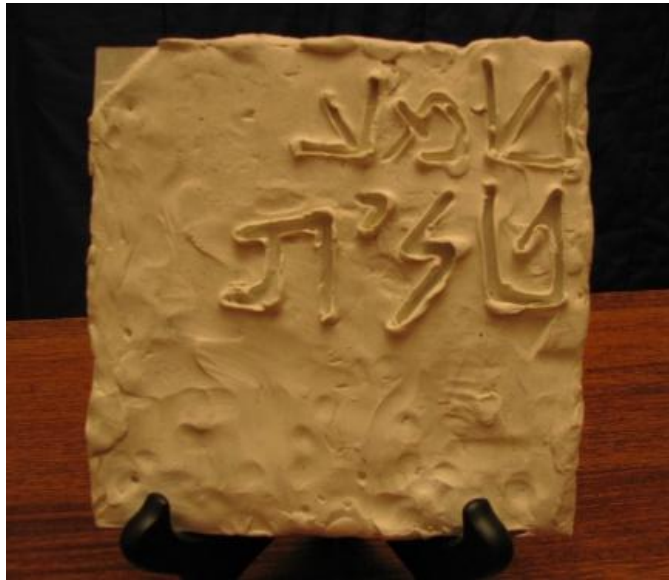# Biblical Hebrew Course 101
– Boot Camp –
Learning to Read Biblical Hebrew
Lesson 3
שִׁעוּר ג

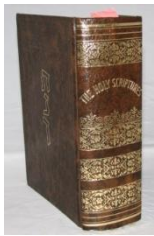# 2 more vowels & the next 5 consonants + 3 sofits

Shema & *Tallit*
During a 1st Century VBS, Pastor Don taught children the Hebrew
Aleph-Bet. (This was written by 8-12 year olds!)

3.01 Introduce the next 2 vowels: segol & tsere

3.02 Introduce 5 more consonants (aka letters): kaf - samech

3.03 The first 3 sofits (or final letters)

3.04 Let's read Hebrew

3.05 Interesting Fact: Hebrew words in English

3.06 How shall I study Hebrew?

3.07 Homework & practice identifying letters & vowels in Genesis 1:1

Introducing the next 5 consonants (aka letters) + 2 more vowels:

- Learn the next two vowels, bringing us up to 4 vowels.
- Learn the next five letters (or consonants), bringing us up to 15 consonants.
- Introduce the first three sofits (final letters). Sofits occur only as the final letter of a word. While the same sound as their corresponding letter. The shape of the consonant changes when it becomes a sofit.

3.01 *First, let's introduce the next 2 vowels & review the previous 2 vowels.*

VOWELS				
Vowels (aka nikkudot). Note: shown with aleph but can be with any letter	**Name of Vowel**	**Sound of Vowel**	**Block**	**Write Each Letter**
אַ	*patach:* פַּתַח	"**ah**" as in sp**a**	אַ	
אָ	*kamats:* קָמַץ	"**ah**" as in sp**a**	אָ	
אֶ	*segol:* סֶגּוֹל	"**eh**" as in b**e**d	אֶ	
אֵ	*tsere:* צֵירֵי	"**eh**" as in b**e**d	אֵ	

3.02 *Now, let's introduce 5 more consonants (aka letters).*

1. Read the name of each letter below. (For help with Sound of Vowel, refer to Sound of Vowel column, above.)
2. Read & Print each letter below. (Refer to Sound of Letter column for pronunciation)
   * **Note:** 5 letters in Hebrew which look different when they appear as the final letter of the word. For example:
   - kaf (כ) – pronounced "**k**" as in **k**eep
   - chaf (כ) – pronounced as "**ch**" in Ba**ch**
   - chaf sofit (ך) – both the chaf & the chaf sofit have the same sound, "**ch**". The chaf sofit appears only as the final letter of a word.

Next 5 letters (Consonants #11-15) & 4 vowels					
Letter	**Numeric Value**	**Name**	**Sound of Letter**	**Block**	**Write Hebrew Letter & Vowel**
כ		kaf	**k** in **k**eep	כ	
כַּ	20	kaf with dagesh (dot), & patach	kah	כַּ	
כֶּ		kaf with dagesh (dot), & segol	keh	כֶּ	
כֵּ		kaf with dagesh (dot), & tsere	keh	כֵּ	
כ		chaf (note: <u>no dagesh</u> in a chaf)	**ch** in ba**ch** (both כ & ך have the same sound*)	כ	
כָ	20	chaf with kamats	chah	כָ	
כֶ		chaf with segol	cheh	כֶ	
כֵ		chaf with tsere	cheh	כֵ	

