



Rooted in Scripture - Pointing to Jesus

BIBLE FOUNDATIONS

100 Important Hebrew Words for Deeper Study

A Beginner-Friendly Guide to Words That Open the Old Testament

The Short Answer

The Old Testament was written primarily in Hebrew. Learning even a small number of important Hebrew words can help readers notice repeated biblical themes, understand why English translations sometimes differ, and follow ideas that develop from Genesis through the prophets and into the New Testament. But Hebrew is not a secret code. Knowing a Hebrew word does not uncover a hidden Bible unavailable to ordinary readers. Good English translations faithfully communicate Scripture, and the meaning of a Hebrew word must always be determined by the sentence, passage, book, and larger biblical context in which it appears. This study introduces 100 important Hebrew words connected with God and His character, worship, covenant, sin and redemption, wisdom, human nature, justice, creation, kingdom, and the promised Messiah. Each biblical entry includes a Strong's number so readers can locate it in common concordances and Bible-study tools. Strong's numbers identify Hebrew words. They do not define them. The goal is not simply to build a Hebrew vocabulary. The goal is to become a more careful reader of Scripture.

Deuteronomy 6:4-9 · Psalm 119:9-18 · Proverbs 2:1-6 · Luke 24:25-27, 44-47

Opening Memory Anchor

Hebrew is a tool for understanding Scripture more carefully - not a shortcut around Scripture.



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HOW TO USE THIS STUDY

Each entry includes: HEBREW - the biblical word; TRANSLITERATION - an English-letter representation; PRONUNCIATION - a simple approximation for beginners; STRONG'S - a reference number used by many Bible-study tools; COMMON MEANING - a basic starting point, not every possible meaning; KEY SCRIPTURE - a passage where the word can be studied in context.

Pronunciation guides are intentionally simple rather than technical. The Hebrew Bible was originally written primarily with consonantal letters. The familiar system of written vowel points, called niqqud, was supplied by later Jewish scribal traditions to preserve pronunciation and reading. The oral reading tradition itself is much older than the written vowel-point system.

For that reason, the pronunciation guides in this study should be treated as helpful approximations rather than inspired features of the original consonantal text. Hebrew words often have a range of meanings. The English gloss beside each word is therefore a starting point - not a claim that the word means exactly the same thing everywhere it occurs.

PART ONE BEGINNER GUIDE

GOD AND HIS CHARACTER

1. ELOHIM - אֱלֹהִים

Pronunciation: eh-loh-HEEM Strong's: H430 Common Meaning: God / gods Key Scripture: Genesis 1:1

Elohim is the word used for God in the Bible's opening sentence. Depending on context, the word can refer to the true God or to other gods or spiritual beings. Genesis 1 clearly uses it for the Creator.

2. EL - אֵל

Pronunciation: ALE Strong's: H410 Common Meaning: God / Mighty One Key Scripture: Genesis 14:18-22

El is a common Semitic word for God and also appears in compound descriptions such as El Elyon, "God Most High."

3. YHWH - יהוה

Pronunciation: commonly represented as YAH-weh Strong's: H3068 Common Meaning: The LORD / God's covenant name Key Scripture: Exodus 3:13-15

YHWH is God's personal covenant name revealed throughout the Old Testament. Most English Bibles represent it with LORD in small capital letters. See Study #248 for deeper treatment of the names of God.

4. ADONAI - אֲדֹנָי

Pronunciation: ah-doh-NYE Strong's: H136 Common Meaning: Lord / Master Key Scripture: Isaiah 6:1

Adonai emphasizes lordship and authority. It is also traditionally spoken in Jewish reading where the written text contains the divine name YHWH.

5. QADOSH - קָדוֹשׁ

Pronunciation: kah-DOHSH Strong's: H6918 Common Meaning: Holy Key Scripture: Isaiah 6:3

God is utterly unique, pure, and exalted. Biblical holiness involves more than separation; it points to God's incomparable majesty and moral purity.

6. TOV - טוֹב

Pronunciation: TOHV Strong's: H2896 Common Meaning: Good Key Scripture: Psalm 119:68

Scripture does not merely say God does good. It says God is good. His actions flow from His character.

7. HESED - חֶסֶד

Pronunciation: HEH-sed Strong's: H2617 Common Meaning: Steadfast Love / Faithful Love / Lovingkindness Key Scripture: Exodus 34:6; Psalm 136

Hesed can communicate love, kindness, loyalty, and faithfulness expressed in relationship. Its precise meaning depends on context. See Study #249 for deeper treatment.

8. EMET - אֱמֶת

Pronunciation: eh-MET Strong's: H571 Common Meaning: Truth / Faithfulness / Reliability Key Scripture: Exodus 34:6

Emet describes what is true, dependable, or trustworthy. God abounds in hesed and emet - steadfast love and faithfulness.

9. RAHUM - רַחוּם

Pronunciation: rah-KHOOM Strong's: H7349 Common Meaning: Compassionate / Merciful Key Scripture: Exodus 34:6; Psalm 103:8

Rahum describes deep compassion. God is not indifferent toward human weakness and need.

10. HANNUN - חַנּוּן

Pronunciation: khah-NOON Strong's: H2587 Common Meaning: Gracious Key Scripture: Exodus 34:6

God's grace flows from His character rather than human deserving.

Memory Anchor

The Bible's Hebrew words do not invent God's character. They help readers pay closer attention to the character God has revealed.

WORSHIP AND RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

11. SHAMA - שָׁמַע

Pronunciation: shah-MAH Strong's: H8085 Common Meaning: Hear / Listen / Obey Key Scripture: Deuteronomy 6:4

"Sh'ma, Israel" - "Hear, O Israel" - begins one of Israel's foundational confessions. Shama can involve more than receiving sound. In many contexts, truly hearing leads to responding.

12. YARE - יָרָא

Pronunciation: yah-RAY Strong's: H3372 Common Meaning: Fear / Revere Key Scripture: Proverbs 1:7

The "fear of the LORD" is not merely terror. Depending on context, it includes reverence, awe, submission, and recognition of who God is.

13. YIRAH - יִרְאָה

Pronunciation: yeer-AH Strong's: H3374 Common Meaning: Fear / Reverence / Awe Key Scripture: Proverbs 9:10

Yirah is the related noun often used for reverent fear. Biblical wisdom begins with a right posture toward God.

14. AVAD - עָבַד

Pronunciation: ah-VAHD Strong's: H5647 Common Meaning: Work / Serve Key Scripture: Exodus 3:12

Avad can describe ordinary labor or service. In worship contexts, serving God and worshiping Him are closely connected.

15. SHACHAH - שָׁחָה

Pronunciation: shah-KHAH Strong's: H7812 Common Meaning: Bow Down / Worship Key Scripture: Genesis 22:5

Worship is pictured bodily through bowing or prostration. The posture expresses honor, submission, and reverence.

16. BARAK - בָּרַךְ

Pronunciation: bah-RAHK Strong's: H1288 Common Meaning: Bless Key Scripture: Genesis 12:2-3; Psalm 103:1

Barak can describe God blessing people or people blessing God. Context determines how the relationship functions.

