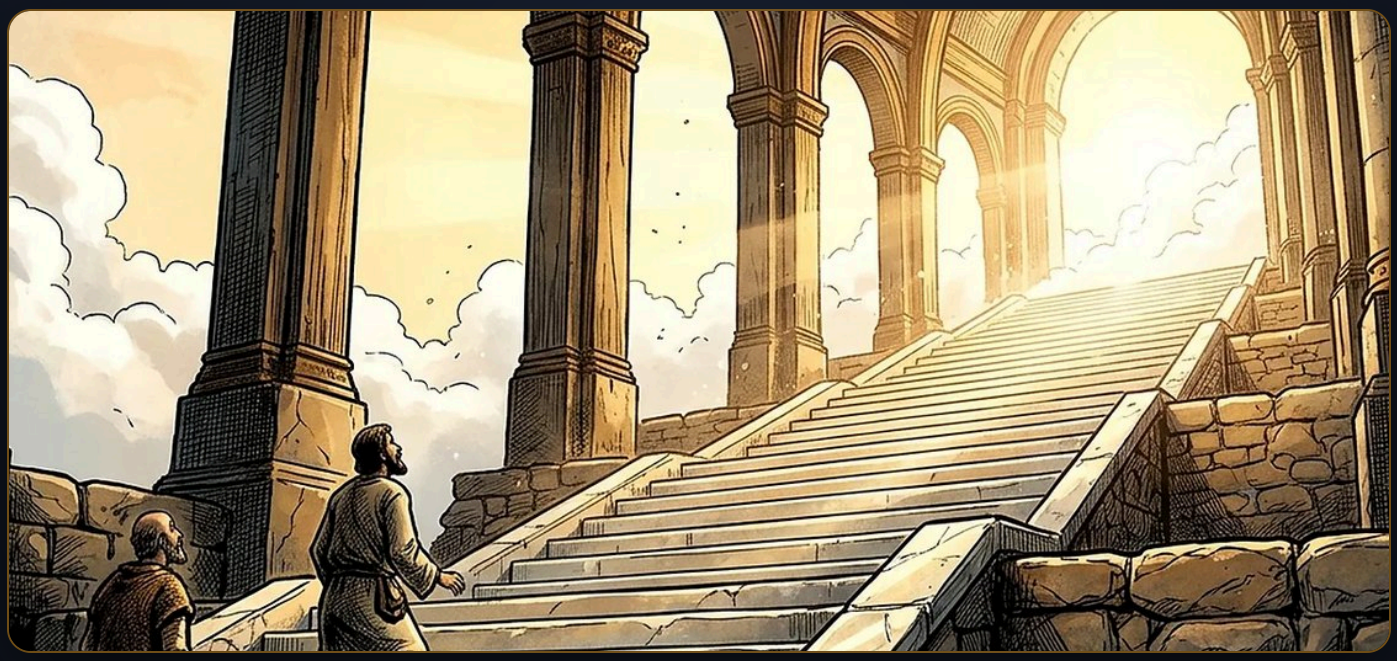
Unread Scripture

ILLUSTRATED FIELD GUIDE · 12 PAGES



HEBREW · ARAMAIC · KOINE GREEK · DEAD SEA SCROLLS

The 10 Most Misread Passages in the Bible

An illustrated side-by-side field guide comparing familiar English translations against the original ancient manuscripts.

01 **Genesis 1–2** — Two Opposite Creation Accounts

02 **Genesis 3:6–7** — Why the Fruit Was Never an Apple

03 **Genesis 6:1–4** — Who Were the Nephilim?