ךְ	20	*chaf sofit (a sofit is a final letter of a word)	**ch** in ba**ch** (both כ & ךְ have the same sound*)	ךְ
ךְ		chaf sofit with a kamats	chah (usually ךְ only has either a sheva or kamats.)	ךָ
ךְ		chaf sofit with a kamats	chah (usually ךְ only has either a sheva or kamats.)	ךֵ
ל		lamed	**l** in **l**et	ל
לַ	30	lamed with patach	lah	לַ
לֶ		lamed with segol	leh	לֶ
לֵ		lamed with tsere	leh	לֵ
מ		mem	**m** in **m**e (both מ & ם have the same sound)	מ
מָ	40	mem with kamats	mah	מָ
מֶ		mem with segol	meh	מֶ
מֵ		mem with tsere	meh	מֵ
ם	40	*mem sofit (a sofit is the final letter of a word)	m in me	ם
נ		nun *(noon)*	**n** in **n**ice (both נ & ן have the same sound)	נ
נַ	50	nun with patach	nah	נַ
נֶ		nun with segol	neh	נֶ
נֵ		nun with tsere	neh	נֵ
ן	50	*nun sofit (a sofit is the final letter of a word)	**n** in **n**ice (both נ & ן have the same sound)	ן
ס		samech	**s** in **s**et	ס
סָ	60	samech with kamats	sah	סָ
סֶ		samech with segol	seh	סֶ
סֵ		samech with tsere	seh	סֵ

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* 3.03 The first 3 sofits (or final letters; these have a different shape when they are the last letter of a word):

- chaf sofit (ךְ) – pronounced the same as "כ" ("ch" as in Ba**ch**)
- mem sofit (ם) – pronounced the same as "מ" ("m" as in To**m**)
- nun sofit (ן) – pronounced the same as "נ" ("n" as in Be**n**)

3.04 *Let's read Hebrew:*

1. Remember: Our objective in Hebrew 101 is to become familiar with the letters and their sounds …. <u>*not*</u> to memorize words.

2. Hebrew is read right to left and top to bottom. Begin by reading the right-most letter. Then add the vowel that is written below it.

3. For example: with the word אָהַב. Begin by reading the אָ; then add the הַ. We now have אָהַ (ah-ha). Finally, add the ב. Since there is no vowel below this letter, it only has the sound of the consonant. When we put the word altogether, we have: אָהַב (ah-hahv).

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

	Read & Write words below: notice as a general rule, the final syllable is accented. Accented syllables are highlighted in yellow and bolded.		
Hebrew	**Translation**	**Transliteration** (please, try to read word before looking at transliteration)	**Practice Writing Each Hebrew Word Below**
1) יָלַד	he gave birth, fathered or begat (as in a genealogy)	yah-**lahd**	
2) יֶלֶד	boy	**yeh**-lehd (*****note: when a 3 or 4-letter word has 2 segols, the first gets the accent)	
3) אֵל	God	ehl	
4) מָה	What? (interrogative)	mah	
5) כָּכָה	so, like this, thus	**cah**-chah	
6) לֶחֶם	bread	**leh**-chehm (*****note: when a 3 or 4-letter word has 2 segols, the first gets the accent)	
7) אֶבֶן	stone	**eh**-vehn*****	
8) סֶלָה	Selah (pause, consider, as in Ps 3:2)	**seh**-lah	
9) לֵב	heart	lehv	
10) אָמֵן	Amen (truly, truth, 'let it be')	ah-**mehn**	

3.05 Interesting fact: *An example of a Hebrew word's being incorporated into English is 'amen"*

The word "amen" is used in virtually every language. In Hebrew, it means: "confirm" or "support". In English, the meaning is similar, it is: "so be it" or "truly".

Don't forget to bring your completed homework to class 😊

3.06 *How Shall I Study Hebrew?*

Consider taking your lesson with you to work & review during lunch.

1. Practice saying the first 15 letters of the aleph-bet using the hand.
2. **Read** the Hebrew words in this lesson.
3. **Print** the words. Again, **read** words.

	Extra Practice		
Hebrew	**Translation**	**Transliteration** (please, try to read word before looking at transliteration)	**Practice Writing Each Hebrew Word Below**
1) אֶחָד	one	eh-**chahd**	
2) זֶה	this	zeh	
3) גַּן	garden	gahn	
4) לָבָן	Laban (also means *white*)	lah-**vahn**	
5) כֵּן	yes, so, thus	cehn	
6) מַה	what	mah	

3.07 *Homework & practice identifying letters & vowels in Genesis 1:1*

1. On Extra Practice above, say the letter or word in Hebrew, then write it 5 times. The objective is to commit to memory these letters & vowels.

2. On the Scripture below, please **write the name of the letter above that particular letter & the name of the vowel below the letter**. Do the same for each letter. (Identify *only* the letters & vowels which we have introduced thus far.)

← mem sofit

בְּרֵאשִׁית בָּרָא אֱלֹהִים אֵת הַשָּׁמַיִם וְאֵת הָאָרֶץ:

tsere →

"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth," Gen 1:1.

We encourage you to do your homework – we don't want to lose what we've learned 😊