

# 119

## MINISTRIES

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### Learn Biblical Hebrew Lesson 3

Welcome back to Learn Biblical Hebrew with 119 Ministries! This is lesson 3. You can find a written summary of this lesson at the link in the description below this video. ([CLICK HERE](#))

Let's review what we learned last lesson. We learned five letters:



(Right to Left)

Aleph, which is silent,

Bet, which makes the sound of the letter V as in *violet*, or, if it has a dot in the middle of it, the sound of the letter B as in *boy*,

Gimel makes the sound of hard G, “g” as in *girl*,

Dalet makes the sound of the letter D as in *door*, and

Hey makes the sound of the letter H, and it is silent at the end of a word.

We also learned two vowel points, which both make the same sound:



The Patach is a straight horizontal line, and it makes the sound “ah”, and

The Qamats looks kind of like a T, and it also makes the sound “ah.” Both of these vowels are written underneath of a letter, and they both make the same sound.

We also learned two words. We read and pronounce these words from right to left,



The first word is spelled Aleph, with a Qamats vowel, and then Bet with no Dagesh. It is pronounced “av”, and it means *father*.

The second word is spelled Dalet, with a Qamats vowel, and then Gimel. It is pronounced “dag”, and it means a *fish*.

Now, we’re going to start learning some more letters, starting with the sixth letter, the Vav.



Vav

- “v”
- Same sound as Bet

Vav makes the sound of the letter “V” as in violet. This is the same sound that is made by a Bet with no Dagesh. Some linguists believe that the Vav used to make a sound more like a “W”, but in the dialect we are learning, it makes the sound “v”.

The seventh letter is the Zayin. Zayin makes the sound of the letter Z, as in *zebra*.



Zayin

- “z”

The eighth letter is the Chet. Chet makes the sound “kh/ch”.



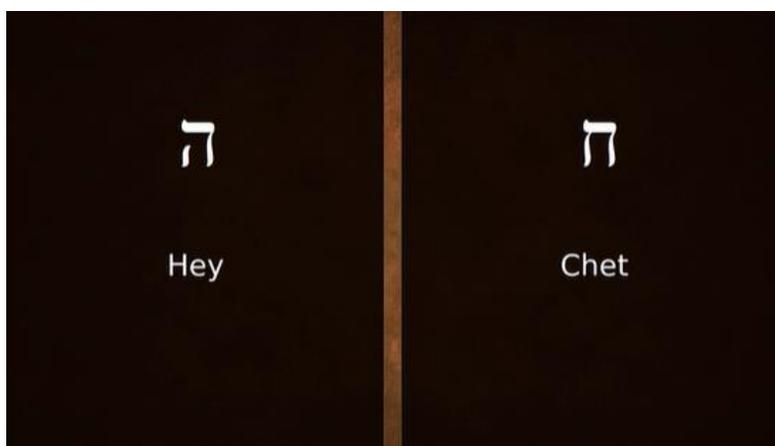
Chet

- Makes a sound not found in English
- Written “ch” in these lessons

This can be a tricky sound to make, “kh/ch;” it comes from the back of your throat and it’s similar to the sound people make when they are preparing to spit. It’s not that sound, but that gives you an idea of how to make it. It takes some practice to get comfortable with it.

Since this is a sound that we do not have in English words, English does not have a letter or combination of letters that actually make this sound. So, when Hebrew is transliterated into English, since we don’t have any letters that make this sound, we basically have to make something up to represent it. There are a number of different ways to do this. Usually, what is used to represent the sound of the Chet is the letters CH. Of course, normally in English, CH makes “ch”, but Hebrew does not have the sound “ch”, you can assume any time you see an English transliteration of a Hebrew word, and that word has the letters CH in it, the sound those letters make is “kh/ch”.

One other thing to note about the Chet is that it looks very similar to the Hey. In fact, the only difference between the Chet and the Hey...



...is that the Hey has this little gap in the upper left corner. So the Chet is always in one piece, the Hey is separated into two pieces by that little gap. So, pay close attention when you’re reading and writing a Hey or a Chet.

With that Chet, we can make our next word. This word is spelled Aleph, Qamats under the Aleph, and then Chet at the end. So, let’s pronounce this word. The Aleph is silent, and then the Qamats makes the sound “ah”, and finally the Chet makes the sound “kh.”



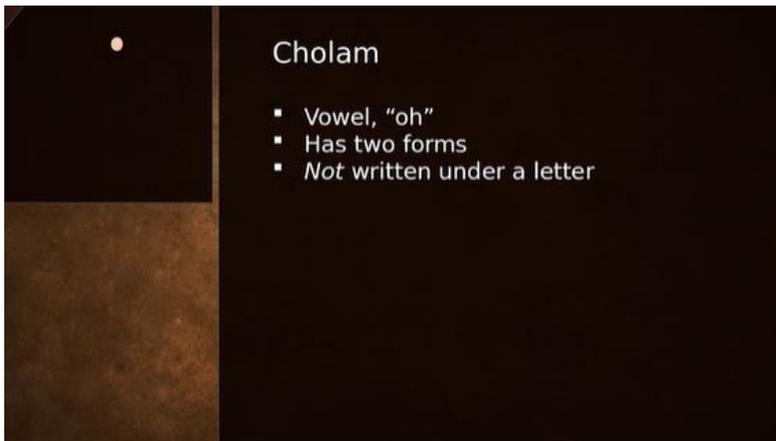
All together, this is pronounced “ach”.