04 **Isaiah 14:4–15** — "Lucifer" & the King of Babylon

05 **Job 1–2 · Num 22** — Where "The Satan" Came From

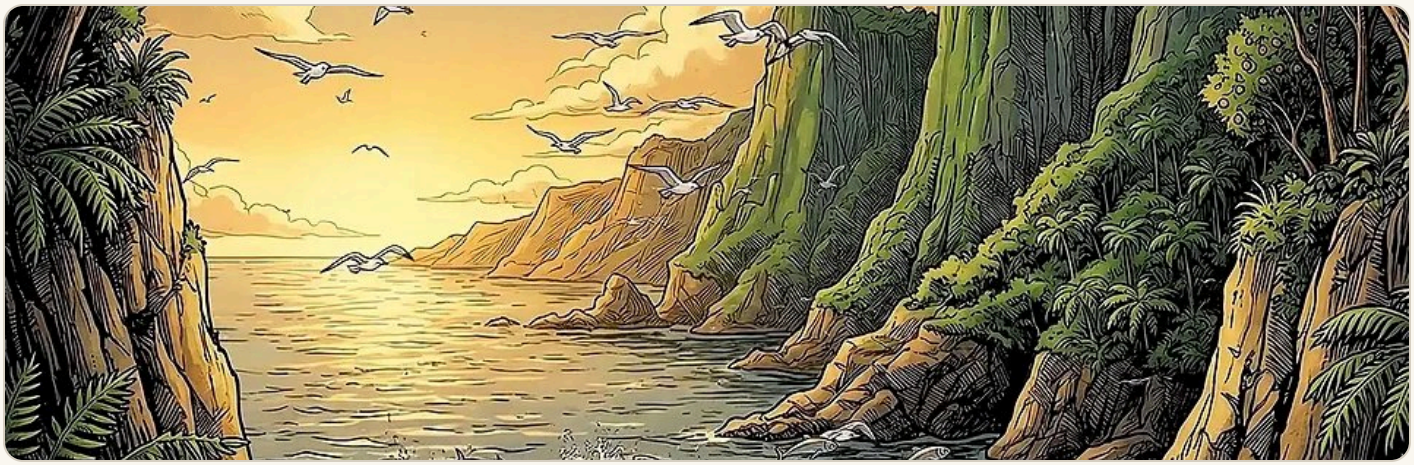
06 **Isaiah 6 · Ezek 1** — What Real Biblical Angels Look Like

07 **Sheol · Gehenna** — Four Ancient Words for "Hell"

08 **Exodus 4–14** — Pharaoh's "Hardened" Heart

09 **66 vs. 81 Books** — Why Different Bibles Have 66–81 Books

10 **Rev 13:18 · P115** — "666" vs. Papyrus 115's "616"



Why Genesis Opens With Two Opposite Creation Stories

Read Genesis 1 and Genesis 2 side by side—the entire order of creation flips upside down.

FAMILIAR ENGLISH · GENESIS 2:19

"And out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field, and every fowl of the air; and brought them unto Adam to see what he would call them."

ORIGINAL HEBREW (MT & 4QGEN^{b})

וַיִּצֶר יְהוָה אֱלֹהִים מִן־הָאֲדָמָה כָּל־חַיַּת הַשָּׂדֶה

wayyitzer YHWH Elohim min-ha-adamah – 'And YHWH God formed [sequentially] out of the arable soil every wild beast'

WHAT THE ORIGINAL TEXT ACTUALLY SAYS

Genesis 1:1–2:3 and Genesis 2:4–25 preserve two distinct ancient Israelite creation traditions placed side by side rather than harmonized into a single timeline. In Genesis 1, a transcendent Elohim speaks order over a watery abyss (tehom) across six symmetrical days: plants (Day 3), birds and fish (Day 5), land animals (Day 6a), and male and female humanity together last (Day 6b). At Genesis 2:4b, YHWH Elohim begins with a dry, rainless desert and works hands-on like a potter: forming one man first from dust, planting a garden, forming animals and birds afterward as potential helpers, and building the first woman last.

THREE THINGS TO REMEMBER

- English translations such as the NIV render Genesis 2:19 as 'had formed' (pluperfect) to smooth the sequence, whereas standard Hebrew narrative syntax (wayyiqtol: wayyitzer) reads sequentially: 'So the LORD God formed.'
- Genesis 1 uses exclusively Elohim (35 times), while Genesis 2:4–3:24 shifts abruptly to the covenantal compound YHWH Elohim.
- Ancient Jewish scribes deliberately preserved both accounts side by side—pairing cosmic temple sovereignty (Chapter 1) with intimate earthly kinship (Chapter 2).

KEY BIBLICAL HEBREW TERM **תְּהוֹם · וַיִּיצֶר** **Tehom & Wayyitzer** — 'Primeval Deep' (Gen 1:2) & 'And He Formed' (Gen 2:19)



Why the Forbidden Fruit Was Never an Apple

Genesis never says 'apple'—so how did a 4th-century Latin pun and John Milton rewrite everyone's mental picture of Eden?

FAMILIAR ENGLISH · GENESIS 3:5–6

“eritis sicut dii, scientes bonum et malum [mălum = evil; mālum = apple]... tulit de fructu illius, et comedit.”

