

The Hebrew Language הלשון הקדוש

There is something elegant, powerful, and non-translatable about the Hebrew idiom. It is possibly the language of the garden of Eden, and the only language, in scripture, that G-d chose to use to speak audibly. It is likely that we will all speak Hebrew in the New Jerusalem in eternity. For all these reasons, Jews have continued to make Hebrew their language of worship, praise, and prayer. We are committed to making the Hebrew intelligible to all by transliterating it into Latin characters (so it can be pronounced, usually seen on screen in italics), and translating it, often to be sung to the same melodies, so the thoughts can be expressed as worship. Below is a pronunciation guide, and a glossary of some frequently used terms.

Divine names are usually hyphenated, in conformity to the custom that it would be irreverent to put G-d's Name on any paper that is likely to be discarded.

Pronunciation Guide to transliterations

<i>a</i> or <i>ah</i>	short a
<i>ay</i>	long a
<i>e</i> or <i>eh</i>	short e
<i>ee</i>	long e
<i>i</i>	long I
<i>o</i>	long o
<i>u</i>	as in "goo"
kh	guttural sound, like clearing the throat

There is no soft "g," or "j" sound. In Hebrew, all "g's" are hard.

Limited Glossary of Hebrew Words Frequently Used

ah-mayn: amen

Aish B'lilah: fire in the night

Adoni: The L-RD

Aseret HaD'vareem: Ten Commandments (literally ten profound words)

Bar Mitvah: son of the commandment

Bat Mitzvah: daughter of the commandment

Brit Khadasha: Messianic Writings (New Covenant, or Testament)

Cohan, Cohanim: priest, priests

Cohen hagadol: high priest

Eloheinu: Our G-d

Elohim: plural form of G-d

HaKodasheem: Holy of Holies

Hallelujah: Praise the L-rd

HaMasheeakh: The Messiah

Kapporah: atonement

K'ruvim: cherubim

kashrut: kosher laws

Lashon Hara: evil speaking

matzah: unleavened bread

Menorah: candelabra

Mishkan: Tabernacle

Mitzvah: commandment

Or HaOlam: the Light of the World

Parokhet: the veil separating the holy place from the holy of holies

Pesakh: passover

Ruakh: Spirit

Ruach HaKodesh: Holy Spirit

Shabbat: 7th day of Rest; Friday sundown to Saturday sundown

Sh'vu-ot: Pentecost

Sukkot: Feast of Tabernacles

Seder: from a Hebrew root word meaning "order," because there is a specific set of information that must be discussed in a specific order. It is the same root from which we derive the word "siddur", (prayer book)

Selah: pause and meditate

Shabbat: day of rest

Shamas, shamashim: servant, servants

Shulkhan arukh: table set in order for a feast

Torah: תורה is the Hebrew term for the first five books of the Bible.

Talmid, Talmidim: disciple, disciples

Tanakh: תנ"ך is a Hebrew acronym for the

- a. Torah תורה,
- b. Navee-eem נביאים [Prophets], and
- c. K'tuveem כתובים [Poetic writings] but change to a final form of the letter, that is a ך
- d. Read the above red letters vertically, and you'll see the source of the word תנ"ך "Tanakh," which means the whole "Old Testament."

Parasha: Each week, simultaneously in synagogues all around the world, a portion of the Torah is read. This weekly portion is called the parasha. At Or HaOlam, we read a small section of that parasha. However, in addition to our public reading, we recommend careful study and consideration of the entire parasha in order to receive all the counsel of G-d. We also encourage you to have a daily, personal devotional time which includes readings from the rest of the Tanakh and the Brit Khadasha [New Covenant].

Sh`khinah (pronounced She-kee-nah) Glory

Yeshua: the Hebrew form of the name Jesus

Yeshua HaMeshiach: Jesus the Messiah

Yom Kippor: day of atonement