

Biblical Hebrew Course 101  
– Boot Camp –  
*Learning to Read Biblical Hebrew*  
Lesson 7  
שְׁעוֹר ז

**Developing our understanding of the Hebrew Aleph Bet:**  
Diphthongs, Dagesh Kal, Sh’va, & Blessings



***Lighting candles & eating challah is a wonderful way to welcome in Shabbat.***

“Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy,” Exodus 20:8 NASB, from the Ten Commandments

- 7.01 Sound-a-Like Consonants
- 7.02 Diphthongs
- 7.03 Practice reading words with diphthongs
- 7.04 Interesting Fact: Did you know
- 7.05 Review the dagesh kal; & introduce the sh’va
- 7.06 Words with dagesh kal
- 7.07 Psalm 89:52: practice reading & hearing🔊
- 7.08 Shabbat blessings: practice reading & hearing🔊

(🔊) LINK to blessings: [www.faithfulstewardship.org/hebrew-blessings/](http://www.faithfulstewardship.org/hebrew-blessings/)

**Did you know** in English different consonants can have the same sound?  
For example: the “ce” in “notice” has the same sound as the “s” in “plus.”

## 7.01 Sound-a-Like consonants: consonants with the same sound

| Notice these consonants sound-a-like: |                       |  |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------|--|
| Letter                                | Name of letter        | Sound  |
| ו                                     | vet                   | v, as in vice  |
| ו                                     | vav                   | v, as in vice  |
| ט                                     | tet                   | t, as in tell  |
| ת                                     | tav                   | t, as in tell  |
| ח                                     | chet                  | ch, as in Bach   |
| כ                                     | chaf                  | ch, as in Bach   |
| ך                                     | chaf sofit            | same sound as כ; only it is the final letter of a word |
| ק                                     | kaf                   | k, as in keep  |
| ך                                     | koof                  | k, as in keep  |
| ש                                     | sin (pronounced seen) | s, as in set   |
| ס                                     | samech                | s, as in set   |

## 7.02 Diphthongs: a yud plus a vowel act as a single unit & form a new sound

| Standard Sound Of Hebrew Vowels↓  |                 |                 |                |                |
|---|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|----------------|
| א ("ee")  | א ("eh")        | א ("eh")        | א ("ah")       | א ("ah")       |
| Sound Of Hebrew Vowels With Diphthongs↓   |                 |                 |                |                |
| Note: change in sound of vowel with addition of yud ↓   |                 |                 |                |                |
| “ee” as in sleep  | “ay” as in stay | “ay” as in stay | “I” as in isle | “I” as in isle |
| א   | א               | א               | א              | א              |
| Chirek Yud  | Tsere Yud       | Segol Yud       | Kamats Yud     | Patach Yud     |
| חֵירֶק יוּד   | צֵרֶי יוּד      | סְגוֹל יוּד     | קָמֶץ יוּד     | פָּתַח יוּד    |
| <b>Diphthongs</b> ↑ Note there is a change in the sound of the vowel when a yud is added ↑  |                 |                 |                |                |
| NOTE:   |                 |                 |                |                |
| 1. There are only 3 diphthong sounds to remember. They are: kamats or patch + yud = “I” (sound “I” as in isle); segol or tsere + yud = “ay” (sound “ay” as in stay); and chirek + yud = still has “ee” (as in sleep). |                 |                 |                |                |

### 7.03 Practice reading words with diphthongs

| Words with diphthongs (note: accented syllables are in bold & highlighted) |   |  |
|--|---|--|
| Hebrew   | Translation   | Transliteration  |
| 1) מַיִם   | water   | <b>mi</b> *-yeem (*“i” as in “isle”)                                 |
| 2) שָׁמַיִם  | heaven  | shah- <b>mi</b> -yeem  |
| 3) אֲדֹנִי   | My Lord (Ps 110:1)  | Ah-doh- <b>nee</b>   |
| 4) אֲדֹנֵי הָאֲדֹנִים  | Lord of the lords, hosts (Deut 10:17; Ps 136:3)   | Ah-doh- <b>nay</b> *<br>hah-ah-doh- <b>neem</b> (*“ay” as in “stay”) |
| 5) אֲדֹנֵי יְהוָה  | Lord YHVH, Lord God (Gen 15:2, 8; Deut 3:24, 9:26; Judges 6:22, 16:28; Ps 69:7, 71:5, 16; etc)                                      | Ah-doh- <b>ni</b> * (*long “i” as in isle) --<br>Yah- <b>veh</b>     |
| 6) אֲדֹנָיו  | our Lord (1Sam 16:16)<br>Used to refer to leaders, eg King David (1Sam 25:14, 17; 1Ki 1:43, 47; Neh 10:30; Ps 8:2,10)               | Ah-doh- <b>nay</b> *-noo (*“ay” as in “stay”)                        |
| 7) הָיָה   | he was  | hiy- <b>yah</b>  |
| 8) חַגִּי  | Haggai, as in the book of <i>Haggai</i>   | chahg- <b>gi</b> * (*“i” as in “isle”)                               |
| 9) בֵּין   | between   | bayn (*“ay” as in “stay”)  |
| 10) אֵיפֹה   | where? (interrogative or question word)   | <b>ay</b> *-foh  |
| 11) סִינִי   | Sinai   | See- <b>ni</b> * (*“i” as in “isle”)                                 |
| 12) אֱלֹהִים   | God (Elohim)  | Eh-loh- <b>heem</b>  |
| 13) וַיַּחֲנֹךְ  | and He will be gracious to you, will give you favor (from the Aaronic blessing [aka Birkat Kohanim or Priestly Blessing], Num 6:26) | vee-choon- <b>neh</b> -chah  |
| 14) הִיא   | she   | hee  |
| 15) אֵלֶיךָ  | to you or upon you (this word is also in the Aaronic blessing [aka Birkat Kohanim or Priestly Blessing], Num 6:25)                  | eh- <b>lay</b> *-chah (*“ay” as in “stay”)                           |