17. TEHILLAH - תְּהִלָּה

Pronunciation: teh-hee-LAH Strong's: H8416 Common Meaning: Praise Key Scripture: Psalm 22:3; Psalm 145:1

Tehillah describes praise and is related to the Hebrew title traditionally associated with the Psalms.

18. HALAL - הָלַל

Pronunciation: hah-LAHL Strong's: H1984 Common Meaning: Praise / Boast Key Scripture: Psalm 150:1

Halal lies behind "hallelujah": halelu - praise; Yah - the LORD. "Hallelujah" means "Praise the LORD."

19. TODAH - תְּוֹדָה

Pronunciation: toh-DAH Strong's: H8426 Common Meaning: Thanksgiving / Thank Offering Key Scripture: Psalm 100:4

Todah connects thanksgiving with acknowledgment of God's goodness and, in some contexts, with sacrificial worship.



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20. TEPHILLAH - תפילה

Pronunciation: teh-fee-LAH Strong's: H8605 Common Meaning: Prayer Key Scripture: Psalm 17:1

The Psalms demonstrate that biblical prayer includes praise, confession, petition, lament, thanksgiving, and trust.

COVENANT AND FAITHFULNESS

21. BERIT - ברית

Pronunciation: beh-REET Strong's: H1285 Common Meaning: Covenant Key Scripture: Genesis 15:18; Exodus 24:7-8

Berit is essential for following the biblical storyline. Scripture unfolds through major covenant relationships involving Noah, Abraham, Israel, David, and ultimately the promised new covenant.

22. AMAN - אמן

Pronunciation: ah-MAHN Strong's: H539 Common Meaning: Be Firm / Trust / Believe Key Scripture: Genesis 15:6

Genesis 15:6 says Abraham "believed" God. The word belongs to a family of ideas involving firmness, reliability, and trust. Its precise sense can also be affected by the grammatical form in which the verb appears. See "How Can Hebrew Word Studies Go Wrong?" below for a brief explanation of Hebrew verb stems.

23. EMUNAH - אמונה

Pronunciation: eh-moo-NAH Strong's: H530 Common Meaning: Faithfulness / Steadfastness Key Scripture: Habakkuk 2:4

Emunah often emphasizes faithfulness, firmness, or reliability. The exact nuance must be determined from context.

24. ZAKAR - זכר

Pronunciation: zah-KAHR Strong's: H2142 Common Meaning: Remember Key Scripture: Genesis 8:1; Exodus 2:24

When Scripture says God "remembers," it does not imply that He had forgotten. Biblical remembering frequently points toward acting in faithfulness to a covenant or promise.

25. SHAMAR - שמר

Pronunciation: shah-MAHR Strong's: H8104 Common Meaning: Keep / Guard / Watch Key Scripture: Genesis 2:15; Deuteronomy 6:17

Shamar can describe guarding something, watching over it, or faithfully keeping God's commands.

26. MITSVAH - מצוה

Pronunciation: meets-VAH Strong's: H4687 Common Meaning: Commandment Key Scripture: Deuteronomy 6:1-2

God's commandments reveal how His covenant people are called to live in faithful response to Him.

27. TORAH - תורה

Pronunciation: toh-RAH Strong's: H8451 Common Meaning: Instruction / Law / Teaching Key Scripture: Psalm 1:2

Torah is often translated "law," but the word can carry the broader idea of instruction or teaching. The Torah is also the traditional name for the first five books of the Bible.

28. EDUT - עדות

Pronunciation: ay-DOOT Strong's: H5715 Common Meaning: Testimony Key Scripture: Psalm 19:7

In biblical usage, testimony can refer to God's covenant witness or revealed instruction.

29. DEREKH - דרך

Pronunciation: DEH-rekh Strong's: H1870 Common Meaning: Way / Path / Road Key Scripture: Psalm 1:6

Derekh can describe a literal road or a figurative way of living. Scripture frequently contrasts the way of righteousness with the way of wickedness.

30. TAMIM - תמים

Pronunciation: tah-MEEM Strong's: H8549 Common Meaning: Complete / Blameless / Whole Key Scripture: Genesis 17:1; Psalm 19:7

Tamim does not normally mean sinless perfection when describing ordinary believers. It often communicates wholeness, integrity, completeness, or blamelessness.

31. SHABBAT - שבת

Pronunciation: shah-BAHT Strong's: H7676 Common Meaning: Sabbath / Rest / Cessation Key Scripture: Genesis 2:2-3; Exodus 20:8-11

Shabbat is connected with ceasing from ordinary work and with the Sabbath established in Israel's covenant life. Its significance reaches back to God's rest after creation and becomes a major biblical theme of worship, trust, covenant identity, and rest.

SIN, FORGIVENESS, AND REDEMPTION

32. CHATA - חטא

Pronunciation: khah-TAH Strong's: H2398 Common Meaning: Sin / Do Wrong Key Scripture: Genesis 39:9

Chata is one of the major Hebrew verbs for sinning. Its biblical use should not be reduced to the popular slogan "missing the mark." Context can involve real moral guilt and rebellion.

33. CHET - חטא

Pronunciation: KHATE Strong's: H2399 Common Meaning: Sin Key Scripture: Exodus 32:30

Chet is a related noun for sin. Sin in Scripture is not merely human imperfection but violation of God's righteous will.

34. AVON - עון

Pronunciation: ah-VOHN Strong's: H5771 Common Meaning: Iniquity / Guilt Key Scripture: Exodus 34:7; Psalm 32:5

Avon can refer to iniquity and, depending on context, the guilt or consequences associated with it.

35. PESHA - פשע

Pronunciation: PEH-shah Strong's: H6588 Common Meaning: Transgression / Rebellion Key Scripture: Isaiah 53:5

Pesha emphasizes rebellion or violation. It reminds readers that sin is not always accidental weakness; it can be deliberate revolt against God.

36. SHUV - שוב

Pronunciation: SHOOV Strong's: H7725 Common Meaning: Turn / Return Key Scripture: Joel 2:12-13

Shuv is an ordinary verb for turning or returning. In prophetic contexts it becomes powerful language for repentance: Return to the LORD.

37. SALACH - סלח

Pronunciation: sah-LAHKH Strong's: H5545 Common Meaning: Forgive Key Scripture: Numbers 14:19-20

Salach is an important biblical verb for God's forgiveness. Forgiveness does not mean sin is insignificant; it displays God's mercy toward guilty people.

38. NASA - נשא

Pronunciation: nah-SAH Strong's: H5375 Common Meaning: Lift / Carry / Bear / Forgive Key Scripture: Exodus 34:7

Nasa has a broad range including lifting and carrying. In certain contexts it describes bearing or forgiving guilt. See Study #249 for deeper treatment.

39. KAPHAR - כפר

Pronunciation: kah-FAHR Strong's: H3722 Common Meaning: Make Atonement Key Scripture: Leviticus 16:30

Kaphar is central to Old Testament sacrificial language. Its theological significance is developed especially through Leviticus and the Day of Atonement.

