלמיד לומד את התורה

tal-miyd lo-meyd et ha-to-rah

A student studies the Torah.

²² When the letter “*lamed*” is used as a prefix it means “to” or “for.” The suffix ן means “us.” Combined, this prefix and suffix mean “to us” or “for us.”

Practice (transliteration)

1. *tsi tso tsa tse qi qo qa qe qa qey*
2. *ots qeyts tsaq tsiq qots raq rets*
3. *tsits tse tsoh qa qah qots hots*

Vocabulary

1. הָיָה *ha-yah* Existed (m)
2. אֶרֶץ *e-rets* Land

Sentences

Genesis 1:14²³

וַיֹּאמֶר אֱלֹהִים יְהִי מְאֹרֹת בְּרָקִיעַ
הַשָּׁמַיִם לְהַבְדִּיל בֵּין הַיּוֹם וּבֵין
הַלַּיְלָה וְהָיוּ לְאֹתוֹת וּלְמוֹעֲדִים
וּלְיָמִים וּשְׁנָיִם

²³ From this point on the alephbet lessons will include Biblical passages. While most of the words will not be recognizable at this time, remember that our objective is to “read” the text, not necessarily understand it.

Sentences (transliteration)

*vai-yo-mer e-lo-him ye-hi me-o-rot bir-qi-a ha-
sha-ma-yim le-hav-dil beyn hai-yom u-veyn ha-
lai-lah ve-hai-u le-o-tot ul-mo-a-dim ul-ya-mim
ve-sha-nim*

Learn to Read Biblical Hebrew

2. קֵד פֶּחַ²⁴ כָּח יֵד יֵד כָּח יֵד
3. לֵחַ רֵחַ אֵד אֵד יֵד יֵד אֵחַ

Practice (transliteration)

1. *khi khe key ko khu hha hhe hhey hhi hho hhu*
2. *hakh ko-ahh khahh hhey-kha hheyk kihh hhi-kha*
3. *ro-ahh ru-ahh ra-kha akh hhakh hha-kha ahh*

Vocabulary

1. כֵּן *khey'n* Yes, so
2. עֵשֶׁב *e-sev* Grass, herb
3. עֵץ *eyts* Tree

Sentences

Genesis 1:5

²⁴ When the letter hhet is at the end of a word and one of the “a” vowels (the *patahh* or *qamats*), the order that these letters is pronounced are reversed. In this case, this word is pronounced *ko'ahh*, not *ko'hha*.

וַיִּקְרָא אֱלֹהִים לְאֹר יוֹם וּלְחֹשֶׁךְ
קְרָא לַיְלָה וַיְהִי-²⁵ עֶרֶב וַיְהִי-בֹקֶר
יוֹם אֶחָד :

Sentences (transliteration)

*vai-yiq-ra e-lo-him la-or yom ve-la-hho-shekh qa-
ra lai-lah vai-hi e-rev vai-hi vo-qer yom e-hhad*

²⁵ This “hyphen,” called a *maqaph*, connects words together and they are pronounced as one word.

3. פָּח פּוּ שָׁז שָׁז כָּף זָד קָף

Practice (transliteration)

1. *phe pha phe pey zu zey za zi zo po phiy*

2. *zah zey aph eyz hez ze phaz zeph*

3. *po-ahh pan shaz shaz kaph zeykh quph*

Vocabulary

1. אֲשֶׁר *a-sher* Which, who

2. עָשָׂה *a-sah* To do, make

3. פָּנִים *pa-niym* Face

Sentences

Genesis 1:11

וַיֹּאמֶר אֱלֹהִים תְּדַשָּׂא הָאָרֶץ דָּשָׂא
עֵשֶׂב מְזֵרִיעַ זֶרַע עֵץ פְּרִי עֵשֶׂה פְּרִי
לְמִינוֹ אֲשֶׁר זֶרְעוֹ בּוֹ עַל הָאָרֶץ וַיְהִי
כֵן

Sentences (transliteration)

*vai-yo-mer e-lo-him tad-shey ha-a-rets de-she ey-
sev maz-ri-a ze-ra eyts pe-ri o-seh pe-ri le-mi-no
a-sher zar-o vo al ha-a-rets vai-hi kheyv*

Lesson 11 – Gimel, Samehh

Consonants

ג

The “*Gimel*” is pronounced “g” as in “game.”

ס

The “*Samehh*” is pronounced “s” as in “sand.”

Practice

1. ג ג ג ג ג ג ג ס ס ס ס ס
2. גה גא גא גא גה סה סא סא סא
3. סד סר סר סג סג סג סס סס סס

Practice (transliteration)

1. *so su sa sey si ge ga ga ge go gi ga*
2. *sem as seyh go ag ge goh*
3. *mas seys seyph seyg gas sur sod*

Vocabulary

- | | | | |
|----|--------------------|---------------|------|
| 1. | כָּל ²⁶ | <i>kol</i> | All |
| 2. | אָדָם | <i>a-dam</i> | Man |
| 3. | עוֹף | <i>oph</i> | Bird |
| 4. | דָּגָה | <i>da-gah</i> | Fish |

Sentences

Genesis 1:26

וַיֹּאמֶר אֱלֹהִים נַעֲשֶׂה אָדָם
בְּצַלְמֵנוּ כְּדְמוּתֵנוּ וַיְרִדוּ בְדַגַּת הַיָּם
וּבְעוֹף הַשָּׁמַיִם וּבַבְּהֵמָה וּבְכָל
הָאָרֶץ וּבְכָל הַרֹמֵשׁ הָרֹמֵשׁ עַל
הָאָרֶץ

²⁶ This word appears to be pronounced “*kal*” but, is actually pronounced “*kol*.” In this instance the *qamats* vowel represents a rare vowel pronounced “o.”

Sentences (transliteration)

*vai-yo-mer e-lo-him na-a-seh a-dam be-tsal-mey-
nu kid-mu-tey-nu ve-yir-du vid-gat hai-yam uv-
oph ha-sha-ma-yim u-va-be-hey-mah uv-khol ha-
a-rets uv-khol ha-re-mes ha-ro-meys al ha-a-rets*

Reading Practice

Below is the first chapter of the book of Genesis in Hebrew. The name “Genesis” comes from the Greek name for this book and means “origins.” The Hebrew name for this book is “*Bereshiyt*.” The Hebrew names for the first five books of the Bible are derived from the first word (or first principle word) of the book. In this case, the first word in the book is “*bereshiyt*,” which means “in the beginning.”

The purpose of this section is to allow you to practice reading. Also included is a transliteration of the chapter for pronunciation help. Again, remember to use the correct Hebrew pronunciation for each vowel.

1 בְּרֵאשִׁית בָּרָא אֱלֹהִים אֶת הַשָּׁמַיִם
וְאֶת הָאָרֶץ :

*be-rey-shit ba-ra e-lo-him eyt ha-sha-ma-yim ve-
eyt ha-a-rets*

2 וְהָאָרֶץ הָיְתָה תְּהוֹ וְבָהוּ וְחֹשֶׁךְ עַל-פְּנֵי
תְּהוֹם וְרוּחַ אֱלֹהִים מְרַחֶפֶת עַל-פְּנֵי
הַמָּיִם :

*ve-ha-a-rets hai-tah to-hu va-vo-hu ve-hho-shekh
al pe-ney te-hom ve-ru-ahh e-lo-him me-ra-hhe-
phet al pe-ney ha-ma-yim*

3 וַיֹּאמֶר אֱלֹהִים יְהִי אֹר וַיְהִי-אֹר :

vai-yo-mer e-lo-him ye-hi or vai-hi or

4 וַיִּרְא אֱלֹהִים אֶת-הָאֹר כִּי-טוֹב וַיְבַדֵּל
אֱלֹהִים בֵּין הָאֹר וּבֵין הַחֹשֶׁךְ :

*vai-yar e-lo-him et ha-or ki tov vai-yav-deyl e-lo-
him beyn ha-or u-veyn ha-hho-shekh*

5 וַיִּקְרָא אֱלֹהִים לְאֹר יוֹם וּלְחֹשֶׁךְ קֶרָא
לַיְלָה וַיְהִי-עֶרֶב וַיְהִי-בֹקֶר יוֹם אֶחָד :

*vai-yiq-ra e-lo-him la-or yom ve-la-hho-shekh qa-
ra lai-lah vai-hi e-rev vai-hi vo-qer yom e-hhad*

6 וַיֹּאמֶר אֱלֹהִים יְהִי רָקִיעַ בְּתוֹךְ הַמַּיִם
וַיְהִי מַבְדִּיל בֵּין מַיִם לַמַּיִם:

*vai-yo-mer e-lo-him ye-hi ra-qi-a be-tokh ha-ma-
yim vi-hi mav-dil beyn ma-yim la-ma-yim*

7 וַיַּעַשׂ אֱלֹהִים אֶת-הַרְקִיעַ וַיַּבְדֵּל בֵּין
הַמַּיִם אֲשֶׁר מִתַּחַת לָרָקִיעַ וּבֵין הַמַּיִם
אֲשֶׁר מֵעַל לָרָקִיעַ וַיְהִי-כֵן:

*vai-ya-as e-lo-him et ha-ra-qi-a vai-yav-deyl beyn
ha-ma-yim a-sher mi-ta-hhat la-ra-qi-a u-veyn
ha-ma-yim a-sher mey-al la-ra-qi-a vai-hi khey-n*

8 וַיִּקְרָא אֱלֹהִים לָרָקִיעַ שָׁמַיִם וַיְהִי-
עָרֵב וַיְהִי-בֹקֶר יוֹם שֵׁנִי:

*vai-yiq-ra e-lo-him la-ra-qi-a sha-ma-yim vai-hi
e-rev vai-hi vo-quer yom shey-ni*

9 וַיֹּאמֶר אֱלֹהִים יִקְוּוּ הַמַּיִם מִתַּחַת
הַשָּׁמַיִם אֶל-מְקוֹם אֶחָד וַתֵּרָאֶה הַיַּבְּשָׁה
וַיְהִי-כֵן:

*vai-yo-mer e-lo-him yi-qav-u ha-ma-yim mi-ta-
hhat ha-sha-ma-yim el ma-qom e-hhad ve-tey-ra-
eh hai-ya-ba-shah vai-hi khey-n*

10 וַיִּקְרָא אֱלֹהִים לַיַּבְּשָׁה אֶרֶץ וּלְמִקְוֵה
הַמַּיִם קָרָא יַמִּים וַיֵּרָא אֱלֹהִים כִּי-טוֹב:

Learn to Read Biblical Hebrew

*vai-yiq-ra e-lo-him lai-ya-ba-shah e-rets ul-miq-
veh ha-ma-yim qa-ra ya-mim vai-yar e-lo-him ki
tov*

11 וַיֹּאמֶר אֱלֹהִים תְּדַשָּׂא הָאָרֶץ דָּשָׂא
עֵשֶׂב מִזְרִיעַ זֶרַע עֵץ פְּרִי עֹשֶׂה פְּרִי לְמִינֹו
אֲשֶׁר זָרְעוּ-בוּ עַל-הָאָרֶץ וַיְהִי-כֵן:

*vai-yo-mer e-lo-him tad-shey ha-a-rets de-she ey-
sev maz-ri-a ze-ra eyts pe-ri o-seh pe-ri le-mi-no
a-sher zar-o vo al ha-a-rets vai-hi khey'n*

12 וַתּוֹצֵא הָאָרֶץ דָּשָׂא עֵשֶׂב מִזְרִיעַ זֶרַע
לְמִינֵהוּ וְעֵץ עֹשֶׂה-פְּרִי אֲשֶׁר זָרְעוּ-בוּ
לְמִינֵהוּ וַיֵּרָא אֱלֹהִים כִּי-טוֹב:

*va-to-tsey ha-a-rets de-she ey-sev maz-ri-a ze-ra
le-mi-ney-hu ve-eyts o-seh pe-ri a-sher zar-o vo
le-mi-ney-hu vai-yar e-lo-him ki tov*

13 וַיְהִי-עֶרֶב וַיְהִי-בֹקֶר יוֹם שְׁלִישִׁי:

vai-hi e-rev vai-hi vo-qer yom she-li-shi

14 וַיֹּאמֶר אֱלֹהִים יְהִי מְאֹרֶת בְּרָקִיעַ
הַשָּׁמַיִם לְהַבְדִּיל בֵּין הַיּוֹם וּבֵין הַלַּיְלָה
וְהָיוּ לְאֹתוֹת וּלְמוֹעֲדִים וּלְיָמִים וּשְׁנָיִם:

*vai-yo-mer e-lo-him ye-hi me-o-rot bir-qi-a ha-
sha-ma-yim le-hav-dil beyn hai-yom u-vey'n ha-*

*lai-lah ve-hai-u le-o-tot ul-mo-a-dim ul-ya-mim
ve-sha-nim*

15 וְהָיוּ לְמַאֲוֹרֹת בְּרִקְיעַ הַשָּׁמַיִם לְהָאִיר
עַל-הָאָרֶץ וַיְהִי-כֵן :

*ve-hai-u lim-o-rot bir-qi-a ha-sha-ma-yim le-ha-ir
al ha-a-rets vai-hi kheyv*

16 וַיַּעַשׂ אֱלֹהִים אֶת-שְׁנֵי הַמָּאֲרֹת
הַגְּדֹלִים : אֶת-הַמָּאֹר הַגָּדֹל לְמִמְשַׁלֶּת
הַיּוֹם וְאֶת-הַמָּאֹר הַקָּטָן לְמִמְשַׁלֶּת
הַלַּיְלָה וְאֵת הַכּוֹכָבִים :