“Ach” means *brother*.

Now, here is our next letter, the ninth letter. This letter is called Tet. Tet makes the sound of the letter T, as in *table*.



Here we have our next vowel. This vowel is called Cholam.



It is a single dot, and it makes the sound “oh.” There are two forms of the Cholam, which we will learn about in just a bit. The Cholam is not written underneath a letter. So, most vowels are written underneath of letters; the Cholam is written above and to the left of a letter.

## Using Cholam

“do”

“bo”

So, here is what that looks like. On the right, we have a Bet with a Dagesh, and if we want the Cholam sound to come after that Bet, then we write the Cholam a little bit off of the upper left corner of it, and that will give us the sound “bo”. On the left, we have same thing but with a Dalet. We’ll pronounce the “D” of the Dalet first, then the Cholam, so that will make “do”. So, again, most vowels are written underneath of letters, but the Cholam is written like this instead.

Also, as I mentioned, the Cholam has two forms. The one form it can take is just a single dot, like we just saw, and the second form it can take is this one: a dot written above a letter Vav.

### Cholam - “Full” form

- Entire unit makes sound “oh”
- Vav does not make “V” sound here

If you see a Vav with a Cholam over the top of it, then the Vav will not make its V sound. The Vav just becomes part of the vowel, so the only sound that is made here is the “oh” sound of the Cholam. So a Cholam can be just a dot by itself, or a dot over a Vav, either way, it makes the sound “oh”.

Here you can see both forms of the Cholam in use.

## Using Cholam

בו

“bo”

בֹּ

“bo”

On the right, there is a Bet followed by a Cholam, and this would be pronounced “bo”. On the left, you can see a Bet followed by a full Cholam, so a Vav with a Cholam over the top, and this would also be pronounced “bo”. That Vav, when it’s combined with a Cholam, does not make the V sound; it’s just considered part of the Cholam vowel.

With the Cholam, we can make our next real word.

## Word

טוב

“tov”

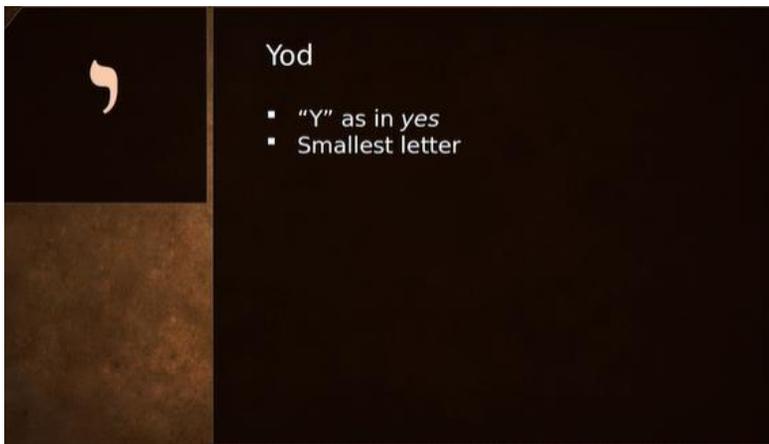
good

This word is spelled Tet, then Vav with Cholam, and finally, a Bet. So, let’s pronounce this word. Tet makes “t”, the Vav with the Cholam makes the sound “oh”, and the Bet with no Dagesh makes “v”

All together, this is pronounced “tov”

Tov means *good*.

Our last letter for this lesson is the Yod.



Yod makes the sound of the letter Y, as in *yes*. Yod is the smallest letter in the alphabet, which you'll see in our next word.

This is what the Yod looks like next to a normal-sized letter. It's about half the height.

If you were to write these letters on notebook paper, a normal letter like the Dalet might be two lines tall, and the Yod would only be one line tall. Also, notice that the Yod lines up with the top of the Dalet, not the bottom. If the other letters are considered to be standing on the bottom of the line they are written on, then the Yod looks like it's floating next to the other letters.

Let's go ahead and read this word. We have a Yod, a Qamats under the Yod, and then a Dalet at the end. To pronounce this, the Yod makes “y”, the Qamats makes “ah”, and finally the Dalet makes “d”



All together, this is pronounced “yad”

Yad means *hand*. Actually, Yad is not just the hand, but is what we would consider the hand and the forearm together. That whole structure is called *Yad*.

Let's review what we learned this lesson. We learned five new letters: Vav makes the sound “v”, Zayin makes the sound “z”, Chet makes the sound “kh”, Tet makes the sound “t”, and Yod makes the sound “y”.

Lesson 3 Recap:

י ט ח ז ו  
Y T "CH" Z V

We learned one new vowel, the Cholam. Cholam makes the sound "oh". It has two forms: one is just a dot, and the other is a dot over top of a Vav.

Lesson 3 Recap:

ו̇ ·  
Cholam

We also learned three new words. Ach means *brother*, Tov means *good*, and Yad means *hand*.

Lesson 3 Recap:

יָד טוֹב אָח  
3 words

That concludes lesson 3. You can find the exercises for this lesson at the link in the description below. [\(CLICK HERE\)](#)

Please go there and do the exercises, and I'll see you again in lesson 4 to learn more letters and vowels. Shalom!

*For more on learning Biblical Hebrew and other teachings, please visit us at [www.testeverything.net](http://www.testeverything.net)*

**Shalom, and may Yahweh bless you in walking in the whole Word of God.**

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