Hebrew ABC

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Agenda

1. The Origin of Hebrew

2. Linguistic Features (type, order)

3. Language Basic (Letters, vowel, word, syntax)

Demo

(Hebrew Words You Already Knew)

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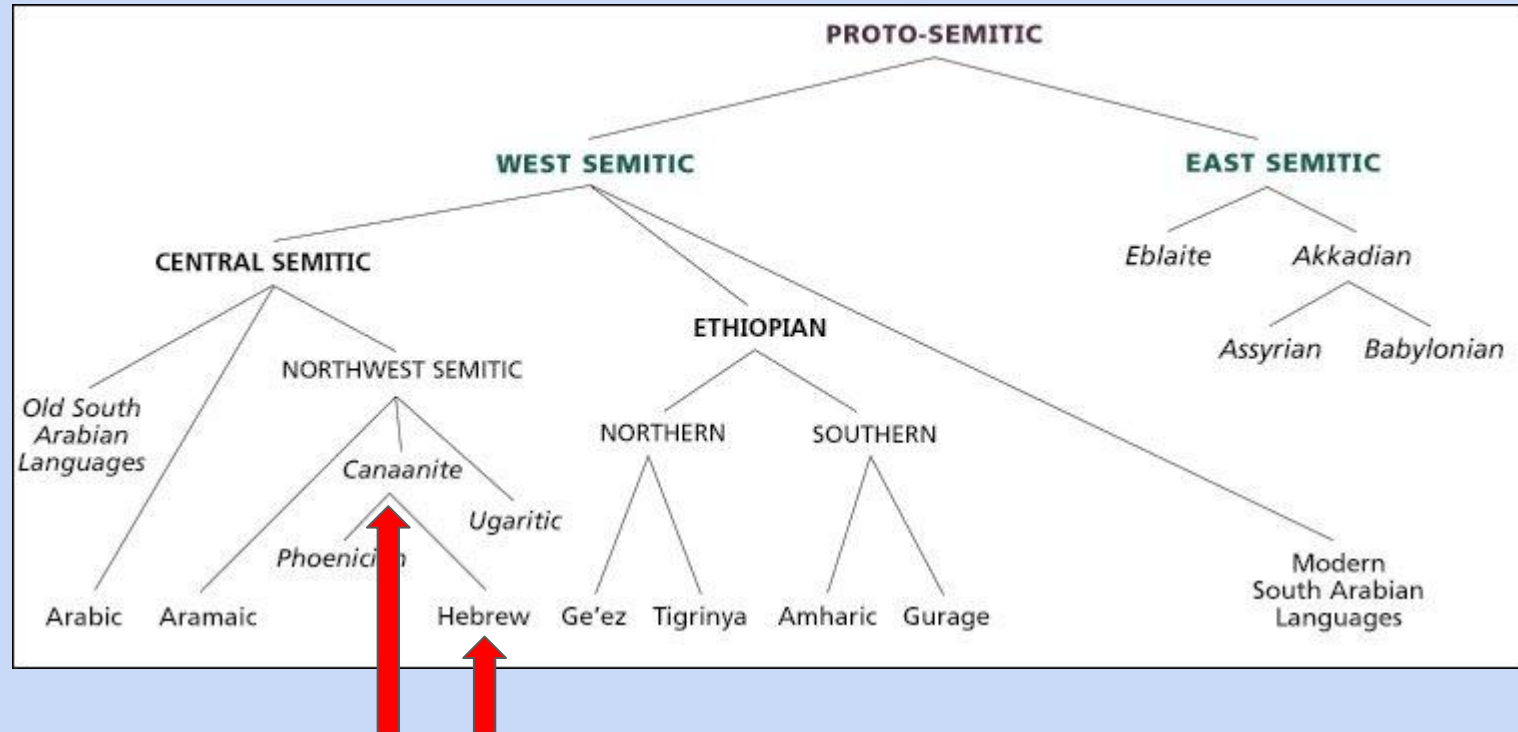
Demo
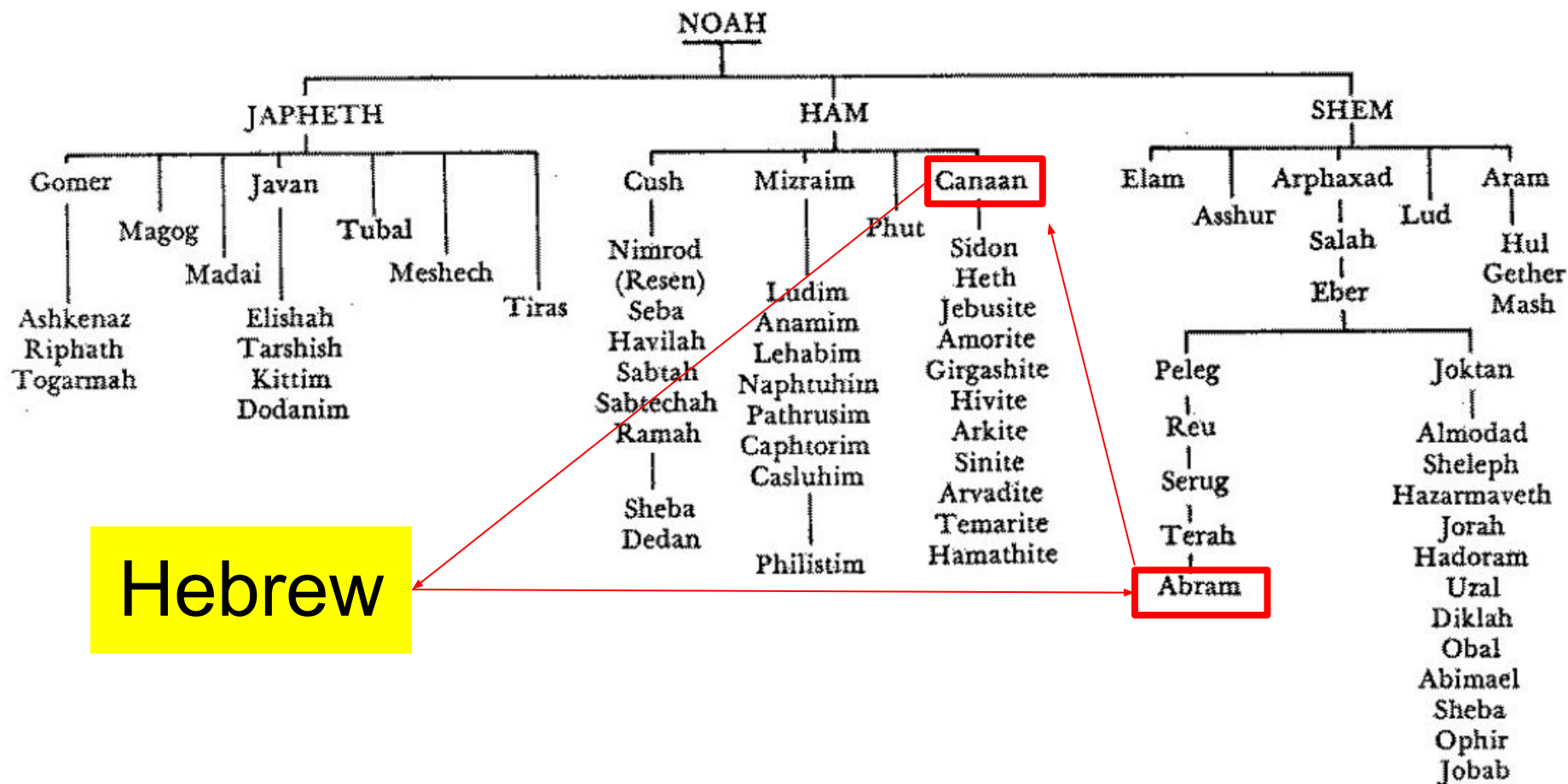
(Hebrew Words You Already Knew)

