



RESOURCE

Parashah: Vayishlach = And He Sent
Gen 32:3-36:43; Obad 1:1-21; Hos 11:7-12:12; Heb 11:1-40

TITLE: HEBREW NUMBERS

WHAT IS THIS?



Hebrew numbers are not unique characters like we are used to; they are Hebrew letters assigned specific numeric values combined to add up to a total numeric value. The first letter of the Hebrew alphabet (א) is used for the number 1; the second letter (ב) is used for the number 2; and so on. The customary way of writing each number (moving from right to left) is to place the letter representing the largest value first and then the next largest value, etc. So to write numbers in the teens, you write the letter for 10 (yod) and the letter for the other digit. So 11 would be the tenth letter plus the first letter (יא). However, to show respect for the spelling of YHWH's name (yod heh vav heh) in Hebrew (יהוה) you do not combine the letter yod (10) with either the letter heh (5) or the letter vav (6) for the numbers 15 and 16. Instead, combine letters for 9+6 and 9+7 to get the same values.

NUMBERS FOR 1-20

WORDS FOR NUMBERS 1-20 PLUS SIGNIFICANT OTHERS UP TO 1000 SPELLED IN HEBREW AND TRANSLITERATED TO HELP US PRONOUNCE THEM

1 = א

2 = ב

3 = ג

4 = ד

5 = ה

6 = ו

7 = ז

8 = ח

9 = ט

10 = י

11 = יא

12 = יב

13 = יג

14 = יד

15 = טו

16 = טז

17 = יז

18 = יח

19 = יט

20 = כ

One = Achat = אחת
Two = Shtayim = שתיים
Three = Shalosh = שלוש
Four = Arba = ארבע
Five = Chamesh = חמש
Six = Shesh = שש
Seven = Sheva = שבע
Eight = Shmoneh = שמונה
Nine = Tasha = תשע
Ten = Esre = עשר

Eleven = Achat Esre = אחת-עשרה
Twelve = Shtem Esre = שתיים-עשרה
Thirteen = Shlosh Esre = שלש-עשרה
Fourteen = Arba Esre = ארבע-עשרה
Fifteen = Chemesch Esre = חמש-עשרה
Sixteen = Shesh Esre = שש-עשרה
Seventeen = Shva Esre = שבע-עשרה
Eighteen = Shmoneh Esre = שמונה-עשרה
Nineteen = Tsha Esre = תשע-עשרה
Twenty = Esrim = עשרים

Thirty = Shloshim = שלושים
Forty = Arba'im = ארבעים
Fifty = Chamishim = חמשים
Sixty = Shishim = שישים
Seventy = Shiv'im = שבעים
Eighty = Shmonim = שמונים
Ninety = Tish'im = תשעים
One Hundred = Me'ah = מאה
Two Hundred = Matayim = מאתיים
Three Hundred = Schlosh Me'ot = שלוש מאות
Four Hundred = Arba Me'ot = ארבע מאות
Five Hundred = Chamesh Me'ot = חמש מאות
Six Hundred = Shesh Me'ot = שש מאות
Seven Hundred = Shva Me'ot = שבע מאות
Eight Hundred = Shmoneh Me'ot = שמונה מאות
Nine Hundred = Tsha Me'ot = תשע מאות
One Thousand = Elef = אלף

There are a few more rules for writing Hebrew numbers in the hundreds and thousands, of course, so please do an internet search for instructions and examples. We compiled these lists from a couple of different places. For a little practice, answer these questions:

- א) How many years long will be Messianic Kingdom be?
- ב) How many years did Jacob work for Laban for wives? For flocks? Total years?
- ג) How many wives and how many concubines did Jacob have? Total mothers?
- ד) How many sons did Jacob have? How many daughters? Total children?
- ה) How many descendants of Jacob went into Egypt?
- ו) How old was Isaac when he died?
- ז) How many brothers did Jacob have?