

# How the Bible Is Written

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**Genesis 1:1**           :בְּרֵאשִׁית בָּרָא אֱלֹהִים אֶת הַשָּׁמַיִם וְאֶת הָאָרֶץ:  
In the beginning of God created the heavens and the earth

**Hosea 1:2**           תְּחִלַּת דְּבַר־יְהוָה בְּהוֹשֵׁעַ  
The beginning of YHWH spoke to Hosea

**Genesis 1:8 (Day 2)**   :וַיִּקְרָא אֱלֹהִים לְרֻקְיעַ שָׁמַיִם וַיְהִי־עֶרֶב וַיְהִי־בֹקֶר יוֹם שֵׁנִי:  
And God called the expanse ‘sky’; and there was evening and there was morning, a second day.

**Genesis 1** – refrain:                   :וַיֵּרָא אֱלֹהִים כִּי־טוֹב:  
And God saw that it was good.

**Genesis 1:14-19**    :אֶת־שְׁנֵי הַמְּאֹרֹת הַגְּדֹלִים אֶת־הַמְּאֹר הַגָּדֹל לְמַמְשֶׁלֶת הַיּוֹם  
וְאֶת־הַמְּאֹר הַקָּטָן לְמַמְשֶׁלֶת הַלַּיְלָה  
And the two great lights: the greater light to govern the day  
and the lesser light to govern the night.  
(no mention of *šemeš* “sun” and *yareah* “moon”)

**Genesis 1:10**       :וּלְמַקְוֵה הַמַּיִם קָרָא יַמִּים  
And the gathering of waters he called ‘seas’.  
(use of plural *yammim* ‘seas’, not singular *yam* ‘sea’)

## Genesis 1 – days of the week:

- :יוֹם אֶחָד           ‘day one’
- :יוֹם שֵׁנִי           ‘a second day’
- :יוֹם שְׁלִישִׁי       ‘a third day’
- :יוֹם רְבִיעִי       ‘a fourth day’
- :יוֹם חֲמִישִׁי       ‘a fifth day’
- :יוֹם הַשִּׁשִּׁי       ‘the sixth day’

**Genesis 1 – refrain:** וַיֵּרָא אֱלֹהִים כִּי־טוֹב:  
And God saw that it was good.

**Genesis 1:31** וַיֵּרָא אֱלֹהִים אֶת־כָּל־אֲשֶׁר עָשָׂה וְהִנֵּה־טוֹב מְאֹד  
And God saw all that he had made, and behold, very good.

**Genesis 2:1-3** no mention of “Shabbat”:  
(1x) יוֹם הַשְּׁבִיעִי (2x) בַּיּוֹם הַשְּׁבִיעִי  
“on the seventh day” “the seventh day”

**Genesis 1 – vegetation:**

**11** וַיֹּאמֶר אֱלֹהִים תִּדְשָׂא הָאָרֶץ דְּשֵׂא עֵשֶׂב מִזְרִיעַ זֶרַע עֵץ פְּרִי עֵשֶׂה פְּרִי לְמִינֹו  
אֲשֶׁר זֶרְעוּ־בֹו עַל־הָאָרֶץ וַיְהִי־כֵן:

**11.** And God said, “Let the earth vegetate vegetation, plants that seed seed, fruit trees that produce fruit (each) according to its kind with its seed in it, upon the earth”; and it was so.

**12** וַתּוֹצֵא הָאָרֶץ דְּשֵׂא עֵשֶׂב מִזְרִיעַ זֶרַע לְמִינֵהוּ וְעֵץ עֵשֶׂה־פְּרִי אֲשֶׁר זֶרְעוּ־בֹו לְמִינֵהוּ  
וַיֵּרָא אֱלֹהִים כִּי־טוֹב:

**12.** And the earth brought-forth vegetation, plants that seed seed (each) according to its kind, and trees that produce fruit with its seed in it (each) according to its kind; and God saw that it was good.

Genesis 1:11 זֶרַע לְמִינֹו *la-mino* ‘according to its kind’ (standard)

Genesis 1:12 זֶרַע לְמִינֵהוּ (2x) *la-minehu* ‘according to its kind’ (archaic)

**29** וַיֹּאמֶר אֱלֹהִים הִנֵּה נָתַתִּי לָכֶם אֶת־כָּל־עֵשֶׂב | זֶרַע זֶרַע אֲשֶׁר עַל־פְּנֵי כָל־הָאָרֶץ  
וְאֶת־כָּל־הָעֵץ אֲשֶׁר־בֹו פְּרִיעַץ זֶרַע זֶרַע לָכֶם יִהְיֶה לְאֹכְלָהּ:

**29.** And God said, “Behold, I give to you all the plants that seed seed that are on the face of all the earth, and all trees that have in it the fruit of the tree that seed seed; for you they will be food.

Genesis 1:11-12 מִזְרִיעַ זֶרַע *mazria zera* ‘seed seed’ (Hiph’il/causative)

Genesis 1:29 זֶרַע זֶרַע *zorea zera* ‘seed seed’ (Qal/simple)

**Genesis 1:24** וַחַיְתוֹ-אֲרֶץ לְמִינָהּ *hayto 'eres* (archaic)  
'and the animals of the earth (each) according to its 'kind'

**Genesis 1:25** אֶת-חַיֵּי הָאָרֶץ לְמִינָהּ *hayyat ha-'ares* (standard)  
'the animals of the earth (each) according to its kind'

### ***Chiasmus***

**Genesis 12:3** וְאַבְרָמָה מְבָרְכֶיךָ  
וּמְקַלְלֶיךָ אֶאָר  
And let me bless those who bless you,  
And he who curses you, I will damn.

### ***Janus Parallelism***

#### **Genesis 15:1**

Do not fear, Avram, אֶל-תִּירָא אַבְרָם  
I am your shield / grantor (*magen*), אֲנִכִּי מִגֵּן לָךְ  
Your reward (shall be) very great. שְׂכָרְךָ הַרְבֵּה מְאֹד:

**Genesis 14:20** וּבָרוּךְ אֱלֹהֵי עֵלְיוֹן אֲשֶׁר-מָגֵן צָרֶיךָ בְּיָדְךָ  
And blessed be 'El 'Elyon who has granted (*miggen*)  
your enemies into your hand.