The Babel Tower

1. Hebrew was one of the languages emerging after the Babel Tower.

2. The Babel Tower is a watershed from single to multiple languages. (Gen 11:1-9)

3. Before the Babel Tower, peoples spoke one language.
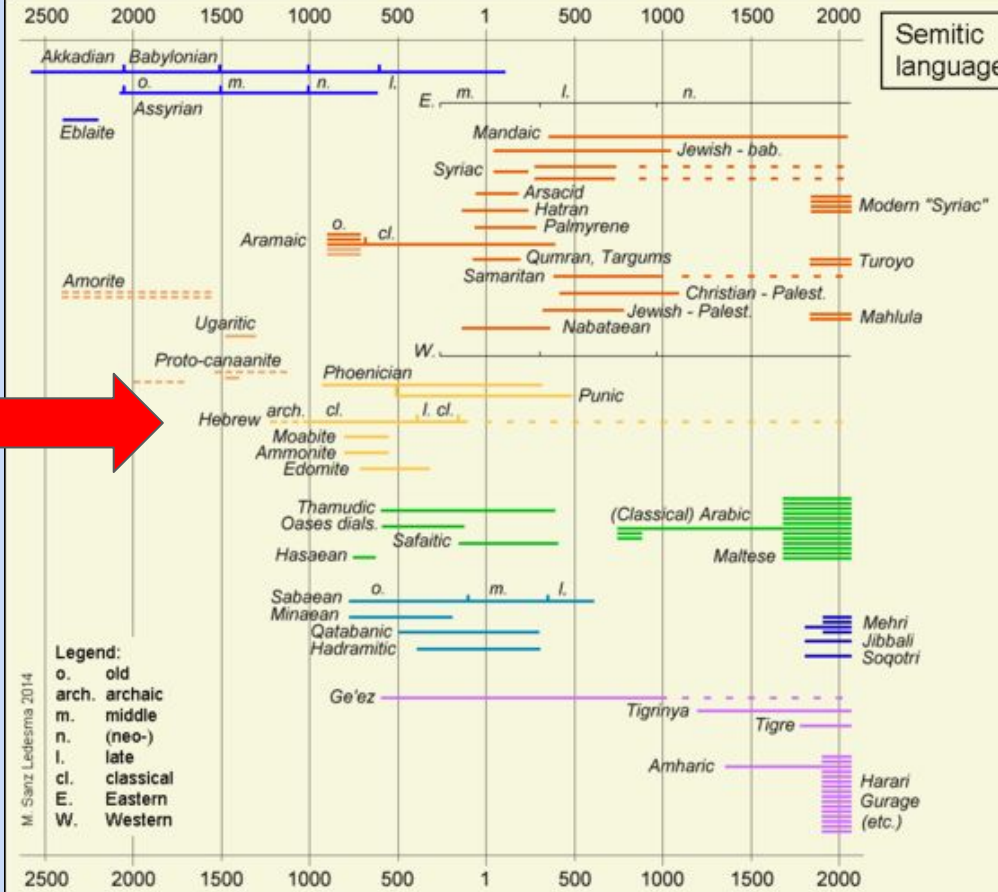
Linguistic Family
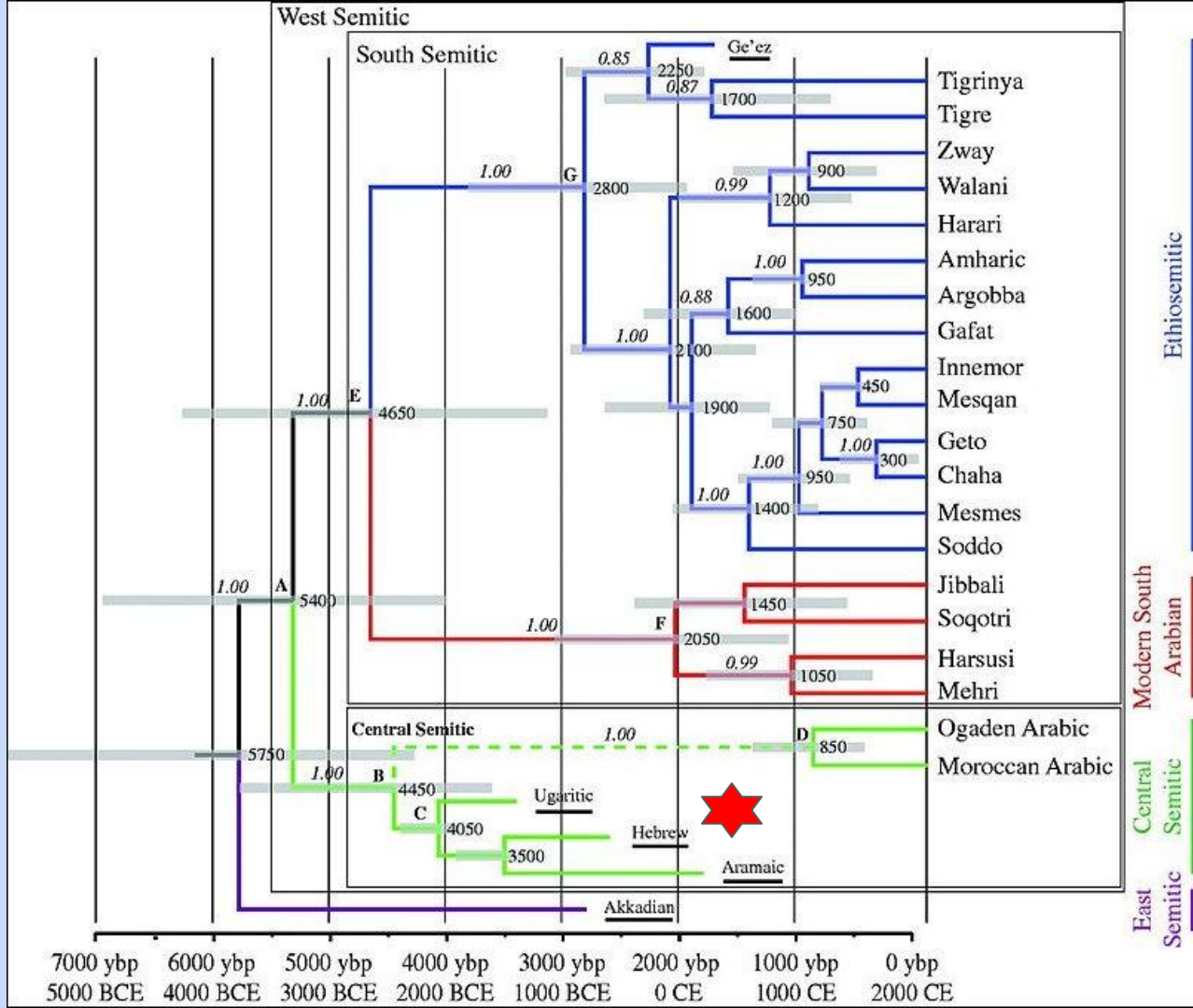
GENEALOGICAL TABLE OF THE DESCENDANTS OF NOAH

