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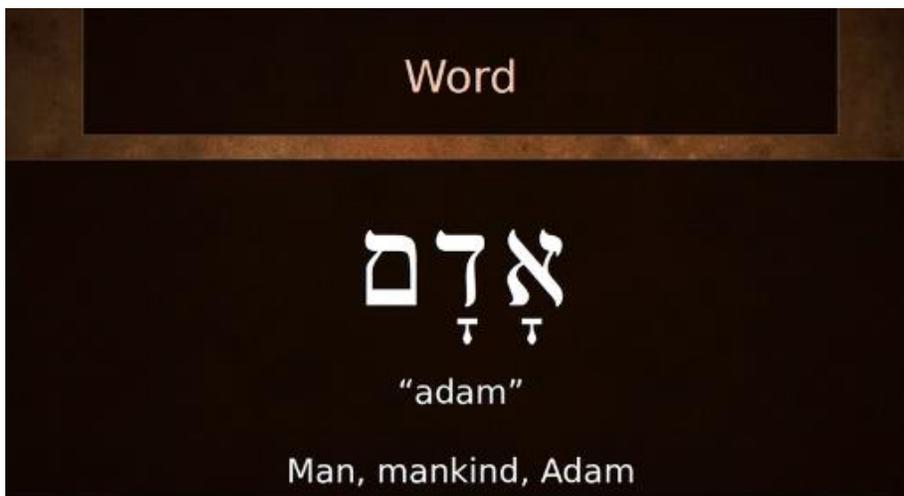
Learning Biblical Hebrew

Lesson 8

Welcome back to Learn Biblical Hebrew with 119 Ministries! This is lesson 8. You can find a written summary of this lesson at the link in the description below this video.

So, now that you know all of the letters and vowel sounds, we’re going to start learning new words and using those words to make sentences. I’m going to introduce new words much more quickly now; if I’m going too fast, feel free to pause the video and take your time to identify the letters and vowels and pronounce the word yourself before moving on.

Here is a new word: it is spelled Aleph, Dalet, Mem.



This word is pronounced Adam.

Adam means man. Adam is also a name, the name of the first man in the Bible.

This word is spelled Bet, Aleph,



and it is pronounced Ba.

Ba means “coming.”



With these two words, we can make our first sentence. Adam Ba means “Adam is coming.” This sentence is pretty simple, but there are some important things about it that I need to explain.

The first thing to explain is where the “is” in this sentence comes from. Adam means Adam, and Ba means coming, but why do I translate this sentence “Adam is coming”? Where is the Hebrew word for is?

The answer is that there is no Hebrew word for is. Hebrew has a word for “was,” and a word for “will be,” but no word for “is”. The idea of “is” is just assumed in Hebrew; there is no need to have a separate word for it. The idea of the word is there, but the word itself is, in a sense, invisible. So, when we translate Hebrew sentences, since it is incorrect in English to say “Adam coming,” we must add an “is” to our translation wherever that is appropriate.

A second thing to explain which is relevant to our sentence is what we call the parts of speech. We can think of words as having different jobs or different purposes, and we have names for each of those purposes. For example, the purpose of some words is to represent a person, a place, or a thing.

Parts of speech

- Noun: word for a person, place, or thing

Any word for a person, place, or thing is called a noun. In our sentence, “Adam Ba”, the word Adam is a noun, because Adam is a person.

Parts of speech

- Noun: word for a person, place, or thing
- Verb: word for an action

Another part of speech is a verb. A verb is a word for an action. So, in our sentence, the word Ba is a verb, because coming is an action. So, again, a noun is a word for a person, place, or thing, and a verb is a word for an action.

So, words have meanings of their own, but to make good use of words, we have to combine them in a way that makes sense.

A sentence is basically the smallest set of words we can use to make what we call a complete thought. And, we can use the parts of speech to describe what a sentence has to have in it in order to make sense.

Rules for sentences

- Sentences combine words to form a complete thought
- Every sentence must contain a verb

So, we need at least one verb in every sentence. In our example sentence, “Adam Ba,” it wouldn’t work to just say “Adam.” That’s not a complete thought by itself—what are you telling me about Adam? But when you add the verb, you’ve completed the thought. “Adam is coming.”

Now, of course, it also wouldn’t work for a sentence to only have a verb. If our sentence was just “Ba”, then that also isn’t a complete thought, because it hasn’t told us who or what is coming.

Rules for sentences

- Sentences combine words to form a complete thought
- Every sentence must contain a verb
- Every sentence must also contain a subject; that is, a noun that is performing the action of the verb

So, every sentence also needs to have a subject. The subject of a sentence is a noun that is performing the action of the verb. So, in our sentence “Adam Ba”, Ba is the verb, and Adam is the subject, because Adam is the one who is coming. Every sentence needs to have, at the very least, a verb and a subject.

It’s worth pointing out that these rules for sentences that I’ve just described are true not only for Hebrew, but for all languages. So, in any language, including English, a sentence must contain a subject and a verb. There is, however, one very important difference between English and Hebrew in the way sentences are constructed.

In English, the subject is always written before the verb. So, I must say “Adam is coming,” I cannot say “coming is Adam.” Since Adam is the subject, Adam must be written before the verb.

Rules for sentences

- In English, the subject precedes the verb. “Adam is coming.” is correct, but “Coming is Adam.” is incorrect.
- In Hebrew, the subject and verb can be written in any order, and the sentence is still correct.

However, in Hebrew, the subject does not have to come before the verb. The order of the words is actually flexible.

So, in our example sentence, we have written our subject first and our verb second, “Adam Ba.” But,



אדם בא = בא אדם

Adam is coming.

we could just as easily write our verb first and our subject second. We could write “Ba Adam,” and our sentence would still mean exactly the same thing. Again, in Hebrew, the subject and verb can be written in any order.

Let’s review what we’ve learned today. First, we learned that there is no Hebrew word for “is,” so we have to put the “is” in the sentence ourselves when we translate from Hebrew to English.

Lesson Review

- Hebrew has no word for “is.”
- A noun is a word for a person, place, or thing
- A verb is a word for an action
- Every sentence must have a verb
- Every sentence must have a subject

We learned about the parts of speech. A noun is a word for a person, place, or thing;

A verb is a word for an action,

We also learned some rules about sentences. Every sentence must have a verb in it,

and every sentence must also have a subject that is acting out the verb.

Also, we learned that in English, the order of words in a sentence is very important to the meaning of the sentence, but in Hebrew, the subject and verb can be written in any order, and the meaning of the sentence does not change.

Lesson Review

- Hebrew sentences can have the verb and subject in any order

That concludes lesson 8. As usual, you can find the exercises for this lesson at the link in the description. Definitely check that out and practice putting a few sentences together before we move on to making our sentences a little more interesting. I'll see you again next time. Shalom!

We pray you have been blessed by this teaching. Remember, continue to test everything. Shalom! For more on this and other teachings, please visit us at www.testeverything.net

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

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