*vai-ya-as e-lo-him et she-ney ham-o-rot ha-ge-do-
lim et ha-ma-or ha-ga-dol le-mem-she-let hai-
yom ve-et ha-ma-or ha-qa-ton le-mem-she-let ha-
lai-lah ve-eyt ha-ko-kha-vim*

17 וַיִּתֵּן אֲתָם אֱלֹהִים בְּרִקְיעַ הַשָּׁמַיִם
לְהָאִיר עַל-הָאָרֶץ :

*vai-yi-teyn o-tam e-lo-him bir-qi-a ha-sha-ma-yim
le-ha-ir al ha-a-rets*

18 וְלִמְשַׁל בַּיּוֹם וּבַלַּיְלָה וּלְהַבְדִּיל בֵּין
הָאֹר וּבֵין הַחֹשֶׁךְ וַיְרָא אֱלֹהִים כִּי-טוֹב :

*ve-lim-shol ba-yom u-va-lai-lah ul-hav-dil beyv
ha-or u-veyn ha-hho-shekh vai-yar e-lo-him ki tov*

19 וַיְהִי-עֶרֶב וַיְהִי-בֹקֶר יוֹם רְבִיעִי :

vai-hi e-rev vai-hi vo-ger yom re-vi-i

20 וַיֹּאמֶר אֱלֹהִים-יִשְׂרָאוֹל הַמַּיִם שָׁרָץ

נֶפֶשׁ חַיָּה וְעוֹף יְעוֹפֵף עַל-הָאָרֶץ עַל-פְּנֵי

רְקִיעַ הַשָּׁמַיִם :

*vai-yo-mer e-lo-him yish-re-tsu ha-ma-yim she-
rets ne-phesh hhai-yah ve-oph ye-o-pheyph al ha-
a-rets al pe-ney re-qi-a ha-sha-ma-yim*

21 וַיִּבְרָא אֱלֹהִים אֶת-הַתַּנִּינִם הַגְּדֹלִים

וְאֵת כָּל-נֶפֶשׁ הַחַיָּה הַרְמֶשֶׁת אֲשֶׁר שָׂרָאוֹ

הַמַּיִם לְמִינֵיהֶם וְאֵת כָּל-עוֹף כָּנָף לְמִינֵהוּ

וַיֵּרָא אֱלֹהִים כִּי-טוֹב :

*vai-yiv-ra e-lo-him et ha-ta-ni-nim ha-ge-do-lim
ve-eyt kol ne-phesh ha-hha-yah ha-ro-me-set a-
sher shar-tsu ha-ma-yim le-mi-ney-hem ve-eyt kol
oph ka-naph le-mi-ney-hu vai-yar e-lo-him ki tov*

22 וַיִּבְרָךְ אֹתָם אֱלֹהִים לֵאמֹר : פְּרוּ

וּרְבוּ וּמְלֵאוּ אֶת-הַמַּיִם בַּיַּמִּים וְהָעוֹף יִרֶב

בָּאָרֶץ :

*vai-va-rekh o-tam e-lo-him ley-mor pe-ru ur-vu u-
mil-u et ha-ma-yim ba-ya-mim ve-ha-oph yi-rev
ba-a-rets*

23 וַיְהִי-עָרֵב וַיְהִי-בֹקֶר יוֹם חֲמִישִׁי :

vai-hi e-rev vai-hi vo-ger yom hha-mi-shi

24 וַיֹּאמֶר אֱלֹהִים תּוֹצֵא הָאָרֶץ נֶפֶשׁ

חַיָּה לְמִינָהּ בְּהֶמָּה וְרֶמֶשׂ וְחַיֵּתוֹ-אָרֶץ

לְמִינָהּ וַיְהִי-כֵן :

vai-yo-mer e-lo-him to-tsey ha-a-rets ne-phesh

hhai-yah le-mi-nah be-hey-mah va-re-mes ve-

hhai-to e-rets le-mi-nah vai-hi khey'n

25 וַיַּעַשׂ אֱלֹהִים אֶת-חַיַּת הָאָרֶץ לְמִינָהּ

וְאֶת-הַבְּהֵמָה לְמִינָהּ וְאֶת כָּל-רֶמֶשׂ

הָאֲדָמָה לְמִינָהּ וַיִּרְא אֱלֹהִים כִּי-טוֹב :

vai-ya-as e-lo-him et hhai-yat ha-a-rets le-mi-nah

ve-et ha-be-hey-mah le-mi-nah ve-eyt kol re-mes

ha-a-da-mah le-mi-ney-hu vai-yar e-lo-him ki tov

26 וַיֹּאמֶר אֱלֹהִים נַעֲשֶׂה אָדָם בְּצַלְמֵנוּ

כְּדַמוֹתֵנוּ וַיִּרְדּוּ בַדָּגַת הַיָּם וּבַעוֹף הַשָּׁמַיִם

וּבַבְּהֵמָה וּבְכָל-הָאָרֶץ וּבְכָל-הָרֶמֶשׂ

הָרֶמֶשׂ עַל-הָאָרֶץ :

vai-yo-mer e-lo-him na-a-seh a-dam be-tsal-mey-

nu kid-mu-tey-nu ve-yir-du vid-gat hai-yam uv-

oph ha-sha-ma-yim u-va-be-hey-mah uv-khol ha-

a-rets uv-khol ha-re-mes ha-ro-meys al ha-a-rets

27 וַיְבָרָא אֱלֹהִים אֶת-הָאָדָם בְּצִלְמוֹ
בְּצֶלֶם אֱלֹהִים בָּרָא אֹתוֹ : זָכָר וּנְקֵבָה
בָּרָא אֹתָם :

*vai-yiv-ra e-lo-him et ha-a-dam be-tsal-mo be-
tse-lem e-lo-him ba-ra o-to za-khar un-qey-vah
ba-ra o-tam*

28 וַיְבָרֶךְ אֹתָם אֱלֹהִים וַיֹּאמֶר לָהֶם
אֱלֹהִים פְּרוּ וּרְבוּ וּמְלֵאוּ אֶת-הָאָרֶץ
וּכְבֹּשְׁהָ וּרְדוּ בְּדַגַּת הַיָּם וּבְעוֹף הַשָּׁמַיִם
וּבְכָל-חַיָּה הַרְמֵשֶׁת עַל-הָאָרֶץ :

*vai-va-rekh o-tam e-lo-him vai-yo-mer la-hem e-
lo-him pe-ru ur-vu u-mil-u et ha-a-rets ve-khiv-
shu-ah ur-du bid-gat hai-yam uv-oph ha-sha-ma-
yim uv-khol hhai-yah ha-ro-me-set al ha-a-rets*

29 וַיֹּאמֶר אֱלֹהִים הִנֵּה נָתַתִּי לָכֶם אֶת-
כָּל-עֵשֶׂב זֶרַע זֶרַע אֲשֶׁר עַל-פְּנֵי כָל-הָאָרֶץ
וְאֶת-כָּל-הָעֵץ אֲשֶׁר-בּוֹ פְּרִי-עֵץ זֶרַע זֶרַע :
לָכֶם יִהְיֶה לְאֹכְלָה :

*vai-yo-mer e-lo-him hin-neyh na-ta-ti la-khem et
kol ey-sev zo-rey-a ze-ra a-sher al pe-ney khol
ha-a-rets ve-et kol ha-eyts a-sher bo phe-ri eyts
zo-rey-a za-ra la-khem yih-yeh le-akh-lah*

30 וְלִכְל-חַיֵּית הָאָרֶץ וְלִכְל-עוֹף הַשָּׁמַיִם
וְלִכְל רוֹמֵשׁ עַל-הָאָרֶץ אֲשֶׁר-בוֹ נִפְּשׁ חַיָּה
אֶת-כָּל-יֵרֶק עֵשֶׂב לְאֹכְלָהּ וַיְהִי-כֵן:

*ul-khol hhai-yat ha-a-rets ul-khol oph ha-sha-ma-
yim ul-khol ro-meys al ha-a-rets a-sher bo ne-
phesh hhai-yah et kol ye-req ey-sev le-akh-lah
vai-hi kheyh*

31 וַיִּרְא אֱלֹהִים אֶת-כָּל-אֲשֶׁר עָשָׂה
וַהֲנִה-טוֹב מְאֹד וַיְהִי-עֶרֶב וַיְהִי-בֹקֶר יוֹם
הַשִּׁשִּׁי:

*vai-yar e-lo-him et kol a-sher a-sah ve-hin-neyh
tov me-od vai-hi e-rev vai-hi vo-ger yom ha-shi-
shi*

Reference Guide

The purpose of the Reference Guide is to be an aid to the Hebrew student to assist with recognizing the prefixes and suffixes of Hebrew nouns and verbs.

Uncovering the Root Word

One Hebrew word may contain a root, one or two prefixes as well as one or two suffixes. As an example, let us look at the word וַיְדַבֵּר (vai-dab-reym, see 1 Samuel 8:21). To find the root word, we first identify the prefixes and suffixes. The prefix ו (v) means “and.” The ך (y) is another prefix identifying the subject of the verb as “he.” The suffix ם (m) identifies the object of the verb as “them.” Once the suffix and prefixes are removed we have the root דבר, meaning “speak,” remaining. The Hebrew word וַיְדַבֵּר means “and he spoke to them.”

Identification of the prefixes and suffixes of a verb will assist you in translating each word correctly. This will also allow you to uncover the root of the word, which can then be looked up in the root dictionary below.

Prefixes - The article, conjunction and prepositions

Some of the most common words found in the Bible are actually written as prefixes, such as ב (in), ו (and), ה (the) and ל (to). The two prefixes, כ (like) and ש (which), are

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also used, but occur infrequently. Combining a prefix with a suffix will also form a word. For example, the word לך is the prefix ל meaning “to” and the suffix ך meaning “you” (see possessive pronouns below) forming a word meaning “to you.”

Prefixes			
The	--ה	And	--ו
To	--ל	In	--ב
From	--מ	Like	--כ
Which, who	--ש		

Plural

Nouns are made plural by adding the following suffixes. There are a few exceptions to these gender-specific suffixes. For example, אב (father) and אור (light) are masculine words, yet carry the feminine suffix, אבות and אורות, but still remain masculine.

Plural Suffixes	
Masculine	Feminine
ים--	ות--

Noun Derivatives

Included in this section is a list of the most common prefixes, infixes²⁷ and suffixes added to a root to form a new noun. Each noun derivative will be related in meaning to the original root word. By recognizing these “affixes,” one can easily uncover the original root word assisting the reader with identifying the meaning of the word. For example, the words צדיק and צדקה are derived from the root צדק (righteous). The word צדיק is formed by infixing the letter ך and has the meaning of “a righteous one.” The word צדקה is formed by suffixing the letter ה and has the meaning of “righteousness.”

Noun Derivatives		
--מ	ס--	-ל--
--ת	ת--	-ו--
ה--	ות--	ון--
	ית--	

Pronouns

The following pronouns are very common and a good understanding of them will assist the student in reading the text.

²⁷ An “infix” is a letter or letters placed within the body of a root or word.

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Pronouns			
Singular			Plural
Masculine			
I	אֲנִי	We	אֲנֹנוּ
You	אַתָּה	You	אַתֶּם
He	הוא	They	הֵם
Feminine			
I	אֲנִי	We	אֲנֹנוּ
You	אַתְּ	You	אַתֶּן
She	היא	They	הֵן

Possessive Pronouns (Nouns)			
Singular			Plural
Masculine			
My	י--	Our	נו--
Your	ך--	Your	כֶּם--
His	ו--	Their	ם--
Feminine			
My	י--	Our	נו--
Your	ך--	Your	כו--
Her	ה--	Their	ן--

Hebrew Tenses

Hebrew verb tenses are not related to time (past, present or future) as in English, but to action. There are two Hebrew tenses, perfect and imperfect. The perfect tense is a complete action and is similar to past tense. The imperfect tense is an incomplete action (an action that has started but not finished or an action that has not started) and is similar to our present and future tense.

Each verb will also identify the person, gender and number of the subject of the verb. The person is expressed as first, second or third person, the gender will be either masculine or feminine and the number will be singular or plural.

Using the Hebrew root word שמר (to guard), the letter א is prefixed to form the verb אשמר. The addition of this letter indicates that the verb is first person, masculine, singular and imperfect tense - “I am guarding” or “I will guard.” By suffixing the letters תי, the verb שמרתי is formed, and is first person, masculine, singular, perfect tense - “I guarded.”

When the conjunction ו (meaning “and”) is prefixed to a verb, the tense is reversed. While אשמר means “I will guard” (imperfect tense), ואשמר becomes “I guarded” (perfect tense). While שמרתי means “I guarded” (perfect tense), ושמרתי becomes “I will guard” (imperfect tense).

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Verb Subjects (Perfect Tense)			
Singular		Plural	

Masculine

I	אֶתִי--	We	נִנוּ--
You	אֶתְ--	You	אֶתְּם--
He	--	They	אֵי--

Feminine

I	אֵי--	We	נִנוּ--
You	אֶתְ--	You	אֶתְּנֵי--
She	אֵהּ--	They	אֵי--

Verb Subjects (Imperfect Tense)			
Singular		Plural	

Masculine

I	אֶנִּי--	We	נִנְנוּ--
You	אֶתְ--	You	אֶתְּיֵי--
He	אֵי--	They	אֵיֵי--

Feminine

I	אֶנִּי--	We	נִנְנוּ--
You	אֶתְּיֵי--	You	אֶתְּנֵיֵה--
She	אֵהּ--	They	אֶתְּנֵיֵה--

Translating Lessons

Your next step in Biblical Hebrew studies is to learn sentence and word structure. The following are the first five verses of Genesis chapter one where we will examine each word, one at a time, explaining their construction and relationship within the sentence. These lessons will frequently refer to prefixes, suffixes and roots that can be found in the Reference Guide of this book.