NOAH

JAPHETH

Gomer
Magog
Madai
Javan
Tubal
Meshech
Tiras

Ashkenaz
Riphath
Togarmah

Elishah
Tarshish
Kittim
Dodanim

HAM

Cush
Mizraim
Phut
Canaan

Nimrod
(Resen)
Seba
Havilah
Sabtah
Sabtechah
Ramah

Ludim
Anamim
Lehabim
Naphtuhim
Pathrusim
Caphtorim
Casluhim

Sheba
Dedan

Philistim

Sidon
Heth
Jebusite
Amorite
Girgashite
Hivite
Arkite
Sinite
Arvadite
Temarite
Hamathite

SHEM

Elam
Asshur
Arphaxad
Lud
Aram

Salah

Eber

Hul
Gether
Mash

Peleg

Reu

Serug

Terah

Abram

Joktan

Almodad
Sheleph
Hazarmaveth
Jorah
Hadoram
Uzal
Diklah
Obal
Abimael
Sheba
Ophir
Jobab

Hebrew

Semitic languages

The seven groups of Semitic languages are shown in different colours.
There is not clear distinction between Aramaic and Cananaean in the earliest known documents.
Some of the languages listed are more likely to be dialects, notably in the Aramaic group.
Broken lines reflect ancient languages still used.

Legend:
o.   old
arch.   archaic
m.   middle
n.   (neo-)
l.   late
cl.   classical
E.   Eastern
W.   Western

