**Chapter 18 Numbers and Interrogative Sentences**

18. A. Introduction to מִסְפָּרִים (numbers)

In English we have an alphabet and our number system is separate and distinct. In Hebrew they use their alphabet for words and for numbers. This is called gematria. That can be seen perhaps in biblical passages such as Matthew 1 where it describes Christ’s genealogy specifically crafted so that it is made up of three sets of exactly fourteen generations. After opening the book with Abraham and David the genealogies show that Jesus is the son of David (D=4, V=6, D=4 totaling to 14).

א ב ג ד ה ו ז ח ט י

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

יא יב יג יד יה יו יז יח יט ך

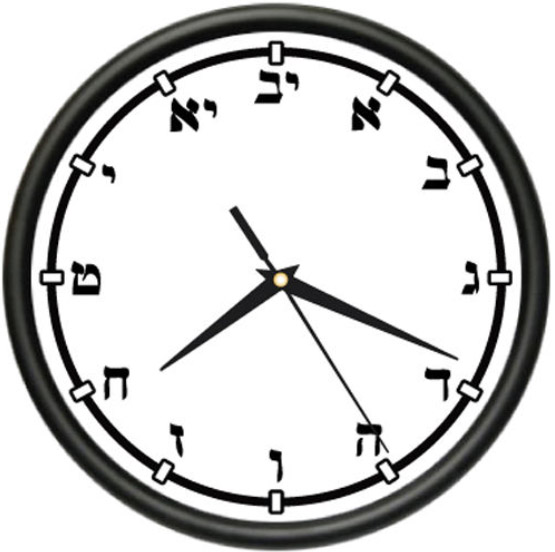
20 19 18 17 16 15 14 13 12 11

כא כב ...

22 21

כ=20, ל =30, מ =40, נ =50, ס =60, ע =70, פ =80, צ =90, ק =100, ר =200, ...

As in many languages there are cardinal numbers (1, 2, 3, 4, etc.) and ordinal (first, second, third, fourth, etc.). We will learn to count to ten using modern Hebrew. We will add select numbers which are frequent fliers in the Hebrew text (12, 100, 1000).



The tradition forms are masculine and feminine numbers matching the objects that they are associated with.

Masculine Feminine

Absolute Construct Absolute Construct

1 אֶחָד אַחַד אַחַת אַחַת

2 שְׁתֶּי שְׁתַ֫יִם שְׁנֶי שְׁנַ֫יִם

3 שְׁלֹשֶׁת שְׁלֹשָׁה שְׁלֹשׁ שָׁלֹשׁ

4 אַרְבַעַת אַרְבָעָה אַרְבַּע אַרְבַּע

5חֲמֶשֶׁת חֲמִשָּׁה חֲמֵשׁ חָמֵשׁ

6שֵׁשֶׁת שִׁשָּׁה שֵׁשׁ שֵׁשׁ

7שִׁבְעַת שִׁבְעָה שְׁבַע שֶׁ֫בַע

8שְׁמֹנַת שְׁמֹנָה שְׁמֹנֶה שְׁמֹנֶה

9 תִּשְׁעַת תִּשְׁעָה תְּשַׁע תֵּשַׁע

10עֲשֶׂרֶת עֲשָׂרָה עֶ֫שֶׂר עֶ֫שֶׂר

Note there is no zero included here. The non-biblical word for zero is אֶ֫פֶס.

Basically the numbers 11-19 are just a combination of 1 + 10 etc. Note 12 which occurs frequently: שְׁנֵי עָשָׂר שְׁנֵים עָשָׂר (masc.)  
 שְׁתֵּי עֶשְׂרֵה שְׁתֵּים עֶשְׂרֵה (fem.)