Lesson 1 – Genesis 1:1

בְּרֵאשִׁית בָּרָא אֱלֹהִים אֶת הַשָּׁמַיִם
וְאֶת הָאָרֶץ :

בְּרֵאשִׁית

The ב is a prefix meaning “inside” or “in.” This letter is an abbreviated form of the Hebrew word בית (*beyt*) meaning, “house.” Inside the house is where the family resides. (For a list of the common prefixes see the chart labeled “Prefixes.”)

The root word is רוש (*rosh*) meaning, “head.” Adding certain letters to the root commonly forms words related in meaning to the root and all of the words derived from the same root will be related in meaning. In this case, the letters ית are added to the root to form a noun, רֵאשִׁית. This word means “beginning,” the head of a time or space as at the beginning of an event or a river. (For a list of common letters used to form new nouns, see the chart above labeled “Noun Derivatives.”)

By being able to recognize the letters added to a root to form noun derivatives, one can easily find the root within the word. There are approximately 8,000 different words in the Hebrew Bible, all of which are derived from only about 1,500 roots. Of these 1,500, about half are rarely used in the Bible. This means that with a good understanding of about 750 roots one can easily read the

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Biblical text without memorizing all 8,000 words used within it.

בָּרָא

This is a verb usually translated as “create.”

Each verb identifies the person (first, second or third), gender (masculine or feminine), number (singular or plural) and tense (perfect or imperfect). This verb would be literally translated as “he created.” The construction of the verb identifies the subject of the verb as third person, masculine, singular and perfect tense. (For the various prefixes and suffixes added to the verb to identify person, gender, number and tense, see the “Verb Charts” above.)

The perfect tense is a completed action and is similar to our past tense. The imperfect tense is an incomplete action and is similar to our present or future tense. Notice the difference of tenses between Hebrew and English. English tenses are related to time (past, present or future) while Hebrew is related to an action (complete or incomplete).

אֱלֹהִים

This word is the subject of the verb, the “he” in “he created.” Generally, the subject of the verb will follow the verb rather than precede it as in English. In English, we say “God created,” but in Hebrew, this would be written as “created God.”

The root word for this noun is אלה meaning “power.” This word is used for anyone or anything which, has “power” and is often translated as “God.” The suffix ים

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denotes a plural for masculine nouns. While English plurals convey quantity (more than one), Hebrew plurals convey quantity or quality (very large or great). The word אלהים can be translated as “gods” (quantity) or “a great god” (quality). The idea of “a great god” is generally written in English as “God.”

Only through context can it be determined if the plural noun is identifying quantity or quality. This can be the context within the passage or the sentence structure itself. In this verse, the context of the sentence structure requires this word to be understood as qualitative since the verb preceding it states “he (singular) created” and not “they (plural) created.”

את

The word את is used over 11,000 times (and never translated into English as there is no equivalent) to point to the definite object of the verb.

הַשָּׁמַיִם

The first letter, ה, is another prefix and is usually translated as “the” (definite article). This prefix is the short form of the word הַל meaning “to look at something.”

The root word is שָׁמַיִם meaning, “sky” or “heaven.” Several Hebrew words are always written in the plural form such as this word.

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Because the ה (the) precedes the word שמים, this word is a definite object of the verb ברא, hence, the reason for the word את before it.

וְאֵת

Another very common prefix is the letter ו, usually translated as “and.” This is the abbreviated form of the word וו meaning, “peg” or “nail.” As a nail attaches two items together, this prefix attaches two or more things together in a sentence, in this case, “the skies and the land.”

Added to this prefix is the word את which was previously discussed. Because of this word, we know that the word which follows is also a definite object of the verb ברא.

הָאָרֶץ

The letter ה is the prefix meaning “the.” The word ארץ is a common word meaning, “land” or “earth.”

Lesson 2 – Genesis 1:2

וְהָאָרֶץ הִיְתָה תְּהוֹ וְבֵהוּ וְחֹשֶׁךְ
עַל־פְּנֵי תְהוֹם וְרוּחַ אֱלֹהִים
מְרַחֶפֶת עַל־פְּנֵי הַמַּיִם :

וְהָאָרֶץ

As previously discussed the prefix ו is used to attach two parts of a sentence together but is also used to attach two or more sentences together, in other words bringing all of the words of one story together. In fact, the entire chapter of Genesis chapter one is one long story as each sentence begins with a ו.

The letter ה is the prefix meaning “the” and the word ארץ, as previously discussed, which means “land.”

הִיְתָה

The root of this verb is **היה**, a very common root literally meaning “to exist” or “to breathe” as one who exists breathes, but is usually translated with a form of the English verb “to be.” This verb is made feminine, singular, and perfect tense by adding the **ה** to the end of the root (**היהה**). When a **ה** is added as a suffix to a root that ends with a **ה**, this **ה** is changed to a **ת** (**היתה**). This verb would be literally translated as “she existed” where the “she” is the “land,” the previous word.

תהו

The root word here is **תה** meaning “empty.” By adding the suffix letter **ו** to the root, a noun derivative is formed meaning, “empty” or “void.”

וְבָהוּ

The first letter, **ו**, is the prefix meaning “and” and is used to connect this word with the previous word.

The root word is **בה** meaning, “to fill a void.” A common Hebrew word also derived from this root is **בוא** (*bo'*) and is usually translated as “come” or “go.” The English translations of this word imply movement in a certain direction but the Hebrew meaning of the word **בוא** is to “fill a void” and can be either fill a void here (come) or fill a void there (go).

The **ו** added after the root forms a noun derivative meaning, “void.”

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The phrase **תהו ובהו** is a common style of poetry where similar sounding words are grouped together. While the phrase “The painter painted a painting with paint,” would be poor English, it is a perfect example of Hebrew poetry.

וְחֹשֶׁךְ

The first letter is the prefix **ו**, meaning “and.” The word **חֹשֶׁךְ** means “dark” or “darkness.”

עַל

This word is very common and means “over” or “on.”

פְּנֵי

The root for this word is **פנה** meaning, face. This word is always used in the plural form **פְּנֵי** (the **ה** is dropped when the masculine plural suffix is added). This word is in the construct state “faces of....”

When a masculine plural noun is used in the Construct State, the letter **ה** is always dropped.

תְּהוֹם

A noun derived from the root **הוּם** meaning “sea,” closely related in form to the more common word for sea, **יָם**. This noun derivative is formed by adding the prefix letter **ת**, and has the more specific meaning of “deep sea.” This

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and the previous word form the Construct phrase “faces of the deep.”

וְרוּחַ

The first letter ו is the prefix meaning “and.” The word רוח is another Hebrew word meaning, “wind.” Though this word is often translated as “spirit” the more Hebraic understanding is “wind” or “breath.”

אֱלֹהִים

This is the same word discussed previously. When two nouns appear together they are in the Construct State. This word and the preceding word, רוח, would be translated as “wind/breath of God.”

מִרְחַףְתָּ

The root of this verb is רחף meaning, “hover over” such as a bird does over the nest. The letter מ is a prefix added to the verb to form a conjugation. The letter ת indicates this verb is feminine singular perfect tense and literally translated as “she hovered.” The “she” of this word is the previous word רוח, a feminine word. While most consider the “Spirit” (wind/breath) a “he,” Biblically, it is a “she.”

עַל

This is the same word previously discussed meaning “over” or “on.”

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פְּנֵי

This word was also previously discussed meaning “faces” and is in the construct state with the following word.

הַמַּיִם

The first letter ה is the prefix meaning “the.” The root word is מים, a very common word meaning, “water.”

Notice that the previous sentence contains no verb. While a verb is required in every English sentence it is not in Biblical Hebrew.

Lesson 3 – Genesis 1:3

וַיֹּאמֶר אֱלֹהִים יְהִי אוֹר וַיְהִי־אוֹר :

וַיֹּאמֶר

The first letter ו is the prefix meaning “and.” The root word is אמר.

Hebrew root words can be used as a noun or a verb. As a noun, this root would mean a “word” while as a verb it means, “to say.” We see a similar occurrence in English as in the sentence; “He will play Moses in the play.” The first use of the word “play” is a verb while the second is a noun. The context of the sentence, as well as the type of prefixes and suffixes added to the word, will tell you if the word is a verb or a noun.

When the letter י is added to the root אמר, the word is identified as a verb and can literally be translated as “he says” or “he will say” (masculine, singular, perfect tense).

When the letter vav is prefixed to a verb, the tense of the verb is reversed. Therefore, the word יאמר is “he says” (masculine, singular, imperfect tense) while the word ויאמר is “he said” (masculine, singular, perfect tense). This vav, when used in this instance, is called the “vav consecutive.”

אֱלֹהִים

This word has been discussed previously and is the subject of the previous verb.

יְהִי

The root of this word is הִיָּה as discussed previously meaning, “to exist.” When the letter י is prefixed to the root, the word יְהִיָּה (masculine, singular, imperfect tense) is formed, meaning, “he exists.”

When a root ends with a ה, it is often dropped when used as a verb. Hence, יְהִיָּה becomes יְהִי. Another letter that frequently drops off a root, when used as a verb is the letter נ. All verb roots consist of three letters. If you come across a verb and remove the prefixes and suffixes and find only two letters remaining, most likely the verb has dropped the final ה or the נ. For example, in Genesis 17:3 we find the word וַיִּפֹּל. The letter ו is the vav consecutive meaning “and” and reverses the tense of the verb. The letter י is the prefix identifying the subject of the verb as masculine singular. We are then left with the word פֹּל. The missing third letter for this root is the dropped נ as the root is נִפֹּל.

אֹר

This is a root word meaning “light.” This word is the subject of the previous verb.

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וַיְהִי

This is the same verb with the same conjugation as the previous verb but includes the ו, which reverses the tense from imperfect to perfect, and becomes “and he existed.”

אור

The same word meaning, light, and again, the subject of the previous verb.

Lesson 4 – Genesis 1:4 & 5

וַיִּרְא אֱלֹהִים אֶת־הָאֹר כִּי־טוֹב
וַיִּבְדֵּל אֱלֹהִים בֵּין הָאֹר וּבֵין
הַחֹשֶׁךְ: וַיִּקְרָא אֱלֹהִים לְאֹר יוֹם
וְלַחֹשֶׁךְ קָרָא לַיְלָה וַיְהִי־עֶרֶב
וַיְהִי־בֹקֶר יוֹם אֶחָד:

At this point, you should be able to translate verses 4 and 5. Most of the words, as well as the prefixes and suffixes, have been covered above, with the exception of those words listed below. Once you have translated the verses you can use your English Bible to check your translation.

To see	ראה	To call	קרא
To separate	בדל	Morning	בקר
Between	בין	One	אחד
Evening	ערב		

Hebrew / English Dictionary

This list contains the 1,000 most common Hebrew words found in the Hebrew Bible. For example, the word **רָאשׁוֹן** (used 182 times in the Hebrew Bible) is derived from the root **רָאָה** (used 615 times in the Hebrew Bible), and both words are included in the list. However, the word **מֵרָאשָׁה** (used 1 time in the Hebrew Bible), which is also derived from the same root, is not included in this list.

The Hebrew words in this dictionary do not contain any of the prefixes or suffixes as found in the Hebrew text. By removing the prefixes and suffixes of the Hebrew words in the text, the word can be found. For example, the word **הַשָּׁמַיִם** includes the prefix **ה** meaning “the.” When this is removed, the word **שָׁמַיִם**, meaning “heavens,” remains and is found in the dictionary. As another example, the word **וַיֹּאמְרוּ**, meaning “and they said,” contains two prefixes (**ו** and **י**), and one suffix (**ו**). When these are removed, the word **אָמַר** meaning “to say,” remains and is also found in the dictionary.

The three-letter words within this list that do not include any vowels (such as the second word in the list - **אָבָד**) are verbs. For the sake of pronunciation, one may insert “a” vowels between the consonants (so **אָבָד** would be pronounced *avad*).