ORIGINAL HEBREW (MT)

וַתִּקַּח מִפִּרְיוֹ וַתֹּאכַל … יֹדְעֵי טוֹב וָרָע

mippiryo – 'from its generic produce/fruit' (Hebrew peri never specifies species)

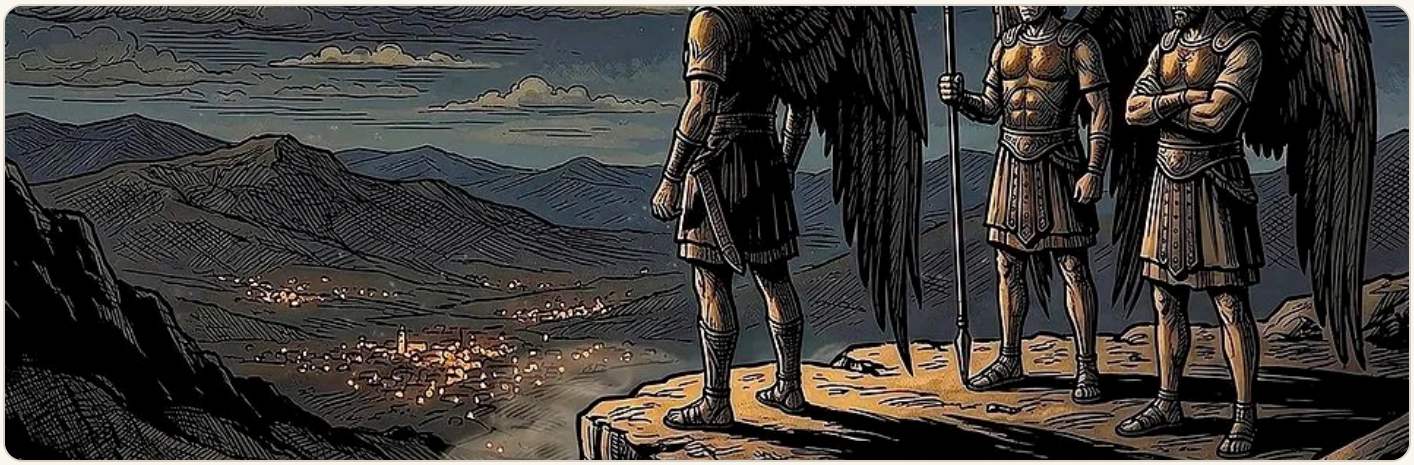
WHAT THE ORIGINAL TEXT ACTUALLY SAYS

Hebrew Genesis 3 calls Eden's fruit simply peri ('fruit'), never an apple—in fact, sweet orchard apples didn't grow in wild Bronze Age Canaan. Ancient Jewish interpreters proposed figs, grapes, wheat, or citron, while Western Europe pictured an apple because Latin malum meant both 'evil' and 'apple,' cemented forever by Albrecht Dürer and Milton's Paradise Lost.

THREE THINGS TO REMEMBER

- The one plant Genesis 3 ACTUALLY names is a fig tree (Genesis 3:6–7).
- Grapes, figs, citron—or giant stalks of wheat? (1 Enoch 32:4 (3rd–2nd c. BCE)).
- The Latin double-meaning pun: mālum ('apple') vs. mălum ('evil') (Song of Solomon 8:5 (Latin Vulgate Echo)).

KEY HEBREW VS. LATIN TERM **פְּרִי · mālum** **Peri vs. Mālum** — Generic 'Fruit' (Hebrew) vs. Latin Pun on 'Evil' and 'Apple'



Who Were the Nephilim & “Sons of God”?

Four cryptic verses right before Noah's Ark mention 'sons of God,' human daughters, and ancient giants.

FAMILIAR ENGLISH · GENESIS 6:2, 4

“That the sons of God saw the daughters of men that they were fair... There were giants in the earth in those days.”

ORIGINAL HEBREW (MT)

הַנְּפִלִים הָיוּ בָאָרֶץ … בְּנֵי הָאֱלֹהִים

benei ha-Elohim … ha-Nephilim hayu ba-aretz – 'sons of God [divine council beings] … the Fallen Ones were on the earth'

WHAT THE ORIGINAL TEXT ACTUALLY SAYS

In Genesis 6:1–4, the 'sons of God' (Hebrew: benei ha-elohim) take 'daughters of men,' coinciding with the appearance of renowned warriors called the Nephilim. Elsewhere in the Hebrew Bible (Job 1:6; 38:7), benei ha-elohim refers to heavenly beings of God's divine council—an interpretation expanded in 1 Enoch and echoed in Jude 6 and 2 Peter 2:4. Later rabbinic and Christian writers offered two non-angelic alternatives (divine-king tyrants or the lineage of Seth), while Numbers 13:33 uses the memory of the Nephilim as hyperbole in the panicked report of Moses's spies.

