

We will begin the first lecture on Hebrew. /The Hebrew language can be difficult to learn. /However, we can read Hebrew if we become familiar with the twenty-two consonants and a few letters. /At this time we will familiarize ourselves with the Hebrew alphabet.

/We have not yet learned Hebrew, but there are Hebrew words that we know of. /There are words in the English Bible that are pronunciations of Hebrew words. /King David of Israel is spelled דָּוִד (David). /In English, the name David has two syllables, “Da” and “vid.”

/“Da” is an open syllable. /“Vid” is a closed syllable. /We will study open and closed syllables more closely next time. /Hebrew words and sentences are read from right to left. /Vowels are written under consonants. /The word David is written in Hebrew in the following way.

/The letter “D” of the English alphabet is a consonant. /“V” and “D” are also consonants. /Here the word is purposely written from right to left as Hebrew words are written. /The vowels are written under the consonants. /Let’s then look at the Hebrew consonants for the English letters “D” and “V.”

/You will see the Hebrew alphabet for the English letter “d.” /Now, let’s write the Hebrew vowel for the English vowel “a” under the consonant. /In Hebrew, it is pronounced, “David.” /Please read along. David. /In the same way, let’s write another word we know, “amen.”

/Let’s write the English word אָמֵן (Amen) in Hebrew, from right to left. /Let’s spell this out in Hebrew. /Let’s add the vowels to the consonants. /This is read, “amen.” /Now, let’s learn the Hebrew alphabet.

/Please memorize the consonant shapes, names, and phonetic values of each letter. /Read אַ (Aleph). /Please read along. /Aleph. /This is called “Aleph,” and it is a silent syllable. /It can be pronounced, but it is almost silent. /Next, בַּ (Bet). /Please read along. /Bet. /The sound of this vowel is like the letter “b” of the English alphabet. /When this vowel is pronounced softer, it sounds like the letter “v” of the English alphabet.

/Next, גַּ (Gimel). /Please read along. /Gimel. /The sound of this vowel is like the letter “g” of the English alphabet. /Next, דַּ (Dalet). /Please read along. /Dalet. /The sound of this vowel is like the letter “d” of the English alphabet. /Next, הַ (He). /Please read along. /He. /The sound of this vowel is like the letter “h” of the English alphabet.

/Next, וַ (Vav). /Please read along. /Vav. /The sound of this vowel is like the English letter “v.” /This sounds like “waw (와우),” or “vav.” /Next, זַ (Zayin). /Please read along. /Zayin. /This sounds like the English letter “z.” /Next, חַ (Heth **헛트**). /Please read along. /Heth. /This sounds more like “ch (크, k)” than “h” of the English alphabet.

/Next, טַ (Tet). /Please read along. /Tet. /The sound of this consonant is similar to the

letter “t” of the English alphabet. /Next, ך(Yod). /Please read along. /Yod. /The sound of this consonant is like the English letter “y.” /Next, כ(Kaph). /Please read along. /Kaph. /The sound of this consonant is like the English letter “k.”

/Next, ל(Lamed). /Please read along. /Lamed. /The sound of this consonant is similar to the English letter “l.” /Next, מ(Mem). /Please read along. /Mem. /This consonant sounds like the English letter “m.”

/Next, נ(Nun). /Please read along. /Nun. /The sound of this consonant is like the English letter “n.” /Next, ס(Samech סאםעך). /Please read along. /Samech. /The sound of this consonant is like the English letter “s.” /Next, ע(Ayin). /Please read along. /Ayin. /This consonant is silent, and is not pronounced in any particular way.

/Next, פ(Pe). /Pe. /The sound of this consonant is like the English letter “p.” /Next, צ(Tsade צאדע). /Tsade צאדע. /This consonant sounds like “ts” in English. /Next, ק(Qoph). /Qoph. /The sound of this consonant is like the English letter “q.” /Next, ר(Resh). /Resh. /The sound of this consonant is like the English letter “r.”

/Next, ש(Shin). /Please read along. Shin. /Shin. /The sound of this consonant is like “sh” in English. /Next, “Sin.” /Sin. /When the dot is on the left, it is pronounced “sin.” /The sound of this consonant is like the English letter “s.” /Next, ט.