#### 7.04 Did You Know:

**The Hebrew letter “yud” is often translated into English as a “J”?**

For example: Yosef in Hebrew is Joseph in English; Yaakov, Jacob; Yerushalayim, Jerusalem.

## 7.05 Review the dagesh kal & introduce the sh'va

- The dagesh kal (דָּגֶשׁ קָל) is in 6 letters: ב, ג, ד, כ, פ, ת. BeGeD KeFeT (in Hebrew: בְּגֵד כָּפֶת) is the acronym for these letters. (Example of an English acronym is ASAP)
  - Note: in only 3 of these 6 letters does the dagesh kal actually change the sound:
    - the ב changes to בּ; the כ to כּ; the פ to פּ.
  - A dagesh kal is in either the 1st letter of a word or it's in a letter that starts a syllable.
- Introduce the sh'va (שְׁוָא).
  - Usually the sh'va ְ has the sound of “eh” as in bed, which is vocal. This is under the first letter of a word, as in בְּרָאשִׁית (Genesis).
  - The vocal sh'va can also appear in a letter that follows a closed syllable; for example: בְּעֶכֶר (across, beyond)

## 7.06 Words with dagesh kal: identify syllables (refer to 2.06) & dagesh kal

| Hebrew          | Translation                          | Transliteration<br>(please try to read before looking at transliteration)<br>Syllable that is accented is shown below with yellow bold highlight.  |
|-----------------|--------------------------------------|--|
| 1) בְּרָאשִׁית  | In the beginning (Gen 1:1)           | beh-reh- <b>sheet</b><br>* Dagesh Kal (bet is part of the בְּגֵד כָּפֶת. When a word begins with a bet, there is a change in pronunciation)  |
| 2) כִּי         | When, because, or like (Ex 1:2)      | kee<br>* Dagesh Kal (caf is part of the בְּגֵד כָּפֶת. When a word begins with a chaf, the chaf changes to a kaf)  |
| 3) בַּמִּדְבָּר | In the wilderness or desert (Dt 1:1) | bahm-meed- <b>bahr</b><br>* There are two dagesh kals: (each ב is part of בְּגֵד כָּפֶת. The 1 <sup>st</sup> bet is in the 1 <sup>st</sup> letter of the word; the 2nd bet opens the syllable)<br>* the מ is not part of בְּגֵד כָּפֶת & will be explained in Lesson 8 |
| 4) דָּג         | fish (Jonah 1:17)                    | dahg<br>* Dagesh Kal (dalet is part of בְּגֵד כָּפֶת)  |
| 5) פַּרְעֹה     | Pharaoh (Gen 47:10)                  | pahr- <b>oh</b><br>* Dagesh Kal (pay is part of בְּגֵד כָּפֶת)   |

## 7.07 Psalm 89:52: practice reading & hearing 🎧 [www.faithfulstewardship.org/hebrew-blessings/](http://www.faithfulstewardship.org/hebrew-blessings/)

| כְּרוּךְ יְהוָה לְעוֹלָם אָמֵן   וְאָמֵן:<br>“Blessed be YHVH for evermore! Amen and amen.” (Psalms 89:52) |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| Hebrew   | Translation  | Transliteration<br>Note: accented syllable is bolded |
| 1) כְּרוּךְ  | blessed or praise  | bah- <b>rooch</b>                                    |
| 2) יְהוָה  | YHVH / LORD<br>The tetragrammaton YHVH (יהוה) is a site word, as the vowels vary.  | YH <b>VH</b> (or Adonai)                             |
| 3) לְעוֹלָם*   | forevermore<br>(*Notice: the cholam often floats to the right & isn't properly aligned over the vav. This is common when using left-to-right computers ☹️) | leh-oh*- <b>lahm</b>                                 |
| 4) אָמֵן וְאָמֵן   | Amen and amen  | ah-mehn veh-ah- <b>mehn</b>                          |

