



FREQUENCY DICTIONARY
OF THE
HEBREW BIBLE

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Introduction

The *Frequency Dictionary of the Hebrew Bible* is an indispensable resource for all students of biblical Hebrew. It provides a list of all 9,369 words attested in the Hebrew Bible, together with invaluable statistical information. The list is ranked numerically, starting with the most frequent word in the Hebrew Bible. Each entry contains a word's numerical rank, rate of occurrence, cumulative percentage, and English definition. This information is easily accessible. Beginning students may want to focus on the most frequently attested words (e.g., the top 400–600 words), while advanced students may desire to study less frequently attested words.

It is exceptionally significant that the top twenty-eight Hebrew words (and verbal roots) in the *Frequency Dictionary* constitute 50.21% of all words in the Hebrew Bible! Here are three examples:

- The most frequent word in the Hebrew Bible is ו (meaning “and”), which occurs 50,524 times (11.68% of all Hebrew words).
- The second most frequent word is ה (meaning “the”), which appears 30,477 times (7.05% of all words). The cumulative percentage of the top two words—ו (“and”) and ה (“the”)—represents 18.73% of the total words in the Hebrew Bible.
- A significant word in the Hebrew Bible is the Divine Name יהוה (the Tetragrammaton), which many English versions of the Bible translate as *LORD*. This name is attested 6,828 times. *By learning just these three words—יהוה, ו, and ה—students can translate 87,829 words of the Bible!*

In our view, students who learn the most frequently attested vocabulary words will have a much greater capacity to translate the Hebrew Bible—more quickly and more accurately.

Notes to help you navigate the *Frequency Dictionary of the Hebrew Bible*:

- 1) In the Hebrew column, some entries have a number next to it, e.g., entry number 5 reads **1** אֵל. The number 1 indicates that this is the first definition of the word אֵל. The second definition is labeled **2** אֵל, which is located further down the list of words.
- 2) In the Hebrew column, some entries have the symbol @ next to it, which indicates that the word is Aramaic.
- 3) In the Hebrew column, verbs do not have vowels, e.g., the verb “to be” appears as הָיָה.

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Rank	Hebrew	English	Freq	Cumulative %
1	וְ	and	50,520	11.68
2	הַ	the	30,388	18.70
3	לְ	to	20,430	23.43
4	בְּ	in, at, with	15,620	27.04
5	אֶת־1	(direct object marker)	10,933	29.57
6	מִן	from	7,584	31.32
7	יהוה	LORD, Yahweh	6,828	32.90
8	עַל־2	upon, over, above, against	5,774	34.23
9	אֶל	to, toward, into	5,517	35.51
10	אֲשֶׁר	which	5,503	36.78
11	כָּל	all, whole, everyone, everything	5,414	38.03
12	אמר־1	to say	5,317	39.26
13	לא	no, not	5,187	40.46
14	בֶּן־1	son, descendant, child	4,941	41.60
15	כִּי־2	that, because, when	4,487	42.64
16	היה	to be	3,576	43.47
17	כִּי	as, like	2,910	44.14
18	עשה־1	to do, make	2,632	44.75
19	אֱלֹהִים	God, gods	2,602	45.35
20	בוא	to come	2,577	45.95
21	מֶלֶךְ־1	king	2,530	46.53
22	יִשְׂרָאֵל	Israel	2,507	47.11
23	אָרֶץ	land, earth	2,505	47.69
24	יוֹם־1	day	2,303	48.22