

Hebrew Honey Bet / Aleph Isn't Tough / Class Summary Notes for January 12, 2008-Week 15

שֶׁבַט ה' / 5 Shevat / Year 5768-ה'תשס"ח / Torah Portion: בא - Bo- "Enter"- / Root- ב.ג.ה "go, go in, enter, come, come in" / Torah Portion: Exodus 10:1-13:16 / Haftarah: Jeremiah 46:13-28- # 15 on the T.R. D. Handout /

1. Blessing Before Studying Torah recited.

2. Prayer-Reading Time: מִי כְמוֹכָהּ - *Mi Chamochah- Who is like our G-d?* (Exodus 15:11 & 15:18)

recalls the redemption of the Israelites from slavery in Egypt. I summarized the notes on the back of the handout which gave insight into why sometimes the כ & other times the כּ is used and the pages where parts of the prayer appear in our AIT textbook. We practiced reading the first three lines and the English translation of the prayer. We learned the answer to the question, "Who is like our G-d Adonai?" in Chapter 5- אֵין כְּלֵהֵינוּ - "There is none like our G-d Adonai!" File with behind the Prayer Index.

3. Calendar: a. New month שֶׁבַט -Shevat means *tribe, staff, rod*. Mazal is the water pail or bucket (דָּלִי) of Aquarius- the constellation pattern in the night sky. Astrology focuses on the water-bearer; Jewish mazal focuses on the water (Torah) in the pail. **Tribe-Asher-** the women of the tribe of Asher were known for their beauty (from the olives). On the 1st of Shevat of the year 2488 from creation, Moses convened the Jewish nation & began the 37 day review of the Torah contained in the Book of Deuteronomy, which he concluded on the day of his passing on Adar 7 of that year. Shevat 1- Adar 7 is said to be a time for fruitful Torah study.

b. **TuBishvat / 15th of Shevat / The New Year of the Tree(s).** טו (טו) is # 15- 9 + 6 to avoid writing a name for G-d. We recalled the four New Years on the Jewish calendar- **Nissan 1** (Torah commanded), **Tishrei 1** (Kingship), **15th of Shevat** (tithing of the trees), and **Elul 1** (tithing of the cattle). You were given a detailed *TuBishvat handout* last year. Please re-read it before coming to the TuBishvat Seder. More information to come on planting a tree in Israel. Former Hebrew Crash Course students, the TuBishvat handout was in your HCC notebook binder & should have been moved to your HH notebook binder behind the Holiday Index.

c. **Parshah in a Nutshell Handouts: # 15- בא - Bo - "Enter" & #16 - בְּשַׁלַּח - Beshallah- "When he (Pharaoh) let go."** Beshallah is always read the week of or the Shabbat preceding TuBishvat.

d. **Sight-reading-** the first line of the Torah portion # 15- בא - Bo - "Enter:"
 וַיֹּמַר יְהוָה אֶל-מֹשֶׁה בֹּא אֶל-פַּרְעֹה כִּי-אֲנִי הִכְבַּדְתִּי אֶת-לְבוֹ וְאֶת-לֵב עַבְדָּיו לְמַעַן שְׂתִי אֶתִּיתִי אֵלָהּ

And Adonai said to Moses, Go to Pharaoh for I (have) hardened his heart and heart (of) his servants that I might show My signs in the midst of them. Exodus 10:1

e. **Sight reading- the first line of the Torah portion #16 - בְּשַׁלַּח - Beshallah- "When he (Pharaoh) let go:"**
 וַיְהִי בְשַׁלַּח פַּרְעֹה אֶת-הָעָם וְלֹא-נָחַם אֱלֹהִים דֶּרֶךְ אֶרֶץ פְּלִשְׁתִּים

"And it came to pass Pharaoh (had) sent the people & Eloheim led them not (by the) way (of the) land (of the) Philistines." Exodus 13:17

4. **Review Focus:** Reading the first lines of the Torah portions was a great review of words & concepts we've learned. Note especially the ʿ-Yud in the word עַבְדָּיו - servants. (Rule: An unvoveled Yud following a Segol or Kamatz vowel is silent.) See Chapter 7, p. 67 - we met this rule in last week's lesson.

