

119

MINISTRIES

LEARN BIBLICAL HEBREW LESSON 11

VERSE TO TRANSLATE:

בְּרָא אֱלֹהִים
אֱלֹהִים אֶת
הַשָּׁמַיִם וְאֶת
הָאָרֶץ

SUMMARY OF LESSON 11:

- To translate this verse, first we will pronounce every word:

“Bereshit Bara Elohim Et Hashamayim V’et Ha’arets”

- Now, we will examine each word individually and figure out where it belongs in the sentence:

בְּרֵאשִׁית

Reshit means “beginning,” and the *Bet* at the beginning of this word means “in” or “with.” This word would mean “in beginning”

בָּרָא

Bara means “created.” This is our sentence’s verb.

אֱלֹהִים

Elohim means “god.”

אֵת

Et indicates that the next word in the sentence is the object of the sentence—the thing that is having the verb done to it. The verb in this sentence is *Bara*, “created,” so the word that follows this *Et* is the thing that is being created.

הַשָּׁמַיִם

Shamayim means “sky,” and the *Ha-* prefix in front of it means “the.” This word means “the sky.” Also, since it follows the *Et*, this word is the object of this sentence—the sky is the thing being created.

וְאֵת

The *Vav* at the beginning of this word means “and.” It is followed by another *Et*. Since this sentence has two *Et* words, it also has two objects. *Hashamayim* was one of the sentence’s objects, and whatever word follows this second *Et* will be a second object—another thing that is being created.

הָאָרֶץ

Erets means “land,” and the *Ha-* prefix in front of it means “the.” This word means “the land.” This is the second object of our sentence, so “the land” is the second thing being created.

- Now that we have defined every word in this sentence, let’s put it all together. We have identified the sentence’s verb (“created”), and two objects that the verb is acting on (two things that are being created), but we haven’t yet identified the sentence’s subject—the thing that is doing the creating. We have two potential words that could be this sentence’s subject:

בְּרֵאשִׁית בְּרָא אֱלֹהִים
אֵת הַשָּׁמַיִם וְאֵת הָאָרֶץ

The first option, *Bereshit*, starts with the *Bet* prefix. Because it starts with this prefix, it is considered a prepositional phrase, which means it cannot be the subject of the sentence. This means that our other word, *Elohim*, must be the subject. God is the one doing the creating in this sentence.

- So, with the subject, verb, and objects all properly identified, we can translate this sentence:

“In beginning, God created the sky and the land.”

or, the way that looks more familiar:

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

This verse is Genesis 1:1, the first verse in the Bible.