40. GAAL - גאל

Pronunciation: gah-AHL Strong's: H1350 Common Meaning: Redeem / Act as Kinsman-Redeemer Key Scripture: Ruth 4:4-10; Isaiah 43:1

Gaal can describe redemption by one who has the right or responsibility to recover what has been lost. The book of Ruth provides a memorable example through the kinsman-redeemer.

41. PADAH - פדה

Pronunciation: pah-DAH Strong's: H6299 Common Meaning: Redeem / Ransom Key Scripture: Exodus 13:13; Psalm 130:7-8

Padah emphasizes deliverance or release through redemption. Redemption becomes one of Scripture's great salvation themes.

Memory Anchor

Biblical salvation vocabulary takes sin seriously because God's grace is not shallow.

WISDOM, KNOWLEDGE, AND THE HEART

42. HOKMAH - חכמה



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Pronunciation: khok-MAH Strong's: H2451 Common Meaning: Wisdom / Skill Key Scripture: Proverbs 2:6

Biblical wisdom is more than intelligence. It is skill for living rightly in God's world.

43. HAKAM - חָכָם

Pronunciation: khah-KAHM Strong's: H2450 Common Meaning: Wise Key Scripture: Proverbs 10:8

The wise person is not simply well educated. Biblical wisdom is demonstrated by how truth shapes life.

44. DAAT - דָּעַת

Pronunciation: DAH-aht Strong's: H1847 Common Meaning: Knowledge Key Scripture: Proverbs 1:7

Knowledge separated from the fear of God is not the Bible's highest ideal. "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge."

45. YADA - יָדַע

Pronunciation: yah-DAH Strong's: H3045 Common Meaning: Know Key Scripture: Genesis 4:1; Exodus 6:7

Yada can describe many kinds of knowing. Context determines whether it refers to information, recognition, relationship, experience, or intimate knowledge.

46. BINAH - בִּינָה

Pronunciation: bee-NAH Strong's: H998 Common Meaning: Understanding / Discernment Key Scripture: Proverbs 2:3

Biblical understanding includes the ability to discern wisely rather than merely collect facts.

47. LEV - לֵב

Pronunciation: LAVE Strong's: H3820 Common Meaning: Heart Key Scripture: Deuteronomy 6:5

The biblical "heart" is broader than emotion. It can involve thought, desire, intention, decision, and inner character.

48. LEVAV - לֵבָב

Pronunciation: lay-VAHV Strong's: H3824 Common Meaning: Heart / Inner Person Key Scripture: Deuteronomy 6:5

Levav is closely related to lev. Both demonstrate that biblical heart-language includes the whole inner person, not merely feelings.

49. MACHASHAVAH - מַחְשָׁבָה

Pronunciation: mah-khah-shah-VAH Strong's: H4284 Common Meaning: Thought / Plan / Purpose Key Scripture: Jeremiah 29:11

This word can refer to thoughts, plans, intentions, or designs. Context is especially important before turning one occurrence into a broad promise.

50. MUSAR - מוֹסֵר

Pronunciation: moo-Sahr Strong's: H4148 Common Meaning: Instruction / Discipline / Correction Key Scripture: Proverbs 1:2-3

Wisdom includes willingness to receive correction. Biblical discipline aims at formation rather than mere information.

51. ETSAH - עֲצָה

Pronunciation: ay-TSAH Strong's: H6098 Common Meaning: Counsel / Advice / Purpose Key Scripture: Proverbs 19:21

Human plans may be many, but God's purpose ultimately stands.

PEOPLE, LIFE, AND RELATIONSHIPS

52. ADAM - אָדָם

Pronunciation: ah-DAH Strong's: H120 Common Meaning: Human / Humanity / Adam Key Scripture: Genesis 1:26-27; Genesis 2:7

Adam can refer to humanity generally or to Adam specifically. Context determines the sense.

53. ISH - אִישׁ

Pronunciation: EESH Strong's: H376 Common Meaning: Man / Person / Husband Key Scripture: Genesis 2:23-24

Ish is a common word for a man or person and can mean husband in relational contexts.

54. ISHSHAH - אִשָּׁה

Pronunciation: eesh-SHAH Strong's: H802 Common Meaning: Woman / Wife Key Scripture: Genesis 2:22-24

Ishshah is a common Hebrew word for woman and, depending on context, wife.

55. BEN - בֶּן

Pronunciation: BANE Strong's: H1121 Common Meaning: Son / Descendant Key Scripture: Genesis 5:4

Ben can describe an immediate son or, depending on context, a descendant or member of a group.

56. BAT - בַּת

Pronunciation: BAHT Strong's: H1323 Common Meaning: Daughter Key Scripture: Genesis 30:21

Like "son," daughter-language can sometimes extend beyond an immediate parent-child relationship.

57. AV - אָב

Pronunciation: AHV Strong's: H1 Common Meaning: Father / Ancestor Key Scripture: Genesis 17:4-5

Av may refer to a father, ancestor, or forefather depending on context.

58. EM - אִם

Pronunciation: AIM Strong's: H517 Common Meaning: Mother Key Scripture: Genesis 3:20

Family language becomes important throughout Scripture for both literal relationships and larger covenant identity.

59. ACH - אח

Pronunciation: AHKH Strong's: H251 Common Meaning: Brother / Relative / Fellow Key Scripture: Genesis 4:9

Ach may refer to a literal brother or, in broader contexts, a relative or fellow member of a community.

60. REA - רֵעַ

Pronunciation: RAY-ah Strong's: H7453 Common Meaning: Neighbor / Friend / Companion Key Scripture: Leviticus 19:18

"Love your neighbor as yourself" uses relational language that Jesus later places at the heart of faithful obedience.

61. GER - גֵּר

Pronunciation: GAIR Strong's: H1616 Common Meaning: Sojourner / Resident Foreigner Key Scripture: Leviticus 19:33-34

Israel is repeatedly commanded to treat the ger justly and lovingly, remembering its own experience as foreigners in Egypt.

JUSTICE AND RIGHTEOUS LIVING

62. TSEDEK - צֶדֶק

Pronunciation: TSEH-dek Strong's: H6664 Common Meaning: Righteousness / Justice Key Scripture: Deuteronomy 16:20

Tsedek describes what is right or just. Biblical righteousness is not merely private morality; it affects how people live before God and treat others.

63. TSEDAQAH - צְדָקָה

Pronunciation: tseh-dah-KAH Strong's: H6666 Common Meaning: Righteousness / Justice Key Scripture: Genesis 15:6; Amos 5:24

Tsedaqah belongs to the same word family and can emphasize righteousness or justice depending on context.

64. TSADDIQ - צַדִּיק

Pronunciation: tsah-DEEK Strong's: H6662 Common Meaning: Righteous / Just Key Scripture: Psalm 11:7

Tsaddiq can describe someone or something characterized as righteous or just. God Himself is perfectly righteous.

65. MISHPAT - מִשְׁפָּט

Pronunciation: meesh-PAHT Strong's: H4941 Common Meaning: Justice / Judgment / Legal Decision Key Scripture: Micah 6:8

Mishpat can refer to judgment, justice, ordinance, or legal decision depending on context. See Study #249 for deeper treatment.