5. AIT Text, Chapter 7: We completed pp. 70 & most of the Words from Jewish Life on p. 71.

- a. p. 70- Exercise 2- writing Hebrew consonants & vowel combinations
- b. p. 70- Exercise 3- reading look-alike letters that are easily confused

c. p. 71- **Words from Jewish Life-** We stopped on עֲלִיָּהּ - ascent (*immigration to Israel*), the honor of being called to the Torah, my middle Hebrew name).

6. Food Recipe Sheet for ד- Dalet: We tasted a lighter version of דְּבַשׁ - honey cake made with tea rather than coffee. On the back of the recipe sheet was the darker traditional recipe. Honey cake is usually served from Rosh Hashanah to Simchat Torah. Foods containing honey are traditionally eaten symbolic of our wishes for a sweet new year. While the class said the מְזוֹנָתַת blessing, and tasted the cake, I went into Jacob's class to invite the students to join our classes for the TuBishvat Seder next week.

7. Correction: Make correction to Week 14 notes / #7: "This time I came across a rare find- dried petite roses from the area of Israel known for its roses (the Shomron.)" -not Sharon. We met this word in Chapter 3, p. 24. שׁוּמְרוֹן I forgot to mention the correction in class.

8. Closing: a. I gave a Bar Mitzvah bulletin from a Bar Mitzvah candidates' prayer service. Bar Mitzvah was one of the Words from Jewish Life, p. 71. Read & file behind Chapter 7 Index. **b.** We wished each other Shavuah tov- a good week.

9. Preview of Next Class: TuBishvat Seder at my house on January 19th at 2:00-4:00 p.m. - a mini-field trip. Directions & map were given you last week. If you attended last year, you will remember we sampled no fewer than 15 fruits and nuts and drank 4 cups of white and purple (red) grape juice, ate Tabouli salad and barley cupcakes, and practiced the food blessings. From the experience, we learn of the seven species of the land of Israel and take turns reading short excerpts from the Torah, Talmud, midrash, and other Jewish sources! Please let me know by Thursday if you are **NOT** coming. Telephone- 478-1597 or email- barb12436@suddenlink.net. *The celebration is a special treat with great spiritual significance.*

Barbara DiBartolo חֲנָה עֲלִיָּהּ דִּיבְרֵי טוֹל'וֹ

Shalom! שְׁלוֹמִי / שְׁלוֹמְךָ



Hebrew Crash Course / רֵאשִׁית בְּיָנָה - *Beginning Understanding* / Class Summary Notes for January 12, 2008-Week 14 / 'שֶׁבֶט ה' / 5 Shevat/ Year 5768- ה'תשס"ח / Torah Portion: בָּא - Bo- "Enter" / Root- ה.ו.ה "go, go in, enter, come, come in" / Exodus 10:1-13:16/ Haftarah: Jeremiah 46:13-28 # 15 on the T.R. D. Handout /

1. **Before class: a.** How great to see everyone back after two weeks of colds & flu. Everyone was able to get the handouts saved during their absence. Notebooks should be caught up. I noted on the back of the handouts where to file them.

2. **Blessing Before Studying Torah recited. a.** Using the teacher-made cards, we reviewed the English translation of the words from בְּרוּךְ - *Baruch to Torah* completing our word study of the blessing.

