

## Before you get into this text...

In the Hebrew language the Old Testament is called the 'TANAKH' [pronounced 'Tă-knŏck']. The word 'TANAKH' is an acronym made from the first letters of the three main divisions of the Hebrew Bible.

These are

**Tōrăh** (The 'Law'/Pentateuch),

**Něvíēm** (Prophets), and

**K'tŭvēm** (Writings).

The very same books are in the TANAKH that are in the OLD Testament, but the section beginning with 1 Chronicles and ending with Malachi are put in a different order.

The Torah(The 'Law'/Pentateuch) is the same.

The Nevi'im(Prophets) begins with Joshua & ends with Malachi.

The K'tuvim(Writings) contain (listed in order) Psalms, Proverbs, Job, The Song of Songs (Song of Solomon), Ruth, Lamentations, Ecclesiastes, Esther, Daniel, Ezra, Nehemiah, 1 Chronicles, 2 Chronicles. This is how the scriptures were laid out when the New Testament was written.

[The New Testament is called the B'rīt Hădăshăh in Hebrew. The word means 'New Covenant' & the scripture references are Jeremiah 31:31-34 , Matthew 26:28, Mark 14:24, Luke 22:20, 1 Corinthians 11:25, Galatians 4:25, & Hebrews 7:22 to 10:31]

Every year the Jewish community around the world go completely through the first 5 books of the Old Testament in their weekly Synagogue Services. They call it the 'weekly Torah portion'. The Torah portion is generally 3 to 5 chapters long. They start in Genesis sometime in Sept. or Oct. & they finish up in Deut 34, around Aug/Sept. Apparently this system has been in place since before New Testament days. Their one weakness is that they cover Genesis 1:1 to 6:8 in one Torah portion & Genesis 6:9-11:32 in the following week's Torah Portion. I've spent the past 9 years [all year long!] studying these two Torah Portions & I'm not done yet, so I don't think a couple hours out of the year is enough time... So... this web site is a way of presenting some of my research into those two Torah Portions.

Biblical Hebrew reads opposite from English ←←← **read!** and is written & spoken in the present tense, & an ancient form of it was probably the original language spoken by Adam. At the Tower of Babel it was 'overflowed' with other words. The word that is translated into English as '*confounded*' in Genesis 11:7, means '*to overflow*' in Hebrew. The thought behind it is to pour one liquid into another until it overflows. God poured new words into the old batch & it mixed in the way that two liquids would. As it overflowed & spilled out to form different streams, it picked up debris along the way. The people who were still in the vicinity of Mt Ararat kept the original language.

In New Testament days the mother tongue was Hebrew (John 20: 16). The highly educated Jews spoke Biblical Hebrew & the lower classes spoke a version of Hebrew called Aramaic (not to be confused with Arabic). [It would have been similar to the differences between Australian & American English.] Most likely the disciples were proficient in Greek too, & possibly Latin because the area in which they lived was a trade route. We see Peter communicating with Gentiles in Acts 10 & Galatians 2: 12 & we know from Church History that John lived in Ephesus when he was an old man. We see Paul communicating to his own people in Hebrew (See Acts 21: 40. See also Acts 26: 14 NASB or KJV, not NIV. {The NIV is a paraphrase of sorts, & not a literal translation})

In Biblical Hebrew, a huge majority of sentences begin with 'and'. In the English Language, that is not acceptable, but in Hebrew it's normal. The word 'and' is 'ו' (vav) in Hebrew & is a picture of a nail with its end bent to form a hook. In Hebrew, one thought 'hooks' on to the next. Check out in the New Testament how many times you see them starting their sentences with 'and'. Although the New Testament was written in Koine Greek, the writers' original thoughts were in Hebrew, including Dr Luke! {Luke was a Jewish Doctor, & probably a Levite, & Luke 24: 13-33 is probably his own personal testimony. He doesn't mention his own name, only Cleopas's. The writers of the Gospels always refer to themselves in the 3<sup>rd</sup> person.}

One Hebrew word often makes up 2 or 3 English words. In the following research the Hebrew is broken down into the English counterparts. **Because of this**, for **clarity**, every **other** Hebrew **word** is **an** alternate **color**. **The 'English' transliteration is 'Sephardic' pronunciation.**

'ch' is always pronounced like the 'ch' in 'Bach', & not like the 'ch' in 'chicken'.