#### **Song of Songs 2:11**

The blossoms appear in the land, הַנְּצַנִּים נִרְאוּ בָאָרֶץ  
The time of pruning / singing (*zamir*) has arrived; עַתַּת הַזְּמִיר הִגִּיעַ  
And the voice of the turtledove וְקוֹל הַתּוֹר נִשְׁמַע בְּאֶרְצֵנוּ:  
is heard in our land.

## Genesis 15:2-4

2 וַיֹּאמֶר אַבְרָם אֲדֹנָי יְהוִה מִה־תִּתְּנֶנְלִי וְאֲנֹכִי הוֹלֵךְ עֲרִירִי וּבְיָמֶיךָ בֵּיתִי הוּא דָמְשֶׁק׃  
אֵלֵיעֶזֶר׃ 3 וַיֹּאמֶר אַבְרָם הֵן לִי לֹא נָתַתָּה זָרַע וְהִנֵּה בֶן־בֵּיתִי יוֹרֵשׁ אֹתִי׃  
4 וְהִנֵּה דְבַר־יְהוָה אֵלָיו לֵאמֹר לֹא יִרְשְׁךָ זֶה כִּי־אִם אֲשֶׁר יֵצֵא מִמֶּעֶיךָ הוּא יִרְשְׁךָ׃

2. And Avram said, “Lord YHWH, what will you give me, and I go childless; and the son domestic (*ben mēšeq*) of my house is Dammeseq (*dammēšeq*) Eli’ezer.”

3. And Avram said, “Here you have not given me seed, and behold the son of my house will inherit me.”

4. And behold the word of YHWH to him, saying, “This-one shall not inherit you, but rather (one) who goes out from your innards, he shall inherit you.”

**Genesis 15:16** וְדוֹר רְבִיעִי יָשׁוּבוּ הֵנָּה כִּי לֹא־שָׁלַם עֲוֹן הָאֱמֹרִי עַד־הֵנָּה׃

And the fourth generation shall return hither, for the iniquity of the Amorite will not be complete until then.

## 7/10 Convention

### Genesis 15:19-21

19 אֶת־הַקֵּינִי וְאֶת־הַקֵּינִיזִי וְאֶת־הַקַּדְמוֹנִי׃ 20 וְאֶת־הַחֲתִי וְאֶת־הַפְּרִזִּי וְאֶת־הַרְפָּאִים׃  
21 וְאֶת־הָאֱמֹרִי וְאֶת־הַכְּנַעֲנִי וְאֶת־הַגִּרְגָּשִׁי וְאֶת־הַיְבוּסִי׃

<sup>19</sup> And the Qenite and the Qenizzite, and the Qadmonite. <sup>20</sup> and the Hittite and the Perizzite, and the Repha'im. <sup>21</sup> and the Amorite and the Canaanite, and the Girgashite, and the Jebusite.

**Genesis 5** Adam / Seth / Enosh / Kenan / Mahalalel / Jared / Enoch / Methusaleh / Lamech / Noah

**Ruth 4:18-22** וְאֵלֶּה תּוֹלְדוֹת פֶּרֶץ – ‘these are the generations of Peretz’ – Peretz / Hetzron / Ram / ‘Amminadav / Nahshon / Salma ≈ Salmon / Bo‘az / ‘Oved / Yishay / David

**Exodus 9:13-35** – Seventh Plague (23 verses)

including 9:13-19, the longest divine speech in the plagues account

**Genesis 12:10-20 and 20:1-18:** the two wife-sister stories

Genesis 20:2                      וַיֹּאמֶר אַבְרָהָם אֶל־שָׂרָה אִשְׁתּוֹ אַחֹתִי הִוא  
And Avraham said to Sara his wife, “She is my sister”;

Genesis 20:9-10

9 וַיִּקְרָא אַבִּימֶלֶךְ לְאַבְרָהָם וַיֹּאמֶר לוֹ מַה־עָשִׂיתָ לָּנוּ וּמַה־חָטַטְתָּ לִּי  
כִּי־הִבַּאתָ עָלַי וְעַל־מַמְלַכְתִּי חֲטָאָה גְדוֹלָה מִעֲשִׂים אֲשֶׁר לֹא־יַעֲשׂוּ עַשְׂוֹת עַמּוּדִי:  
10 וַיֹּאמֶר אַבִּימֶלֶךְ אֶל־אַבְרָהָם מַה רָאִיתָ כִּי עָשִׂיתָ אֶת־הַדָּבָר הַזֶּה:

9. And Avimelekh called to Avraham, and he said to him, “What have you done to us, and what have I sinned against you, that you would bring upon me and upon my kingdom a great sin, doings that are not to be done you have done with me.”

10. And Avimelekh said to Avraham, “What did you see that you did this thing?”

Genesis 20:12-13

12 וְגַם־אִמְנָה אַחֹתִי בַת־אָבִי הִוא אֵךְ לֹא בַת־אִמִּי וְתַהֲיִלִּי לְאִשָּׁה:  
13 וַיְהִי כַּאֲשֶׁר הִתְעַו אֹתִי אֱלֹהִים מִבֵּית אָבִי וְאָמַר לָהּ זֶה חֲסִדְךָ אֲשֶׁר תַּעֲשִׂי עַמּוּדִי  
אֵל כָּל־הַמְּקוֹם אֲשֶׁר נִבְּוא שָׁמָּה אֲמַרְיִלִּי אָחִי הִוא:

12. And indeed in truth, she is my sister, the daughter of my father, though not the daughter of my mother; and she became my wife.

13. And when the gods caused-me-to-wander from the house of my father, I said to her, ‘This is the kind-deed (*hesed*) that you should do with me, unto every place which we come there, say of me, “He is my brother”’.

Leviticus 20:17

וְאִישׁ אֲשֶׁר־יִקַּח אֶת־אָחֹתוֹ בַת־אָבִיו אוֹ בַת־אִמּוֹ וּרְאָה אֶת־עֶרְוַתָּהּ וְהִיא־תִרְאֶה אֶת־  
עֶרְוַתוֹ חֲסֵד הִוא וְנִכְרְתוּ לְעֵינֵי בְנֵי עַמָּם עֶרְוַת אַחֹתוֹ גְּלוּהוּ עוֹנֵו יִשָּׂא:

And a man who takes his sister, the daughter of his father or the daughter of his mother, and he sees her nakedness, and he sees his nakedness, it is a bad-deed (*hesed*), and they shall be cut before the eyes of their people; the nakedness of his sister he uncovered, his iniquity he must bear.