The numbers 20, 30, 40 etc. are formed by making their corresponding number plural. Thus the frequently used number 40 is, as expected: אַרְבָּעִים

100 is מֵאָה

1,000 is אֶ֫לֶף

**Examples:**

וַיֹּאמֶר אֱלֹהִים יִקָּווּ הַמַּיִם מִתַּחַת הַשָּׁמִיִם אֶל־מָקוֹם אֶחָד

And God said, Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place,   
 (Gen 1:9)

לֵאמֹר קוּם קַח אֶת־אִשְׁתְּךָ וְאֶת־שְׁתֵּי בְנֹתֶיךָ

saying, Rise, take your wife and your two daughters (Gen 19:15)

וַיִּשָּׂא עֵינָיו וַיַּרְא וְהִנֵּה שְׁלֹשָׁה אֲנָשִׁים נִצָּבִים עָלָיו

He lifted up his eyes and behold he saw three men standing near him.   
 (Gen 18:2)

שֵׁשֶׁת יָמִים יֵעָשֶׂה מְלָאכָה וּבַיּוֹם הַשְּׁבִיעִי שַׁבַּת

Six days he will do work, but the seventh day is Shabbat (Exod 31:15)

וְאֵת שְׁתֵּים עֶשְׂרֵה הָאֲבָנִים הָאֵלֶּה אֲשֶׁר לָקְחוּ מִן־הַיַּרְדֵּן הֵקִים יְהוֹשֻׁעַ בַּגִּלְגָּל

And twelve stones, which they had taken out of the Jordan, Joshua set up in

Gilgal, (Jos 4:20)

The ordinal numbers are used to describe the days of the week (vid. Gen. 1). These are easily identified if you know how to count to ten as in our counting chant.

Masculine Feminine

First רִאשׁוֹנָה רִאשׁוֹן

Second שֵׁנִית שֵׁנִי

Third שְׁלִישִׁית שְׁלִישִׁי

Fourth רְבִיעִית רְבִיעִי

Fifth חֲמִישִׁית חֲמִישִׁי

Sixth שִׁשִּׁית שִׁשִּׁי

Seventh שְׁבִיעִית שְׁבִיעִי

Eighth שְׁמִינִית שְׁמִינִי

Ninth תְּשִׁיעִית תְּשִׁיעִי

Tenth עֲשִׂירִית עֲשִׂירִי

**Examples:**

בְּיוֹם־הַחֹדֶשׁ הָרִאשׁוֹן בְּאֶחָד לַחֹדֶשׁ תָּקִים אֶת־מִשְׁכַּן אֹהֶל מוֹעֵד׃

On the first day of the first month you will set up the tabernacle of the tent of   
 meeting. (Exod 40:2)

עֲוֹן אָבוֹת עַל־בָּנִים וְעַל־בְּנֵי בָנִים עַל־שִׁלֵּשִׁים וְעַל־רִבֵּעִים

iniquity of the fathers upon the children and the children's children, to the third   
 and the fourth generation." (Exod 34:7)

**Numbers chant for modern Hebrew:**

1 אַחַת 6 שֵׁשׁ 12 שְׁנֵים עָשָׂר

2 שְׁתַ֫יִם 7 שֶׁ֫בַע 40 אַרְבָּעִים

3 שָׁלֹשׁ 8 שְׁמֹנֶה 100 מֵאָה

4 אַרְבַּע 9 תֵּשַׁע 1000 אֶ֫לֶף

5 חָמֵשׁ 10 עֶ֫שֶׂר

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Lj7p3auVCB4>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FBd9QdpqUz0>

**Interrogatives**

There are a series of interrogative adverbs that are often used to ask questions. We have seen some of these already.