/(Tau) /Tau. /This consonant sounds like the English letter “t.” /Now, let’s familiarize ourselves with the order of how these consonants are written.

/First, “Aleph.” /Draw a diagonal from the top left to the bottom right. /Next, draw a line from top to bottom on the right, and draw another line from top to bottom on the left. /This is “Aleph.” /Next, let’s look at the order of how “Bet” is written. /First draw a curved line like this, and then draw a horizontal line. /Follow along. /Bet.

/Third, “Gimel.” /Draw a line from top to bottom, then draw a small line below it. /This is “Gimel.”

/Next, “Dalet.” /Draw a horizontal line. /Then draw a vertical line down from the end of the horizontal line. /This is “Dalet.” /Next, let’s see the order of how “He” is written. /First, draw a line, and second, draw a vertical line like this. /Please remember that there is some space between them.

/Next, “Waw.” /Waw. /The printed letter /can look like this. /However, when writing it by hand, it is acceptable to draw just a vertical line. /Next, “Zayin.” /Zayin. /First, draw a short horizontal line, and then a long vertical line. /Follow along. /Zayin.

/Next, “Heth.” /First, draw a line, and second, draw two vertical lines. /This is different from “He” in that the horizontal and vertical lines touch each other so that there is no space between the lines. /Next, “Tet.” /First, draw a line and write it at once. /This is “Tet.”

/Next, “Yod.” /“Yod” is spelled like this. /“Yod” is spelled smaller than other letters.  
/Follow along. /Yod. /Next, “Kaph.” /“Kaph” is drawn in one stroke as if drawing an oval. /When “Kaph” comes at the end of a word, which is sometimes called “sofit,” it has a tail-like appearance. /It will look like this. /The order /of how it is written is /one, /two.

/Next, “Lamed.” /Please read along. /“Lamed” is written from top to bottom. /Please follow along.

/Next, “Mem.” /First, draw a vertical line like this. /Next, draw a square. /“Mem” also has a different form when it is the last letter of a word. /When it comes at the end of a word, its shape changes. /“Mem” looks like this. /This is /first, /and then this is second.

/Next, “Nun.” /“Nun” is written in the following way. /This can be written in one stroke. /“Nun” too has a different form when it comes at the end of a word. /This is “Nun” sofit. /This can be written in one stroke. /Next, “Samech (싸멕).” /“Samech” is also written in one stroke. /Next, “Ayin.” /First, draw a diagonal line from right to left. /Next, draw a small stroke here. /Please follow along. /“Ayin.”

/Next, “Pe.” /To write “Pe,” first draw a circle, then draw a small line like this. /This is “Pe.” /“Pe” also has a sofit form. /First, draw a line like this, then this. First, /second, /third. /This is the sofit form.

/Next, “Tsade (차데).” /Start with one dot. /One, /two. /“Tsade” too has a sofit form. /The sofit form is written like this. /First, start with this, /and second, this.

/Next, “Qoph.” /To write “Qoph,” first draw a curved line, /and then draw a vertical line. /Please follow along. /“Qoph.” /Next, “Resh.” /To write “Resh,” draw a roundish circle from left to right. /Next, “Sin.” /First, draw a circle, and then draw a line down the middle. /Next, put a dot on the upper right. /This is “Sin.” /Next, “Shin.” /“Shin” is written in the same way as “Sin.” /Draw a circle, draw a line down the middle, and put a dot on the upper left.

/Lastly, “Tau.” /“Tau” is written in the following way. /This is read, “Tau.” /We will wrap up the Hebrew consonants and study Hebrew vowels.

/The first Hebrew vowel is ַ (Patah 파타). /“Patah” is marked in this way. /This vowel sounds like the English letter “a.” /It has the same phonetic value as “a.”

/Next, ֶ (Qametz 카메츠). /Please read along. /“Qametz.” /This sounds like the “long a” in English. /Next, ִ (Hireq 히렉). /Please read along. /“Hireq.” /“Hireq” sounds like the English letter “i.” /Next, ֵ “Tsere.” /Please read along. /“Tsere (체레).” /“Tsere” sounds like the English letter “e.” /It is the “long e” sound.

