

The 7 Hermeneutical Rules of R. Hillel

(extract from article in the *Jewish Encyclopedia*)

Found in:

- Tosefta, *Sanhedrin* 7
- Aboth (Fathers) of Rabbi Nathan 37

- **Qal wa-ḥomer:** "Argumentum a minori ad majus" or "a majori ad minus"; corresponding to the scholastic proof a fortiori.
- **Gezerah shawah:** Argument from analogy. Biblical passages containing synonyms or homonyms are subject, however much they differ in other respects, to identical definitions and applications.
- **Binyan ab mi-katub eḥad:** Application of a provision found in one passage only to passages which are related to the first in content but do not contain the provision in question.
- **Binyan ab mi-shene ketubim:** The same as the preceding, except that the provision is generalized from two Biblical passages.
- **Kelal u-Peraṭ** and **Peraṭ u-kelal:** Definition of the general by the particular, and of the particular by the general.
- **Ka-yoṣe bo mi-maḳom aḥer:** Similarity in content to another Scriptural passage.
- **Dabar ha-lamed me-'inyano:** Interpretation deduced from the context