M. Sanz Ledesma 2014

Semetic language genealogy

Origin of the Word "Hebrew"
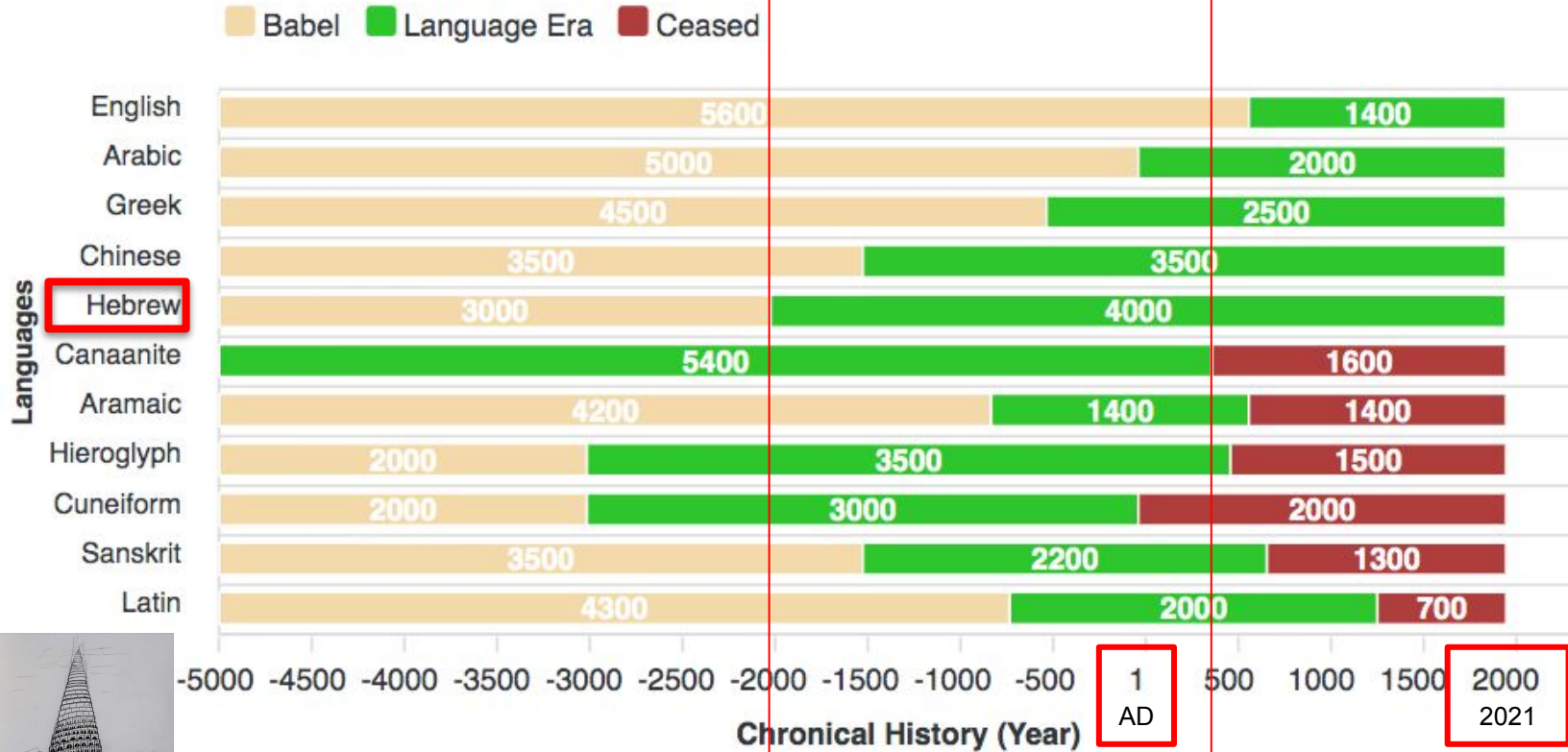
עִבְרִי

Hebrew

(1). The term 'Hebrew' was an ethnic term given by