

Learn to Read the Bible in Hebrew with El Shaddai Ministries

HEBREW ALPHABET CHART

ז	ו	ה	ד	ג	ב	ב	א
Zayin 7	Vav 6	Hey 5	Daled 4	Gimmel 3	Vet 2	Bet 2	Aleph 1
נ	מ	ל	כ	כ	י	ט	ח
Nun 50	Mem 40	Lamed 30	Chof 20	Kof 20	Yud 10	Tet 9	Chet 8
ש	ר	ק	צ	פ	פ	ע	ס
Shin 300	Reish 200	Kuf 100	Tzadi 90	Fey 80	Pey 80	Ayen 70	Samech 60
ץ	ף	ו	ם	ך	ת	ת	ש
Final Tzadi 90	Final Pey 80	Final Nun 50	Final Mem 40	Final Chof 20	Suf 400	Tuf 400	Sin 300

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וּ

Shooroq - Oo

וּ

Cholem - Oh

׃

Shva - E

׃

Kibbutz - Oo

׃

Chirk - Ee

׃

Tsere - Ei

׃

Segol - Eh

׃

Patach - A

׃

Kamatz - Ah

This is a user-intensive way to learn Biblical Hebrew, requiring *many* hours of difficult concentration. *It isn't easy...but it works.* Start with memorizing the consonants and vowels on the Hebrew Alphabet Chart on the previous page. Hebrew doesn't have a lot of pronunciation exceptions like English (*bough*, *tough*, *cough*, *through*). Consonant-vowel combinations in Hebrew usually keep the same pronunciation. Hebrew reads from right to left.

The screenshot shows the Blue Letter Bible interface. At the top, there's a navigation bar with 'Blue Letter Bible', search options, and 'KJV'. Below that, the text 'Genesis 1 :: King James Version (KJV)' is displayed. A 'TOOLS' button is visible. The main content area shows the Hebrew text '1:1 בְּרֵאשִׁית בָּרָא אֱלֹהִים אֶת הַשָּׁמַיִם וְאֶת הָאָרֶץ:' and the English translation 'In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.' Below this is a 'Reverse Interlinear' table.

English (KJV) [?]	Strong's	Root Form (Hebrew)	Parsing
In the beginning	H7225	רֵאשִׁית re'shiyth	
God	H430	אֱלֹהִים 'elohiym	
created	H1254	בָּרָא bara'	PARSE
↑	H853	אֶת 'eth	
the heaven	H8064	שָׁמַיִם shamayim	
and	H853	אֶת 'eth	
the earth	H776	אָרֶץ 'erets	

Free

www.blueletterbible.org (L) shows Genesis 1.1, with the English and Hebrew.

Click on:



You can listen to the Hebrew root words by clicking the speaker icon.

Not So Free

I highly recommend Dr. Danny Ben Gigi's **Hebrew-English Phonetic Bible**, available through the bookstore at www.elshaddaiministries.us

Dr. Danny Ben Gigi is a native Israeli Hebrew speaker who taught biblical Hebrew at Arizona State University for 15 years and started www.hebrewworld.com

Dr. Ben Gigi's transliteration assures that you get the best Hebrew pronunciation.

Here's how his Hebrew-English Bible looks on my iPad:

בראשית פרק א
Genesis Chapter 1

א. בְּרֵאשִׁית בָּרָא אֱלֹהִים אֶת הַשָּׁמַיִם וְאֶת הָאָרֶץ:

1. Be•re•sheet ba•ra Elohim et ha•sha•ma•yim ve•et ha•a•retz.

1. In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.

ב. וְהָאָרֶץ הָיְתָה תְהוֹ וּבְהוּ וְחֹשֶׁךְ עַל-פְּנֵי תְהוֹם וְרוּחַ אֱלֹהִים מְרַחֶפֶת עַל-פְּנֵי הַמַּיִם:

2. Ve•ha•a•retz hai•ta to•hoo va•vo•hoo ve•cho•shech al-p'nei te•hom
ve•roo•ach Elohim me•ra•che•fet al-p'nei ha•ma•yim.

2. And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And a wind from God moved upon the face of the waters.

ג. וַיֹּאמֶר אֱלֹהִים יְהִי-אוֹר וַיְהִי-אוֹר:

3. Va•yo•mer Elohim ye•hi-or vay•hi-or.

3. And God said, Let there be light; and there was light.

I do not recommend trying to read Dr. Ben Gigi's Bible on a smart phone, since their screens are so small. It's hard to constantly swipe back and forth for left-to-right English and right-to-left Hebrew.

Reading Hebrew

The 2nd Hebrew word is בָּרָא *ba-ra*. Alphabet Chart: בּ is *bet* “b” plus vowel “ah,” *ba*. רָא is *reish* “r” plus the “ah” vowel again, and the letter א *aleph* is silent. So this syllable is pronounced *ra*. Put it all together and בָּרָא is pronounced *ba-ra*.