66. SHOPHET - שֹׁפֵט

Pronunciation: shoh-FATE Strong's: H8199 Common Meaning: Judge / One Who Judges Key Scripture: Judges 2:16

Israel's 'judges' were not merely courtroom officials. Many were leaders raised by God to deliver and govern Israel during the period before the monarchy.

67. ANI - אֲנִי



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Pronunciation: ah-NEE Strong's: H6041 Common Meaning: Poor / Afflicted / Humble Key Scripture: Psalm 34:6
Scripture repeatedly reveals God's concern for the poor, afflicted, oppressed, and vulnerable.

68. EVYON - עָבוֹן

Pronunciation: ev-YOHN Strong's: H34 Strong's: H34 Common Meaning: Poor / Needy Key Scripture: Deuteronomy 15:11
Israel's covenant life included concrete responsibilities toward those in material need.

69. YATOM - יָתוֹם

Pronunciation: yah-TOHM Strong's: H3490 Common Meaning: Fatherless / Orphan Key Scripture: Deuteronomy 10:18
The fatherless repeatedly appear among those whom God commands His people to protect rather than exploit.

70. ALMANAH - אֶלְמָנָה

Pronunciation: al-mah-NAH Strong's: H490 Common Meaning: Widow Key Scripture: Deuteronomy 10:18
Widows, orphans, foreigners, and the poor regularly appear in biblical teaching about justice and covenant faithfulness.

Memory Anchor

Biblical righteousness is never merely theoretical. Love for God changes how people treat other people.

CREATION, HUMANITY, LIFE, AND DEATH

71. BARA - בָּרָא

Pronunciation: bah-RAH Strong's: H1254 Common Meaning: Create Key Scripture: Genesis 1:1
Bara is famously used in Genesis 1:1 for God creating the heavens and the earth. Its meaning should be determined from actual biblical usage rather than claims based only on its root.

72. ASAH - עָשָׂה

Pronunciation: ah-SAH Strong's: H6213 Common Meaning: Do / Make Key Scripture: Genesis 1:7
Asah is a very common verb. It demonstrates why Hebrew word study requires context: common words may have broad ranges of ordinary meanings.

73. ERETS - אֶרֶץ

Pronunciation: EH-rets Strong's: H776 Common Meaning: Earth / Land / Country Key Scripture: Genesis 1:1
Erets may mean the earth broadly or a particular land or territory. Context determines the geographical scope.

74. SHAMAYIM - שָׁמַיִם

Pronunciation: shah-MAH-yeem Strong's: H8064 Common Meaning: Heavens / Sky Key Scripture: Genesis 1:1
Shamayim can refer to the visible heavens or sky and appears throughout biblical creation language.

75. MAYIM - מַיִם

Pronunciation: MAH-yeem Strong's: H4325 Common Meaning: Water / Waters Key Scripture: Genesis 1:2
Water imagery becomes important throughout Scripture in creation, cleansing, judgment, provision, and life.

76. OR - אֹר

Pronunciation: OHR Strong's: H216 Common Meaning: Light Key Scripture: Genesis 1:3
Light is first a feature of creation but becomes a major biblical image for life, truth, salvation, and God's presence.

77. CHAY / CHAYYIM - חַי / חַיִּים

Pronunciation: KHAI / kahh-YEEM Strong's: H2416 Common Meaning: Living / Alive / Life Key Scripture: Genesis 2:7; Deuteronomy 30:19-20
Chay describes what is living or alive, while chayyim is the familiar plural-form expression frequently translated "life." Both belong to the same lexical entry. Biblical life is ultimately bound to the living God who gives life to His creatures.

78. RUACH - רוּחַ

Pronunciation: ROO-akh Strong's: H7307 Common Meaning: Spirit / Wind / Breath Key Scripture: Genesis 1:2
Ruach can mean spirit, wind, or breath depending on context. The surrounding passage - not the dictionary alone - determines which sense is intended.

79. NEPHESH - נֶפֶשׁ

Pronunciation: NEH-fesh Strong's: H5315 Common Meaning: Living Being / Life / Person / Self Key Scripture: Genesis 2:7
Nephesh is often translated "soul," but it should not automatically be understood as an invisible component separable from the body every time it appears. Its biblical range includes life, person, self, living being, appetite, and related ideas depending on context.

80. SHEOL - שְׁאוֹל

Pronunciation: sheh-OHL Strong's: H7585 Common Meaning: Sheol / Grave / Realm of the Dead Key Scripture: Genesis 37:35; Psalm 16:10
Sheol is an important Old Testament term associated with death and the realm of the dead. Its exact nuance varies by passage. It should not simply be equated with every later Christian use of the English word "hell." Study each occurrence in its own Old Testament context before drawing broader conclusions about the afterlife.

PART TWO

WANT TO GO DEEPER? INTERMEDIATE

PROMISE, KINGDOM, AND MESSIAH

81. MELEKH - מֶלֶךְ

Pronunciation: MEH-lekh Strong's: H4428 Common Meaning: King Key Scripture: 1 Samuel 8:7; Psalm 47:7
Human kings become central to Israel's history, but Scripture never loses sight of God as the ultimate King.

82. MALKUT - מַלְכוּת

Pronunciation: mahl-KHOOT Strong's: H4438 Common Meaning: Kingdom / Kingship / Royal Rule Key Scripture: Psalm 145:13
Biblical kingdom language concerns not only territory but royal authority and reign.

83. MASHIACH - מָשִׁיחַ

Pronunciation: mah-SHEE-akh Strong's: H4899 Common Meaning: Anointed One / Messiah Key Scripture: Psalm 2:2; Daniel 9:25
Mashiach means "anointed one." In the Old Testament, the term can apply to people such as kings or priests who were anointed for a role. Through the larger biblical storyline, expectation develops around God's promised royal deliverer. "Christ" comes from the Greek equivalent Christos, meaning "anointed one."

84. NAGID - נָגִיד

Pronunciation: nah-GEED Strong's: H5057 Common Meaning: Leader / Ruler / Prince Key Scripture: 1 Samuel 9:16
Nagid can describe one appointed to leadership or rule and appears in passages concerning Israel's kings.

85. KISSE - כִּסֵּא

Pronunciation: kees-SAY Strong's: H3678 Common Meaning: Throne Key Scripture: 2 Samuel 7:16; Isaiah 6:1
Throne language communicates rule and authority. God promises David an enduring dynasty, while Isaiah sees YHWH Himself enthroned above all.

86. ZERA - זֶרַע

Pronunciation: ZEH-rah Strong's: H2233 Common Meaning: Seed / Offspring / Descendants Key Scripture: Genesis 3:15; Genesis 12:7
Zera can refer literally to seed or figuratively to offspring and descendants. The promise of offspring becomes a major thread through Genesis and the covenant story.

87. NABI - נָבִיא

Pronunciation: nah-VEE Strong's: H5030 Common Meaning: Prophet Key Scripture: Deuteronomy 18:15
Biblical prophets were not merely predictors of future events. They spoke God's message, called people to covenant faithfulness, confronted sin, and sometimes announced future acts of God.