Word focus review: בְּדַבְּרֵי - *with words/things (of)* / תּוֹרָה - *Torah-teaching, instruction*

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ בְּמִצְוֹתָיו וְצִוָּנוּ לְעֲסוֹק בְּדַבְּרֵי תּוֹרָה

Blessed/praised are You, Adonai, our G-d, King/Ruler/Soverign (of) the Universe who sanctified us/made us holy/ set us apart/ with commandments and commanded us to engage/do/make/busy ourselves in words/things of Torah/teaching/instruction.

b. Yaakov told of a young girl from Haifa selling Dead Sea hand lotion in an out of town mall. When learning he was taking Hebrew she asked that he say something in Hebrew. When he recited the blessing before studying Torah, she began to cry saying she had not heard those words since she was a young girl. Who would have ever dreamed our little class would have an influence in the life of a Yisraelit here in Louisiana on a travel visa! We were all super-proud of Yaakov with responding with a blessing rather than a few simple word greetings! Anyone could have responded with "Shalom," but to respond with the Torah blessing- unusual but awesome!

The incident reminded me of the following quote: "Life is dependent on the air around us, and the quality of life is dependent on the quality of air. In an atmosphere of Torah and mitzvot there is healthy life. The first general step in healing is to purify the atmosphere, and is effected through the letters of Torah. When speaking words of Torah while *in the store* or walking in the street or riding the subway, one purifies the air."

Rabbi Yosef Yitzchak of Lubavitch

c. We will follow the same word-focus strategy with *The Shema- Deuteronomy 6:4- the declaration of the Jewish faith preparing us for a visit to the Sanctuary.*

3. **Conversational Hebrew a. New greetings:** אֲנִי אַמְרִיקָאִי - *I (am an) American. (masculine) /*

אֲנִי אַמְרִיקָאִית I am (an) American. (feminine) / אֲנִי לֹא יִשְׂרָאֵלִי - *I (am) not (an) Israeli. (masculine) /*

אֲנִי לֹא יִשְׂרָאֵלִית - *I (am) not (an) Israelit. (feminine).* b. אֲנַחְנוּ תְּלֻמִּידִים - *We (are) students. (masculine plural/inclusive)*

4. **Calendar: a.** New month of שֶׁבֶט - *Shevat - means tribe, staff, rod* / Mazel is the water pail or bucket (דֶּלִי) of Aquarius. Astrology focuses on the water-bearer; Jewish mazal focuses on the water (symbolic of the Torah) in the pail. **Tribe-** Asher- the women were known for their beauty (from the olives). On the 1st of Shevat of the year 2488 from creation, Moses convened the Jewish nation & began the 37 day review of the Torah contained in the Book of Deuteronomy, which he concluded on the day of his passing on Adar 7 of that year. Shevat 1- Adar 7 is said to be a time for fruitful Torah study.

b. **Parshah in a Nutshell Handouts: # 15- בָּא - Bo - "Enter" (my birth portion) & #16 - בְּשַׁלַּח - Beshalach - "When he (Pharaoh) let go." (Yehudit Sarah's birth portion).** Please read #16 before next week's class for the TuBishvat Seder.

c. **TuBishvat / 15th of Shevat / The New Year of the Tree(s).** ו'ט / טר / טו is #15. ט-9 + ג - 6 is used to avoid writing 10 + 5 a name for G-d. We recalled the **four New Years** on the Jewish calendar- **Nissan 1** (Torah command), **Tishrei 1** (Kingship), **15th of Shevat** (tithing of the trees), and **Elul 1** (tithing of the cattle). **“The New Year of the Trees” handout-** Please read before coming to the TuBishvat Seder to help you better understand the experience. More info to come on planting a tree in Israel. File behind Holidays Index.

5. Review Lesson: a. We used the handout **“Understanding the Use of the Sh’va / Vowel Marker”** to review the Sh’va vowel. You will want to review the role of the Sh’va in syllabication & pronunciation from time to time. On the back side I printed the most common **Hebrew prefixes and suffixes** which help us with English translation. File behind Oral Conversation Index.

b. Text p. 21- Line 4 & 5 included a vocabulary word not introduced formally- לָמְדָה - *why*. We listened to the Virtual Shabbat CD teacher’s pronunciation of the word לָמְדָה - *she studied* on lines 10 & 12 and the pronunciation of the word בּוֹרְאֵי - *my creator*. (Rule: The sh’va gets a hint of a sound if preceded by a long vowel.) **c. p. 22, line 12-** הַמְאֹרֶר - *the light*. (Rule: A letter will take a dageish following the prefix

(ה ה ה - *the*) unless it is one of the “throaty five letters”- ר ז ה ע א.) **d.** Use the script/cursive Aleph-bet chart handout (filed in Handwriting folder) & the chart in the back of your text to practice script-letters if you are interested. See suggestions on last week’s summary notes. A script one-time session summer workshop is in the planning.