Why? לָמָה, מַדוּעַ

Who? מִי

What? מָה

Where? אֵיפֹה, אֵי, אַיֵּה

How? אֵיךְ

When? מָתַי

The simplest way to ask a question is with an interrogative ה. This should not be confused with the definite article הַ ּ as it is usually attached differently to the beginning of a sentence in one of the following four ways:

1. הֲ the normal way of attaching to non-guttural initial words that have a full vowel
2. הַ is how it looks when attached to a word whose first consonant begins with a ševā’
3. הַ with a guttural initial (that doesn’t begin with a qameṣ or a qameṣ-ḥatuf**.**
4. הֶ with guttural initial words that have a qameṣ or a qameṣ-ḥatuf, and

Examples:

וַיֹּאמֶר מִי הִגִּיד לְךָ כִּי עֵירֹם אָתָּה הֲמִן־הָעֵץ אֲשֶׁר צִוִּיתִיךָ לְבִלְתִּי אֲכָל־מִמֶּנּוּ אָכָלְתָּ׃

He said, Who told you that you were naked? From the tree of   
 which I commanded you not to eat have you eaten? (Gen 3:11)

מֶה־עָשִׂיתָ לָּנוּ וּמֶה־חָטָאתִי לָךְ

What have you done to us? What sin have I done against you (Gen 20:9)

לָמָה אָמַרְתָּ אֲחֹתִי הִוא   
 Why did you say, She is my sister, (Gen 12:19)

**CHANT**: The “Why chant” we learn for the six interrogatives is:

לָמָה אֵיךְ אֵיפֹה מָה מִי הֲ  
 ? who, what, where, how, why

**18. F. Vocabulary List for Chapter 18 Numbers and Interrogative Sentences**

1. צֹאן flock (sheep/goats)

2. לְמַעַן in order that, so that

3. אֶ֫בֶן stone

4. בָּשָׂר flesh

5. מִדְבָּר desert, wilderness

6. רָשָׁע wicked

7. חַי life

8. מָלֵא to fill, be full

9. חֶ֫סֶד loving kindness

10. רֶ֫גֶל foot, leg

Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Ch. 18 Numbers/Interrogatives

**1. Vocabulary Review**

1) to miss, sin, offend \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

2) מִשְׁפָּחָה \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

3) נָשָׂא \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

4) חַטָּעת \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

5) קוֹל \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

6) צָוָה \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

7) מִזְבֵּחַ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

8) בֵּין \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

9) מָלֵא \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

10) לִפְנֵי \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

11) לְמַעַן \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

12) אָכַל \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

13) יָלַד \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

14) שָׁבַע \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

15) שַׁעַר \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

16) אֹיֵב \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

17) to go up, ascend \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

18) צָבָא \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

19) קָרַב \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

20) בָּשָׂר \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**2. Chants**

**10.B. Chant: Ι. Pē position--weak and guttural**

Regular Pē-Nûn, Pē-Yôd, Pē-’Ālef Pē-Guttural

תִּשְׁמֹר \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_

2MS/3FS \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_

10**.C**. **Chant**: **II**. **‘Ayin** **position weak or guttural**:

Regular ‘Ayin-Yôd/Vāv ‘Ayin guttural Double ‘Ayin

תִּשְׁמֹר \_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_

2MS/3FS \_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_

10**.D.** **Chant**: **III**. **Lāmed position weak and guttural**:

Regular Lāmed-Hē Lāmed-guttural Lāmed-’Ālef

תִּשְׁמֹר \_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_

2MS/3FS \_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_

**Numbers chant for modern Hebrew:**

1 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ 6 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ 12 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

2 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ 7 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ 40 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

3 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ 8 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ 100 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

4 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ 9 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ 1000 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

5 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ 10 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**CHANT**: The “Why chant” we learn for the six interrogatives is:

\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_  
 ? who, what, where, how, why

**3. Translations**

1. לָמָּה יֹאמְרוּ הַגּוֹיִם אַיֵּה אֱֽלֹהֵיהֶם

why should the nations say, "Where is their God?" (Psa 79:10)  
  
2.וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה הֵן עַם אֶחָד וְשָׂפָה אַחַת לְכֻלָּם [וְשָׂפָה=language]