88. EBED - עֶבֶד



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Pronunciation: EH-ved Strong's: H5650 Common Meaning: Servant / Slave Key Scripture: Isaiah 52:13

Ebed has a range from servant to slave depending on context. "Servant of the LORD" can also be an honored designation for those commissioned by God. Isaiah's Servant Songs become especially important in understanding Jesus.

89. ROEH - רֹעִה

Pronunciation: roh-EH Strong's: related to H7462 Common Meaning: Shepherd Key Scripture: Psalm 23:1; Ezekiel 34:23

Shepherd imagery describes care, leadership, protection, and provision. God is Israel's Shepherd, Israel's leaders are evaluated as shepherds, and Ezekiel promises a future Davidic shepherd.

90. YESHUAH - יֵשׁוּעָה

Pronunciation: yeh-shoo-AH Strong's: H3444 Common Meaning: Salvation / Deliverance Key Scripture: Exodus 14:13; Isaiah 12:2

Yeshuah describes rescue or salvation. Biblical salvation language develops from concrete deliverance toward the Bible's larger story of God rescuing His people from sin and death.

TEN WORDS THAT CONNECT MAJOR BIBLICAL THEMES

91. SHALOM - שָׁלוֹם

Pronunciation: shah-LOHM Strong's: H7965 Common Meaning: Peace / Wholeness / Well-Being Key Scripture: Isaiah 9:6-7

Shalom is broader than merely the absence of conflict. Depending on context, it can describe peace, welfare, completeness, or well-being. The promised Prince of Peace ultimately points toward God's restoration of what sin has broken.

92. DAM - דָּם

Pronunciation: DAHM Strong's: H1818 Common Meaning: Blood Key Scripture: Leviticus 17:11

Blood is connected with physical life and becomes central to sacrificial and atonement language. Leviticus 17 should be read carefully before tracing the theme into the New Testament.

93. ZEVACH - זֶבַח

Pronunciation: ZEH-vakh Strong's: H2077 Common Meaning: Sacrifice Key Scripture: Exodus 12:27

Sacrifice is woven throughout Israel's worship and covenant life. Different sacrifices served different purposes, so 'sacrifice' should not be treated as one identical ritual category.

94. OLAH - עֹלָה

Pronunciation: oh-LAH Strong's: H5930 Common Meaning: Burnt Offering Key Scripture: Leviticus 1:3-9

The olah was offered wholly upon the altar. Its name is related to the idea of going or rising up.

95. KOHEN - כֹּהֵן

Pronunciation: koh-HANE Strong's: H3548 Common Meaning: Priest Key Scripture: Exodus 28:1

Israel's priests served in the tabernacle and temple system. Priesthood becomes a major biblical theme culminating in the New Testament's presentation of Jesus as the great High Priest.

96. MIZBEACH - מִזְבֵּחַ

Pronunciation: meez-BAY-akh Strong's: H4196 Common Meaning: Altar Key Scripture: Genesis 8:20; Exodus 27:1

Altars were places associated with sacrifice and worship. They appear long before the tabernacle and continue throughout Israel's worship system.

97. MIKDASH - מִקְדָּשׁ

Pronunciation: meek-DAHSH Strong's: H4720 Common Meaning: Sanctuary / Holy Place Key Scripture: Exodus 25:8

God commanded Israel to make a sanctuary so that He might dwell among them. The sanctuary theme develops through tabernacle, temple, Jesus, the Church, and ultimately new creation.

98. KAVOD - כְּבוֹד

Pronunciation: kah-VOHD Strong's: H3519 Common Meaning: Glory / Honor / Weight Key Scripture: Exodus 33:18; Isaiah 6:3

Kavod can describe glory, honor, or importance. Its word family is associated with weight or heaviness, but the meaning of kavod in a passage must come from actual usage rather than simply substituting "weight" everywhere.

99. OLAM - עוֹלָם

Pronunciation: oh-LAHM Strong's: H5769 Common Meaning: Long Duration / Forever / Everlasting / Ancient Time Key Scripture: Genesis 21:33; Psalm 90:2

Olam can refer to a long or indefinite duration, ancient time, permanence, or everlasting duration depending on context. It should not automatically be defined as either "eternity" in every verse or merely "an age" in every verse. Context determines the intended scope.

100. SHAKAN - שָׁכַן

Pronunciation: shah-KAHN Strong's: H7931 Common Meaning: Dwell / Settle / Abide Key Scripture: Exodus 25:8

Shakan is central to the biblical dwelling theme. God tells Israel to build a sanctuary so that He may dwell among them. This theme becomes one of the Bible's great storylines: God with humanity in Eden. God dwelling among Israel. God's glory filling the tabernacle and temple. The Word becoming flesh and dwelling among humanity. God dwelling with His people forever in the new creation.

Memory Anchor

The Bible's story moves toward God dwelling with His redeemed people.

COMMON HEBREW-TERM CLARIFICATION - SHEKINAH

SHEKINAH - שְׁכִינָה, Pronunciation: sheh-khee-NAH Common Meaning in Later Jewish and Christian Usage: Divine Dwelling / Manifest Presence Related Biblical Root: SHAKAN - שָׁכַן, H7931 Key Biblical Theme: Exodus 25:8; Exodus 40:34-38

Shekinah is widely used in Jewish and Christian discussion for God's manifest dwelling presence. However, the noun Shekinah itself does not occur in the Hebrew Old Testament. It developed from the Hebrew root shakan, "to dwell." This distinction is important. The biblical theme of God dwelling among His people is unquestionably present. But the later theological term should not be mistaken for a Hebrew noun actually appearing in verses such as Exodus 25:8. This is a useful example of why a familiar Hebrew-sounding religious term should still be checked against the biblical text.

FIFTEEN WORDS WORTH STUDYING MORE DEEPLY

All 100 words matter, but some are especially useful for tracing major biblical themes and learning responsible word-study habits.

1. HESED - STEADFAST LOVE

Do not reduce hesed to a single slogan such as "covenant love." Study Exodus 34:6-7; Psalm 136; Micah 7:18-20. See Study #249.

2. EMET - FAITHFULNESS / TRUTH

Notice how emet appears with hesed. Study Exodus 34:6 and Psalm 25:10. Then compare John 1:14-18 carefully.

3. SHALOM - PEACE / WHOLENESS

Study the word beyond the idea of emotional calm. Read Isaiah 9:6-7; Isaiah 26:3; and consider the larger biblical movement toward restored creation.

4. RUACH - SPIRIT / WIND / BREATH

Never assume ruach means "Holy Spirit" merely because the word appears. Study the context. Compare Genesis 1:2; Ezekiel 37:1-14; Joel 2:28-29.

5. NEPHESH - LIFE / PERSON / LIVING BEING

Be especially cautious about automatically translating nephesh into later philosophical ideas about "the soul." Study Genesis 2:7; Leviticus 17:11; Psalm 42:1-2.