local Canaanite people for immigrant **Abraham**'s clan. (Gen14:3,39:14)
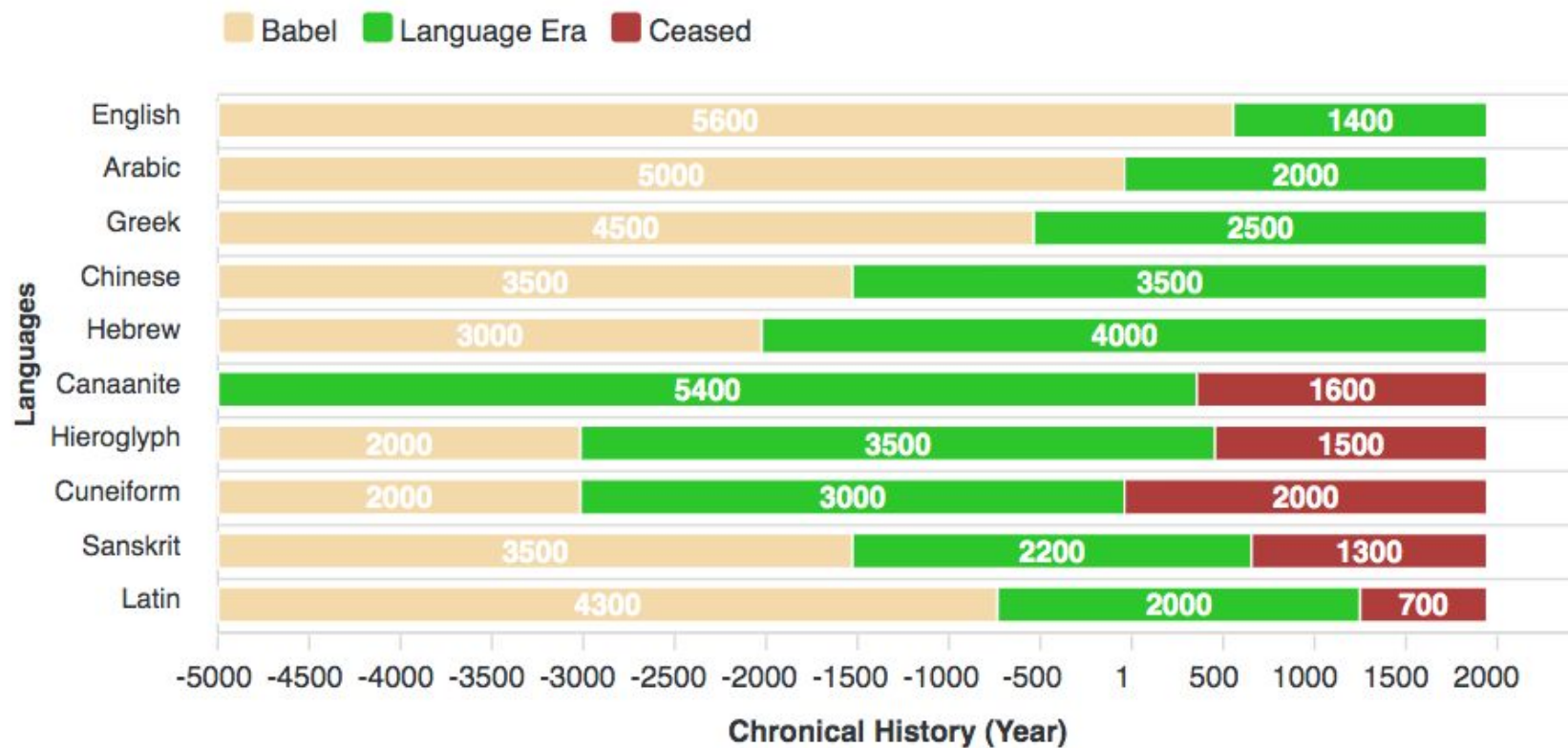
(2). **'Hebrew'** : "**the one from beyond**" (the river, family, world).