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אָב (Father)	אַחַד (Unit)
אָבֵד (Perish)	אַחֹר (Back)
אָבָה (Consent)	אַחוֹת (Sister)
אָבִיוֹן (Needy)	אָחַז (Take hold)
אָבֵל (Mourn)	אַחֲזָה (Holdings)
אָבֶן (Stone)	אַחֵר (Other)
אָדוֹן (Lord)	אַחֲרָה (After)
אָדוֹנַי (My lord)	אַחֲרוֹן (Last)
אָדִיר (Eminent)	אַחֲרִית (End)
אָדָם (Human)	אֵי (Island)
אָדָמָה (Ground)	אִיב (Attack)
אָדָן (Footing)	אֵיל (Buck)
אָהֵב (Love)	אֵיפָה (Eyphah)
אָהֶבֶת (Affection)	אִישׁ (Man)
אָהֵל (Tent)	אָכַל (Foodstuff)
אָוָה (Yearn)	אָכַל (Eat)
אָוִיל (Foolish)	אָל (Mighty one)
אָוֶלֶם (Porch)	אָלָה (Oath)
אָוֶן (Vanity)	אָלֵהִים (Powers)
אָוֶפֶן (Wheel)	אָלוֹהַּ (Power)
אָוֶצֶר (Storehouse)	אָלוֹף (Chief)
אָוֵר (Light)	אָלְמָנָה (Widow)
אָוֵר (Light)	אִם (Mother)
אָוֵת (Sign)	אָמָה (Forearm)
אָזֶן (Ear)	אָמָה (Bondwoman)
אָזֵן (Give an ear)	אָמוֹנָה (Firmness)
אָח (Brother)	אָמֹן (So be it)

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אִמּוֹן (Be firm)	אֶשֶׁה (Fire offering)
אִמּוֹץ (Be strong)	אִשָּׁה (Woman)
אִמְרָה (Statement)	אֲשָׁם (Guilt)
אִמַּר (Say)	אֲשָׁם (Be guilty)
אִמְרָה (Speech)	אֲשֶׁר (Happy)
אִמְתָּ (Truth)	אֲשֶׁרָה (Grove)
אִנוּשׁ (Person)	אֲתוֹן (She-donkey)
אִסַּף (Gather)	בְּאֵר (Well)
אִסַּר (Tie up)	בְּגָד (Garment)
אִף (Nose)	בִּגְדָה (Act treacherously)
אִפָּה (Bake)	בֵּד (Stick)
אִפּוֹד (Ephod)	בִּדַּל (Separate)
אִפֹּס (End)	בִּהַל (Stir)
אִצְבַּע (Finger)	בִּיהֵמָה (Beast)
אִצֵּל (Beside)	בּוֹא (Come)
אִרְבַּח (Ambush)	בּוֹר (Cistern)
אִרְגָּמָן (Purple)	בוֹשׁ (Be ashamed)
אִרוֹן (Box)	בַּיָּד (Spoils)
אִרְזֵי (Cedar)	בִּזְהָה (Disdain)
אִרְחַח (Path)	בִּזְזָה (Plunder)
אִרְיָה (Lion)	בְּחֹרֵי (Youth)
אִרְדָּה (Length)	בְּחֹן (Examine)
אִרְדֵּךְ (Prolong)	בְּחַר (Choose)
אִרְמוֹן (Citadel)	בְּטַח (Safely)
אִרְצָה (Land)	בְּטַח (Cling)
אִרְרָה (Spit upon)	בְּטֶן (Womb)
אִשׁ (Fire)	בֵּין (Between)

Learn to Read Biblical Hebrew

בין (Understand)	בְּרָכָה (Present)
בִּינָה (Understanding)	בִּשַׁל (Boil)
בַּיִת (House)	בִּשְׂם (Sweet spice)
בכה (Weep)	בֶּשֶׁר (Flesh)
בְּכוֹר (Firstborn)	בִּשְׁת (Shame)
בִּכְי (Weeping)	בַּת (Daughter)
בלל (Mix)	בְּתוּלָה (Virgin)
בלע (Swallow)	גְּאוֹן (Majesty)
בְּלִי (Except)	גאל (Redeem)
בְּמָה (Platform)	גבה (Lift high)
בֵּן (Son)	גְּבוּהָ (High)
בנה (Build)	גְּבוּל (Border)
בַּעַל (Master)	גִּבּוֹר (Courageous)
בער (Burn)	גְּבוּרָה (Bravery)
בצר (Fence in)	גְּבֻעָה (Knoll)
בקע (Cleave)	גִּבּוֹר (Warrior)
בְּקָר (Cattle)	גבר (Overcome)
בֶּקֶר (Morning)	גָּג (Roof)
בקש (Search out)	גְּדוּד (Band)
ברא (Fatten)	גְּדוֹל (Great)
בְּרָד (Hailstones)	גדל (Magnify)
בְּרִזָּה (Iron)	גוי (Nation)
ברח (Flee away)	גוֹלָה (Rising)
בְּרִיחַ (Wood bar)	גור (Sojourn)
בְּרִית (Covenant)	גוֹרֵל (Lot)
בְּרָךְ (Knee)	גזל (Pluck away)
ברך (Kneel)	גִּיאָה (Valley)

Learn to Read Biblical Hebrew

גיל (Dance around)	דָּמָם (Be silent)
גֵּל (Mound)	דַּעַת (Discernment)
גלה (Remove the cover)	דָּרָךְ (Road)
גְּלוּל (Idol)	דָּרַךְ (Step upon)
גָּמַל (Camel)	דָּרַשׁ (Seek)
גמל (Yield)	הַבָּל (Vanity)
גֶּן (Garden)	הגה (Mutter)
גנב (Steal)	הִתְדָּר (Swell)
גֶּפֶן (Grapevine)	הוֹי (Ah)
גֵּר (Stranger)	הוֹן (Substance)
גֶּרֶן (Floor)	היה (Exist)
גרשׁ (Cast out)	הַיֵּכָל (House)
גֶּשֶׁם (Rain shower)	הלך (Walk)
דבק (Adhere)	הלל (Shine)
דָּבָר (Epidemic)	המה (Roar)
דָּבָר (Word)	הַמֹּון (Multitude)
דבר (Speak)	הפך (Overturn)
דְּבִשׁ (Honey)	הר (Hill)
דָּגָן (Cereal)	הרג (Kill)
דוד (Beloved)	הרה (Conceive)
דור (Generation)	הרס (Cast down)
דַּי (Sufficient)	זָבַח (Sacrifice)
דַּל (Weak)	זבח (Sacrifice)
דָּלַת (Door)	זָהָב (Gold)
דָּם (Blood)	זוב (Issue)
דמה (Resemble)	זור (Be strange)
דְּמוּת (Likeness)	זַיִת (Olive)

Learn to Read Biblical Hebrew

זָכָר (Male)	חִזָּה (Perceive)
זָכַר (Remember)	חִזּוֹן (Vision)
זָמָה (Mischief)	חִזָּק (Forceful)
זָמַר (Pluck)	חִזָּק (Seize)
זָנָה (Be a whore)	חִטָּא (Fault)
זָעַק (Yell out)	חִטָּא (Err)
זָקָן (Beard)	חִטָּאָה (Error)
זָקַן (Be old)	חִטָּה (Wheat)
זָרָה (Disperse)	חַי (Life)
זָרוּעַ (Arm)	חִיה (Live)
זָרַע (Seed)	חִיל (Force)
זָרַע (Sow)	חִיצוֹן (Outside)
זָרַק (Sprinkle)	חִיק (Bosom)
חָבָא (Withdraw)	חָכָם (Skilled one)
חֶבֶל (Region)	חָכָם (Be skilled)
חָבַל (Take as a pledge)	חָכְמָה (Skill)
חָבַר (Couple)	חֶלֶב (Fat)
חָבַשׁ (Saddle)	חָלָב (Milk)
חָג (Feast)	חָלָה (Be sick)
חָגַר (Gird up)	חֲלוֹם (Dream)
חָדַל (Terminate)	חַלּוֹן (Window)
חֲדָר (Chamber)	חָקַל (Pierced)
חֲדָשׁ (New)	חָלַל (Pierce)
חֲדָשׁ (New moon)	חָלַם (Visualize)
חָוַל (Twist)	חָלַף (Pass over)
חֹמָה (Rampart)	חָלַץ (Draw)
חוּץ (Outside)	חֶלֶק (Portion)

Learn to Read Biblical Hebrew

חלק (Apportion)	חֲרָבָה (Wasteland)
חֲלָקָה (Smooth)	חָרַד (Tremble)
חֲמִיּוּדָה (Pleasant)	חָרָה (Flare up)
חֲמָה (Fury)	חָרוֹן (Burning wrath)
חֲמוֹר (Donkey)	חֲרֵם (Net)
חַמַּל (Show pity)	חָרַם (Perforate)
חֲמָס (Violence)	חָרַף (Taunt)
חֲמוֹר (Mortar)	חֲרָפָה (Disgrace)
חֵן (Beauty)	חָרַשׁ (Engraver)
חָנָה (Camp)	חָרַשׁ (Scratch)
חֲנִית (Spear)	חָשַׁב (Think)
חָנָם (Freely)	חֲשֹׁן (Breastplate)
חָנַן (Show beauty)	חָשַׁד (Keep back)
חֲסָד (Kindness)	חֲשֹׁךְ (Darkness)
חֲסֵה (Refuge)	חָתַם (Seal)
חֲסִיד (Kind one)	חָתָן (Be an in-law)
חֲפִיץ (Delight)	חָתַת (Break)
חֲפִיץ (Delight)	חָטַח (Slaughtering)
חֵץ (Arrow)	חָטַעַת (Ring)
חֲצוּצָרָה (Trumpet)	חָטָהוֹר (Pure)
חֲצִי (Half)	חָטָהר (Be clean)
חֲצֵר (Yard)	חָטָב (Functional)
חֲק (Custom)	חָטָב (Goods)
חֲקָה (Ritual)	חָטָב (Do good)
חֲקַר (Examine)	חָטָל (Dew)
חֲרָב (Sword)	חָטָמָא (Unclean)
חָרַב (Dry up)	חָטָמָא (Be unclean)

Learn to Read Biblical Hebrew

טָמֵאָה (Unclean)	יִנַּח (Deposit)
טָמַן (Submerge)	יָנַק (Suckle)
טָף (Children)	יָסַד (Found)
טָרַף (Tear into pieces)	יָסַף (Add)
יְאוּר (Stream)	יָסַר (Correct)
יָבֵשׁ (Dry out)	יָעַד (Appoint)
יָגַע (Weary)	יָעָץ (Give advice)
יָד (Hand)	יַעֲרַף (Forest)
יָדָה (Throw the hand)	יָפָה (Beautiful)
יָדַע (Know)	יָצָא (Go out)
יָהַב (Provide)	יָצַב (Station)
יֹבֵל (Trumpet)	יָצַק (Pour down)
יּוֹם (Day)	יָצַר (Mold)
יּוֹמָם (Daytime)	יָצַת (Light on fire)
יּוֹנָה (Dove)	יָקָר (Valuable)
יָחַד (Together)	יָרָא (Fearful)
יָחַל (Stay)	יָרָא (Fear)
יָטַב (Do well)	יָרָאָה (Fearfulness)
יַיִן (Wine)	יָרַד (Go down)
יָכַח (Convict)	יָרָה (Throw)
יָכַל (Be able)	יָרַח (Moon)
יָלַד (Boy)	יָרִיעָה (Tent wall)
יָלַד (Bring forth)	יָרֶדֶת (Midsection)
יָלַל (Howl)	יָרָכָה (Flank)
יָם (Sea)	יָרַשׁ (Possess)
יָמִין (Right hand)	יֵשׁ (There is)
יָמִינִי (Right)	יָשַׁב (Settle)

Learn to Read Biblical Hebrew

יְשׁוּעָה (Relief)	כְּלִי (Item)
יִשַׁע (Rescue)	כְּלֵיָה (Kidney)
יִשַׁע (Rescue)	כָּלֶם (Shame)
יָשָׁר (Straight)	כְּלֵמָה (Shame)
יִשָּׁר (Be straight)	כַּנּוֹר (Harp)
יָתוּם (Orphan)	כַּנַּע (Lower)
יִתְּרָה (Remainder)	כַּנָּף (Wing)
יִתַּר (Leave behind)	כִּסֵּא (Seat)
כָּבֵד (Heavy)	כִּסֵּה (Cover over)
כַּבֵּד (Be heavy)	כֶּסֶּיל (Fool)
כְּבוֹד (Armament)	כֶּסֶף (Silver)
כַּבַּשׁ (Wash)	כַּעַס (Anger)
כֶּבֶשׂ (Sheep)	כַּף (Palm)
כֹּהֵן (Administrator)	כַּפִּיר (Cub)
כּוֹכַב (Star)	כַּפֵּר (Cover)
כּוֹל (All)	כַּפֹּרֶת (Lid)
כּוֹל (Sustain)	כְּרוּב (Keruv)
כּוֹן (Prepare)	כַּרְם (Vineyard)
כּוֹס (Cup)	כַּרַע (Stoop)
כָּזַב (Lie)	כַּרַת (Cut)
כֹּחַ (Strength)	כַּשַׁל (Topple)
כַּחַד (Keep secret)	כָּתַב (Write)
כִּי (Given that)	כִּתְנָת (Tunic)
כְּיָר (Roundness)	כַּתָּף (Shoulder piece)
כֶּלֶב (Dog)	לְאוּם (Community)
כַּלְהָה (Daughter-in-law)	לֵב (Heart)
כֵּלָה (Finish)	לֵבָב (Heart)

Learn to Read Biblical Hebrew

לְבוּשׁ (Clothing)	מִדְבָּר (Wilderness)
לָבָן (White)	מִדָּד (Measure)
לְבוֹשׁ (Wear)	מִדָּה (Measurement)
לוּהַ (Join)	מְדִינָה (Province)
לוּחַ (Slab)	מַהֵר (Hurry)
לוֹן (Stay the night)	מוֹט (Shake)
לוּץ (Mimic)	מוֹל (Forefront)
לֶחֶם (Bread)	מוֹל (Circumcise)
לַחֵם (Fight)	מוֹסָר (Instruction)
לַיַּל (Night)	מוֹעֵד (Appointed)
לַכַּד (Capture)	מוֹפֶת (Wonder)
לַמַּד (Learn)	מוֹצֵא (Going out)
לְעִמָּת (Alongside)	מוֹקֵשׁ (Snare)
לַקַּח (Take)	מוֹשֵׁב (Settling)
לַקֵּט (Pick up)	מוֹת (Death)
לְשׁוֹן (Tongue)	מוֹת (Die)
לְשִׁכָּה (Chamber)	מִזְבֵּחַ (Altar)
מְאֹד (Many)	מִזְמוֹר (Melody)
מְאוּמָה (Anything)	מִזְרַח (Sunrise)
מְאַכֵּל (Nourishment)	מִזְרֵק (Sprinkling basin)
מֵאֵן (Refuse)	מַחֵה (Wipe away)
מֵאֵס (Reject)	מַחְלָקָה (Portion)
מְבַצֵּר (Fence)	מַחֲנֵה (Campsite)
מִגְדָּל (Tower)	מָחָר (Tomorrow)
מִגֵּן (Shield)	מָחָרָת (Morrow)
מִגַּפָּה (Pestilence)	מַחְשָׁבָה (Invention)
מִגְרֵשׁ (Pasture)	מִטָּה (Bed)