6. New Lesson: We completed pp. 22-23 practicing the letters on the marker boards, reading the **Hebrew** and giving the **English** translation. **a. ג - Gimmel / Visual clue- the groovey letter or the letter with a gap /**

b. p. 23- ו - Shuruk / Visual clue- the ball hits you in the stomach / וּ - Kubutz - Visual clue- the ball rolls down the steps of a kibbutz. Both vowels make the “oo” sound as in moon.

c. Introduction of the Chataf Vowels at the top of p. 24: וּ הּ אֵ / Chataf means “half” or “reduced.” The **Patach & Chataf Patach** make the “ah” sound. The **Segol & the Chataf Segol** make the “eh” sound. Only the **Chataf Kamatz** vowel changes to a long “o” sound. We searched for chataf vowels in our Hebrew name strips and practiced writing the וּ הּ אֵ. Page 24 will be our starting point on the January 25th class (the week after the TuBishvat Seder).

6. Preview of Next Lesson: TuBishvat Seder on January 19th at 2:00-4:00 at my house-mini-field trip. Directions & map were given you last week. You get to eat samples of no fewer than 15 fruits and nuts and drink 4 cups of white and purple (red) grape juice, eat Tabouli salad and barley cupcakes and practice the food blessings in honor of the New Year of the Tree(s) From the experience, we learn of the seven species of the land of Israel and take turns reading short excerpts from the Torah, Talmud, midrash, and other Jewish sources! **Please let me know by Thursday if you are NOT coming. Telephone- 478-1597 or email- barb12436@suddenlink.net.** The celebration is a special treat with great spiritual significance.

Barbara DiBartolo חנה עליה דיברטול'ו

שבוע טוב / אשכנז - A good week!



Modern Hebrew Gimel (chapter 14) Class - 12:00 – 1:00

After a late start following Torah and Treats, we spent the remainder of our class period watching a video from the Israeli Channel (Dish TV, channel 656), of President Bush's arrival and reception in Israel.

NO CLASS NEXT WEEK: Tu B'Shvat Seder at Barbara's home. Please call or e-mail so she will know how many to expect and be prepared for.

NEXT WEEK: Class - week after next. Chapter 14, exercises, start chapter 15.

Jacob Ecker יַעֲקֹב אֶפֶר (עֲקֵב אֶפֶר)

Modern Hebrew Aleph (chapter 5) Class - 1:30 – 3:00

We did the test after chapter 5, then spent the remainder of our class period watching a video from the Israeli Channel (Dish TV, channel 656), of President Bush's arrival and reception in Israel.

NO CLASS NEXT WEEK: Tu B'Shvat Seder at Barbara's home. Please call or e-mail so she will know how many to expect and be prepared for.

NEXT WEEK: Class - week after next. Start chapter 6.

Jacob Ecker יַעֲקֹב אֶפֶר (עֲקֵב אֶפֶר)

Modern Hebrew Bet (chapter 12) Class - 3:15 – 4:45

Class did not meet this week, Nathan is in Israel on his birthright trip. מְזֻל טוֹב

This class will meet next on Jan 26, 2008: Chapter 13 story, grammar and exercises.

Jacob Ecker יַעֲקֹב אֶפֶר (עֲקֵב אֶפֶר)

You can find this class report on the Temple Sinai web site.

<http://la0101.urj.net/hebrew2007>

You can find other interesting information there too.

Please do let me or your teacher know when you won't be able to make it to class.		
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