(11QT 66:14 changes חסד *hesed* ‘bad-deed’ to תועבה *to‘eba* ‘abomination’.)

Genesis 11:29

וַיִּקַּח אַבְרָם וְנַחֲוֹר לָהֶם נָשִׁים שֵׁם אִשְׁת־אַבְרָם שָׂרָי  
וְשֵׁם אִשְׁת־נַחֲוֹר מִלְכָּה בַת־הָרָן אֲבִי־מִלְכָּה וְאָבִי יִסְכָּה:

And Avram and Nahor took for themselves wives: the name of the wife of Avram was Saray; and the name of the wife of Nahor was Milka the daughter of Haran, the father of Milka and the father of Iska.

***Readers and characters with different knowledge***

Genesis 34:26

וְאֶת־חַמּוֹר וְאֶת־שֶׁכֶם בְּנוֹ הָרָגוּ לְפִי־חֶרֶב  
וַיִּקְחוּ אֶת־דִּינָה מִבֵּית שֶׁכֶם וַיֵּצְאוּ:

And Hamor and Shekhem his son, they killed by the mouth of the sword;  
And they took Dina from the house of Shekhem, and they went-out.

Genesis 22:1

וַיְהִי אַחֲרֵי הַדְּבָרִים הָאֵלֶּה וַהֲאֱלֹהִים נִסָּה אֶת־אַבְרָהָם  
And it was after these things, and God tested Avraham.

**2 Samuel 11-12** – story of David, Batsheva, and Uriyya the Hittite

2 Samuel 23:8

אֵלֶּה שְׁמוֹת הַגִּבּוֹרִים אֲשֶׁר לְדָוִד

These are the names of David's heroes.

2 Samuel 23:39:

אֲוִרְיָה הַחִתִּי כָּל שְׁלֹשִׁים וְשִׁבְעָה:

Uriyya the Hittite – total: thirty-seven.

**2 Samuel 11:1** (A) יְהִי לְתַשׁוּבַת הַשָּׁנָה לְעֵת | צֵאת הַמַּלְאָכִים (L) / הַמַּלְאָכִים (A)

And it was, at the turn of the year, at the time when kings go-out [to battle]

(key noun spelled like *mal'akim* 'messengers', but read as *malkim/malakim* 'kings')

## Genesis 27 – Jacob receives the blessing

Genesis 27:3-4

3 וְעַתָּה שְׂאֵנָא כְּלִיךָ תְּלִיךָ וְקִשְׁתְּךָ וְצֵא הַשָּׂדֶה וְצוּדָה לִי צֹדֵד\*:  
4 וְעֲשֵׂה-לִי מְטַעֲמִים כַּאֲשֶׁר אֶהְבֵּתִי וְהִבִּיאָה לִי וְאֹכְלָה בְּעֵבֹר תְּבָרְכֵךָ נַפְשִׁי בְּטָרִם  
אָמוֹת:

3. And now, please get your items, your quiver and your bow, and go out to the field and hunt for me some hunting-game.

4. And make for me delicacies as I like, and bring (them) to me so that I may eat, in order that my inner-being (*νερεξ*) may bless you before I die.”

Genesis 27:7

הִבִּיאָה לִי צֹדֵד וְעֲשֵׂה-לִי מְטַעֲמִים וְאֹכְלָה  
וְאִבְרַכְכָּה לִפְנֵי יְהוָה לִפְנֵי מוֹתִי:

7. ‘Bring to me hunting-game, and make for me delicacies (*mat’ammim*) so that I may eat, so that I may bless you before YHWH before my death.’

Genesis 27:10

וְהִבֵּאתָ לְאָבִיךָ וְאָכַל בְּעֵבֶר אֲשֶׁר יְבָרְכֵךָ לִפְנֵי מוֹתוֹ:

10. And you will bring (them) to your father, and he will eat, in order that because he will bless you before his death.”

Genesis 27:19

עָשִׂיתִי כַּאֲשֶׁר דִּבַּרְתָּ אֵלַי קוּם-נָא שֹׁבָה וְאֹכְלָה מִצִּידִי  
בְּעֵבֹר תְּבָרְכֵנִי נַפְשֵׁךָ:

19. “I did as you spoke to me, arise please, sit, and eat of my hunting-game, in order that your inner-being (*νερεξ*) may bless me.”

Genesis 27:11-13

11 וַיֹּאמֶר יַעֲקֹב אֶל-רִבְקָה אִמּוֹ הֲנֵן עָשׂוֹ אָחִי אִישׁ שָׂעֵר וְאָנֹכִי אִישׁ חָלָק:  
12 אוּלַי יִמְשְׁנֵנִי אָבִי וְהִיִּיתִי בְּעֵינָיו כַּמְתַּעֲתֵעַ וְהִבֵּאתִי עָלַי קְלָלָה וְלֹא בְרָכָה:  
13 וְתֹאמַר לֹא אִמּוֹ עָלַי קְלָלְתָּ בְּנֵי אָדָם שָׁמַע בְּקוֹלִי וְלֹא קָח-לִי:

11. And Ya‘aqov said to Rivqa his mother, “Behold Esav my brother is a hairy man, and I am a smooth (*halaq*) man.

12. Perhaps my father will feel me, and I will be in his eyes as a mocker (*mata’tea*), and I will bring upon myself a curse and not a blessing.”

13. And his mother said to him, “Upon me your curse, my son; just hearken to my voice, and go, take for me.”

Proverbs 26:28                    לְשׁוֹן־שֶׁקֶר יִשְׁנֵא דָבָר וּפִה חֶלֶק יַעֲשֶׂה מִדְּחָה:  
A lying tongue hates those crushed by it; and a smooth (*halaq*) mouth  
wreaks ruin.