Learn to Read Biblical Hebrew

מִטָּה (Branch)	מִסְפָּר (Number)
מָטָר (Precipitation)	מֵעָה (Abdomen)
מַיִם (Water)	מַעֲזוֹז (Stronghold)
מִין (Kind)	מֵעֵט (Small amount)
מִכָּה (Crushed)	מַעֲוִיל (Cloak)
מָכַר (Sell)	מַעַל (Transgression)
מָלֵא (Filling)	מַעַל (Upward)
מָלֵא (Full)	מַעַל (Transgress)
מָלֵא (Fill)	מַעֲלָה (Step)
מַלְאָךְ (Messenger)	מַעֲלָל (Works)
מַלְאָכָה (Business)	מַעְרָה (Cave)
מִלָּה (Comment)	מַעֲשֵׂה (Work)
מֶלַח (Salt)	מַעֲשֵׂר (Tenth part)
מַלְחָמָה (Battle)	מָצָא (Find)
מָלַט (Slip away)	מַצֵּבָה (Monument)
מֶלֶךְ (King)	מַצָּה (Unleavened bread)
מָלַךְ (Reign)	מַצְוָה (Directive)
מַלְכָּה (Queen)	מִקְדָּשׁ (Sanctuary)
מַמְלָכוֹת (Empire)	מָקוֹם (Area)
מַמְלָכָה (Kingdom)	מִקְנֵה (Livestock)
מָנָה (Reckon)	מָר (Bitter)
מְנוֹרָה (Lampstand)	מְרֹאֶה (Appearance)
מִנְחָה (Donation)	מָרַד (Rebel)
מָנַע (Withhold)	מָרָה (Bitter)
מִסָּךְ (Canopy)	מָרוֹם (Heights)
מִסְכָּה (Cast image)	מְרֻכָּבָה (Chariot)
מִסְלָה (Highway)	

Learn to Read Biblical Hebrew

מְרָמָה (Deceit)	נָגַע (Touch)
מָשַׁח (Smear)	נָגַף (Smite)
מְשָׁחָה (Ointment)	נָגַשׁ (Draw near)
מְשִׁיחַ (Smearing)	נְדָבָה (Freewill offering)
מָשַׁךְ (Draw)	נָדַד (Toss)
מְשַׁכֵּב (Laying place)	נָדָה (Removal)
מְשֻׁכָּן (Dwelling)	נָדַח (Drive)
מָשַׁל (Comparison)	נָדִיב (Willing)
מִשַּׁל (Regulate)	נָדָר (Vow)
מְשַׁמֶּרֶת (Charge)	נָדַר (Make a vow)
מְשֻׁנָּה (Double)	נָהַג (Drive)
מְשֻׁפָּחָה (Family)	נָהָר (River)
מְשַׁפֵּט (Decision)	נָוָה (Abode)
מְשַׁקָּל (Weight)	נָוַח (Rest)
מְשַׁתָּה (Banquet)	נָוַס (Flee)
מָתָן (Waist)	נָוַע (Stagger)
נָאֵם (Utterance)	נָוַף (Wave)
נָאָף (Commit adultery)	נִזָּר (Crown)
נָבֵא (Prophecy)	נָחָה (Guide)
נָבַט (Stare)	נְחֹוֹחַ (Sweet)
נָבִיא (Prophet)	נַחַל (Wadi)
נָבֵל (Pitcher)	נָחַל (Inherit)
נְבֵלָה (Carcass)	נַחֲלָה (Inheritance)
נֶגְבַּ (South side)	נָחַם (Comfort)
נָגַד (Be face to face)	נָחַשׁ (Serpent)
נָגִיד (Noble)	נְחֹשֶׁת (Copper)
נָגַע (Plague)	נָטָה (Extend)

Learn to Read Biblical Hebrew

נטע (Plant)	נֵר (Lamp)
נטש (Let alone)	נשק (Kiss)
נכה (Hit)	נָשִׂיא (Captain)
נָכַר (Foreigner)	נְתִיב (Path)
נכר (Recognize)	נתן (Give)
נָכַרִי (Foreign)	נתץ (Break down)
נסא (Lift up)	נתק (Draw)
נסג (Overtake)	סבב (Go around)
נסה (Test)	סָבִיב (All around)
נָסַךְ (Pouring)	סגר (Shut)
נסך (Pour)	סוס (Horse)
נסע (Journey)	סוף (Reeds)
נְעוּר (Young age)	סור (Turn aside)
נַעַר (Young man)	סים (Place)
נְעָרָה (Young woman)	סיר (Pot)
נפל (Fall)	סִפָּה (Booth)
נָפֵשׁ (Being)	סָלַה (Selah)
נצב (Stand up)	סלח (Forgive)
נָצַח (Continually)	סָלַע (Cliff)
נצח (Continue)	סָלַת (Flour)
נצל (Deliver)	סמך (Support)
נצר (Preserve)	סוף (Tub)
נקב (Pierce through)	ספד (Lament)
נקה (Acquit)	סֵפֶר (Scroll)
נָקִי (Innocent)	ספר (Count)
נקם (Avenge)	סָרִיס (Eunuch)
נִקְמָה (Vengeance)	סִתָּר (Protection)

Learn to Read Biblical Hebrew

סתר (Hide)	עזר (Help)
עב (Thick)	עֲזָרָה (Help)
עֶבֶד (Servant)	עַיִן (Eye)
עבד (Serve)	עִיר (City)
עֲבָדָה (Service)	עַל (Upon)
עֵבֶר (Other side)	עַל (Yoke)
עבר (Cross over)	עֹלָה (Rising)
עֲבָרָה (Wrath)	עֹלָה (Go up)
עֶגְלָה (Bullock)	עֲלִיוֹן (Upper)
עֲגָלָה (Cart)	עֹלָם (Be out of sight)
עֵד (Witness)	עַם (People)
עַד (Until)	עַמַּד (Stand)
עֲדָה (Company)	עַמּוּד (Pillar)
עֵדוּת (Testimony)	עֲמָל (Labor)
עֲדָר (Drove)	עֵמֶק (Valley)
עוד (Yet again)	עָנָה (Afflict)
עוד (Wrap around)	עָנָה (Answer)
עוֹלָם (Distant time)	עָנָו (Gentle)
עוֹן (Iniquity)	עָנִי (Affliction)
עוֹף (Flyer)	עָנִי (Afflicted)
עוף (Fly)	עָנָן (Cloud)
עִוֵּר (Blind)	עָפָר (Powder)
עור (Skin)	עֵץ (Tree)
עור (Stir up)	עֵצָה (Counsel)
עֵז (She-goat)	עֲצוּם (Numerous)
עֹז (Boldness)	עֲצָם (Bone)
עזב (Leave)	עָצַר (Stop)

Learn to Read Biblical Hebrew

עֶרֶב (Evening)	פְּלִיטָה (Escape)
עֲרָבָה (Desert)	פִּלַּל (Plead)
עֲרוּתָהּ (Nakedness)	פִּנָּה (Corner)
עֲרֻךְ (Arrangement)	פָּנָה (Turn)
עֲרַךְ (Arrange)	פָּנִים (Face)
עָרַל (Uncircumcised)	פְּנִימִי (Inner)
עֲרָף (Neck)	פֶּסַח (Passover)
עָשָׂן (Smoke)	פְּסֻלָּה (Sculpture)
עֲשָׂק (Oppress)	פִּעַל (Deed)
עֵשֶׂב (Herb)	פָּעַל (Make)
עָשָׂה (Do)	פִּעֵם (Footstep)
עֲשָׂרוֹן (One-tenth)	פָּקַד (Register)
עֲשָׂר (Riches)	פְּקִדָּה (Oversight)
עֵת (Appointed time)	פָּר (Bull)
עֲתוּד (He-goat)	פָּרַד (Divide apart)
פִּאָה (Edge)	פָּרָה (Cow)
פָּגַע (Reach)	פָּרָה (Reproduce)
פָּדָה (Ransom)	פָּרַח (Burst out)
פֶּה (Mouth)	פָּרִי (Produce)
פּוּץ (Scatter abroad)	פָּרְכָת (Tent curtain)
פִּחַ (Wire)	פָּרַץ (Break out)
פָּחַד (Awe)	פָּרַר (Break)
פָּחַד (Shake in awe)	פָּרָשׁ (Horseman)
פִּחָה (Governor)	פָּרַשׁ (Spread out)
פִּילְגֶּשֶׁת (Concubine)	פָּשַׁט (Peel off)
פָּלַא (Perform)	פְּשָׁע (Transgression)
פָּלַט (Deliver)	פָּשַׁע (Transgress)

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פּתַח (Spread wide)	צָרַעַת (Infection)
פִּתְחָה (Opening)	צָרַף (Refine)
פָּתַח (Open)	צָרַר (Press in)
צֹאן (Flocks)	קָבַץ (Gather together)
צָבָא (Army)	קֶבֶר (Grave)
צְבִי (Gazelle buck)	קָבַר (Bury)
צֵד (Side)	קָדוּשׁ (Unique)
צִדִּיק (Correct)	קָדִים (East wind)
צִדְקָה (Corrected)	קָדָם (East)
צַדִּיק (Be correct)	קָדָם (Face toward)
צִדְקָה (Correctness)	קָדָשׁ (Special)
צִנְאוֹר (Back of the neck)	קָדָשׁ (Set apart)
צוּה (Direct)	קָהָל (Assembly)
צוּם (Fast)	קָהַל (Round up)
צוּר (Smack)	קוּה (Bound up)
צֵל (Shadow)	קוֹל (Voice)
צַלַח (Prosper)	קוּם (Rise)
צִלְעָה (Rib)	קוֹמָה (Height)
צִמַח (Spring up)	קָטָן (Small)
צַעַק (Cry out)	קָטַר (Burn incense)
צַפָּה (Keep watch)	קָטַרְתָּ (Incense)
צַפָּה (Overlay)	קָלַל (Belittle)
צָפוֹן (North)	קָלְלָה (Annoyance)
צִפּוֹר (Bird)	קָנָא (Be zealous)
צָפַן (Conceal)	קָנְאָה (Zealously)
צָר (Narrow)	קָנָה (Stalk)
צָרָה (Trouble)	קָנָה (Purchase)

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קֵץ (Conclusion)	רבה (Increase)
קֶצֶה (Far end)	רַבַּץ (Stretch out)
קִצְּהָ (Extremity)	רָגַז (Shake)
קִצִּיר (Harvest)	רִגְלָא (Foot)
קִצְּפָא (Splinter)	רָגַל (Tread about)
קִצַּף (Snap)	רָדָה (Rule)
קִצַּר (Sever)	רָדַף (Pursue)
קָרָא (Call out)	רוּחַ (Wind)
קִרְבָּא (Within)	רוּם (Raise)
קָרַב (Come near)	רוּעַ (Shout)
קִרְבָּן (Offering)	רוּץ (Run)
קָרָה (Meet)	רָחַב (Width)
קָרוֹב (Near)	רָחַב (Widen)
קָרִיָּה (City)	רָחוֹב (Street)
קָרוֹן (Horn)	רָחוֹק (Distance)
קָרַע (Tear)	רָחַם (Bowels)
קָרַשׁ (Board)	רָחַם (Have compassion)
קָשַׁב (Heed)	רָחַץ (Bathe)
קָשָׁה (Hard)	רָחַק (Be far)
קָשָׁה (Be hard)	רָיַב (Dispute)
קָשַׁר (Tie)	רָיַב (Dispute)
קָשַׁת (Bow)	רִיחַ (Aroma)
רָאָה (See)	רִכָּבָא (Chariot)
רָאֵשׁ (Head)	רִכָּבָא (Vehicle)
רִאשִׁית (Summit)	רִכּוּשׁ (Goods)
רַב (Abundant)	רִמּוֹן (Pomegranate)
רַב (Abundance)	רִנָּה (Shouting)