THREE THINGS TO REMEMBER

- Every undisputed Old Testament occurrence of benei ha-elohim (Job 1:6, Job 2:1, Job 38:7) denotes members of the heavenly court rather than ordinary human men.
- Beginning in the 4th–5th centuries CE, Julius Africanus and Augustine popularized the 'Sons of Seth vs. Daughters of Cain' reading to avoid the theological problem of embodied angels.
- In 1 Samuel 17, the Dead Sea Scroll manuscript 4QSam^{a} and the Greek Septuagint record Goliath's height at 'four cubits and a span' (~6 ft 9 in) rather than the Masoretic 'six cubits and a span' (~9 ft 9 in).

KEY BIBLICAL HEBREW TERM **בְּנֵי הָאֱלֹהִים · נְפִילִים** **Nephilim & Benei ha-Elohim**

— 'Fallen Ones' & 'Sons of God / Heavenly Council Beings'



Why “Lucifer” Was Originally a King of Babylon

No Hebrew or Greek writer in the Bible ever named Satan 'Lucifer'—and Jerome's Latin Bible used that exact word for Jesus.

FAMILIAR ENGLISH · ISAIAH 14:12

“How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations!”

ORIGINAL HEBREW (MT & 1QISAᵃ)

אֵיךְ נָפַלְתָּ מִשָּׁמַיִם הֵילֵל בֶּן־שָׁחַר

Eikh nafalta mi-shamayim, Helel ben-Shachar – 'How you have fallen from the sky, Shining One, son of Dawn!' (planet Venus)

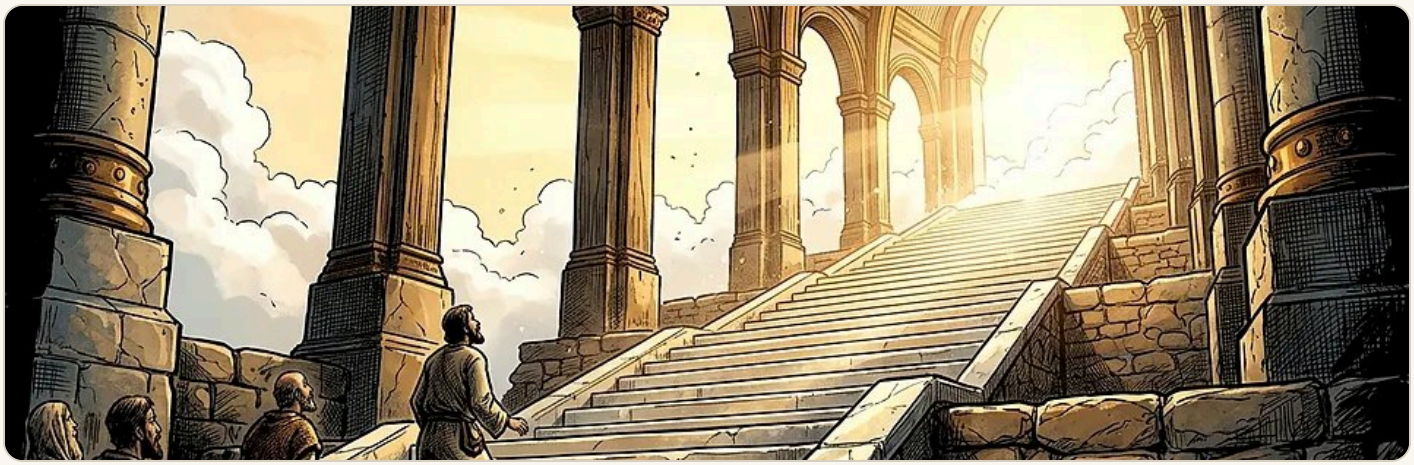
WHAT THE ORIGINAL TEXT ACTUALLY SAYS

Modern Bibles did not erase Satan's name from Isaiah 14:12; 'Lucifer' is not Hebrew at all, but Latin for 'light-bringer / morning star.' Isaiah 14:4 explicitly titles the poem a taunt against the human king of Babylon, calling him Helel ben-Shachar (הֵילֵל בֶּן־שָׁחַר, 'Shining One, son of Dawn'), which Jerome's 400 CE Latin Vulgate rendered lowercase lucifer.

THREE THINGS TO REMEMBER

- Isaiah 14:4 explicitly introduces the passage as 'this taunt against the king of Babylon,' a mortal tyrant whose corpse rots unburied (14:16–19).
- Hebrew Helel ben-Shachar ('Shining One, son of Dawn' = Venus) became Latin lucifer in Jerome's Vulgate—the exact Latin word Jerome used for Christ's return in 2 Peter 1:19!
- Patristic links to Luke 10:18, 1611 KJV capitalization ('O Lucifer'), and John Milton's Paradise Lost (1667) turned a Latin astronomy noun into Satan's popular name.