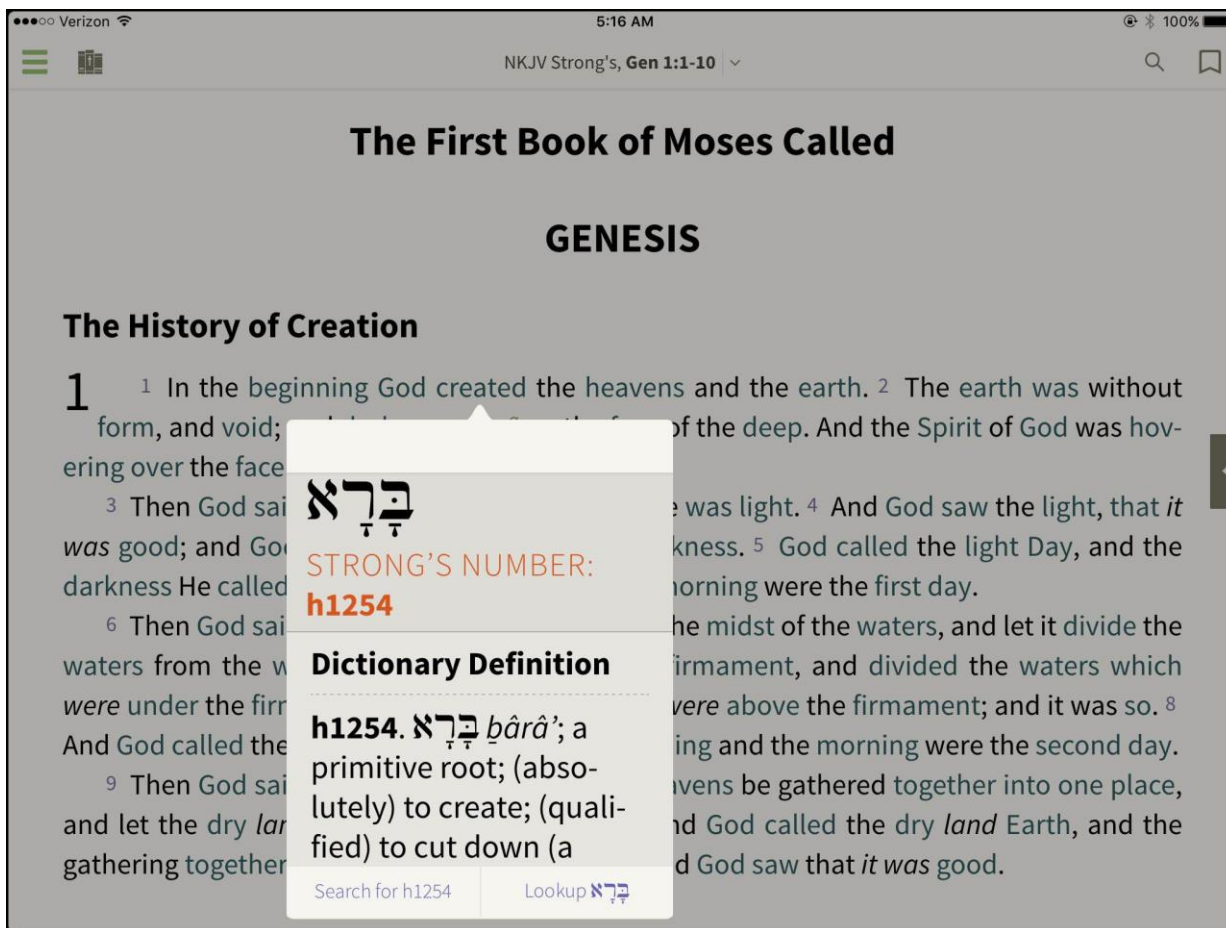
With either the Blue Letter Bible or Danny Ben Gigi's Bible, that's how you read Hebrew.

Root Words

בָּרָא is also a root word. Hebrew root words are normally masculine, singular, past tense verbs. So the root בָּרָא means “He created.” Hebrew may add several prefixes and suffixes to roots words, and so one Hebrew word may translate into several English words. See how the 1st word, בְּרֵאשִׁית *be-re-sheet*, with prefix בְּ *be* “in” means “In the beginning” with רָאשִׁית from the root ראש, to shake. You can discover this by clicking through the links in either the Blue Letter Bible or the Olive Tree NKJV with Strong’s. Search the web for the *Handy-Dandy Hebrew Grammar Chart* by Scott Madden for a guide to prefixes and suffixes.

Another Tool

If you want to look up root words without being on-line, you can download the Olive Tree app to your tablet. The **New King James Version with Strong’s** allows you to look up root words by tapping on the word. Here’s what the NKJV Strong’s looks like on my iPad (the page turns gray when Strong’s is on):



Other Tools

Google Translate is a free and fun on-line resource with keyboard, camera, and microphone input. Google how to input Hebrew with your device.

Olive Tree has a BHS Parsed Hebrew Bible which shows grammar for each word.

Zev Clementson’s Hebrew Bible app (Apple only) displays Hebrew and English, plus Strong’s.



Pimsleur is the best for conversational Hebrew and often has sales on their three levels.

Fellowship

There is no substitute for studying with others. Join a Hebrew Torah group or start your own. Studying together is a huge encouragement. Write me with any questions:

Peter

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