Joshua 11:16-17

16 וַיִּקַּח יְהוֹשֻׁעַ אֶת־כָּל־הָאָרֶץ הַזֹּאת הַהָר וְאֶת־כָּל־הַנֶּגֶב וְאֶת כָּל־אֶרֶץ הַגִּישׁוֹן וְאֶת־  
הַשְּׁפֵלָה וְאֶת־הָעֲרָבָה וְאֶת־הָרִשְׁאָל וְשִׁפְלָתָהּ:  
17 מִן־הָהָר הַחֶלֶק הָעוֹלָה שְׁעִיר וְעַד־בַּעַל גָּד בְּבִקְעַת הַלְּבָנוֹן תַּחַת הַר־חֶרְמֹון  
וְאֶת כָּל־מַלְכֵיהֶם לְכַד וַיִּבְּסוּ וַיִּמִּיתֵם:

**16.** And Joshua took all of this land: the mountain and all the Negev, and all the land of Goshen, and the lowland, and the Arava, and the mountain of Israel and its lowland.

**17.** From Mount Halaq, which goes up to Se'ir, until Ba'al Gad in the rift of Lebanon, underneath Mount Hermon, and all their kings he captured, and he slew them, and he killed them.

Genesis 27:4-14            מְטַעֲמִים (*mat'ammim*) (4x)

Genesis 29:26            לֹא־יַעֲשֶׂה כֵן בְּמִקוֹמֵנוּ לָתֵת הַצְעִירָה לְפָנֵי הַבְּכִירָה:  
It is not done thus in our place, to give the younger before the firstborn.

Genesis 35:8            וַתָּמָת דְּבִרָה מִיַּנְקַת רַבָּקָה וַתִּקְבָּר מִתַּחַת לְבַיַּת־אֵל תַּחַת הָאֵלוֹן  
וַיִּקְרָא שְׁמוֹ אֵלוֹן בְּכֹוֹת:

And Deborah the wet-nurse of Rebekah died, and she was buried near Bet-'El, under an oak-tree; and he called its name 'Allon Bakut / Oak of Weeping.



## Genesis 29 – Jacob and Rachel

Genesis 29:2-3

2 וַיֵּרָא וְהִנֵּה בְּאֵר בְּשׂדֵה וְהִנֵּה שְׁלֹשָׁה עֲדָרֵי־צֹאן רֹבְצִים עָלֶיהָ כִּי מִן־הַבְּאֵר הָהוּא יִשְׁקוּ הָעֲדָרִים וְהָאֶבֶן גְּדֹלָה עַל־פִּי הַבְּאֵר:  
3 וְנֹאֲסָפוּ־שָׁמָּה כָּל־הָעֲדָרִים וְגִלְלוּ אֶת־הָאֶבֶן מֵעַל פִּי הַבְּאֵר וְהִשְׁקוּ אֶת־הַצֹּאן וְהָשִׁיבוּ אֶת־הָאֶבֶן עַל־פִּי הַבְּאֵר לְמָקְמָה:

2. And he saw, and behold, a well in the field, and behold (*wā-hinne*), there were three flock-herds lazing at it, for from that well they would water the herds; and the stone was large on the mouth of the well.

3. And all the herds would be gathered there, and they would roll the stone from upon the mouth of the well, and they would water the flock; and they would return the stone upon the mouth of the well to its place.

Genesis 29:8

לֹא נוֹכַל עַד אֲשֶׁר יֵאָסְפוּ כָּל־הָעֲדָרִים וְגִלְלוּ אֶת־הָאֶבֶן מֵעַל פִּי הַבְּאֵר וְהִשְׁקִינוּ הַצֹּאן:  
8. And they said, “We are not able until all the herds are gathered, and they roll the stone from upon the mouth of the well, so that we may water the flock.”

Genesis 29:23-26

23 וַיְהִי בְעֶרְבַּ וַיִּקַּח אֶת־לֵאָה בָתּוֹ וַיָּבֵא אֵתָּהּ אֵלָיו וַיָּבֵא אֵלֶיהָ:  
24 וַיִּתֵּן לָבֶן לָהּ אֶת־זִלְפָּה שִׁפְחָתוֹ לְלֵאָה בָתּוֹ שִׁפְחָה:  
25 וַיְהִי בַבֹּקֶר וְהִנֵּה־הוּא לֵאָה וַיֹּאמֶר אֶל־לָבֶן  
מַה־זֹּאת עָשִׂיתְ לִי הֲלֹא בְרַחֵל עֲבַדְתִּי עִמָּךְ וְלָמָּה רָמִיתָנִי:  
26 וַיֹּאמֶר לָבֶן לֹא־יַעֲשֶׂה כֵן בְּמִקְוֵמֵנוּ לְתַתּוֹת הַצְּעִירָה לְפָנֵי הַבְּכִירָה:

23. And it was in the evening, and he took Leah his daughter, and he brought her to him; and he came unto her.

24. And Laban gave to her Zilpah his handmaid, for Leah his daughter (as) a handmaid.

25. And it was in the morning, and behold (*wā-hinne*), she is Leah; and he said to Laban, “What is this that you have done to me? Did I not work with you for Rachel? And why did you deceive me?”

26. And Laban said, “It is not done thus in our place, to give the younger before the firstborn.

Genesis 29:28-30

28 וַיַּעַשׂ יַעֲקֹב כִּן וַיְמַלֵּא שִׁבְעַת זֹאת וַיִּתֵּן-לוֹ אֶת-רַחֵל בִּתּוֹ לוֹ לְאִשָּׁה:

29 וַיִּתֵּן לָבֵן לְרַחֵל בִּתּוֹ אֶת-בִּלְהָהּ שַׁפְחָתוֹ לָהּ לְשַׁפְחָה:

30 וַיָּבֵא גַם אֶל-רַחֵל וַיֵּאָהֵב גַּם-אֶת-רַחֵל מִלְּאָה וַיַּעֲבֹד עִמּוֹ עוֹד שִׁבְעַת-שָׁנִים אַחֲרוֹת:

28. And Jacob did thus, and he fulfilled the week of this-one; and he gave him Rachel his daughter to him as a wife.

29. And Laban gave to Rachel his daughter Bilhah his handmaid, for her as a handmaid.

30. And he came also unto Rachel, and also he loved Rachel more than Leah; and he worked with him another seven years more.

Genesis 29:20

וַיַּעֲבֹד יַעֲקֹב בְּרַחֵל שִׁבְעַת שָׁנִים וַיְהִיּוּ בְעֵינָיו כִּימִים אַחָדִים בְּאַהֲבָתוֹ אֹתָהּ:

And Jacob worked for Rachel seven years; and they were in his eyes as a few days, such was his love for her.