KEY BIBLICAL HEBREW TERM הֵילֵל בֶּן־שָׁחַר **Helel ben-Shachar** — 'Shining One, son of Dawn' (the Morning Star / planet Venus)



Where “The Satan” (ha-śāṭān) Actually Came From

In the Hebrew Bible, 'ha-satan' isn't a personal name—it's a job title in God's courtroom.

FAMILIAR ENGLISH · NUMBERS 22:22 & JOB 1:6

“Num 22:22: the angel of the LORD stood in the way for an adversary against him. – Job 1:6: the sons of God came... and Satan came also among them.”

ORIGINAL HEBREW (MT)

לְשָׂטָן לוֹ (Num 22:22) · גַּם־הַשָּׂטָן בְּתוֹכָם (Job 1:6)

le-satan lo ('as an obstructor/adversary to him') · gam-ha-satan ('also THE Accuser, with definite article ha-')

WHAT THE ORIGINAL TEXT ACTUALLY SAYS

In early Hebrew Scripture, satan is not a personal name for a horned ruler of hell—it is an ordinary Hebrew noun meaning 'adversary,' 'accuser,' or 'obstruction.' Its very first biblical appearance (Numbers 22:22) describes the Angel of the LORD standing in Balaam's road 'as a satan,' and in Job 1–2 and Zechariah 3 it carries the definite article ha-satan ('the Accuser'), denoting a prosecutorial office inside God's heavenly court. Only in late post-exilic texts (1 Chronicles 21:1 dropping the article 'ha-') and Second Temple Jewish literature did those strands converge with Genesis 3's serpent into the cosmic Devil (Greek: diabolos) of the New Testament.

THREE THINGS TO REMEMBER

- Genesis 3 never calls the Eden serpent 'Satan'; that explicit link appears centuries later in Wisdom of Solomon 2:24 and Revelation 12:9.
- Isaiah 14:12 ('Lucifer' from Jerome's Latin Vulgate for Hebrew helel ben-shachar, 'Day Star, son of Dawn') is explicitly addressed as a taunt against the human King of Babylon (Isaiah 14:4).
- Comparing 2 Samuel 24:1 (YHWH incites David's census) with 1 Chronicles 21:1 (satan incites David's census) shows post-exilic scribes shifting the role of testing onto an autonomous figure.

KEY BIBLICAL HEBREW TERM הַשָּׂטָן **Ha-Satan** — 'The Adversary / The Courtroom Accuser' (with definite article 'the')



What Real Biblical Angels Actually Look Like

Actual 'angel' messengers in the Bible never have wings—while multi-eyed wheels and six-winged Seraphim aren't called angels.

FAMILIAR ENGLISH · ISAIAH 6:2 & EZEKIEL 1:15–18

“Isa 6:2: Above it stood the seraphims: each one had six wings... Ezek 1:18: As for their rings, they were so high that they were dreadful; and their rings were full of eyes.”

ORIGINAL HEBREW (MT)

וְגַבֹּתָם מְלֵאֹת עֵינַיִם · שְׂרָפִים עֹמְדִים מִמַּעַל לוֹ

seraphim ('fiery serpentine guardians') · we-gabbotam mele'ot 'einayim ('and their wheel-rims were full of eyes')

WHAT THE ORIGINAL TEXT ACTUALLY SAYS

The viral internet meme of 'biblically accurate angels' mixes four distinct heavenly categories that the Bible itself keeps separate. In Hebrew (mal'akh) and Greek (angelos), the word 'angel' literally means 'messenger,' and whenever messengers visit humans in Scripture (Genesis 18–19, Judges 13, Tobit 5, Luke 24), they appear as ordinary wingless men. The awe-inspiring multi-winged beings—six-winged fiery Seraphim (Isaiah 6), four-faced throne-bearing Cherubim (Ezekiel 1 & 10), and eye-covered interlocking wheels called Ophanim (Ezekiel 1:15–18)—are never called 'angels' in those chapters; they are heavenly temple guardians surrounding God's throne.

THREE THINGS TO REMEMBER

- Not a single mal'akh ('messenger') in the Old or New Testament is ever described as having bird wings; winged human messengers entered Christian art in the 4th century CE via Roman Victoria/Nike iconography.
- Hebrew saraph ('burning/venomous one') is the exact word used in Numbers 21:6 and Isaiah 14:29 for fiery serpents, matching 8th-century BCE Judahite royal seals depicting winged cobras.
- Ezekiel's four-faced Cherubim (human, lion, ox, eagle) directly subvert the winged bull/lion throne guardians (karibu / lamassu) Ezekiel saw in Babylonian exile, showing YHWH's throne moving on wheels beyond Jerusalem.