6. SHEOL - REALM OF THE DEAD / GRAVE

Do not automatically replace Sheol with a fully developed later theology of "hell." Study Genesis 37:35; Psalm 16:10; Psalm 88; Ecclesiastes 9:10 and pay attention to how each passage uses the term.

7. LEV / LEVAV - HEART

Biblical heart-language includes thinking, willing, desiring, deciding, and feeling. Study Deuteronomy 6:5; Proverbs 4:23; Jeremiah 17:9-10.

8. TORAH - INSTRUCTION / LAW

"Law" is often an appropriate translation, but Torah should not be reduced to the idea of a cold legal code. Study Psalm 1; Psalm 19:7-11; Psalm 119.

9. SHABBAT - SABBATH / CESSATION

Trace Sabbath from creation into Israel's covenant life. Study Genesis 2:1-3; Exodus 20:8-11; Deuteronomy 5:12-15. Then read how Jesus discusses Sabbath in the Gospels.

10. OLAM - FOREVER / LONG DURATION

Olam is an excellent example of why one English definition should not be forced into every occurrence. Study Genesis 21:33; Exodus 12:14; Psalm 90:2 and let each passage establish the intended duration.

11. QADOSH - HOLY

Study Leviticus 19:1-2 and Isaiah 6:1-7. God's holiness shapes the holiness to which His people are called.

12. BERIT - COVENANT



Rooted in Scripture - Pointing to Jesus

Trace covenant through: Genesis 9; Genesis 15 and 17; Exodus 19-24; 2 Samuel 7; Jeremiah 31; Luke 22; Hebrews 8-10.

13. KAPHAR - ATONEMENT

Study Leviticus 16 before jumping directly to theological definitions. Then read Hebrews 9-10 and observe both continuity and fulfillment.

14. MASHIACH - ANOINTED ONE

Do not assume every occurrence of mashiach directly means Jesus. The word can refer to other anointed figures in the Old Testament. Instead, trace how kingship, Davidic promise, prophecy, and messianic expectation develop until the New Testament identifies Jesus as the Christ.

15. SHAKAN - DWELL

Trace God's presence from Genesis to Revelation. This theme helps connect Eden, tabernacle, temple, incarnation, Church, and new creation.

HOW CAN HEBREW WORD STUDIES GO WRONG?

Original-language study can clarify Scripture. It can also create false confidence if used carelessly.

1. STRONG'S NUMBERS DO NOT DEFINE WORDS

A Strong's number is essentially an indexing system. It helps readers locate the same Hebrew or Greek lexical entry in study tools. The number itself carries no inspired meaning. Strong's H2617 does not tell a reader what hesed means in a particular verse. It identifies the lexical entry that should then be studied in context.

2. A WORD DOES NOT MEAN EVERYTHING IN ITS DICTIONARY ENTRY AT ONCE

Consider the English word "light." It can mean: illumination, not heavy, a pale color, to ignite something, or to descend from something. A dictionary may list all those meanings. But a sentence normally selects one.

Hebrew works the same way. A lexicon provides possibilities. Context determines meaning.

3. A WORD'S ROOT DOES NOT AUTOMATICALLY DETERMINE ITS MEANING

Etymology can sometimes illuminate a word's history. It does not control every later usage. English speakers do not discover the meaning of "butterfly" by separately defining "butter" and "fly." Likewise, Hebrew theology should not be built merely by breaking words into supposed component meanings.

4. VERB STEMS CAN CHANGE HOW A VERB FUNCTIONS

Biblical Hebrew verbs occur in grammatical patterns commonly called binyanim, or verb stems. Common stems include forms traditionally called: Qal, Niphal, Piel, Pual, Hiphil, Hophal, and Hithpaal. A verb stem can affect how an action is expressed - for example, whether a verb functions actively, passively, reflexively, intensively, causatively, or in another way. The precise effect depends on the individual verb. This means locating the dictionary form is not always enough. For example, forms related to aman can communicate ideas involving firmness, faithfulness, believing, or establishing depending on grammatical form and context. Likewise, verbs such as yada, nasa, and shama must be interpreted according to the actual form appearing in the sentence. A beginner does not need to master the Hebrew verbal system before benefiting from word study. But readers should know that grammar matters.

Memory Anchor

The lexical root identifies the word family. Grammar helps determine what the word is doing in the sentence.

5. HEBREW LETTERS ARE NOT A SECRET THEOLOGICAL CODE

Early alphabetic characters have historical connections with pictorial forms. That does not mean biblical Hebrew words should be interpreted by assigning symbolic theological meanings to each individual letter and combining them into hidden messages. Biblical Hebrew is a real language. Meaning comes from vocabulary, grammar, syntax, literary context, historical context, and usage.

6. SIMILAR ENGLISH TRANSLATIONS DO NOT GUARANTEE THE SAME HEBREW WORD

An English Bible may translate several Hebrew words with the same English term. Likewise, one Hebrew word may require several different English translations. Word studies should therefore begin with the actual Hebrew term rather than assuming that every occurrence of an English word represents the same original-language word.

7. LATER HEBREW TERMS SHOULD NOT BE MISTAKEN FOR BIBLICAL WORDS

Shekinah provides a useful example. The concept of God dwelling among His people is biblical. The later noun Shekinah is not a word appearing in the Hebrew Old Testament itself. Always distinguish between: a biblical Hebrew word, a later Jewish or Christian term, and a theological concept derived from Scripture.

8. WORD STUDIES DO NOT REPLACE PASSAGE STUDY

A word receives meaning from the sentence in which it appears. The sentence receives meaning within the paragraph. The paragraph belongs within a book. The book belongs within Scripture's larger story. The safest order is: PASSAGE, THEN WORD, THEN GRAMMAR, THEN OTHER OCCURRENCES, THEN BIBLICAL-THEOLOGICAL CONNECTIONS.

Bible-Study Safeguard

The question is not, "What interesting things can be found inside this Hebrew word?" The better question is, "What is the biblical author communicating with this word in this passage?"

THE GOSPEL CONNECTION

These 100 Hebrew words do not form 100 separate theological ideas. Together they belong to one unfolding biblical story. God created humanity. BARA - create. Human beings were made for life with God. CHAY / CHAYYIM - living / life. God desired to dwell with His people. SHAKAN - dwell. Humanity rebelled. CHATA - sin. PESHA - rebellion. AVON - iniquity. Death entered the human story. SHEOL becomes part of the Old Testament's language for the realm of the dead. Yet God remained compassionate and gracious. RAHUM. HANNUN. He showed steadfast love and faithfulness. HESED. EMET. God established covenant promises. BERIT. He gave His people rhythms of worship and rest. SHABBAT. He called His people to hear, trust, obey, and return. SHAMA. AMAN. SHUV. He provided sacrifice, priesthood, atonement, and redemption. ZEVACH. KOHEN. KAPHAR. GAAL. He promised a King. MELEKH. An Anointed One. MASHIACH. A Servant. EBED. A Shepherd. ROEH. And salvation. YESHUAH. The New Testament announces that these biblical hopes find their fulfillment in Jesus. Jesus is the Christ - the Anointed One. He is the promised Davidic King. He is the Good Shepherd. He is the suffering Servant. He is the great High Priest. He establishes the new covenant. He provides the decisive sacrifice for sin. He brings redemption. He gives peace with God. He defeats death. And through Him, God's dwelling with humanity reaches its ultimate goal. Read John 1:14. The Word became flesh and "dwelt" among humanity. Read Revelation 21:3. At the end of Scripture: "the dwelling place of God is with man." The Bible begins with God and humanity together. Sin fractures that fellowship. The entire redemptive story moves toward its restoration through Jesus Christ.