## CANDLELIGHT BLESSING:

כְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם \*\* (explanation is on last page of this lesson)

... אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ בְּמִצְוֹתָיו וְנָתַן-לָנוּ אֶת יֵשׁוּעַ מְשִׁיחֵנוּ אֹר הָעוֹלָם. (אָמֵן)

“Blessed are You, YHVH, our God, King of the Universe Who makes us holy with His commandments; and gave to us Yeshua our Meshiach, the light of the world. Amen...”

| Hebrew            | Translation  | Transliteration<br>Note: accented syllable is bolded                              |
|-------------------|--|---|
| 1) כְּרוּךְ       | blessed or praise  | bah- <b>ruch</b>  |
| 2) אַתָּה         | you (masculine singular pronoun)   | aht- <b>tah</b>   |
| 3) יְהוָה         | YHVH / LORD  | YH <b>VH</b> (or Adonai)  |
| 4) אֱלֹהֵינוּ     | our God  | Eh-lo- <b>heh</b> -noo  |
| 5) מֶלֶךְ         | king (of)  | <b>meh</b> -lech  |
| 6) הָעוֹלָם       | the universe   | hah-o- <b>lahm</b>  |
| 7) אֲשֶׁר         | who or which   | ah- <b>shehr</b>  |
| 8) קִדְּשָׁנוּ    | makes us holy  | keed-deh- <b>shah</b> -noo<br>(commonly pronounced<br>keed-dee- <b>shah</b> -noo) |
| 9) בְּמִצְוֹתָיו* | in His commandments (*the <b>i</b> looks like a cholam vav, but it is a vav + cholam. It's sound is “vo”. <u>Also</u> , the suffix <b>יֹ</b> is pronounced “tahv”) | beh-meetz-vo*- <b>tahv</b>  |
| 10) וְנָתַן       | and he gave  | veh-nah- <b>tahn</b>  |
| 11) לָנוּ         | to us  | <b>lah</b> -noo   |
| 12) אֶת           | אֶת is a Definite Direct Object Marker, meaning a definite direct object follows the word אֶת. (There is no English equivalent term.)                              | eht   |
| 13) יֵשׁוּעַ      | Yeshua   | Yeh- <b>shoo</b> -ah  |
| 14) מְשִׁיחֵנוּ   | our Messiah  | Meh-she- <b>chah</b> -noo<br>(commonly pronounced<br>Meh-she- <b>chay</b> -noo)   |
| 15) אֹר           | light (‘ohr’ is included in construction of אֹר)   | ohr   |
| 16) הָעוֹלָם      | the world  | hah-o- <b>lahm</b>  |

**Kiddush Blessing (blessing over grape juice/wine):**

**\*\*** בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם  
בּוֹרֵא פְּרִי הַגָּפֶן (אָמֵן)

“Blessed are You, YHVH, our God, King of the Universe  
Who creates the fruit of the vine. Amen”

| Hebrew      | Translation                   | Transliteration<br>Note: accented syllable is bolded |
|-------------|-------------------------------|--|
| 1) בּוֹרֵא  | creates, makes, shapes, forms | bo- <b>reh</b>                                       |
| 2) פְּרִי   | fruit of                      | p'ree  |
| 3) הַגָּפֶן | the vine                      | hahg- <b>gah</b> -fehn                               |

**Blessing over the bread/ food:** 🗣️ [www.faithfulstewardship.org/hebrew-blessings/](http://www.faithfulstewardship.org/hebrew-blessings/)

**Motzi Blessing (blessing over bread/food):**

**\*\*** בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם  
הַמוֹצִיא לֶחֶם מִן הָאָרֶץ: (אָמֵן)

“Blessed are You, YHVH, our God, King of the Universe  
Who brings forth bread from the earth. Amen”

| Hebrew       | Translation        | Transliteration<br>Note: accented syllable is bolded |
|--------------|--------------------|--|
| 1) הַמוֹצִיא | (Who) brings forth | hahm- <b>mo</b> -tzee                                |
| 2) לֶחֶם     | bread              | <b>leh</b> -chehm                                    |
| 3) מִן       | from               | meen   |
| 4) הָאָרֶץ   | the earth          | hah- <b>ah</b> -rehtz                                |



**\*\*** The majority of Hebrew blessings all begin:

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם

Blessed are You, YHVH, our God, King of the Universe ... & then  
add the appropriate phrase (lighting the candles, drinking the fruit of the  
vine, or eating bread from the earth, etc)

Yonah Black is getting ready to light  
Shabbat candles.

<https://www.faithfulstewardship.org/hebrew-worship-yonah/>