Genesis 27:43-44

43 וְעַתָּה בְנֵי שְׁמַע בְּקוֹלִי וְקוּם בְּרַח-לְךָ אֶל-לָבֵן אָחִי חָרָנָה:

44 וַיֵּשְׁבֵת עִמּוֹ יָמִים אַחָדִים עַד אֲשֶׁר-תָּשׁוּב חֲמַת אָחִיךָ:

43. And now, my son, hearken to my voice, and arise and flee to Laban my brother, to Harran.

44. And you shall sit with him a few days, until the anger of your brother subsides.

### **Alliteration**

Jeremiah 2:2 (*kalulotayik / lektek*)

הֲלוֹךְ וְקִרְאתָ בְּאֲזֵי יְרוּשָׁלַם לֵאמֹר כֹּה אָמַר יְהוָה יְזַכְּרֵתִי לְךָ חֲסֹד נְעוּרֶיךָ אֲהַבֵת כָּל־יְלַתֶיךָ  
לְכָתֹב אַחֲרָי בַמִּדְבָּר בְּאַרְץ לֹא זְרוּעָה:

1 Samuel 19:20 (*lahaqat / laqahat / mal'ake*)

וַיִּשְׁלַח שָׂאוּל מִלְּאָכִים לְקַחַת אֶת-דָּוִד וַיִּרְא אֶת-לַהֲקַת הַנְּבִיאִים גְּבָאִים וּשְׂמוֹאֵל עִמָּד  
נָצַב עֲלֵיהֶם וַתְּהִי עַל-מְלָאכֵי שָׂאוּל רֹחַ אֱלֹהִים וַיִּתְנַבְּאוּ גַם-הֵמָּה:

Judges 14:18 (*ha-ḥarsa / ḥaraštēm*)

וַיֹּאמְרוּ לוֹ אַנְשֵׁי הָעִיר בַּיּוֹם הַשְּׁבִיעִי בְּטָרֶם יָבֵא הַחֶרֶסָה מֵהַמְּתוֹק מִדְּבַשׁ וַיִּמָּה עָז מֵאָרֶי  
וַיֹּאמֶר לָהֶם לֹא חֲרַשְׁתֶּם בְּעַגְלָתִי לֹא מִצְאָתֶם חִידָתִי:

Genesis 21:4, 7-8 (*millel / wayyamol / wayyiggamal / higgamel*)

4 וַיִּמַּל אַבְרָהָם אֶת־יִצְחָק בְּנֹו בֶן־שְׁמֹנֶת יָמִים כַּאֲשֶׁר צִוָּה אֱתוֹ אֱלֹהִים:  
7 וַתֹּאמֶר מִי מִלֵּל לְאַבְרָהָם הַיְנִיקָה בְּנִים שָׂרָה כִּי־יִלְדָתִי בֶן לְזִקְנָיו:  
8 וַיַּגְדֵּל הַיֶּלֶד וַיִּגְמַל וַיַּעַשׂ אַבְרָהָם מִשְׁתָּה גְדוֹל בַּיּוֹם הַגָּמַל אֶת־יִצְחָק:

### ***Form follows content***

Genesis 39:1-6

flowery, repetitious language,  
used to connote blessing, prosperity

1 וַיֹּסֶף הוֹרֵד מִצְרַיִמָּה וַיִּקְנֶהוּ פוֹטִיפָר סָרִיס פְּרֹעֶה שֶׁר הַטַּבָּחִים אִישׁ מִצְרַיִ  
מִיַּד הַיִּשְׁמַעֲאֵלִים אֲשֶׁר הוֹרְדָהוּ שָׁמָּה:  
2 וַיְהִי יְהוָה אֶת־יוֹסֵף וַיְהִי אִישׁ מַצְלִיחַ וַיְהִי בְּבֵית אֲדֹנָיו הַמִּצְרַיִ:  
3 וַיֵּרָא אֲדֹנָיו כִּי יְהוָה אִתּוֹ וְכֹל אֲשֶׁר־הוּא עֹשֶׂה יְהוָה מַצְלִיחַ בְּיָדוֹ:  
4 וַיִּמְצָא יוֹסֵף חֵן בְּעֵינָיו וַיִּשְׁרֵת אִתּוֹ וַיִּפְקְדֵהוּ עַל־בֵּיתוֹ וְכָל־יִשְׁלוֹ נָתַן בְּיָדוֹ:  
5 וַיְהִי מֵאֵן הַפְּקִיד אִתּוֹ בְּבֵיתוֹ וְעַל כָּל־אֲשֶׁר יִשְׁלוֹ וַיִּבְרַךְ יְהוָה אֶת־בֵּית הַמִּצְרַיִ  
בְּגַלְל יוֹסֵף וַיְהִי בִרְכַת יְהוָה בְּכָל־אֲשֶׁר יִשְׁלוֹ בְּבֵית וּבְשָׂדֵה:  
6 וַיַּעֲזֹב כָּל־אֲשֶׁר־לוֹ בְּיַד־יוֹסֵף וְלֹא־יָדַע אֵתוֹ מֵאֹמֶה כִּי אִם־הִלָּחֵם אֲשֶׁר־הוּא אוֹכֵל  
וַיְהִי יוֹסֵף יְפֹהֵתָאֵר וַיִּפְהַ מְרֹאָה:

2. And YHWH was with Joseph, and he was a successful man; and he was in the house of his Egyptian master.

3. And when his master saw that YHWH was with him; and that all that he does YHWH makes-successful in his hand –

4. And Joseph found favor in his eyes, and he served him; and he assigned him over his house, and all that was his he placed in his hand.

5. And it was, from when he assigned him in his house, and over all that which was his, and YHWH blessed the house of the Egyptian on account of Joseph; and it was, the blessing of YHWH was on all that which was his, in the house and in the field.

6. And he left all which was his in the hand of Yosef, and he knew naught with him, except for the bread which he eats; and Yosef was beautiful of form and beautiful of appearance.