Languages in World History

Legend: ■ Babel ■ Language Era ■ Ceased

Languages	Babel	Language Era	Ceased
English	5600	1400	
Arabic	5000	2000	
Greek	4500	2500	
Chinese	3500	3500	
Hebrew	3000	4000	
Canaanite		5400	1600
Aramaic	4200	1400	1400
Hieroglyph	2000	3500	1500
Cuneiform	2000	3000	2000
Sanskrit	3500	2200	1300
Latin	4300	2000	700

Chronical History (Year): -5000 -4500 -4000 -3500 -3000 -2500 -2000 -1500 -1000 -500 1 AD 500 1000 1500 2000 2021

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Y-axis: Languages
X-axis: Chronical History (Year)
-5000 -4500 -4000 -3500 -3000 -2500 -2000 -1500 -1000 -500 1 500 1000 1500 2000

Hebrew History

1. In the beginning, there was only one language in the world.
2. After the Babel tower, numerous language suddenly appeared in the world.
3. Hebrew language is one of the languages after the Babel tower.
4. Hebrew language started around 2000 BC.
5. The term 'Hebrew' was a ethnics name given by local people for immigrant Abraham's clan. (Gen14:3,39:14)
6. Hebrew is a member of Canaanite language.
7. Canaanite language is the language of Canaan (Semitic) family.
8. Canaan is the son of Ham, the second son of Noah.
9. Canaan is mentioned early before the Babel Tower (Gen9:18). Canaanite language is likely the language of Noah, the closest to the language of Adam.
10. The Canaanite languages continued to be everyday spoken languages until at least the 4th century CE. Hebrew is the only living Canaanite language today.[1]
11. The Canaanite languages, or Canaanite dialects,[1] are one of the three subgroups of the Northwest Semitic languages, the others being Aramaic and Ugaritic. [2]
12. Hebrew died out as an everyday spoken language between 200 and 400 AD, but remained in continuous use by many Jews since that period, as a written language, a read language and by many people a spoken language as well. It was primarily used in liturgy, literature, and commerce well into modern times. Beginning in the late 19th century, it was revived as an everyday spoken language by Jews in Palestine and Europe as Zionism emerged as a political movement and Jews began moving to Palestine in increasing numbers, and it became the *lingua franca* of the growing Jewish community there. After the State of Israel was established, it became the main language of the country. Although different dialects of the language were used in earlier times, mostly it is the same Hebrew language. Hebrew is the only Canaanite language that is a living language, and the most successful example of a revived dead language.[3]
13. The biblical Hebrew and modern Hebrew are different.

Significance

Hebrew once **d**ied out as an everyday spoken language between 200 and 400 AD. It's the only language survived without state for more than two thousands years in the world. -- it is a language full of the power of life.

721, 586 BC:	Israel was defeated by Babylonian and Persian.
70-120 AD:	The holy temple was destroyed by Roman.
May 14th,1948:	Re-established; Hebrew is the official language.

Hebrew is one of the oldest languages still in use for today -- the living fossil testifying the Bible the everlasting Word of God.

Hebrew is a member of Canaanite language. Canaan is mentioned before the Babel Tower in Genesis (9:18) -- it is likely the closest language used by Noah, Adam and Eve, and a likely language ever used by God and Jesus.

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Demo

(Hebrew Words You Already Knew)

Two Types of Language:

Phonetic language:

uses alphabets as speech sound for writing system.
Vowels: A-E-I-O-U
Consonants: [b], [k], [p], etc.
E.g., English.
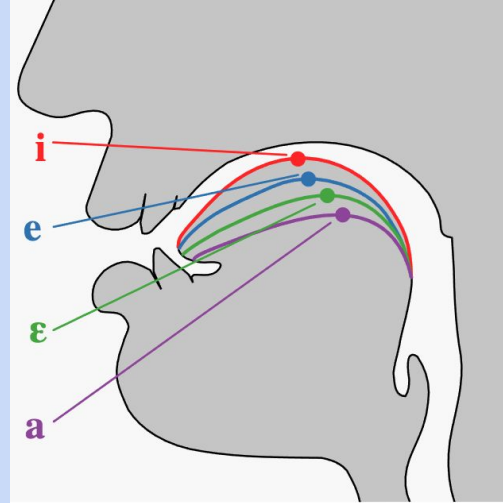
Pictographic Language:

uses pictures for writing system.