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רַנַּן (Shout aloud)	שָׁבַת (Ceasing)
רֵעַ (Companion)	שָׁבַת (Cease)
רָע (Dysfunctional)	שָׁדָד (Spoil)
רָעֵב (Hunger)	שָׁדַי (Shaddai)
רָעָה (Feed)	שָׁוְאָ (Falseness)
רָעָה (Be dysfunctional)	שׁוּבָ (Turn back)
רָעַשׁ (Quake)	שׁוּעֵר (Gatekeeper)
רָפָא (Heal)	שׁוֹפָר (Ram horn)
רָפָה (Sink down)	שׁוֹר (Ox)
רָצָה (Accept)	שָׁחָה (Bend down)
רָצוֹן (Will)	שָׁחַט (Slay)
רָצַח (Murder)	שָׁחַת (Damage)
רָשַׁע (Lost)	שָׁטָה (Acacia)
רָשַׁע (Lost one)	שָׁטַף (Flush)
רָשַׁע (Depart)	שָׁטַר (Dominate)
רְשָׁוִל (Underworld)	שִׁיר (Song)
רָשַׁל (Enquire)	שִׁיר (Sing)
רָשַׁר (Remain)	שִׁית (Set down)
רְשָׁרִית (Remnant)	שָׁכַב (Lay down)
רָשַׁבָה (Capture)	שָׁכַח (Forget)
רָשַׁבְעָה (Swearing)	שָׁכַל (Be childless)
רָשַׁבוֹת (Captivity)	שָׁכַם (Depart early)
רָשַׁבָּט (Staff)	שָׁכַן (Dwell)
רָשַׁבִּי (Captive)	שָׁלֹם (Completeness)
רָשַׁבַע (Swear)	שָׁלַח (Send)
רָשַׁבַר (Shattering)	שָׁלַחַן (Table)
רָשַׁבַר (Crack)	שָׁלַךְ (Throw out)

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שָׁלַל (Spoil)	שָׁקֵט (Tranquil)
שָׁלַם (Peace offering)	שָׁקֵל (Sheqel)
שָׁלַם (Complete)	שָׁקֵר (False)
שָׁלַם (Make restitution)	שָׁרֵשׁ (Root)
שָׁלֹשׁוֹם (Three days ago)	שָׂרֵת (Minister)
שָׂם (Title)	שָׂשׁ (Linen)
שָׂמַד (Destroy)	שָׂתָה (Gulp)
שָׂמָה (Desolate)	שָׂבַע (Be satisfied)
שָׂמוּעָה (Report)	שָׂדֵה (Field)
שָׂמַיִם (Sky)	שָׂה (Ram)
שָׂמַם (Desolate)	שָׂוֵשׁ (Skip)
שָׂמָמָה (Desolate)	שָׂחַק (Laugh)
שָׂמֹן (Oil)	שָׂטָן (Opponent)
שָׁמַע (Hear)	שָׂכַל (Calculate)
שָׁמַר (Safeguard)	שָׂכָר (Wage)
שָׁמֶשׁ (Sun)	שָׂמוֹאל (Left hand)
שָׁן (Tooth)	שָׂמַח (Rejoice)
שָׁנָה (Year)	שָׂמְחָה (Joy)
שָׁנִי (Scarlet)	שָׂמְלָה (Apparel)
שָׁעַר (Gate)	שָׂנֵא (Hate)
שָׂפָחָה (Maid)	שָׂעִיר (Goat)
שָׁפַט (Decide)	שָׂעַר (Hair)
שָׁפַךְ (Pour out)	שָׂעָרָה (Barley)
שָׁפַל (Low)	שָׂפָה (Lip)
שָׁקָה (Drink)	שָׂק (Sack)
שָׁקוּץ (Filthiness)	שָׂר (Noble)
	שָׂרִיד (Remnant)

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שָׂרָף (Cremate)	תְּכַלֵּת (Blue)
תְּאֵן (Fig)	תֵּלַח (Hang)
תְּבִיאָה (Vessel)	תְּמִיד (Continually)
תְּבוּאָה (Production)	תְּמִים (Whole)
תְּבִיל (Earth)	תָּמַם (Be whole)
תְּהוֹם (Deep sea)	תְּנוּפָה (Waving)
תְּהִלָּה (Adoration)	תַּעַה (Wander)
תְּוֹדָה (Thanks)	תְּפָאָרָה (Decoration)
תְּוֶדֶד (Midst)	תְּפִלָּה (Pleading)
תְּוִכְחָה (Conviction)	תִּפְשׂ (Seize hold)
תְּוִלְדָּה (Birthing)	תְּקוּנָה (Waiting)
תְּוִלָּע (Kermes)	תִּקַּע (Thrust)
תְּוַעֲבָה (Disgusting)	תְּרוּמָה (Offering)
תְּוָרָה (Teaching)	תְּרוּעָה (Shout)
תְּיִרוּשׁ (Fresh wine)	תְּשׁוּעָה (Rescue)

Parent / Child Roots

Most ancient Hebrew words are all derived from a two-letter root such as **בל** (flow). A child root is formed by placing one of the consonants that often act as a vowel (י, ו, ה, א) in front, between, or at the end of the two-letter root. The following child roots are derived from the two-letter root **בל**.

אבל (wilt; a flowing away of life)

הבל (empty; a flowing away of contents)

בהל (panic; a flowing of the insides)

בלה (aged; a flowing away of youth)

בול (flood; a heavy flowing of water)

יבל (stream; a flowing of water).

As you will notice, all the child roots are related in meaning to each other and to the two-letter root.

Since approximately 80% of the Hebrew words in the Bible are a parent or child root words, or a word derived from these roots, it is relatively easy to find the meaning of a word based on the root of the word. For example, the child root **רוש** has the meaning of “head” or “top.” The words **ראשית**, **ראשון** and **ראשה** are derived from this child root and all have a meaning of “the head or top of something.” At times, the meaning of a word derived from

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a particular root may appear to be very different in meaning from the root. This is due to our modern understanding of words, which are often times very different from the ancient Hebrews' understanding of words. When the word does not appear to be related, a more precise dictionary should be consulted.

The following list only includes those roots whose words derived from them are found in the Hebrew Bible. For example, the two words **מבון** and **תבון** are found in the Hebrew Bible and are derived from the child root **בון**. The following list includes the entry **בון**, but not **מבון** or **תבון**.

Occasionally, a letter of a word will change to another letter with a similar sound, but will retain a meaning resembling the original root. For example, the root **כור** (*kor*; meaning dig) has evolved into the following forms.

עור ('*or*) נור (*bor*) חור (*hhor*) גור (*gor*) קור (*qor*)

Each of these words is similar in sound and each has the meaning of “dig” and are included under the child root of **כור**. In this case, the entry **קור** has the word **כור** to the right, indicating that you will find this word there.

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אב

Father	אב
Bear fruit	אבב
Wineskin, medium	אוב
Desire	יאב
Hostile, enemy	איב

אד

Fog, mist	אד
Befall	אדד
Fire poker	אוד
Calamity	איד

אה

Desire	אה
Desire	או
Desire	אי
Desire	אוה
Desire	יאה
Desire	איה

אז

Time, place	אז
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אח

Brother, hearth	אח
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אט

Gentle	אט
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אך

כן	אך
----	----

אל

God, chief	אל
Strong	אלל
Oath	אלה
Strong	אול

Begin יאל

אם

Mother, if	אם
Cubit, community	אמם
Bondwoman	אמה

אן

Idol, nothing	אן
Idol, nothing	אנן
Idol, nothing	אין

אף

Nose, anger	אף
Aroma, baking	אפה

אץ

Press	אוצ
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אר

Light	אור
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אש

Fire	אש
Foundation, cake	אשש
Foundation	אשה
Despair	יאש

את

Mark, with, plow	את
Mark	אתא
Arrive, you	אתה
Mark	אות

בב

Pupil of the eye	בבה
Cry out	יבב

בד

Alone, branch	בד
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Alone, branch	בדד	Flow	יבל
Wander	אבד	בס	
Lie	בדא	High	בהס
בה		High	במה
Void	בהה	Brother-in-law	יבס
Need	אבה	בן	
Come	בוא	Son	בן
בו		Stone	אבן
Plunder	בו	Thumb	בהן
Plunder	בז	Structure, children	בנה
Plunder	בזא	Intelligence	בון
Plunder	בזה	Separate	בין
Plunder	בוז	בס	
בח		Trample	בוט
Remain	אבח	בע	
בט		Gush, request	בעה
Marble	בהט	בץ	
Idle talk	בטה	White clay	בץ
בך		Swamp	בצץ
Roll, swell	אבך	White, linen, egg	בוץ
Weep	בכא	בק	
Weep	בכה	Pour out, destroy	בקק
Wander	בוך	Powder, dust	אבק
בל		Rash	בהק
Nothing	בל	Empty	בוק
Mixture	בלל	בר	
Lament	אבל	Clean, soap, grain	בר
Vain, empty	הבל	Clean, pure	ברר
Panic, anticipation	בהל	Strong wing	אבר
Fail, aged	בלה	כר	באר
Flood	בול	Fat	ברא

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White	בהר	Back, body	גוה
Food, soap	ברה	Grieve	יגה
כר	בור	Valley	גיה
בש		Back, body	גף
Shame, dried up	בוש	Arch, body	גוף
Shame	ביש	גז	
בת		Fleece, mow	גז
Defined	בתת	Sheer	גזז
Desolate	בתה	Fleece	גזה
Household	בית	Sweep	גוז
גב		גל	
Bent back, dig	גב	Round, role, stone	גל
Cistern	גבא	Round, role, log	גלל
High	גבה	Collect	אגל
Locust, cut, dig	גוב	Redeem	גאל
Dig	יגב	Naked, exile	גלה
גג		Rejoice, fear	גול
Roof	גג	2nd time around	עלל
גד		גם	
Attack, troop	גד	Also	גם
Attack, furrow	גדד	Marsh	אגם
Troop, band	אגד	Drink, reed	גמא
Riverbank	גדה	Gather	גמה
Attack, troop	גוד	גן	
Tendon	גיד	Garden	גן
גה		Protect	גנן
Pride	גא	Bowl	אגן
Back	גו	גע	
Valley	גי	Gasp	יגע
Pride	גאה	Bellow	געה
Heal	גהה	Last breath	גוע

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גף

גה	גף
גה	גוף
Non-native, chalk	גר
Throat, drag	גרה
Gather, collect	אגר
Prostrate	גהר
Anger	גרה
Fear, guest	גור
Fear	יגר
Plaster	גיר

גש

Grope	גשש
Cloud	גיש

גת

Winepress	גת
Slow	דב
Slow	דבב
Flow	דאב
Sluggish	דבא
Mope	דוב

דג

Fish	דג
anxious	דאג
Increase	דגה
Fishing	דוג

דד

Breasts	דד
Gentle walk	דדה
Pot, basket, uncle	דיד

דה

Enough	די
Dart	דאה
Sick	דוה
Rapid flight	דיה

דח

Thrust	דחח
Push down	דחה
Push away	דוח

דך

Crush	דך
Trample	דכא
Collapse	דכה
Crush	דוך

דל

Dangle	דל
Week, poor	דלל
Draw water	דלה

דס

Blood	דס
Silent	דמס
Red, man	אדס
Silent	דהס
Likeness, silent	דמה

דן

Ruler, lord	אדן
Quarrel	דון
Rule	דין

דע

Know	דע
Intelligence	דוע

Learn to Read Biblical Hebrew

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Learn to Read Biblical Hebrew

High, arrogant	הרר		
Pregnant	הרה		
High	יהר		
הת			
Break in, assail	התת		
וו			
Hood, peg, nail	וו		
זב			
Hyssop	אזב		
Gold, yellow	זהב		
Puss	זוב		
Gold	צהב		
זג			
Grapeskin	זג		
זד			
Waves, soup	זד		
Waves, soup	זוד		
זה			
This	זה		
Shine, beauty	זהה		
סה	זוה		
זז			
Move, rich	זוז		
זח			
Remove	זחח		
זך			
Clear	זך		
Clear	זכך		
Pure	זכה		
		זל	
Shake	זלל		
Depart	אזל		
Except	זול		
Shake, settle	צלל		
		זם	
Plan	זמם		
		זן	
Kinds	זן		
Heavy, stout	יזן		
Broad, ear	אזן		
Whoredom	זנה		
Fat	זון		
		זע	
Tremble	זוע		
Sweat	יזע		
		זף	
Flow	זוף		
Sheet over	צפה		
Overflow	צוף		
		זק	
Fuse, refine	זק		
Chains	זקק		
		זר	
Stranger	זר		
Sneeze	זרר		
צר	זרר		
צר	אזר		
Loath, turn away	זאר		
Warn	זהר		

Learn to Read Biblical Hebrew

Scatter, winnow	זרה	חז
Loath, turn away	זור	Gaze חזז
צר	זור	Possess אחז
זת		Gaze חזה
Olive	זית	Enclose חוז
חב		חח
Bosom	חב	Thistle, hook חח
Bosom	חבב	Hook חוח
Refuge, secret	חבא	חט
Hide	חבה	Miss, sin חטא
Debt	חוב	Cord חוט
חג		חך
Festival	חג	Roof of the mouth חך
Festival	חגג	Wait חכה
Revolve	חגא	חל
Refuge	חגה	Common חל
Circle	חוג	Common, pierce חלל
חד		Sick, rust חלא
Unite	חד	Sick, pierce חלה
Unite	חדד	Turn חול
One, unite	אחד	חר
Glad	חדה	חם
Riddle	חוד	Hot חם
Unite	יחד	Hot חמם
חה		Curdled חמא
Life	חה	Wall חמה
Life	חי	Burned, black חום
Life	חיה	Passion, anger יחם
Life	חיה	חן
Life	חיי	Camp, grace חן