Memory Anchor

Hebrew vocabulary becomes most valuable when it helps readers see the Bible's one unfolding story of creation, covenant, redemption, Jesus, and new creation.

ALPHABETICAL QUICK-REFERENCE INDEX

Ach - Brother / Relative - H251
Adam - Human / Humanity / Adam - H120
Adonai - Lord / Master - H136
Almanah - Widow - H490
Aman - Be Firm / Trust / Believe - H539
Ani - Poor / Afflicted / Humble - H6041
Asah - Do / Make - H6213
Av - Father / Ancestor - H1
Avad - Work / Serve - H5647
Avon - Iniquity / Guilt - H5771
Barak - Bless - H1288
Bara - Create - H1254
Bat - Daughter - H1323
Ben - Son / Descendant - H1121
Berit - Covenant - H1285
Binah - Understanding / Discernment - H998
Chata - Sin / Do Wrong - H2398
Chay / Chayyim - Living / Life - H2416
Chet - Sin - H2399
Daat - Knowledge - H1847
Dam - Blood - H1818
Derekh - Way / Path / Road - H1870
Ebed - Servant / Slave - H5650
Edut - Testimony - H5715
El - God / Mighty One - H410
Elohim - God / gods - H430
Em - Mother - H517
Emet - Truth / Faithfulness - H571
Emanah - Faithfulness / Steadfastness - H530
Erets - Earth / Land - H776

Hakam - Wise - H2450
Halal - Praise / Boast - H1984
Hannun - Gracious - H2587
Hesed - Steadfast / Faithful Love - H2617
Hokmah - Wisdom / Skill - H2451
Ish - Man / Person / Husband - H376
Ishshah - Woman / Wife - H802
Kaphar - Make Atonement - H3722
Kavod - Glory / Honor / H3519
Kisse - Throne - H3678
Kohen - Priest - H3548
Lev - Heart - H3820
Levav - Heart / Inner Person - H3824
Machashavah - Thought / Plan / Purpose - H4284
Malkut - Kingdom / Kingship - H4438
Mashiach - Anointed One / Messiah - H4899
Mayim - Water / Waters - H4325
Melekh - King - H4428
Mikdash - Sanctuary - H4720
Mishpat - Justice / Judgment - H4941
Mitsvah - Commandment - H4687
Mizbeach - Altar - H4196
Musar - Instruction / Discipline - H4148
Nabi - Prophet - H5030
Nagid - Leader / Ruler - H5057
Nasa - Lift / Carry / Bear / Forgive - H5375
Nephesh - Life / Person / Living Being - H5315
Olam - Long Duration / Forever - H5769
Olah - Burnt Offering - H5930
Or - Light - H216

Rea - Neighbor / Friend - H7453
Roeh - Shepherd - related to H7462
Ruach - Spirit / Wind / Breath - H7307
Salach - Forgive - H5545
Shabbat - Sabbath / Rest - H7676
Shachah - Bow Down / Worship - H7812
Shakan - Dwell / Settle - H7931
Shama - Hear / Listen / Obey - H8085
Shamar - Keep / Guard - H8104
Shamayim - Heavens / Sky - H8064
Shalom - Peace / Wholeness - H7965
Sheol - Grave / Realm of the Dead - H7585
Shophet - Judge - H8199
Shuv - Turn / Return - H7725
Tamim - Complete / Blameless - H8549
Tehillah - Praise - H8416
Tephillah - Prayer - H8605
Todah - Thanksgiving - H8426
Torah - Instruction / Law - H8451
Tov - Good - H2896
Tsaddiq - Righteous / Just - H6662
Tsedaqah - Righteousness / Justice - H6666
Tsedek - Righteousness / Justice - H6664
Yada - Know - H3045
Yare - Fear / Revere - H3372
Yatom - Fatherless / Orphan - H3490
Yeshuah - Salvation / Deliverance - H3444
YHWH - The LORD - H3068
Yirah - Fear / Reverence - H3374
Zakar - Remember - H2142



Rooted in Scripture - Pointing to Jesus

Etsah - Counsel / Purpose - H6098
Evyon - Poor / Needy - H34
Gaal - Redeem - H1350
Ger - Sojourner / Resident Foreigner - H1616

Padah - Redeem / Ransom - H6299
Pasha - Transgression / Rebellion - H6588
Qadosh - Holy - H6918
Rahum - Compassionate / Merciful - H7349

Zera - Seed / Offspring - H2233
Zevach - Sacrifice - H2077

REVIEW AND RETENTION

1. What language was most of the Old Testament originally written in? Hebrew.
2. What does a Strong's number do? It identifies a Hebrew or Greek lexical entry so readers can locate the word in concordances and Bible-study tools.
3. Does a Strong's number define what a word means in a particular verse? No. Context determines meaning.
4. What does Torah mean? Instruction, teaching, or law depending on context.
5. What does hesed describe? A range involving steadfast love, faithful love, kindness, loyalty, or related ideas depending on context.
6. What does ruach mean? Spirit, wind, or breath depending on context.
7. Why should nephesh not automatically be reduced to "an immaterial soul"? Because its biblical range is broader and can refer to a living being, life, person, self, or related ideas depending on context.
8. What does shuv mean? Turn or return. It is frequently used in calls to repentance.
9. What does Shabbat mean? Sabbath, rest, or cessation. Its biblical significance reaches from creation into Israel's covenant life.
10. What is Sheol? An Old Testament term associated with death and the realm of the dead whose precise nuance must be determined from context.
11. Does olam always mean exactly the same length of time? No. It can communicate ancient time, long duration, permanence, or everlasting duration depending on context.
12. What does mashiach literally describe? An anointed person or "anointed one." The larger biblical storyline develops messianic expectation ultimately fulfilled in Jesus.
13. What does berit mean? Covenant.
14. What is a Hebrew verb stem or binyan? A grammatical pattern that can affect how a verb functions and therefore contribute to its meaning in a sentence.
15. Is finding the Hebrew root always enough to determine what a verb means? No. The actual grammatical form and context also matter.
16. What is the difference between a dictionary's range of meaning and a word's meaning in a verse? The dictionary lists possible senses. The passage determines which sense is being used.
17. Should theology be built by assigning symbolic meanings to individual Hebrew letters? No. Biblical Hebrew functions as a real language, not a hidden theological code.
18. Does the noun Shekinah occur in the Hebrew Old Testament? No. It is a later term related to the biblical Hebrew verb shakan, "to dwell."
19. Why are the vowel points in printed Hebrew useful but not part of the earliest written consonantal form? They preserve a later written representation of an older reading tradition and help readers pronounce and distinguish Hebrew forms.
20. What is the ultimate goal of Hebrew word study? To understand Scripture more carefully and know the God Scripture reveals.