E.g., Hieroglyph, Chinese Oracle Bone Inscriptions

horse   tiger   pig   dog   mice   elephant   bird   turtle   bed   guide   illness
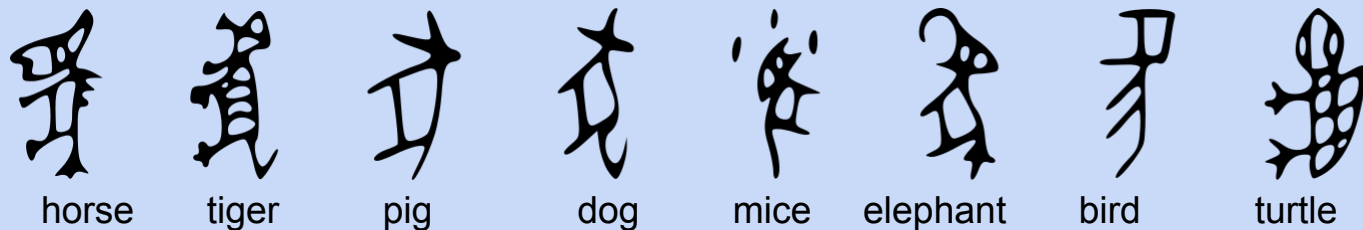
Basic Word Order

Sentence = Subject(S) + Verb (V) + Object(O)
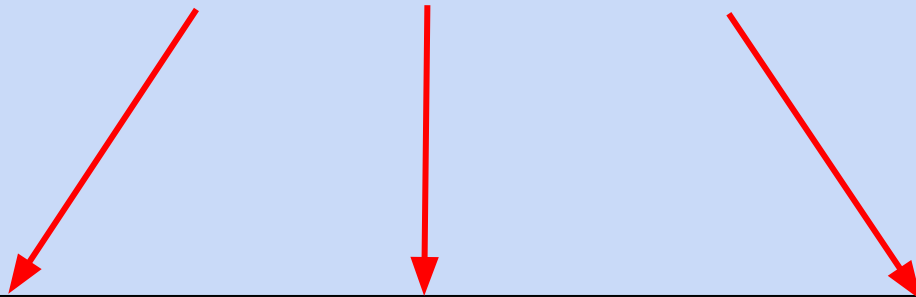
God Created Man.

SVO

Basic Word Order

Sentence = Subject(S) + Verb (V) + Object(O)

#	Word Order	No. of Languages	% of Language	No. of Families	% of Families	Notes
1	SOV	2275	43.3%	239	56.6%	Japanese, Korean, Sanskrit, Ancient Greek
2	SVO	2117	40.3%	55	13.0%	Modern Hebrew, English, Chinese, Greek
3	VSO	503	9.5%	27	6.3%	Biblical Hebrew, Arabic
4	VOS	174	3.3%	15	3.5%	Assyrian Neo-Aramaic
5	OVS	40	0.7%	3	0.7%	
6	OSV	19	0.3%	1	0.2%	
7	UNFIXED	124	2.3%	26	6.1%	Latin

Writing Direction: from Right to Left (R2L).

God created man.

בָּרָ֣א אֱלֹהִ֑ים אֶת־הָֽאָדָם֒

man   God   created

Two Types of Hebrew Language:

- **1. Biblical Hebrew language:** is used in the OT and traditional Jewish community.

- **2. Modern Hebrew Language:** is used in today's daily life

Major Difference

Items	Biblical Hebrew	Modern Hebrew	Notes
Date	2000 BC	1948 AD	
Basic Word Order	VSO	SVO	Syntax Adapts European
Sound Marks	no	mixed	Masorate (1000 AD)
Some Words(i.g.) father, mother	אָב אֵם	אַבָּא אִמָא	**Aba** **Amh**

Hebrew Linguistic Feature :

Hebrew is

phonetic

R2L

biblical

VSO

modern

SVO

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(Hebrew Words You Already Knew)

Hebrew Alphabets

11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1
כ	י	ט	ח	ז	ו	ה	ד	ג	ב	א
ת	שׁ	ר	ק	צ	פ	ע	ס	נ	מ	ל

Remember The First Hebrew Letter:

א

Alef

The English word 'Alphabet' comes from 'Alef'

Hebrew has no upper and lower case difference but has five final forms.

	5	4	3	2	1
Norm Form	צ	פ	נ	מ	כ
Final Form	ץ	ף	ן	ם	ך

כְּנַעַן

Canaan

Hebrew has no upper and lower case difference but has six dagesh(dot) forms.

	6	5	4	3	2	1
Norm Form	ת	פ	כ	ד	ג	ב
Dot Dagesh	תּ	פּ	כּ	דּ	גּ	בּ

Hebrew has no upper and lower case difference
But one letter is either Sin or Shin (from sin to shiny).