Genesis 39:9

אֵינְנִי גָדוֹל בְּבַיִת הַזֶּה מִמְּנִי וְלֹא־חָשַׁד מִמְּנִי מְאוּמָה כִּי אִם־אוֹתָךְ בְּאִשְׁרַת אֶת־אִשְׁתּוֹ  
There is no one greater in this house than I, and he has not withheld from me naught, except for you, since you are his wife. (see already Rashi)

Joshua 2:1-5 חֲרִשׁ 'secretly' / הַלַּיְלָה 'at night' / בַּחֲשֵׁךְ 'darkness'  
– used to connote the secrecy of the mission

### **Confused Language**

Joshua 2:3-6

3 וַיִּשְׁלַח מֶלֶךְ יְרִיחוֹ אֶל־רַחַב לֵאמֹר הוֹצִיָאִי הָאֲנָשִׁים הַבָּאִים אֵלֶיךָ אֲשֶׁר־בָּאוּ לְבֵיתְךָ  
כִּי לַחֲפֹר אֶת־כָּל־הָאָרֶץ בָּאוּ:

4 וַתִּקַּח הָאִשָּׁה אֶת־שְׁנֵי הָאֲנָשִׁים וַתַּצְפְּנֵנּוּ וַתֹּאמֶר | כִּן בָּאוּ אֵלַי הָאֲנָשִׁים  
וְלֹא יָדַעְתִּי מֵאֵין הָמָּה:

5 וַיְהִי הַשָּׁעַר לִסְגֹר בַּחֲשֵׁךְ וְהָאֲנָשִׁים יָצְאוּ לֹא יָדַעְתִּי אָנָּה הָלְכוּ הָאֲנָשִׁים  
רֹדְפוּ מֵהָר אַחֲרֵיהֶם כִּי תִשְׁיֹגּוּם:

6 וְהִיא הֶעֱלָתָם הַגָּגָה וַתִּטְמְנֵם בְּפִשְׁתֵּי הָעֵץ הָעֵרְכוֹת לָהּ עַל־הַגָּג:

3. And the king of Jericho sent to Rahab saying, “Bring-out the men who came to you, who came to your house, for to dig all the land they have come.”
4. And the woman took the two men, and she hid him (*wattīṣpāno*); and she said, “Yes, the men came to me, and I do not know from where they were.
5. And it was, as the gate was to close at darkness, and the men went out, I do not know to where the men went; pursue after them fast, for you can overtake them.”
6. And she had taken them up to the roof, and she stashed them among the flax stalks arranged for her on the roof.

Exodus 2:2 וַתַּצְפְּנֵהוּ *wattīṣpānehu* ‘and she hid him’

## Judges 18 – the Danite migration northward

Judges 18:14                   הִידַעְתֶּם כִּי יֵשׁ בְּבֵתַיִם הָאֵלֶּה אֵפֹד וְתֵרָפִים וּפְסָל וּמַסֵּכָה  
**14.** Did you know that there are in these houses an ephod and teraphim, and an idol and a statue?

Judges 18:17               בָּאוּ שָׁמָּה לְקַחוּ אֶת־הַפְּסָל וְאֶת־הָאֵפֹד וְאֶת־הַתֵּרָפִים וְאֶת־הַמַּסֵּכָה  
**17.** They came there, took the idol and the ephod, and the teraphim and the statue.

Judges 18:18               וַיִּקְחוּ אֶת־פְּסָל הָאֵפֹד וְאֶת־הַתֵּרָפִים וְאֶת־הַמַּסֵּכָה  
**18.** And they took the idol of the ephod, and the teraphim, and the statue.

Judges 18:20               וַיֵּיטֵב לֵב הַכֹּהֵן וַיִּקַּח אֶת־הָאֵפֹד וְאֶת־הַתֵּרָפִים וְאֶת־הַפְּסָל  
**20.** And the heart of the priest was good, and he took the ephod, and the teraphim, and the idol;

Song 5:6                     פָּתַחְתִּי אֲנִי לְדוֹדִי וְדוֹדִי חָמַק עָבַר  
I opened to my beloved, and my beloved, he turned he passed

1 Samuel 14:20-21

20 . . . מהוּמָה גְדוּלָה מְאֹד:

21 וְהָעִבְרִים הָיוּ לְפִלְשְׁתִּים כְּבָאֵתְמוֹל שֶׁלְשׁוֹם אֲשֶׁר עָלוּ עִמָּם בְּמַחֲנֵה סָבִיב  
וְגַם־הֵמָּה לְהִיזוֹת עִם־יִשְׂרָאֵל אֲשֶׁר עִם־שָׂאוּל וַיִּזְנְתוּ:

**20.** . . . a very great confusion. **21.** And the Hebrews were to the Philistines as before, that had gone up with them into the camp all around; and even they, to be with Israel that (are) with Saul and Jonathan.

## Genesis 37-50 – Joseph taken to Egypt

Genesis 37:30               וַיָּשָׁב אֶל־אָחָיו וַיֹּאמֶר הַיֵּלֶד אֵינּוּ וְאֲנִי אֲנָה אֲנִי־בָא:  
And he returned to his brothers, and he said, "The child is not, and I, to where shall I come?"

Genesis 37:32               הֲכִרְנָא הַכְּתָנֶת בְּנֵךְ הוּא אִם־לֹא:  
Recognize please, is this the tunic (*katonet*) of your son, or not?

Genesis 38:25               הֲכִרְנָא לְמִי הַחֲתָמֹת וְהַפְּתִילִים וְהַמַּטֵּה הָאֵלֶּה:  
Recognize please, to whom (are) these (items), the seal (*hotemet*), the cords, and the staff.

Genesis 38:22-25 וַיָּשָׁב אֶל־יְהוּדָה וַיֹּאמֶר לֹא מָצָאתִיהּ 22  
 וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוּדָה . . . וְאַתָּה לֹא מָצָאתָהּ: 23  
 . . . וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוּדָה הוֹצִיאֹהָ וְתִשְׂרָף: 24  
 הוּא מוֹצֵאתָ וְהִיא שְׂלֵחָה אֶל־חַמְיָהּ לְאִמֹּר . . . 25

22 And he returned to Judah, and he said, “I did not find her” (*lo’ maša’tiha*)  
 23 And Judah said . . . “and you did not find her” (*maša’tah*)  
 24 . . . And Judah said, bring her out (*hoši’uha*), and let her be burnt.  
 25 She is being brought out (*muše’t*), and she had sent to her father-in-law, saying, . . .