KEY BIBLICAL HEBREW TERM מַלְאָךְ · שְׂרָפִים · אוֹפַנִּים **Mal'akh · Seraphim · Ophanim**

— 'Messenger' · 'Burning Ones' · 'Throne Wheels'



Four Ancient Words Flattened Into “Hell”

Older English Bibles translated four completely different ancient words with the single word 'hell.'

FAMILIAR ENGLISH · PSALM 16:10 & MARK 9:43 (CF. 2 PETER 2:4)

“Ps 16:10: For thou wilt not leave my soul in hell… Mark 9:43: better… than having two hands to go into hell… 2 Pet 2:4: cast them down to hell.”

HEBREW (MT) & KOINE GREEK (NA28)

לִשְׁאוֹל (Sheol) · εἰς τὴν γέενναν (Gehenna) · ταρταρώσας (Tartarus)

Sheol ('the silent grave/underworld') · Gehenna ('Ravine of Ben-Hinnom') · tartarōsas ('consigned to the angelic abyss')

WHAT THE ORIGINAL TEXT ACTUALLY SAYS

Older English Bibles such as the 1611 King James Version translated four distinct ancient words—Hebrew Sheol and Greek Hades, Gehenna, and Tartarus—with the single English word 'hell.' In the Hebrew Bible, Sheol is the universal grave or realm of the dead where righteous and wicked alike go down to silence (Genesis 37:35; Ecclesiastes 9:10), translated Hades in Greek. When Jesus warns of fiery judgment, He uses Gehenna (Gei Ben-Hinnom), a real ravine south of Jerusalem infamous in Jeremiah 7 and 2 Kings 23 for child sacrifices and prophetic judgment—not a 1st-century garbage dump, a rumor first attested around 1200 CE.

THREE THINGS TO REMEMBER

- Sheol occurs 65–66 times in the Hebrew Bible and never denotes a fiery chamber of eternal torment; righteous patriarchs like Jacob expect to descend to Sheol.
- The popular preacher claim that Gehenna was a perpetually burning Roman trash heap has zero 1st-century archaeological or literary evidence; it originates with medieval commentator David Kimhi (c. 1200 CE).
- Tartarus (tartaroo) appears only once in the entire Bible (2 Peter 2:4), specifically describing imprisoned rebellious angels rather than human souls.

KEY HEBREW & KOINE GREEK TERM שְׁאוֹל · ᾅδης · γέεννα · ταρταρόω **Sheol · Hades · Gehenna · Tartarus**

— Grave · Unseen Dead · Valley of Hinnom · Angelic Abyss



Three Hebrew Verbs Behind Pharaoh's "Hardened" Heart

Read all 20 hardening verses in Exodus in order—a striking pattern appears across the first five plagues.

FAMILIAR ENGLISH · EXODUS 7:13 & EXODUS 9:12

"Exod 7:13: And he hardened Pharaohs heart, that he hearkened not unto them. – Exod 9:12: And the LORD hardened the heart of Pharaoh."

ORIGINAL HEBREW (MT)

וַיֶּחֱזַק לֵב פַּרְעֹה (7:13) · וַיְחַזֵּק יְהוָה אֶת־לֵב פַּרְעֹה (9:12)

wayyechezaq lev Par'oh (Qal stative: 'Pharaoh's heart grew firm') vs. wayechazzeq YHWH (Piel causative: 'YHWH fortified')

