Biblical Hebrew Course 101
Learning to Read Biblical Hebrew
Lesson 1-- supplement
שִׁעוּר א

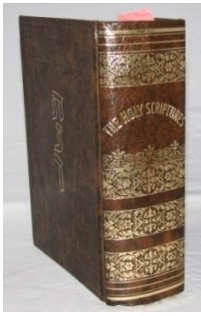# Practice reading the first 5 consonants

Congregation Faithful Stewardship Torah Scroll. (Written in Romania, circa 1936, during the rise of extreme anti-Semitism which led to WWII and the Holocaust.)

1.01 supplement Introducing the first 5 consonants: aleph - hay

1.02 supplement Practice saying the first 5 consonants & the first two vowels

1.03 supplement Now, practice saying and writing

1.04 supplement Practice reading actual Hebrew words

1.05 supplement Extra practice

INTERESTING FACT: *What did Yeshua study?*
During the time of Yeshua (Jesus), all followers of Yeshua including Yeshua Himself, the Apostles, Paul, James, etc. each read weekly from the Hebrew Scriptures (the Torah and the TaNaKh, (aka Old Testament)) on a table (which is called the Bema) in the synagogues.

1.01 supplement *First 5 consonants/ letters in the aleph-bet* (אָלֶף־בֵּית עִבְרִי)

Congratulations on getting started learning Biblical Hebrew! The objective of this course is to learn to read -- write -- study in the Hebrew language of the LORD. Our desire is to learn to study God's Word effectively, which includes studying in the original language.

In this lesson, we will:

- Begin to learn to pronounce Biblical Hebrew with Sephardic pronunciation.
- (Sephardic is the pronunciation that is used in Israel today.)
- Begin to print in Hebrew with Block (aka Square) letters.
- Sound out the first 5 letters of the aleph-bet with the first 2 vowels (aka nikkud).

1.02 supplement *Practice saying the first 5 letters*

1. Read the name of each letter below. (Refer to Sound of Letter column for pronunciation.)
2. Do *the hand*: make a fist with your right hand. Point thumb down and say *aleph*. Raise index finger - say *bet*. Lift middle finger - say *gimmel*. Lift ring finger – say *dalet*. And finally lift pinkie – say *hay*.
3. Print each letter. (Copy the Block print below & refer to Aleph-Bet chart for letter formulation.)
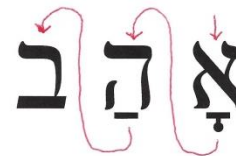
		Letters (aka consonants) & Vowels (aka nikkudot נְקֻדּוֹת**)**			
		Please note that there are two forms of the **בּ**.			
		The first is the **בּ** (*bet*, which has a dot/dagesh), while the second is the **ב** (*vet*, does not have a dot/dagesh).			
Book Print	**Numeric Value**	**Name of Letter**	**Sound of Letter**	**Block Print** (as in English, there are slight variations in letters' shapes)	**Write Each Hebrew Letter**
א	1	aleph		א	
בּ ב	2	bet vet		בּ ב	
ג	3	gimmel		ג	
ד	4	dalet		ד	
ה	5	hay		ה	
Vowels (Note: the aleph is used below for illustration purposes. These vowels can be used with most consonants) **NOTE: generally vowels are written below the consonant**		**Name of Vowel**	**Sound of Vowel** There are two "ah" vowels in Hebrew. This is similar to English words that may be pronounced the same but spelled differently: "sew" & "so". (We will discuss the grammatical reason in a future lesson.)	**Block Print**	**Write**
אָ		*kamats:* קָמַץ		אָ	
אַ		*patach:* פַּתַח		אַ	

	First 5 Letters (Consonants #1-5) & 2 vowels (nikkudot): patach & kamats			
Letter	**Name**	**Sound**	**Block**	**Write Each Hebrew Letter & Vowel**
א	aleph		א	
אָ	aleph with kamats		אָ	
אַ	aleph with patach		אַ	
בּ	bet		בּ	
בָּ	bet with kamats		בָּ	
בַּ	bet with patach		בַּ	
ב	vet		ב	
בָ	vet with kamats		בָ	
בַ	vet with patach		בַ	
ג	gimmel		ג	
גָ	gimmel with kamats		גָ	
גַ	gimmel with patach		גַ	
ד	dalet		ד	
דָ	dalet with kamats		דָ	
דַ	dalet with patach		דַ	
ה	hay		ה	
הָ	hay with kamats		הָ	
הַ	hay with patach		הַ	

1.04 supplement *Practice reading actual Hebrew words*

Our objective in Hebrew 101 is to become familiar with the letters and their sounds .... *not* to memorize words.

Always remember to read: right to left and top to bottom.

Read & Write words below		
Hebrew *NOTE: generally vowels are written below the consonant*	**Translation**	**Write each Hebrew word 5 times**
בָּהּ	in her	
אָב*	*Av* is the 5th month of the Biblical year, counting from Nisan. (*note: there are 2 forms for this consonant. When there is no "dot," it is a *vet* ב; when there is a "dot," it is a *bet* בּ)	
אָב	father	
אָהַב	he loved	
גָּד	Gad (as in the tribe of Gad)	
אָבַד	he was lost or perished	

1.05 supplement *Extra practice reading & writing in Hebrew*

Extra Practice reading and writing (note this is 1.06 in Lesson 1)		
Hebrew *NOTE: generally vowels are written below the consonant*	**Translation**	**Practice Writing Each Hebrew Word Below**
בָּא	I <u>come</u> (masculine); also he <u>came</u>; arrived	
בָּאָה	I <u>come</u> (feminine); also she <u>came</u>	
אָבָה	he was willing	
בָּגַד	he acted deceitfully or treacherously – *verb* (1Sam 14:33)	
בָּדָד	alone (Lev 13:46)	
גָּאָה	he exalted, triumphed – *verb* (Ex 15:1, 21)	