FINAL MEMORY ANCHORS

- Hebrew is a tool for understanding Scripture more carefully - not a shortcut around Scripture.
- Strong's numbers identify words. They do not define them.
- A lexicon gives possible meanings. Context determines meaning.
- A Hebrew word does not mean everything in its dictionary entry every time it appears.
- The lexical root identifies the word family. Grammar helps determine what the word is doing in the sentence.
- Hebrew verb stems can affect meaning.
- Word roots may sometimes help, but etymology does not control meaning.
- Hebrew letters are not a secret theological code.
- Later Hebrew theological terms should not automatically be treated as words appearing in the biblical text.
- The Bible's "heart" includes more than emotion.
- Nephesh means more than the English idea commonly associated with "soul."
- Ruach can mean spirit, wind, or breath depending on context.
- Sheol should be interpreted in its Old Testament context rather than automatically equated with every later use of "hell."
- Olam does not carry one identical duration in every passage.
- Hesed should not automatically be defined as "covenant love."
- Torah is instruction, not merely a cold legal code.
- Shabbat connects creation, covenant, worship, and rest.
- Biblical righteousness affects both relationship with God and treatment of others.
- Messiah means "Anointed One."
- The Bible's story moves toward God dwelling with His redeemed people.
- Hebrew vocabulary becomes most valuable when it helps readers understand Scripture's unfolding story and see Jesus more clearly.

SCRIPTURE READING PATH

Genesis 1-3 - Creation, humanity, life, sin, and promise
Genesis 12:1-9 - Abraham and God's promise
Genesis 15 - Covenant and faith
Genesis 22 - Worship, obedience, and sacrifice
Exodus 3:1-15 - God reveals His name
Exodus 12 - Passover and redemption
Exodus 19-24 - Covenant, Torah, Sabbath, and worship
Exodus 25:1-9 - God dwelling among His people
Exodus 34:5-7 - God's character
Leviticus 16 - Atonement
Leviticus 19 - Holiness, neighbor-love, and justice
Deuteronomy 6:4-9 - Hear, love, and obey
Deuteronomy 10:12-22 - Fear God and love the vulnerable
Deuteronomy 30:11-20 - Life, obedience, and choosing God's way
Ruth 1-4 - Hesed and redemption
2 Samuel 7:8-16 - Davidic kingship and promise
Psalm 1 - Torah and the two ways
Psalm 16 - Life, death, and Sheol
Psalm 19 - God's instruction
Psalm 23 - The LORD as Shepherd
Psalm 51 - Sin, repentance, cleansing, and a renewed heart

Psalms 90 - God, humanity, time, and olam
Psalm 103 - Compassion, forgiveness, and steadfast love
Psalm 136 - Enduring hesed
Proverbs 1-4 - Wisdom, knowledge, discipline, and the heart
Isaiah 6 - Holiness and prophetic calling
Isaiah 9:1-7 - The promised King and Prince of Peace
Isaiah 40 - God's greatness and comfort
Isaiah 52:13-53:12 - The suffering Servant
Jeremiah 31:31-34 - The new covenant
Ezekiel 34 - The Shepherd and failed shepherds
Ezekiel 36:22-28 - New heart and new spirit
Ezekiel 37 - Ruach, life, and restoration
Micah 6:6-8 - Justice, hesed, and humble walking with God
Habakkuk 2:1-4 - Faithfulness amid judgment
John 1:1-18 - God dwelling among humanity in Jesus
Luke 24:25-27, 44-47 - Jesus and the Old Testament storyline
Romans 3:21-26 - Righteousness and redemption
Hebrews 4 - Sabbath rest and God's promise
Hebrews 8-10 - Covenant, priesthood, sacrifice, and atonement
Revelation 21-22 - God dwelling with humanity forever

WHERE CAN I LEARN MORE?

Helpful tools for responsible Hebrew word study include: A Bible with cross-references and translation notes. A concordance linked to Strong's numbers. A reliable Hebrew-English lexicon. An interlinear Bible used alongside - not instead of - a normal Bible translation. STEP Bible for searching Hebrew words, grammatical forms, and occurrences. Blue Letter Bible for Strong's indexing and accessible word-study tools. BibleProject resources for tracing major biblical themes and Hebrew concepts. For deeper study, readers may eventually consult resources such as the Brown-Driver-Briggs Hebrew lexicon or more technical Hebrew lexicons, grammars, and Old Testament commentaries. When studying verbs, tools that identify the actual Hebrew form and verb stem can be especially helpful. No tool should replace reading the biblical passage itself. Strong's numbers are particularly useful for locating words, but Strong's definitions should not be treated as the final authority on a word's meaning.

Resource Safeguard

Listing a resource does not mean 3Nails endorses every theological position, methodology, statistic, strategy, publication, or conclusion it produces. Compare resources. Read words in context. Pay attention to grammar. And continually return to Scripture.



Rooted in Scripture - Pointing to Jesus

FINAL THOUGHT

Learning Hebrew can initially feel intimidating. The alphabet looks unfamiliar. The sounds may feel foreign. The vocabulary can seem endless. The grammar adds another layer. But a reader does not need to become a Hebrew scholar to benefit from understanding a few important biblical words. Knowing that Torah can mean instruction helps Psalm 1 come alive. Understanding hesed helps readers notice God's steadfast love across the Old Testament. Recognizing shuv helps reveal how often the prophets call people to turn back to God. Learning Shabbat helps connect God's rest in creation with Israel's covenant life and the Bible's larger theme of rest. Understanding ruach helps readers slow down and ask whether a passage means spirit, wind, or breath. Recognizing nephesh helps prevent an English theological assumption from being automatically inserted into every occurrence of "soul." Learning Sheol encourages readers to examine what an Old Testament passage actually says about death rather than importing a later definition automatically. Studying olam demonstrates why context matters even for a familiar word such as "forever." Understanding berit helps readers follow the Bible's covenants. Knowing mashiach means "anointed one" helps explain why the New Testament calls Jesus "the Christ." And tracing shakan - "to dwell" - reveals something even larger. The Bible begins with God and humanity together. Sin brings separation, exile, death, and brokenness. Yet God does not abandon His purpose. He dwells among Israel. He fills the tabernacle. His glory fills the temple. The prophets promise restoration. Then the Gospel announces: "The Word became flesh and dwelt among us." Jesus comes near. He fulfills the promises. He bears sin. He establishes the new covenant. He brings salvation. He defeats death. And Scripture ends with the promise that God will dwell with His redeemed people forever. That is where Hebrew word study should lead. Not toward fascination with secret meanings. Not toward pride in knowing terminology. Not toward dependence on Strong's numbers, roots, dictionaries, or grammar charts. But back into Scripture. Back into the biblical story. Back toward the God who speaks. And ultimately toward Jesus Christ, the One to whom the Scriptures point.

Rooted in Scripture - Pointing to Jesus