3. וַיֹּאמְרוּ שְׁנֵים עָשָׂר עֲבָדֶיךָ אַחִים אֲנַחְנוּ בְּנֵי אִישׁ־אֶחָד בְּאֶרֶץ   
 כְּנָעַן

And they said, We, your servants, are twelve brothers, the sons of one man in the   
 land of Canaan (Gen 42:13)

4. וּמִכָּל־הָחַי מִכָּל־בָּשָׂר שְׁנַיִם מִכֹּל תָּבִיא אֶל־הַתֵּבָה [בָּשָׂר=flesh; תֵּבָה=ark]

5. שֶׁבַע פָּרֹת הַטֹּבֹת שֶׁבַע שָׁנִים הֵנָּה וְשֶׁבַע הַשִּׁבֳּלִים הַטֹּבֹת שֶׁבַע וַיֹּאמֶר לוֹ יוֹסֵף זֶה פִּתְרֹנוֹ שְׁלֹשֶׁת הַשָּׂ֣רִגִים שְׁלֹשֶׁת יָמִים הֵם

Then Joseph said to him, "This is its interpretation: the three branches are three   
 days; (Gen 40:12)

6. שָׁלֹשׁ שָׁנִים יִהְיֶה לָכֶם עֲרֵלִים לֹא יֵאָכֵל [עֲרֵלִים=uncircumcised (forbidden)]

7. וַיַּעַשׂ אֶת־מִזְבַּח הָעֹלָה עֲצֵי שִׁטִּים חָמֵשׁ אַמּוֹת אָרְכּוֹ וְחָמֵשׁ־אַמּוֹת רָחְבּוֹ

He made the altar of burnt offering of acacia wood; it was five cubits long,   
 and five cubits wide; (Exod 38:1)

8. שָׁנִים הֵנָּה חֲלוֹם אֶחָד הוּא [חֲלוֹם=dream]

9. כָּל־אֵלֶּה שִׁבְטֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל שְׁנֵים עָשָׂר וְזֹאת אֲשֶׁר־דִּבֶּר לָהֶם אֲבִיהֶם

All these are the twelve tribes of Israel, and this is what their father said to them   
 (Gen 49:28)

10. וְהִזָּה הַטָּהֹר עַל־הַטָּמֵא בַּיּוֹם הַשְּׁלִישִׁי וּבַיּוֹם הַשְּׁבִיעִי וְחִטְּאוֹ בַּיּוֹם הַשְּׁבִיעִי [חִטְּא=purify, טָּהֹר=clean; טָּמֵא=unclean]—add “he will sprinkle”

11. הַחֹדֶשׁ הַזֶּה לָכֶם רֹאשׁ חֳדָשִׁים רִאשׁוֹן הוּא לָכֶם לְחָדְשֵׁי הַשָּׁנָה

"This month shall be for you the beginning of months. It shall be the first month of   
 the year for you. (Exod 12:2)

12. תֵּלֶד זִלְפָּה שִׁפְחַת לֵאָה בֵּן שֵׁנִי לְיַעֲקֹב [שִׁפְחַת=handmaid]

13.וַתֹּאמֶר אֶל־הָעֶבֶד מֽי־הָאִישׁ הַלָּזֶה הַהֹלֵךְ בַּשָּׂדֶה לִקְרָאתֵנוּ

and she said to the servant, Who is the man over there, walking in the field to meet   
 us? (Gen 24:65)

14. וַיֹּאמֶר מֶה עָשִׂיתָ קוֹל דְּמֵי אָחִיךָ צֹעֲקִים אֵלַי מִן־הָֽאֲדָמָה

[דְּמֵי=blood of, צֹעֲקִ=crying out]

15. מַה־זֹּאת עָשִׂיתָ לִּי הֲלֹא בְרָחֵל עָבַדְתִּי עִמָּךְ וְלָמָּה רִמִּיתָנִי

What is this you have done to me? Did I not serve with you for Rachel?

Why then have you deceived me? (Gen 29:25)