שׁ	שׂ	שׁ
Shin	Sin	

Hebrew Vowel Marks to indicate pronunciation (A-E-I-O-U)
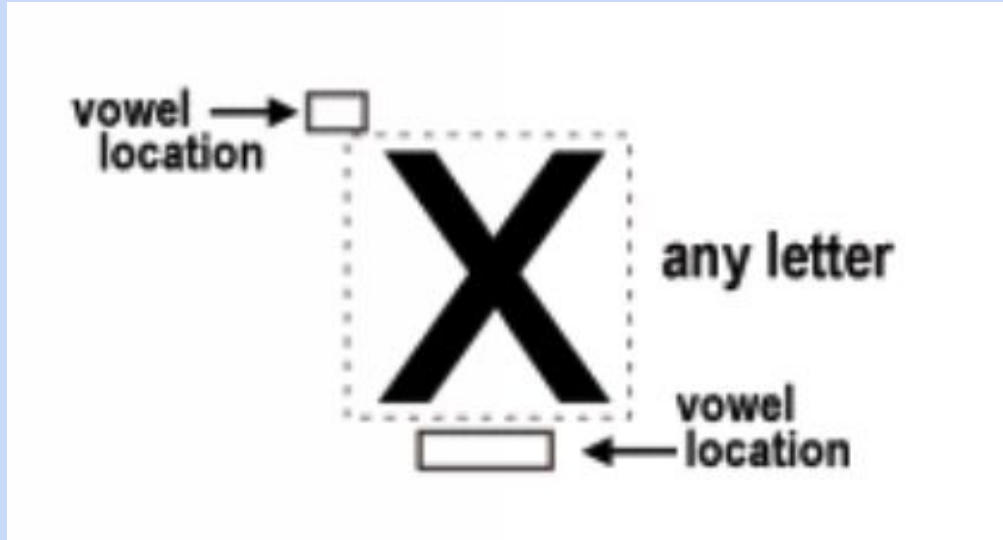
sample

Types of Vowel Marks: for A-E-I-O-U

Niqqud

sheva	hatef			hiriq
tsere	seghol	patach	qamets	
qibbuts				

sample

**Hebrew Syllable** = (Consonant) + Vowel + (Consonant)

Each Hebrew Word has one or more syllables.

closed syllable => **d-a-m**   **a**   <= open syllable

אָדָם

Adam

The Masoretes and the Masoretic Text

Between the 7th and 9th centuries A.D, a group of Jewish scribes called the **Masoretes** added vowel signs (*nikkudot*), cantillation symbols and accent marks (*ta'amim*) to the text. This process came to be known as the *Masorah* (tradition). The marked text was called the Masoretic Text and became the standard text for the Jews around the world.
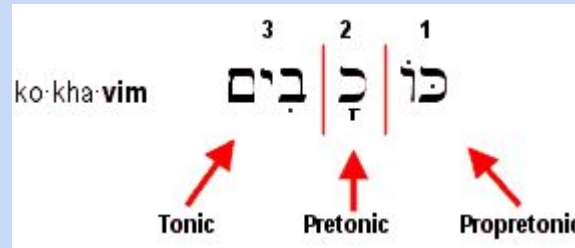
Hebrew Masorete *Accents Marks*

These *accents*, inserted by the Masoretes (c. 500–1000 AD) have three functions:

1. to indicate whether a word should be joined to or separated from the following word;

2. to mark the accented or "tone" syllable; and

3. to indicate a word's melody for singing (cantillating) the text.

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(Hebrew Words You Already Knew)

Hebrew Words You Already Knew:

אָדָם

Adam

אָמֵן

Amen

שָׁלוֹם

Shalom

Biblical and Modern Hebrew Words Comparison:

Words	Biblical Hevrew	Modern Hebrew
father	אָב **Aba**	אַבָּא Abba
mother	אֵם **Amm**	אִמָא Amah
son	בֵּן **Ben**	

Hebrew Words:

עִבְרִי

Hebrew

כְּנַעַן

Canaan

The following shows Genesis 1:1 as you might see it in a typical Masoretic text:

Sef Pasuk

barashit	barah	Elohim		et	ha-esh-meyim	vi-et	ha-areze

בְּרֵאשִׁית בָּרָא אֱלֹהִים ׀ אֵת הַשָּׁמַיִם וְאֵת הָאָרֶץ׃

In-beginning	created	God			the heavens	and	the earth

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.

Note: You do not need to memorize the names of these accent marks; however, when you see one of them in your reading of the Tanakh, accent the syllable where the mark appears (for example, the silluq in the last word of the *pasuk* (verse) tells us to accent the pretonic syllable: ha-**a**-rets).

The First Hebrew Sentence.

Summary

1. The Origin of Hebrew

2. Linguistic Features

3. Language Basic

End

Shalom

שָׁלוֹם

[Hebrew Lang Family](#)

[gen1:1](#)