Learn to Read Biblical Hebrew

Camp, grace	חנן	Wait	יחר
Pole, spear	חנה	Patient	יחל
Camp, grace	חון	חש	
חס		Quiet	חשה
Trust, refuge	חסה	Hurry	חוש
Compassion	חוס	Lineage	יחש
חף		Hurry	עוש
Clean, pure	חף	חת	
Secret	חפא	Break, crumble	חת
Clean, pure	חפף	Break, crumble	חתת
Cover, protect	חפה	Seize	חתה
Haven	חוף	טב	
חץ		Good	טב
Arrow	חץ	Good	יטב
Divide, arrow	חצץ	Good	טוב
Half	חצה	טד	
Outside	חוץ	Thorn	אטד
Wall	חיץ	טה	
חק		Spun	טוה
Appointment	חק	Sweep	טוא
Appoint, inscribe	חקק	טח	
Inscribe	חקה	Lay out, kidney	טחה
Bosom	חוק	Overlay	טוח
חר		טט	
Glow hot, noble	חר	Mud	טט
Heated by the sun	חרר	טל	
Remain, after	אחר	Dew	טל
Dung, privy	חרא	Covering	טלל
Anger	חרה	Cover	טלא
White	חור	Spotting	טלה
כר	חור	Strew	טול

Learn to Read Biblical Hebrew

טם

Unclean	טם
Unclean	טמא
Unclean	טמה

טן

Basket	טנא
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טע

Wander	טעה
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טף

Children	טף
Trip	טפף
Surround	טוף

טר

Closed	אטר
Pure	טהר
Wall	טור

טש

Pounce	טוש
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יג

Grieve	יגה
--------	-----

יד

Hand	יד
Handle	ידד
Hand out	ידה

ים

Sea	ים
Terror	אים
Day	יום

יין

Mud	יין
Wine	יין

יע

Shovel	יע
Brush	יעה

יף

Beauty	יפה
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יר

River	יאר
Fear	ירא
Point, rain, teach	ירה

יש

Exist	יש
Aged	ישש
Exist	ישה

כב

Pain	כאב
Extinguish	כבה

כד

Jar	כד
Strike	כדד
Strike	כיד

כה

Brand	כי
Sad	כאה
Weak	כהה
Burn	כוה

כח

Strength	כח
Chastise	יכח

כל

Complete	כל
Complete	כלל

Learn to Read Biblical Hebrew

Eat	אכל	קר	כרה
Keep	כלא	Dig	כור
Complete	כלה	Hole	באר
Sustain	כול	Dig	בור
Able, Could	יכל	Dig	חור
כס		Dig	עור
Desire, long for	כמה	Trench	קור
כן		כש	
Stand upright	כן	כס	כשה
Plant	כנן	Terror	כוש
Priest	כהן	כת	
Eulogy	כנה	Crush	כתת
Stand	כון	לב	
Sure	אך	Heart	לב
כס		Heart	לבב
Estimate	כסס	Thirst	לאב
Covering	כסא	Lion	לבא
Cover	כסה	Glisten	להב
Cup, pocket	כוס	Lion	לבה
Fat	כשה	לג	
Cup	קוס	Log (measure)	לג
כף		Study	להג
Palm	כף	לד	
Bend	כפף	Offspring, child	ילד
Bow	אכף	Offspring, child	ולד
Tame	כפה	לה	
כר		If, no, not	לא
Leap, cor(measure)	כר	If	לו
Leap	כרר	Weary, faint	לאה
Farm	אכר	Weary, faint	להה
Dig	כרה	Nothing, foolish	אל

Learn to Read Biblical Hebrew

Nothing, foolish	אלל		
Nothing, foolish	אול		
Nothing, foolish	יאל		
לה			
Join, lend	לוה		
If	לוא		
לוז			
Turn aside	לזה		
Turn aside	לזז		
לח			
Moist, fresh	לח		
Cheek	לחה		
Corrupt	אלח		
Clay tablet	לוח		
Lick	לק		
לט			
Veil	לט		
Veil, cover	לאט		
Lizard	לטא		
Flames	להט		
Secret, cover	לוט		
לך			
Messenger	לאך		
Walk	הלך		
Walk	ילך		
לל			
Howl	אלל		
Loop	ללא		
Stairway	לול		
Howl	ילל		
Night	ליל		
		לם	
		Silent, tied up	אלם
		Community	לאם
		Wound	להם
		לן	
		Encamp	לון
		לע	
		Throat	לע
		Swallow	לוע
		Blurt	ילע
		לץ	
		Mock, interpret	לצץ
		Urge	אלץ
		Mock, interpret	לוצץ
		לק	
		לח	לק
		לש	
		Knead	לוש
		מג	
		Magi	מג
		Melt	מוג
		מד	
		Carpet, measure	מד
		Carpet, measure	מדד
		Extend	מדה
		Stretch out	מוד
		מה	
		What	מה
		What	מו
		Who	מי
		Hundred	מאה

Learn to Read Biblical Hebrew

Question	מהה	Spurn	מאס
מח		Dissolve, faint	מסה
Marrow, rich	מח	מע	
Marrow	מחח	Bowels, soft	מע
Strike	מחא	Bowels, soft	מעה
Strike	מחה	מץ	
מט		Chaff, oppression	מץ
Shake, yoke	מוט	Suck, matsa	מצץ
Branch	מטה	Strong	אמץ
מך		Find	מצא
Thin, poor	מיך	Suck	מצה
Thin, poor	מכך	Chaff, oppression	מוץ
מל		מק	
Reduce, discourse	מלל	Dissipate	מק
Sick	אמל	Dissipate	מקק
Fill	מלא	Mock	מוק
Reduce	מהל	מר	
uncircumcised	לומ	Bitter, rebel	מר
מם		Bitter, rebel	מרר
Blemish	מאם	Say	אמר
מן		Bitter, rebel	מאר
Kind, from	מן	Hurry, exchange	מהר
Kind, from	מנן	Bitter, rebel	מרה
Strong	אמן	Exchange	מור
Refuse	מאן	Exchange	ימר
Assign, count	מנה	מש	
Likeness	מון	Grope	משש
Right hand	ימן	Drawn out	משה
מס		Drawn out	מוש
Dissolve, faint	מס	Grope	ימש
Dissolve, faint	מסס		

Learn to Read Biblical Hebrew

מת		Rest	נוח
Death	מת	נט	
Death	מות	Spread out	נטה
Death	מותה	Shake	נוט
נב		נד	
Bore	נבב	Beat	נכא
Prophecy	נבא	Beat	נכה
High	נבה	נל	
Produce	נונ	Complete	נלה
נג		Rubble	נול
Drive	נהג	נם	
Bright	נגה	Sleep	נום
נד		נו	
Flee, wander	נד	Sprout, continue	נון
Flee, wander	נדד	נס	
Toss about	נדזה	Flag	נס
Flee, wander	נוד	Beacon, glee	נסס
נה		נש	נסס
Please	נא	Test	נסה
Lament	ני	Flee	נוס
sit, dwell	נאה	Lift up	נשא
Lament	נהה	נע	
sit, dwell	נוה	Shake	נוע
Dispossess	ינה	נו	
Forbid	נוא	Wave	נוף
Raw	ניא	נוץ	
נו		Shine	נצץ
Sprinkle	נזה	Despise	נאץ
נח		Fly	נצא
Sigh	אנח	Quarrel	נצה
Lead	נחה	Fly away	נוץ

Learn to Read Biblical Hebrew

נק	
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Cry out	אנק
Cry out	נהק
Innocent	נקה
Suckle	נוק
Suckle	ינק

נר	
-----------	--

Lamp	נר
River	נהר
Lamp, yoke	נור

נש	
-----------	--

Lend	נשא
Lend	נשה
Sick	נוש
Sick	נסס

נב	
-----------	--

Turn	בבס
Drunk	אבס
Old	ביש

נד	
-----------	--

Foundation	נד
Assembly	נוד
Foundation	נסד
Level	שדד
Witness	שהד
Field	שדה
Plaster	שיד

נה	
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Seah (measure)	סאה
Veil	סוה
Sheep	שה

Forget	שי
Forget	שהה
Rise	שוא
Elevate	שיא
Conceal, hide	זוה

סח	
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Sweep away	שחה
Meditate	שה
Swim, float	שחה
Meditate	שוח
Ponder, plant	שיח

סט	
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Turn aside	סט
שט	סט
Depart	סוט
Turn aside	שט
Deviate	שטה
Turn aside	שוט

סך	
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Booth	סך
Cover	סכך
Anoint	סוך
Thorn, hedge	שך
Cover, thorn	שכך
View	שכה
Cover	שוך

סל	
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Raise, basket	סל
Raise	סלל
Weigh	סלא
Raise	סלה

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Quail	שלו
סם	
Smell	סם
Smell	סמם
Storehouse	אסם
Poison	שמם
Garlic	שום

סן	
Shoe	סאן
Thistle	סנא
Thorn	צן
Sharp, protect	צנן
Flock	צאן
Flock	צון
Thistle	סנה
Hate	שנא

סס	
Cheerful, moth	סס
Horse, swallow	סוס
Cheerful	שוש

סע	
Rush	סעה

סף	
Lip, edge	סף
Door	ספן
Take, gather	אסף
Feed	ספא
Scrape	ספה
Take, gather	יסף
Lip	שפה

סק	
Sack	שק
Sack	שקק

סר	
Sad, anger	סר
Sad, anger	סרר
Bind, yoke	אסר
Round	סהר
Instruct	יסר
pot, fishhook	סיר
Commander	שר
Rule	שרר
Bind	אשר
Yeast	שאר
Rule	שור

סת	
Winter	סתה
Entice	סות

עב	
Dark covering	עב
Thick, dense	עבה
Dark covering	עוב

עג	
Baked bread	עוג

עד	
Appointed time	עדה
Pass, ornament	עדה
Testify, witness	עוד
Appointed	יעד

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עה

Evil	עו
Ruins	עי
Sweep away	יעה

עז

Goat	עז
Strong	עזז
Bold	עזה
Stronghold	עוז
Strong	יעז

עט

Stylus, pen	עט
Wrap	עטה
Dig in	עוט
Wrap	יעט
Bird of prey	עיט
עץ	יעט

על

Yoke, top, high	על
Work	עלל
גל	עלל
Ascend	עלה
Give milk	עול
Ascend	יעל

עם

Flock, with	עם
Hidden	עמם
Neighbor	עמה
Violence	עים

ען

Cover, cloud	ענן
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Watch, depress	ענה
----------------	-----

Abode	עון
-------	-----

Watch	יען
-------	-----

Eye	עין
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עס

Tread	עסס
-------	-----

Do	עשה
----	-----

עף

Branch	עפה
--------	-----

Fly	עוף
-----	-----

Exhausted	יעף
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Exhausted	עיף
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עץ

Tree	עץ
------	----

Spine	עצה
-------	-----

Counsel	עוץ
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Counsel	יעץ
---------	-----

Counsel	יעט
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עק

Parapet	עקה
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Oppress	עוק
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ער

Enemy, bare	ער
-------------	----

Naked	ערה
-------	-----

Naked	ערה
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Watch, wake, bare	עור
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כר	עור
----	-----

Forest	יער
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עש

Waste away	עשש
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עס	עשה
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Learn to Read Biblical Hebrew

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Learn to Read Biblical Hebrew

צק

Funnel	צוק
Pour	יצק

צר

Wrapped, pressed	צר
Wrapped, pressed	צרר
Store up	אצר
Pain	צאר
Olive oil	צהר
Pressed, rock	צור
Pressed	יצר
Journey	ציר
Bind	זרר
Bind	אזר
Press	זור
Lie in wait	שרר

צת

Kindle	צות
Kindle	יצת

קב

Jar, tent, belly	קב
Jar, tent, belly	קבב

קד

Bow the head	קדד
Burn	יקד

קה

Cord	קו
Gourd	קי
Dull	קהה
Cord, collect	קוה
Obey	יקה

Vomit	קיה
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Vomit	קוא
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קט

Little	קט
Cut off	קטס
Cut off	קוט

קל

Light, quick	קל
Light, quick	קלל
Assemble	קהל
Roast	קלה
Voice, sound	קול

קם

Raise	קום
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קן

Nest	קן
Nest	קנו
Jealous	קנא
Acquire	קנה
lament	קין

קס

כס	קסס
קץ	קוס

קע

Brand	קוע
Hang, shrivel	יקע

קף

Condense	קפא
Go around	קוף

קץ

Cut, end	קץ
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Learn to Read Biblical Hebrew

Cut, end	קצה	רד
Cut, end, loathe	קוץ	Tread רדד
Cut	קסט	Flee ארד
קר		Tread דרה
Cool, quiet	קר	Wander רוד
Meet, call	קרא	Descend ירד
Meet	קרה	רה
Precious	יקר	Rain רי
Purchase	כרה	Lion, box ארה
כר	קור	See ראה
קש		Fear, awe רהה
Straw, bend	קש	Rain רוה
Gather	קשש	Fear, awe ירה
Melon	קשא	Fear, awe ירא
Hard	קשה	רז
Bend	קוש	Cedar ארז
Snare	יקש	Thin רזה
רב		רח
Abundant	רב	Traveler ארח
Abundant	רבב	Handmill רחה
Ambush	ארב	Wind, spirit רוח
Bold	רהב	Moon ירח
Abundant	רבה	רט
Defend, quarrel	רוב	Trough רהט
רג		Cast down ירט
Weave	ארג	רד
Kill	הרג	Loins רד
Bad, loud	רע	Loins רכד
Bad, break	רעע	Long ארד
Loud	רוע	סר
Break up	ירע	Lift up, worm רמס