Genesis 38:14 וַתִּכְסַּב בְּצַעֲרֶיהָ וַתְּתַעְלֵף וַתֵּשֶׁב בַּפֶּתַח עֵינַיִם  
 And she covered (herself) with a veil, and she wrapped herself, and she sat at the entrance to ‘Enayim (‘the two springs’) / the opening of the eyes

### **Foreign Tinge**

Genesis 24, Genesis 30-31:

Aramaisms used in the narration, in stories set in Aram, e.g.:

Genesis 30:37 לֹז לוז ‘almond’:

וַיִּקְחֻלֹּז יַעֲקֹב מִקָּל לִבְנֵה לֹח וְלֹז וְעַרְמוֹן  
 וַיִּפְצֹל בָּהֶן פְּצָלוֹת לְבָנוֹת מִחֶשֶׁף הַלְּבָן אֲשֶׁר עַל־הַמַּקְלוֹת:

Numbers 24:7 – Balaam story

וְהַמְּלָכּוֹת: and his kingdom (*malkut*) shall be exalted

Zechariah 9:3 (Tyre) וַתִּבְנוּ צָר מְצוֹר לָהּ וַתִּצְבֹּר־כֶּסֶף כַּעֲפֹר וְחָרוֹץ כַּטֵּיט חוֹצוֹת:  
 And Tyre (*şor*) built a stronghold (*maşor*) for herself; and she amassed (*tişbor*) silver like dust, and gold (*haruş*) like mud in the streets.

Ezekiel 26:11 (Tyre) וּמַצְבּוֹת עֲזָדְךָ לְאַרְצָךָ תִּרְדּוּ:

And the pillars of your strength to the earth shall fall.

Jeremiah 50:15 (Babylon) נָפְלוּ אֲשִׁיּוֹתֶיהָ\* נְהָרְסוּ חוֹמוֹתֶיהָ

Her bastions have fallen, her walls are destroyed.

(cf. Akkadian *asītu* ‘tower, bastion’)

## Leviticus 8 – the consecration of Aaron as priest

Leviticus 8:15 וַיִּשְׁחֹט וַיִּקַּח מִשֶּׁה אֶת־הַדָּם וַיִּתֵּן עַל־קַרְנוֹת הַמִּזְבֵּחַ סָבִיב בְּאַצְבָּעוֹ  
וַיַּחֲטֵא אֶת־הַמִּזְבֵּחַ וְאֶת־הַדָּם יָצַק אֶל־יְסוֹד הַמִּזְבֵּחַ וַיְקַדְּשֵׁהוּ לְכַפֵּר עָלָיו:

**15.** And he slaughtered – and Moses took the blood, and he put (it) on the horns of the altar, all-about, with his finger, and he purified the altar; and the blood he poured onto the foundation of the altar, and he sanctified it (in order) to atone upon it.

Leviticus 8:19 וַיִּשְׁחֹט וַיִּזְרַק מִשֶּׁה אֶת־הַדָּם עַל־הַמִּזְבֵּחַ סָבִיב:

**19.** And he slaughtered – and Moses threw the blood on the altar, all-about.

Leviticus 8:23 וַיִּשְׁחֹט | וַיִּקַּח מִשֶּׁה מִדָּמּוֹ וַיִּתֵּן עַל־תְּנוּדָא אֶזְוֵא־הָרֵן הַיְמָנִית  
וְעַל־בֵּהֶן יָדוֹ הַיְמָנִית וְעַל־בֵּהֶן רִגְלוֹ הַיְמָנִית:

**23.** And he slaughtered – and Moses took from its blood, and he put (it) on the right ear lobe of Aaron; and on his right thumb, and on his right big toe.

Standard syntax:

Exodus 4:18 ... וַיֵּלֶךְ מֹשֶׁה וַיָּשָׁב ... 'and Moses went, and he returned...'

Exodus 19:7 ... וַיָּבֵא מֹשֶׁה וַיִּקְרָא ... 'and Moses came, and he called...'

### *Variation in final component to mark closure*

Psalms 115:5-7

5 פִּה־לָהֶם וְלֹא יִדְבְּרוּ עֵינַיִם לָהֶם וְלֹא יִרְאוּ:

6 אָזְנוֹת לָהֶם וְלֹא יִשְׁמְעוּ אֶף לָהֶם וְלֹא יִרְחוּן:

7 יְדֵיהֶם | וְלֹא יִמְשֹׁן רַגְלֵיהֶם וְלֹא יִהְלְכוּ

לֹא־יִהְיוּ בְּגִרוֹנָם:

**5.** A mouth they have, and they do not speak;

Eyes they have, and they do not see.

**6.** Ears they have, and they do not hear;

A nose they have, and they do not smell.

**7.** Their hands, and they do not feel,

Their feet, and they do not walk;

They do not utter in their throat.

Ruth 1:16-17

16 כִּי אֶל־אֲשֶׁר תֵּלְכִי אֵלַי וּבְאֲשֶׁר תֵּלִינִי אֵלַי עִמָּד עִמִּי וְאֱלֹהֵיךָ אֱלֹהֵי:

17 בְּאֲשֶׁר תָּמוּתִי אָמוּת וְשָׁם אֶקְבֹּר

**16.** For wherever you go, I will go; and wherever you lodge, I will lodge; your people, my people; and your God, my God. **17.** And wherever you die, I will die; and there I will be buried.

Numbers 1    לְבָנֵי שִׁמְעוֹן <sup>22</sup> . . . לְבָנֵי גָד <sup>24</sup> . . . בְּנֵי נַפְתָּלִי <sup>42</sup>

<sup>22</sup> to the sons of Simeon – <sup>24</sup> to the sons of Gad – <sup>42</sup> the sons of Naphtali

### **Variation**

Song 2:5    כִּי־חֹלֶת אֶהְבֶּה אָנֹכִי: 'for I am sick with love'

Song 5:8    שְׁחֹלֶת אֶהְבֶּה אָנֹכִי: 'that I am sick with love'

Song 2:6    שְׁמֹאלוֹ תַּחַת לְרֹאשִׁי 'his left-hand is beneath my head'

Song 8:3    שְׁמֹאלוֹ תַּחַת רֹאשִׁי 'his left-hand is under my head'

Genesis 19:33    וַתִּשְׁקֹן אֶת־אָבִיהָן יָיִן בַּלַּיְלָה הַהוּא וַתָּבֵא הַבְּכִירָה וַתִּשְׁכַּב אֶת־אָבִיהָ  
וְלֹא־יָדַע בְּשֹׁכְבָהּ וּבְקוּמָה:

And they plied their father with wine that night, and the elder came and she lay with her father, though he did not know her lying down and her rising up.

