



# Beginner's Torah Lesson #10

## Gematria



By Rabbi Edward Levi Nydle

**“Here is chochmah: the one having binah, let him do the GEMATRIA and get the mispar (number) of the Chayyah (Anti-Moshiach), for it a mispar of a man and the mispar of it is shesh-me’ot-v’shishim vashesh (666).” Hisgulas –Revelation 13: 18**

As the earnest pupil of Torah advances in the study of the Torah, the student will eventually have to confront the truth of the SOD level interpretive skills involved in the art of Gematria or finding the numerical value of Hebrew letters, words, and phrases in order to attain at the deeper understanding of the Torah and the appropriate interpretation of its wisdom on the SOD level.

Gematria provides a technique of converting the Hebrew words into numbers or even numbers into words, thereby revealing the relationships between various words or phrases.

There are many ways to use the art of Gematria. Not only can the numerical value of words be used to determine the Gematria, but the number of letters of a word contains may also reveal something about the word itself.

The methods of computing Gematria are varied. The value of Elohim's Names can be computed so greater insight can be obtained about Yahweh. EXAMPLE: *YAH-hy* = 15. The 15<sup>th</sup> letter of the Torah Scroll is *ALEF* א = 1. YaHWeH (ה ו ה י ה) equals 26. The 26<sup>th</sup> letter of the Torah Scroll is א *ALEF*=1 .EL ל א equals 31. The 31<sup>st</sup> letter of the Torah is א *ALEF*=1. Elohim אלהים equals 86. The 86<sup>th</sup> letter of the Torah Scroll is א *ALEF*. Therefore we can conclude that the *ALEF* א is placed in the Torah Scroll in locations by the Almighty, and a pattern is revealing that “Yahweh is ONE”!

Even *Halakah* can be revealed by Gematria. The sages declare that if a man becomes a *Nazir* and does not state how long the vow is for, then his vow will be a minimum of 30 days because of the phrase “He will be a Nazir” in the Torah Scroll. “He will be” יהיה equals 30!

Words that appear to have just the opposite in meaning can have the same Gematria. This does not reveal a defect in the art of Gematria, but simply indicates an inability of the student to as yet make the connection between the words.

Gematria as a Torah Tool is well defined and discussed in many volumes written by the sages of old. I have included in this study the laws and various methods of calculating Gematria from the Hebrew.

### Standard Gematria

Standard Gematria is calculated by adding the numerical values of the individual letters of a word or phrase in Hebrew. The first 10 Hebrew letters have values of 1-10; the next 10 letters have the values 10-100. And then the letter values increase by hundreds until the final letter *TAW* ת which has a value of 400

### At-Bash

At-Bash gematria is calculated by substituting each Hebrew letter in the word or phrase with its “opposite” letter and adding the Gematria of the resulting “opposite” phrase. “Opposite” letters are determined by substituting the first letter of the Hebrew Alef-Bet- *ALEF* (א) with the last letter-*TAW* (ת), the second letter (ב) *BET* with the next to the last letter *SHIN* (ש), and so on.

## HaKadmi Gematria

In Mispar HaKadmi the Gematria of each letter is the sum of the standard Gematria of all letters preceding it. EXAMPLE: According to Mispar HaKadmi Gematria, *ALEF* א is 1, the Gematria of *BET* ב is  $1+2=3$ , the Gematria of *Gimmel* ג is  $1+2+3=6$ , etc.

## HaMeruba HaPerati Gematria

In Mispar HaMeruba HaPerati, the Gematria of each letter is the SQUARE of its standard Gematria. EXAMPLE: According to this method, the Gematria of *ALEF* א is  $1*1=1$ . The Gematria of *BET* ב is  $2*2=4$ , *Gimmel* ג is  $3*3=9$ , and so on.

## HaMeruba HaKellali

In Mispar HaMeruba HaKellali, the Gematria of a word or phrase is the square of its standard Gematria (unlike HaPerati where each letter is squared). EXAMPLE: therefore according to this method of Gematria, the Gematria of *SHALOM* (mvls) is  $(300+30+6+40)**2=141,376$ .

## HaMeugal (Mispar Katan) Gematria

In Mispar HaMeugal, also known as Mispar Katan, the Gematria of each letter is its standard Gematria with all trailing 000 (zeroes) truncated. EXAMPLE: *CHET* ח is 8, *TET* ט is 9, *YUD* י is 1, etc. You take off all the zeroes of the numerical values.

## Mussafi Gematria

According Mispar Mussafi, the Gematria of a word or phrase is its standard Gematria plus the number of letters in the word or the phrase. EXAMPLE: The Gematria of *SHALOM* שלום is  $(300+30+6+40)+4=380$ .

## Shemi Gematria

In Mispar Shemi, the Gematria of each letter is equal to the Gematria of its name. Several letters can be spelled in more than one way. EXAMPLE: The Gematria of *ALEF* א is  $(1+30+80)=111$ , *BET* ב is  $(2+10+400)=412$ , etc.

## An Exciting Challenge

Gematria is an exciting challenge to the student and teacher of Torah. However; it opens up a whole new avenue of study and teaching as the student begins to make the connections between words and phrases.

- **EXAMPLE:** In Bereshith (Gen.) 28:16 Ya'akov exclaims, "There is Elohim in this place!" Since the Torah calls Elohim "THE PLACE", Ya'akov would know that Elohim is "in THIS PLACE". BUT WHY DOES HE SAY THAT? By using the art of Gematria the teacher or student can arrive at a fascinating discovery. The Gematria of "There is Elohim in this place" is 541. Words that have the same Gematria are "and submit yourself". This reveals a "hidden SOD level" interpretation about the "place" in which Elohim is to be found. Elohim in "that place" promises to give the Land to Ya'akov and his seed forever as He promised Avraham. The word Yisrael (ישראל) has the Gematria of 541. "The commandments" (הן מצוותיה) *HaMitzvot* also has the Gematria of 541. This then makes the connection we need to come to the conclusion that in the Land of Yisrael and in the Mitzvot Elohim is the place Elohim can be found!

May Yahweh the Elohim of all Yisrael bless you in your Torah studies.

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