

50 HEBREW WORDS

Every Christian Should Know



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Word	Definition	Scripture
1. Adam aw-dawm' אָדָם	man; mankind; humankind; proper name	Gen. 2:7: "The LORD God formed a man from the dust of the ground." Gen. 3:17; Job 31:33; Ps. 118:8; Jer. 27:5
2. Adonai ad-o-nai' אֲדֹנָי	lord; master; sovereign	Ex. 4:10: "Moses said to the LORD, 'Pardon your servant, Lord .'" Josh. 5:14; Ps. 57:9; 68:19; 114:7
3. Aman aw-man' אָמֵן	believe; trust; have faith	Gen. 15:6: "Abram believed the LORD, and he credited it to him as righteousness." Ex. 4:31; Deut. 27:19; Neh. 8:6; Ps. 119:66
4. Amen aw-mane' אָמֵן	surely; so be it; truly	Ps. 89:52: "Praise be to the LORD forever! Amen and Amen ." Deut. 27:19; 1 Chron. 16:36; Neh. 8:6; Jer. 11:5
5. Avar aw-var' עָבַר	pass through; cross; pass over; transgress	Num. 14:41: "Moses said, 'Why now are you transgressing the command of the LORD, when that will not succeed?'" (ESV) Gen. 15:17; 1 Chron. 12:15; Ps. 66:6; Zech. 10:11
6. Barak baw-rak' בָּרַךְ	bless; kneel	Ps. 29:11 "The LORD blesses his people with peace." Gen. 12:2; Deut. 2:7; 1 Kings 8:14; Ps. 67:1
7. Berith ber-eeth' בְּרִית	agreement; covenant	2 Kings 17:15: "They rejected his decrees and the covenant he had made with their ancestors." Gen. 15:18; Ex. 19:5; Isa. 55:3; Jer. 31:32
8. Chazah haw-zaw' חָזָה	see; behold; perceive; gaze	Ps. 27:4: "This only do I seek: ... to gaze on the beauty of the LORD." Ex. 24:11; Job 23:9; Song 6:13; Isa. 26:11

Insights

In Hebrew, *adam* sometimes refers to males, but it also refers to humankind as a whole. It is possible that the biblical name *Adam* reflects both the substance and color of the material from which God formed him: In Hebrew, *adam* is closely related to the word for ground—*adamah*—and some scholars think *adam* could be associated with *adom*—the word for the color red.

Adonai is a way of addressing God or a superior to acknowledge that they are worthy of deep reverence. It is a more formal term for God than his personal name, *YHWH*. Sometimes *Adonai* appears in the same passage as *YHWH*, with *Adonai* translated as “Lord” and *YHWH* as “LORD,” using small capital letters. When *adonai* is used to address a respected person who is in charge, *lord* is not capitalized.

To *aman* involves knowing that something is so true that it is worthy of changing your life. Abram’s belief was not just an idea—it was filled with substance that caused him to leave his extended family and familiar surroundings, follow God to an unknown place, and be willing to sacrifice his son Isaac.

Amen, a common ending for prayers, has also made its way into everyday English as a way of saying “Let it be” or “Surely.” It is related to the previous word, *aman* (believe; trust; have faith), and is used to affirm what someone believes to be true. In the Old Testament, *amen* is often used to emphasize both blessings and curses. In the New Testament, the Greek translation of *amen* serves as the final word in the Bible: “The grace of the Lord Jesus be with God’s people. Amen.” (Rev. 22:21).

Many times *avar* involves people moving from one location to another, but it can also mean “to disobey or violate God’s law.” When a person does so, they *avar* (“cross over”) from obedience to disobedience.

Barak usually means “to bless.” A blessing is most often an intangible good gift—often a state of goodness that allows someone to experience God’s love and provision. It is not a possession as much as an attitude characterized by humility and kindness.

Berith signifies a serious commitment that carries intense weight. The word is often cloaked in the phrase “to cut a covenant.” In Old Testament times, each person making a covenant would cut an animal in two, then walk through the pieces. It was a way of saying, “Let this happen to me if I break this covenant.” When God made his *berith* with Abram, it was only God who walked through the pieces. Although Abram’s descendants broke the covenant, it is God’s Son, Jesus, whose body was broken to right their wrong.

Chazah is used to describe gazing upon something that is present either physically or within a vivid vision. It often involves contemplating God’s majesty and his activity in creation. *Chazah* is usually a prolonged gaze, not just a quick glance.

Word	Definition	Scripture
9. Davar daw-var' דָּבָר	word; deed; thing; speech	Isa. 2:3: "The law will go out from Zion, the word of the LORD from Jerusalem." Gen. 15:1; Deut. 32:46; 1 Kings 21:17; Zech. 8:16
10. Derek deh'-rek דֶּרֶךְ	way; road; journey	Ps. 18:30: "As for God, his way is perfect." Ex. 18:20; 2 Sam. 22:31; Prov. 16:17; Mal. 3:1
11. Gaal gaw-al' גָּאַל	redeem; buy back	Ps. 106:10: "From the hand of the enemy [God] redeemed them." Ex. 6:6; Lev. 25:25; Ruth 4:4; Isa. 43:1
12. Halak haw-lak' הָלַךְ	go; walk; live	Ps. 56:13: "You have delivered me from death . . . that I might walk before God in the light of life." Gen. 5:24; Ex. 33:14; Deut. 19:9; Isa. 65:2
13. Halal haw-lal' הָלַל	praise; boast	Jer. 20:13: "Sing to the LORD! Give praise to the LORD." 1 Chron. 16:4; Ps. 113:1; 146:2; Jer. 20:13
14. Hata haw-taw' חָטָא	miss (a mark); sin	2 Sam. 24:10: "David . . . said to the LORD, 'I have sinned greatly in what I have done.' Lev. 5:17; Josh. 7:20; 1 Kings 8:33; Ps. 51:4
15. Hen hane חֵן	favor; grace	Gen. 6:8: "Noah found favor in the eyes of the LORD." Ruth 2:10; Est. 5:8; Prov. 3:34; Zech. 12:10
16. Hesed heh'-sed חֶסֶד	covenant love; dependable kindness; loyalty	Ps. 23:6: "Surely your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life." Deut. 7:9; Ruth 2:20; Ezra 3:11; Isa. 54:8
17. Hevel heh'vel הֶבֶל	vapor; breath	Prov. 21:6: "A fortune made by a lying tongue is a fleeting vapor and a deadly snare." Job 7:16; Ps. 39:5; Eccl. 6:12; Isa. 49:4