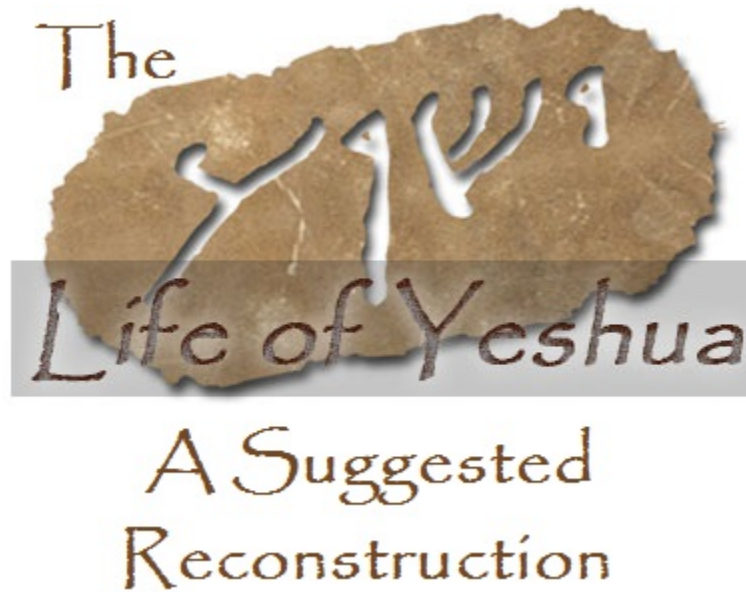


Transliteration and Pronunciation Guide



Revised: 29-June-2018

© 2018 by Jerusalem Perspective. All rights reserved.

Hebrew Transliteration

letter	equivalent	pronunciation
א	'	Silent, a glottal stop.
ב	b	
ב	v	
ג, ג	g	Like “g” in “gold”; never like “g” in “gem.”
ד, ד	d	
ה	h	Like “h” in “horn”; normally silent at the end of a word, as in “hurrah.”
ה-	h	At the end of a word, ה may have a <i>mapiq</i> (dot) in the letter which indicates the letter should be pronounced with an audible “h” sound.
ו	v	
ז	z	
ח	ħ	No equivalent sound in English, a voiceless pharyngeal fricative.

Hebrew Transliteration		
letter	equivalent	pronunciation
ט	t	No longer distinguished from ת, originally a “t” with retracted tongue-root.
י	y	Like “y” in “yard”; sometimes silent, in which case י is not transliterated.
כ	k	Like “k” in “kite”; never silent like “k” in “knit.”
כ,ך	ch	No English equivalent. Like “ch” in Scottish <i>loch</i> .
ל	l	
מ,ם	m	
נ,ן	n	
ס	s	
ע	‘	No equivalent sound in English, a voiced pharyngeal fricative.
פ	p	
פ,ף	f	
צ,ץ	tz	Like “tz” in “quartz.”
ק	q	Like “q” in “Iraq.”
ר	r	
שׁ	sh	
שׂ	s	
ת,תּ	t	
אָ	ā, o	Like “a” in “father”; rarely like the “o” in “oh.”
אֵי	āi	Like “ai” in “aisle.”
אִו	āv	Like “av” in “avocado.”

Hebrew Transliteration		
letter	equivalent	pronunciation
א	a	Like “a” in “father.”
אי	ai	Like “ai” in “aisle.”
אֶ	e	Like “e” in “net.”
אֵ	e	Like “e” in “net.”
אִ	ē	Sometimes like “e” in “net”; sometimes like “e” in “prey”; and sometimes somewhere in between.
אֵ	ē	Sometimes like “e” in “net”; sometimes like “e” in “prey”; and sometimes somewhere in between.
י	i	Like “i” in “ski.”
יֵ	i	Like “i” in “ski.”
ו	ō	Like “o” in “oh.”
וֹ	o	Like “o” in “oh.”
וּ	u	Like “u” in “tube” or “flu.”
וֹ	ū	Like “u” in “tube” or “flu.”
אֶ	e	Sometimes as short as “e” in “happening”; sometimes as long as “e” in “net”; and sometimes silent, in which case the <i>shēvā</i> is left untransliterated.
אֶ	a	Like “a” in “father.”
ו	o	Like “o” in “oh.”
אֶ	e	Like “e” in “net.”
וי	ōy	Like “oy” in “boy.”
וי	ūy	Like “uey” in “gluey.”

Greek Transliteration		
letter	equivalent	pronunciation
‘	h	This sign indicating rough breathing (aspiration) appears over a vowel or diphthong that opens a word. In Koine, the rough breathing was no longer observed in speech.
’		This sign indicating smooth breathing appears over a vowel or diphthong that opens a word; it is silent and thus is not transliterated.
α	a	Like “a” in “father.”
β	b	In Koine pronounced like “v.”
γ	g	In Koine pronounced as a fricative, a soft “gh.”
γ + γ, κ, ξ, or χ	n	When γ is paired with another γ or with κ, ξ, or χ, the first γ is pronounced like the letter “n.”
δ	d	A fricative like the “th” in “ th is.”
ε	e	Like “e” in “net.”
ζ	z	
η	ē	Like “e” in “prey.”
θ	th	Like “th” in “ th in”; not like “th” in “ th is.”
ι	i	Like “i” in “ski.”
κ	k	
λ	l	
μ	m	
ν	n	
ξ	x	Like “x” in “hexagon.”
ο	o	Like “o” in “oh.”
π	p	
ρ	r	
σ, ς	s	

Greek Transliteration		
letter	equivalent	pronunciation
τ	t	
υ	ū	No equivalent sound in English; like French <i>u</i> , or German <i>ü</i> ; a rounded high front vowel.
φ	f	
χ	ch	No English equivalent. Like “ch” in Scottish <i>loch</i> .
ψ	ps	Like “ps” in “dips.”
ω	ō	Like “o” in “oh.”
αυ	av	Like “av” in “avocado.”
ευ	ev	Like “ev” in “ever.”
ηυ	ēv	Like “ave” in “deprave.”
ου	ou	Like “ou” in “group.”
αι	ai	In the Koine dialect, pronounced “e” as in “net.”
ει	ei	In the Koine dialect, pronounced “ei” as in “seizure.”
οι	oi	In the Koine dialect, pronounced like French <i>u</i> , or German <i>ü</i> .
υι	ui	Like “ui” in the French “oui.”