WHAT THE ORIGINAL TEXT ACTUALLY SAYS

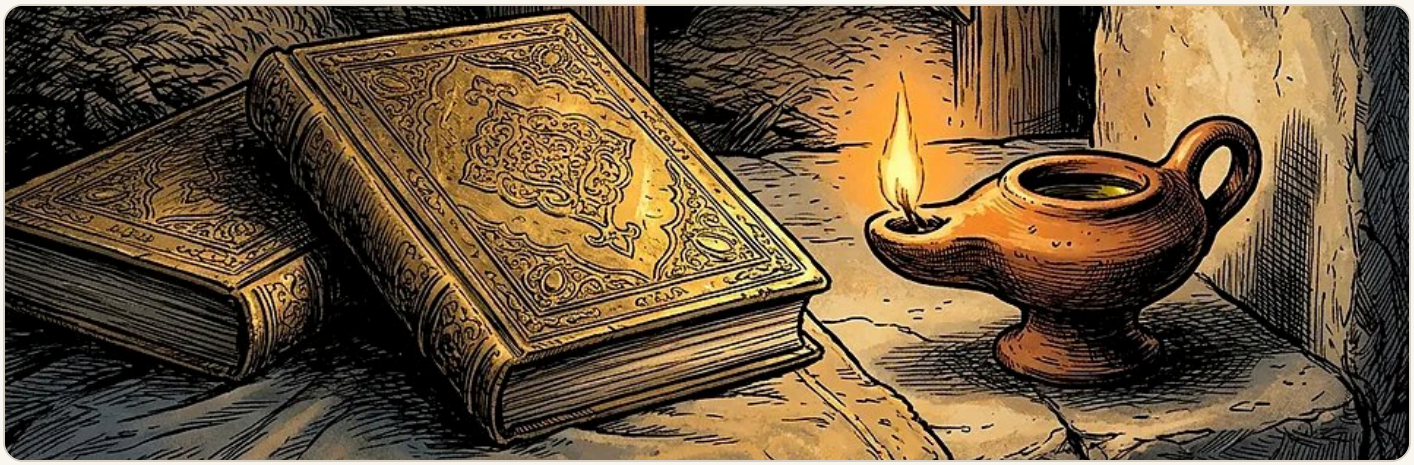
When all twenty hardening verses in Exodus 4–14 are read in exact sequence rather than isolated quotes, a clear two-stage pattern emerges. Across the initial signs and the first five plagues (Exodus 7:13 through 9:7), God never once overrides Pharaoh's choice—Pharaoh repeatedly hardens his own heart even after breaking his promises to release Israel. Only at the sixth plague (Exodus 9:12) does the text state for the first time in real time that 'the LORD strengthened (chazaq) Pharaoh's heart,' ratifying and fortifying the trajectory Pharaoh had already chosen.

THREE THINGS TO REMEMBER

- Hebrew Exodus uses three distinct verbs: kaved ('to make heavy,' echoing Egyptian Weighing-of-the-Heart imagery), qashah ('to make stiff/stubborn'), and chazaq ('to strengthen/fortify courage').
- Throughout Plagues 1–5, active hardening verbs have Pharaoh (or Pharaoh's own heart) as subject 100% of the time.
- When YHWH acts from Plague 6 onward, Exodus exclusively uses chazaq ('strengthened')—giving Pharaoh the nerve not to cave solely out of terror before Egypt's gods are exposed.

KEY BIBLICAL HEBREW TERM כָּבֵד · קָשָׁה · חָזַק **Kaved · Qashah · Chazaq**

— 'Make Heavy' · 'Make Stiff' · 'Strengthen / Fortify Nerve'



Why Different Bibles Have 66, 73, 79, or 81 Books

From the Book of Enoch to the Apocrypha—who actually decided what stayed and what was cut?

FAMILIAR ENGLISH · JOSHUA 10:13 (CF. LXX 3 KINGDOMS 8:53A)

“And the sun stood still, and the moon stayed… Is not this written in the book of Jasher?”

ORIGINAL HEBREW (MT)

הֲלֹא־הִיא כְתוּבָה עַל־סֵפֶר הַיָּשָׁר

halo-hi khetuvah 'al-Sefer ha-Yashar – 'Is it not written upon the Scroll of the Upright?'