Genesis 19:35    וַתִּשְׁקֹן גַּם בַּלַּיְלָה הַהוּא אֶת־אָבִיהָן יָיִן וַתִּקַּם הַצְּעִירָה וַתִּשְׁכַּב עִמּוֹ  
וְלֹא־יָדַע בְּשֹׁכְבָהּ וּבְקוּמָה:

And they plied even that night their father with wine, and the younger arose and she lay with him, though he did not know her lying down and her rising up.

v. 33    אֶת־אָבִיהָ > v. 37    מֵאָב

v. 35    עִמּוֹ > v. 38    עִמּוֹן



## Exodus 25-31 – the Tabernacle account

Exodus 25:40 (Menorah) וְרָאָה וַעֲשֵׂה בְתַבְנִיתָם אֲשֶׁר־אַתָּה מְרַאֶה בְּהָרִ: **25:40.** And see and do; according to their design, which you are shown on the mountain.

Exodus 26:30 (Tabernacle) וְהִקַּמְתָּ אֶת־הַמִּשְׁכָּן כַּמִּשְׁפָּטוֹ אֲשֶׁר הִרְאִיתָ בְּהָרִ: **26:30.** And you shall erect the Tabernacle, according to its plan, which you have been shown on the mountain.

Exodus 27:8 (Altar) נְבוּב לַחַת תַּעֲשֶׂה אֹתוֹ כַּאֲשֶׁר הִרְאָה אֶתְךָ בְּהָרִ בְּנֵי יַעֲשׂוּ: **27:8.** Hollow planks you should make it; like he showed you on the mountain, thus they shall do.

### *Sidebar for another instance of alliteration*

Exodus 29:1 וְזֶה הַדְּבָר אֲשֶׁר־תַּעֲשֶׂה לָהֶם לְקַדֵּשׁ אֹתָם לְכַהֵן לִי לְקַח פָּר אֶחָד בֶּן־בָּקָר וְאֵילִם שְׁנַיִם תְּמִימִם:

And this is the matter which you should do to them, to sanctify (*laqaddeš*) them, to serve-as-priests (*lakahen*) to me: take (*laqah*) one bull . . .

### *Variation*

#### Leviticus 23 – “the eternal law” formula

Leviticus 23:3 (Shabbat) שַׁבַּת הוּא לַיהוָה בְּכֹל מוֹשְׁבֹתֵיכֶם:

**3.** It is a Sabbath unto YHWH, in all your dwellings.

Leviticus 23:14 (Pesah) חֻקַּת עוֹלָם לְדֹרֹתֵיכֶם בְּכֹל מוֹשְׁבֹתֵיכֶם:

**14.** An eternal law, for your generations, in all your settlements.

Leviticus 23:21 (Shavu'ot) חֻקַּת עוֹלָם בְּכֹל־מוֹשְׁבֹתֵיכֶם לְדֹרֹתֵיכֶם:

**21.** An eternal law, in all your settlements, for your generations.

*Month 7, Day 1, festival (later Rosh ha-Shana) – (no formula)*

Leviticus 23:31 (Yom Kippur) חֻקַּת עוֹלָם לְדֹרֹתֵיכֶם בְּכֹל מוֹשְׁבֹתֵיכֶם:

**31.** An eternal law, for your generations, in all your settlements.

Leviticus 23:41 (Sukkot) חֻקַּת עוֹלָם לְדֹרֹתֵיכֶם

**41.** An eternal law, for your generations.

## Amos 1-2 – against the foreign nations

Amos 1:4 (Aram) וְשַׁלַּחְתִּי אֵשׁ בְּבַיִת חֲזַאֵל וְאָכְלָה אֶרְמְנוֹת בְּן־הַדָּד:

**1:4.** And I will send-forth fire against the house of Haza'el; and it will consume the palaces of Ben-Hadad.

Amos 1:7 (Philistia) וְשַׁלַּחְתִּי אֵשׁ בְּחוֹמַת עַזָּה וְאָכְלָה אֶרְמְנֶיהָ:

**1:7.** And I will send-forth fire against the city-wall of Gaza; and it will consume its palaces.

Amos 1:10 (Tyre) וְשַׁלַּחְתִּי אֵשׁ בְּחוֹמַת צָר וְאָכְלָה אֶרְמְנֶיהָ:

**1:10.** And I will send-forth fire against the city-wall of Tyre; and it will consume its palaces.

Amos 1:12 (Edom) וְשַׁלַּחְתִּי אֵשׁ בְּתִמָּן וְאָכְלָה אֶרְמְנוֹת בְּצָרָה:

**1:12.** And I will send-forth fire against Teman; and it will consume the palaces of Bozrah.

Amos 1:14 (Ammon) וְהִצַּתִּי אֵשׁ בְּחוֹמַת רַבָּה וְאָכְלָה אֶרְמְנוֹתֶיהָ:

**1:14.** And I will incite fire against the city-wall of Rabbah, and it will consume its palaces;

Amos 2:2 (Moab) וְשַׁלַּחְתִּי־אֵשׁ בְּמוֹאָב וְאָכְלָה אֶרְמְנוֹת הַקְּרִיּוֹת:

**2:2.** And I will send-forth fire against Moab, and it will consume the palaces of Qeriyot;

Amos 2:5 (Judah) וְשַׁלַּחְתִּי אֵשׁ בְּיְהוּדָה וְאָכְלָה אֶרְמְנוֹת יְרוּשָׁלַם:

**2:5.** And I will send-forth fire against Judah, and it will consume the palaces of Jerusalem.

## Ezekiel 37:16 – the two pieces of wood

וְאֵתָה בְּנֵי־אֲדָם

וְלִבְנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל חֲבֵרָיו\* קַח־לָךְ עֵץ אֶחָד וּכְתֹב עָלָיו לַיהוּדָה

וְלִקְחָה עֵץ אֶחָד וּכְתֹב עָלָיו לְיוֹסֵף וְכָל־בְּיַת יִשְׂרָאֵל חֲבֵרָיו\*:

And now, human one,

take for yourself one wood, and write upon it

*for Judah,*

*and for the sons of Israel his friends;*

and take [northern form!] one wood, and write upon it

*for Joseph, the wood of Ephraim, and all the house of Israel his friends.*