/Next, ֊ (Seghol 세골). /Please read along. /“Seghol.” /“Seghol” sounds like the English “e.” /It is the “short e” sound. /Next, ֹ (Holem). /The vowel “Holem” is marked on top of

the consonant. /It has an “o” sound. /“Holem” has a “short o” sound.

/Next, ׀ (Qibbuz **킵부츠**). /Please read along. /“Qibbuz.” /It sounds like the English letter “u.” /“Qibbuz” has a “short u” sound.

/Next, ׀ (Shewa **세와**). /Please read along. /“Shewa.” / “Shewa” has a “soft e” sound. /It is pronounced softly like “oo (으)” and “uh (어).” /“Shewa” is separated into two. /There is the “vocal Shewa,” /which has a sound. It has a sound.

/Next, the “silent Shewa.” /The “silent Shewa” is marked, but it is not pronounced. /Now, let’s see how the vowels are used in words and read them. /Let’s look at “Adam” in Hebrew. /“Qametz (**카메츠**)” is put under “Aleph” and “Dalet.” /This is read, “Adam.”

/Next, let’s study how “Patah (**파타**)” is used.

/David’s wife, בַּת־שֶׁבַע (Bathsheba). /The following are the vowels in the word. / Please follow along. /Bath /she /be. /“Patah” makes the “a” sound. /“Seghol (**세골**)” makes the “e” sound. /“Patah” at the end also has the “a” sound.

/Next, let’s read a word with “Hireq.” / מִצְרַיִם (mitsuraim). /Let’s look at the vowels here. /Please read along. /“mitsuraim.” /“Hireq” makes the “i” sound. /There is a “Shewa” here. /“Shewa” is not pronounced. /We will study how to separate them when we study syllables. /“Patah” here is pronounced like the English “a.”

/Next, “Hireq” has the “i” sound. /mi /tsu /ra /im. /Next, let’s read the word “Tsere (**체레**).”

סַנְחֵרִיב

“sancherib (**산헤립**).” /The following vowels are in the word. /“Patah” makes the “a” sound. /“Tsere” makes the “e” sound. /“Hireq” makes the “i” sound. /It is pronounced /san /he /rib. /In some cases, it is pronounced “ei.” /It would then be “sanheyrib.”

/Next, let’s look at a word with “Seghol.” / בַּת־שֶׁבַע (bathsheba) /“Seghol” makes the “e” sound. /We read it as bat /she /ba. /Next, let’s look at a word with “Holem.” /Let’s look at Boaz, who is in the Book of Ruth. /Let’s add vowels to the consonants in Boaz. /First, “Holem,” which is pronounced “bo.” / בּוֹאֵז (Boaz ).

/Next, let’s look at a word with “Qibbuz (**킵부츠**).” /Caleb’s father, Jephunneh. /Let’s add the vowels. /“Shewa” is a /“vocal Shewa,” /so it would be “je.” /“Qibbuz” is used, /which would be “phun.” /“Seghol” is used, which would be “neh.” / ׀ (Nun) is used twice. /There is a “dagesh forte,” which shows that it is repeated. /It is read, je /phun /neh.

/Next, let’s see how “Shewa (**세와**)” is used. /“Canaan,” the land where God’s people entered. /Let’s see how “Canaan” is written. /In this way, let’s add vowels to the consonants. /We would use the “vocal Shewa” here, which would make an “e” sound. /It would be a “soft e.” /“Canan.”

/Lastly, let’s look at an example with a “silent Shewa.” /Let’s look at מִצְרַיִם (mitsuraim)

again. /“Mitsuraim” is “Egypt.” /Let’s add vowels to “mitsuraim.”

/We discussed that there are open syllables and closed syllables. /Open syllables refer to syllables that end with vowels. /Closed syllables refer to syllables that end with consonants. /The first syllable in “mitsuraim” is “Mem Tsade (차데),” which is a closed syllable that ends with a consonant. /Next, the second syllable is “Resh” and “Patah.”

/Lastly, the syllable with “Yod,” “Hireq” and “Mem.” /The first syllable is a closed syllable. /The second syllable is an open syllable. /The third syllable is a closed syllable. /Like this, if a word ends with a closed syllable, the “Shewa” on the last consonant becomes a “silent Shewa.” /We will study open and closed syllables more closely in our next lecture.

/With this we will conclude the first lecture. /Thank you.