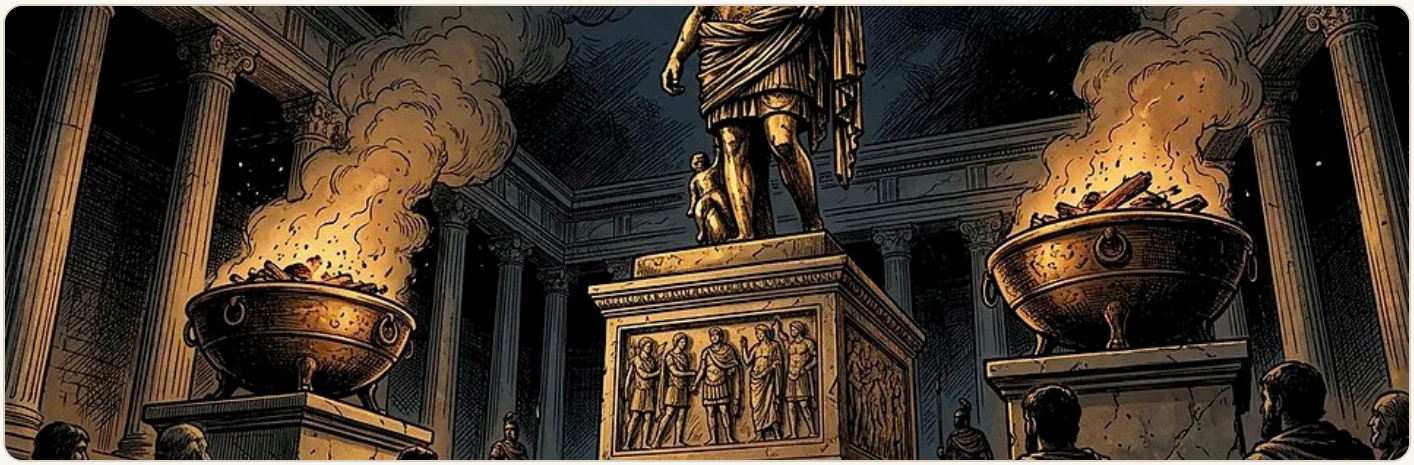
WHAT THE ORIGINAL TEXT ACTUALLY SAYS

No single secret council 'banned' a unified stack of books from the Bible; instead, non-canonical and disputed works fall into four completely different historical categories. First are ancient Israelite chronicles quoted inside the Bible itself (such as the Book of Jasher) that simply perished in antiquity; second are Second Temple Jewish works like 1 Enoch and Jubilees, kept by the Ethiopian Church; third are the Deuterocanonical/Apocrypha books of the Greek Septuagint retained by Catholic and Orthodox Bibles but moved out by 16th-century Protestants; and fourth are 2nd–4th century Gnostic gospels unearthed at Nag Hammadi in 1945.

THREE THINGS TO REMEMBER

- Over twenty lost sources—including the Book of the Wars of the Lord (Numbers 21:14) and the Book of Jasher (Joshua 10:13; 2 Samuel 1:18)—are cited by biblical authors with reverence, not condemnation.
- Jude 1:14–15 quotes 1 Enoch 1:9 nearly word-for-word, and eleven Aramaic Enoch manuscripts survived in the Qumran caves.
- The Apocalypse of Peter appears alongside Revelation in the 2nd-century Muratorian Fragment as a book early churches were split over before Revelation won universal consensus.

KEY KOINE GREEK TERM **κανών · ἀπόκρυφα** **Kanōn & Apocrypha** — 'Measuring Reed / Rule' & 'Hidden Things'



What “666” Means — And Why the Oldest Copy Says 616

An ancient Egyptian papyrus of Revelation writes the Beast's number as 616—solving the 2,000-year riddle.

FAMILIAR ENGLISH · REVELATION 13:18

“Let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast: for it is the number of a man; and his number is Six hundred threescore and six.”

KOINE GREEK & HEBREW GEMATRIA

χξς’ (666 = נרון קסר) · χις’ (616 = נרו קסר)

Chi-Xi-Stigma (600+60+6 = Greek 'Neron Kaisar') vs. Chi-Iota-Stigma (600+10+6 = Latin 'Nero Caesar', dropping final Nun = 50)

WHAT THE ORIGINAL TEXT ACTUALLY SAYS

Revelation 13:18 explicitly tells first-century readers to 'calculate' (psephisato) the number of the beast because 'it is the number of a man'—referring to the ancient Greek and Hebrew practice of isopsephy/gematria, where every alphabet letter doubled as a numeral. When Greek Neron Kaisar is transliterated into Hebrew letters (נרון קסר), its letters sum to exactly 666—and the smoking-gun confirmation comes from 3rd-century Papyrus 115 (and Irenaeus c. 180 CE), which records the variant 616: the exact sum when Latin Nero Caesar (נרו קסר) drops the final 'n' (worth 50). Simultaneously, 666 echoes 1 Kings 10:14 (Solomon's 666 talents of gold at his corrupt imperial peak), while 'right hand or forehead' parodies the Torah's Shema devotion in Deuteronomy 6:8.

THREE THINGS TO REMEMBER

- Graffiti preserved under Pompeii's 79 CE volcanic ash reads: 'I love her whose number is 545'—proving ordinary 1st-century readers used name-sum riddles.
- A random copyist slip cannot accidentally turn 666 into 616 while simultaneously matching the exact 50-point difference between Greek Neron and Latin Nero in Hebrew.
- In Greek manuscripts, 666 (χξς) and 616 (χις) were written as three numeral letters, not three repeated Arabic digits.

KEY KOINE GREEK & HEBREW TERM נרון קסר · χξς **Isopsephy / Chi-Xi-Stigma**

— 600 + 60 + 6 = Neron Kaisar (616 = Nero Caesar)

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