Learn to Read Biblical Hebrew

Lift up	ארם	Accept	רצה
Lift up	ראם	Run	רוץ
Throw, betray	רמה	רק	
Lift up	רום	Thin, spit	רק
Lift up	ירם	Thin, spit	רקק
רן		Empty	רוק
Shout	רן	Spit, green	ירק
Shout	רנן	רר	
Nimble	ארן	Spit	רר
Rattle	רנה	Curse	ארר
רס		Spit, egg white	רור
Dew, pieces	רסס	רש	
Betroth	ארס	Divide	רשש
Break, pull down	הרס	Request	ארש
Betroth	ארש	רס	ארש
רע		Head	ראש
Companion	רע	Permission	רשא
רג	רע	Permission	רשה
רג	רעע	Needy	רוש
Shepherd	רעה	Possession	ירש
רג	רוע	שב	
רג	ירע	Split	שבב
רף		שק	שאב
Heal	רפא	Captive	שבה
Feeble	רפה	Turn back	שוב
Pulverize	רוף	Sit, dwell	ישב
רץ		שב	שיב
Pieces	רץ	שג	
Broken pieces	רצץ	Mistake	שגג
Land	ארץ	Groan	שאג
Run	רצא	Mistake	שגא

Learn to Read Biblical Hebrew

		שט	
Mistake	שגה	שט	
Mistake	שוג	שטט	
שד		Flog	
Breast, goat	שד	שטאט	
Power	שדד	שטה	
שד	שדד	שטה	
Ravine	אשד	שוט	
שד	שהד	שוט	
שד	שדה	ישט	
Power	שוד	שך	
שד	שיד	שך	שך
שה		Bow down, lower	שכך
סה	שה	שך	שכך
Gift	שי	שכה	שכה
סה	שי	שכה	שכה
Storm	שאה	שך	שוך
Storm	שוח	של	
False	שוא	Draw out	של
סה	שיא	Plunder	שלל
סה	שוא	Tamarisk tree	אשל
שח		Ask	שאל
Pit, bow	שח	Draw out	שלה
סח	שח	Shirt	שול
Pit, bow, submit	שחח	סל	שלו
Pit, bow	שחה	שם	
סח	שחה	Name	שם
Pit, bow	שוח	Desolate	שמם
סח	שוח	סם	שמם
Empty	ישח	Guilt	אשם
סח	שיח	High	שמא

Learn to Read Biblical Hebrew

Onyx	שהם	שק	
High	שמה	Leg שק	
Garlic	שום	סק שק	
סם	שום	Greed, eager שקק	
Desolate	ישם	סק שקק	
שן		Drink שקה	
Teeth	שן	Leg, trough, street שוק	
Sharp	שן	שר	
סן	שנא	Cord, rope, sinew שר	
Rest, quiet	שאן	סר שר	
Repeat, year	שנה	Twist together שרר	
Urine	שון	צר שרר	
Sleep	ישן	סר שרר	
שס		Happy אשר	
Plunder	שסס	סר אשר	
Plunder	שאס	Relative שאר	
Plunder	שסה	סר שאר	
Plunder	שוס	Untie שרה	
שע		Over, wall שור	
Delight, blind	שעע	סר שור	
Watch	שעה	Straight ישר	
Cry out, deliver	שוע	Song שיר	
Free, safe	ישע	שש	
שף		White, six שש	
Serpent	שפף	Lead, drag ששא	
Quiver	אשף	White שוש	
Draw in wind	שאף	סס שוש	
Stand out	שפה	Old man ישש	
סף	שפה	שת	
Strike	שוף	Buttock, foundation שת	
Draw in	שאב	Banquet שתה	

Learn to Read Biblical Hebrew

Set	שית
תב	
Box	תבה
תד	
Peg, stake	יתד
תה	
Room	תא
Mark, sign	תו
mark, sign	תאה
Empty	תהה
Mark, sign	תוה
Empty	תהו
תח	
Sink down, bow	תוח
תך	
Oppress, bend	תך
Oppress, bend	תכך
Bow down, sit	תכה
Middle	תוך
תל	
Mound	תל
Mound	תלל
Hang, suspend	תלא
Hang, suspend	תלה
תם	
Whole, full	תם
Whole, full	תמם
Twins	תאם
Amaze	תמה

תן	
Patient, monster	תן
Patient, monster	תנן
Gift, wage, donkey	אתן
Gift, wage	תנה
Permanent, river	יתן
תף	
Drum	תף
Beat	תפף
Spit	תוף
תר	
Outline	תאר
Travel	תור
Remain, much	יתר
תש	
He-goat	תיש

Adopted Roots

Adopted roots are three consonant roots that evolved out of the parent or child root. The following list will only include the adopted roots where all the words derived from them are used 25 times or more in the Hebrew Bible.

Just as in the parent and child root list, this list only contains the root and not the words derived from it, though the words are closely related in meaning to the adopted root.

While 80% of the words in the Bible are words derived from their parent or child roots, another 15% are derived from these adopted roots providing a fairly comprehensive root dictionary.

Learn to Read Biblical Hebrew

English	Root	English	Root
thousand, chief, join	אלף	bent, vine	גפן
covering, clothing	בגד	angry, stone, lots	גרל
separate	בדל	level, threshing floor	גרן
choose, select	בחר	take away, detract	גרע
cling, trust, secure	בטח	cast out	גרש
firstborn, firstfruit	בכר	rain	גשם
wallow, destroy	בלע	adhere	דבק
distant, behind	בעד	speak, order	דבר
lord, husband	בעל	honey	דבש
burn, destroy	בער	weep	דמע
break, cut, plunder	בצע	tread, way, walk	דרך
cut off the vine	בצר	fat	דשן
break-through/open	בקע	slaughter, sacrifice	זבח
plow, cattle	בקר	remember, male	זכר
seek, request	בקש	cut, divide, sing	זמר
iron	לברז	angry, insolent	זעם
pass, flee	ברח	call out, assemble	זעק
knee, bless	ברך	beard, chin, old	זקן
boil, ripen	בשל	rise	זרח
sweet, pleasant	בשם	scatter, sow, seed	זרע
flesh, good news	בשר	scatter, dish	זרק
boundary	גבל	writhe, twist, bind	חבל
high, hill	גבע	bind, join	חבר
strong, warrior	גבר	bind, gird	חבש
great	גדל	bind, gird	חגר
wall, fence	גדר	cease, omit	חדל
cut off/down, divide	גזד	enclose, chamber	חדר
ripe, wean, camel	גמל	new	חדש
steal	גנב	strong	חזק
rebuke, reproof	גער	fat	חלב

Learn to Read Biblical Hebrew

English	Root	English	Root
fat, dream	חלם	taste, decree	טעם
pass by	חלף	not yet	טרם
smooth	חלק	tear in pieces, feed	טרף
desire	חמד	heavy, honor, liver	כבד
compassion	חמל	wash, fuller	כבס
violence, injure	חמס	abundant	כבר
rise, ferment	חמר	lamb	כבש
five	חמש	trample	כבש
embalm	חנט	lie, deceive	כזב
dedicate	חנך	heap back, conceal	כחד
kindness	חסד	fail, false, lie	כחש
want, be without	חסר	dog, bark, basket	כלב
bend, incline	חפץ	shame	כלם
enclose, village	חצר	bow down, subdue	כנע
search	חקר	wind, corner	כנף
dry, wasted	חרב	harp, lyre	כנד
trembled, fear	חרד	fool, inward part	כסל
flat nose, devoted	חרם	desire, silver	כסף
autumn, scorn	חרף	cover	כפר
sharp, wound	חרץ	vineyard	כרם
plow, engrave, silent	חרש	bow down	כרע
think	חשב	cut	כרת
restrain	חשך	totter, stumble	כשל
dark, obscure	חשך	write	כתב
ornament	חשן	shoulder	כתף
seal up, finish	חתם	crown, surround	כתר
marry	חתן	white	לבן
slaughter, kill	טבח	dress, garment	לבש
sink, eminence	טבע	eat, battle, bread	לחם
hide	טמן	press, squeeze	לחץ

Learn to Read Biblical Hebrew

English	Root	English	Root
take, catch	לכד	vow	נדר
learn, teach	למד	separate, withdraw	נזר
mock, scorn	לעג	obtain, possess	נחל
take	לקח	sigh, comfort	נחם
collect, gather	לקט	serpent	נחש
join, attack	לשך	settle, establish	נטע
tongue, speech	לשן	watch, guard, retain	נטר
rain	מטר	leave, abandon	נטש
sell, deliver	מכר	opposite	נכח
salt	מלח	strange, alien	נכר
deliver, eggs	מלט	pour out	נסך
reign, king	מלך	cover	נסך
present, offering	מנח	pull, break up/out	נסע
restrain, withhold	מנע	tie, fasten	נעל
mix	מסך	pleasant, agreeable	נעם
perverse, treachery	מעל	shake	נער
rebel	מרד	fall	נפל
smear, anoint	משח	break into pieces	נפץ
draw out/away/in	משך	set, place, erect	נצב
rule	משל	innocent, faithful	נצח
look	נבט	strip, snatch, take	נצל
wither, fade, foolish	נבל	guard	נצר
dry, desert, south	נגב	branch	נצר
declare, tell, show	נגד	spot, speck	דקנ
instrument, song	נגן	avenge, revenge	נקם
touch	נגע	go, come around	נקף
strike, smite	נגף	reach, overtake	נשג
approach, brought	נגש	bite, usury	נשך
willing, impel	נדב	arm, battle, arrange	נשק
impel, expel, thrust	נדח	saw	נשר

Learn to Read Biblical Hebrew

English	Root	English	Root
give	נתן	heel	עקב
break out	נתע	exchange	ערב
tear, break down	נתץ	evening, raven	ערב
pluck, draw away	נתק	order, prepare	ערך
fold together	סבך	uncircumcised	ערל
carry, burden	סבל	cunning, subtle	ערם
shut	סגר	heap	ערם
travel, go about	סחר	drop, cloud	ערף
foolish	סכל	turn the neck	ערף
forgive	סלח	fear, tremble	ערץ
flour	סלת	green herb	עשב
lean, lay	סמך	smoke	עשן
mourn, lament	ספד	oppress, violence	עשק
write, scroll	ספר	ten	עשר
castrate	סרס	smooth, polish	עשת
hide, conceal	סתר	ready, prepare	עתד
work, serve	עבד	meet, occur, attack	פגע
twist, weave, round	עבת	wear, exhausted	פגר
roll, revolve	עגל	tremble, fear	פתד
order, arrange, flock	עדר	escape	פלט
help	עזר	leap, limp, hop	פסח
surround, crown	עטר	cut, hew, idol	פסל
hide, eternity	עלם	work, wages	פעל
stand	עמד	impel, urge, move	פעם
labor, toil, mischief	עמל	visit	פקד
deep, profound	עמק	separate, divide	פרד
earth, dust	עקר	sprout, blossom	פרח
suffer, pain, grieve	עצב	oppress	פרך
close, strong, bone	עצם	break, divide	פרס
restrain, detain	עצר	break, scatter	פרץ

Learn to Read Biblical Hebrew

English	Root	English	Root
break, crush, tear	פרק	cut	קרש
scatter, decide	פרש	attend, listen	קשב
strip, pull off	פשט	bind, tie	קשר
rebel, sin	פשע	lie with, copulate	רבע
flax, wick, linen	פשת	four	רבע
open	פתח	lie down	רבץ
sudden	פתע	shake, tremble	רגז
righteous	צדק	foot, walk	רגל
pass over, prosper	צלח	tremble, sudden	רגע
side	צלע	follow after, chase	רדף
spring, grow up	צמח	wide, spacious	רחב
cry out, assemble	צעק	mercy, compassion	רחם
small, young	צער	wash, bathe	רחץ
turn, leap, goat, bird	צפר	distant	רצק
leprosy, wasp	צרע	ride, rider	רכב
refine	צרף	go about, trade	רכל
collect, company	קבץ	get, gain, acquire	רכש
bury, sepulcher	קבר	tread	רמס
precede, early, east	קדם	creep, reptile	רמש
separated, devout	קדש	hungry	רעב
little, small	קטן	shake, tremble	רעש
burn	קטר	murder, slay	רצח
bind, join	קטר	stamp, spread out	רקע
sling, cut/cast out	קלע	wicked	רשע
divination	קסם	staff, tribe	שבט
anger	קצף	flow, hair, robe	שבל
draw or come near	קרב	satisfy, fill	שבע
bald	קרח	seven, swear	שבע
horn	קרן	break	שבר
tear, rend	קרע	cease, rest	שבת

Learn to Read Biblical Hebrew

English	Root	English	Root
raise, high	שגב	measure, horrible	שער
give presents, bribe	שחד	fear, storm, hair	שער
slaughter, kill	שחט	family	שפח
lion	שחל	judge, justice	שפט
laugh, scorn	שחק	pour out	שפך
bruise, pound	שחק	low	שפל
black, early, dusk	שחר	bright, pleasant	שפר
corrupt, destroy	שחת	rest, quiet	שקט
adversary, hostile	שטן	weigh, weight	שקל
wash, overflow	שטף	cover, covering	שקף
write	שטר	loath, pollute	שקץ
lay down, layer	שכב	lie, false	שקר
forget, neglect	שכח	remnant	שרד
childless	שכל	burn, consume	שרף
act wisely	שכל	swarm, abound	שרץ
shoulder, journey	שכם	hiss	שרק
rest, dwell	שכן	weave, comb	שרק
drink full, intoxicate	שכר	root, spring up, origin	שרש
bribe, hire, wage	שכר	weigh, ponder	תכן
send	שלח	palm tree	תמד
throw	שליך	abhor, abomination	תעב
entire, complete	שלם	strike, nail, note	תקע
draw or pull out	שליף		
three	שלוש		
destroy	שמד		
fat	שמן		
hear, obey	שמע		
guard, protect	שמר		
sun, windows	שמש		
lean, rest	שען		

Learn to Read Biblical Hebrew