

Teaching in the Old Testament

1. **EXO 4:11** So the Lord said to him, “Who has made man’s mouth? Or who makes the mute, the deaf, the seeing, or the blind? Have not I, the Lord? 15 “Now you shall speak to him and put the words in his mouth. And I will be with your mouth and with his mouth, and I will TEACH (*yarah*) you what you shall do. 13 But he said, “O my Lord, please send by the hand of whomever else You may send.” 14 So the anger of the Lord was kindled against Moses, and He said: “Is not Aaron the Levite your brother? I know that he can speak well. And look, he is also coming out to meet you. When he sees you, he will be glad in his heart. 15 “Now you shall speak to him and put the words in his mouth. And I will be with your mouth and with his mouth, and I will TEACH you what you shall do. 16 “So he shall be your spokesman to the people. And he himself shall be as a mouth for you, and you shall be to him as God. 17 “And you shall take this rod in your hand, with which you shall do the signs.”
2. **EXO 18:20** “And you shall TEACH (*zahar*) them the statutes and the laws, and show them the way in which they must walk and the WORK they must do.
3. **EXO 24:12** Then the Lord said to Moses, “Come up to Me on the mountain and be there; and I will give you tablets of stone, and the law and commandments which I have written, that you may TEACH (*yarah*) them.”
4. **EXO 35:30** And Moses said to the children of Israel, “See, the Lord has called by name Bezalel the son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah; 31 “and He has filled him with the Spirit of God, in wisdom and understanding, in knowledge and all manner of workmanship, 32 “to design artistic works, to work in gold and silver and bronze, 33 “in cutting jewels for setting, in carving wood, and to work in all manner of artistic workmanship. 34 “And He has put in his heart the ability to TEACH, in him and Aholiab the son of Ahisamach, of the tribe of Dan.
5. **LEV 10:11** “and that you may TEACH (*yarah*) the children of Israel all the statutes which the Lord has spoken to them by the hand of Moses.”
6. **DEU 4:1** “Now, O Israel, listen to the statutes and the judgments which I TEACH (*lamad*) you to observe, that you may live, and go in and possess the land which the Lord God of your fathers is giving you. 2 “You shall not add to the word which I command you, nor take from it, that you may keep the commandments of the Lord your God which I command you.
7. **DEU 4:8** “And what great nation is there that has such statutes and righteous judgments as are in all this law which I set before you this day? 9 “Only take heed to yourself, and diligently keep yourself, lest you forget the things your eyes have seen, and lest they depart from your heart all the days of your life. And TEACH (*yada*) them to your children and your grandchildren, 10 “especially concerning the day you stood before the Lord your God in Horeb, when the Lord said to me, “Gather the people to Me, and I will let them hear My words, that they may learn to fear Me all the days they live on the earth, and that they may TEACH their children.”
8. **DEU 4:13** “So He declared to you His covenant which He commanded you to perform, the Ten Commandments; and He wrote them on two tablets of stone. 14 “And the Lord commanded me at that time to TEACH (*lamad*) you statutes and judgments, that you might observe them in the land which you cross over to possess.
9. **DEU 4:36** “Out of heaven He let you hear His voice, that He might INSTRUCT you; on earth He showed you His great fire, and you heard His words out of the midst of the fire.
10. **DEU 5:31** “But as for you, stand here by Me, and I will speak to you all the commandments, the statutes, and the judgments which you shall TEACH (*lamad*) them, that they may observe them in the land which I am giving them to possess. 32 “Therefore you shall be careful to do as the Lord your God has commanded you; you shall not turn aside to the right hand or to the left. 33 “You shall walk in all the ways which the Lord your God has commanded you, that you may live and that it may be well with you, and that you may prolong your days in the land which you shall possess.
11. **DEU 6:1** “Now this is the commandment, and these are the statutes and judgments which the Lord your God has commanded to TEACH (*lamad*) you, that you may observe them in the land which you are crossing over to possess, 2 “that you may fear the Lord your God, to keep all His statutes and His commandments which I command you, you and your son and your grandson, all the days of your life, and that your days may be prolonged. 7 “You shall TEACH (*shanan*) them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. 8 “You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. 9 “You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

12. **DEU 11:18** “Therefore you shall lay up these words of mine in your heart and in your soul, and bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. 19 “You shall TEACH (*lamad*) them to your children, speaking of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. 20 “And you shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates. 21 “that your days and the days of your children may be multiplied in the land of which the Lord swore to your fathers to give them, like the days of the heavens above the earth. 22 “For if you carefully keep all these commandments which I command you to do—to love the Lord your God, to walk in all His ways, and to hold fast to Him— 23 “then the Lord will drive out all these nations from before you, and you will dispossess greater and mightier nations than yourselves. 24 “Every place on which the sole of your foot treads shall be yours: from the wilderness and Lebanon, from the river, the River Euphrates, even to the Western Sea, shall be your territory.
13. **DEU 31:19** “Now therefore, write down this song for yourselves, and TEACH (*lamad*) it to the children of Israel; put it in their mouths, that this song may be a witness for Me against the children of Israel.
14. **DEU 32:1** “Give ear, O heavens, and I will speak; And hear, O earth, the words of my mouth. 2 Let my TEACHING drop as the rain, My speech distill as the dew, As raindrops on the tender herb, And as showers on the grass.
15. **DEU 33:10** They (the Levites) shall TEACH Jacob Your judgments, And Israel Your law. They shall put incense before You, And a whole burnt sacrifice on Your altar.
16. **JUD 13:8** Then Manoah (father of Samson) prayed to the Lord, and said, “O my Lord, please let the Man of God whom You sent come to us again and TEACH us what we shall do for the child who will be born.”
17. **ISA 12:23** “Moreover, as for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the Lord in ceasing to pray for you; but I will TEACH (*arah*) you the good and the right way. 24 “Only fear the Lord, and serve Him in truth with all your heart; for consider what great things He has done for you.
18. **ISA 55:8** “For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways,” says the Lord. 9 “For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts. 10 “For as the rain comes down, and the snow from heaven, And do not return there, But water the earth, And make it bring forth and bud, That it may give seed to the sower And bread to the eater, 11 So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me void, But it shall accomplish what I please, And it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it. 12 “For you shall go out with joy, And be led out with peace; The mountains and the hills Shall break forth into singing before you, And all the trees of the field shall clap their hands. 13 Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress tree, And instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle tree; And it shall be to the Lord for a name, For an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.”
19. **IKI 8:35** “When the heavens are shut up and there is no rain because they (God’s people) have sinned against You, when they pray toward this place and confess Your name, and turn from their sin because You afflict them, 36 “then hear in heaven, and forgive the sin of Your servants, Your people Israel, that You may TEACH (*arah*) them the good way in which they should walk; and send rain on Your land which You have given to Your people as an inheritance.
20. **2KI 17:27** Then the king of Assyria commanded, saying, “Send there one of the priests whom you brought from there; let him go and dwell there, and let him TEACH them the rituals of the God of the land.” 28 Then one of the priests whom they had carried away from Samaria came and dwelt in Bethel, and TAUGHT them how they should fear the Lord.
21. **2CH 6:26** “When the heavens are shut up and there is no rain because they have sinned against You, when they pray toward this place and confess Your name, and turn from their sin because You afflict them, 27 “then hear in heaven, and forgive the sin of Your servants, Your people Israel, that You may TEACH them the good way in which they should walk; and send rain on Your land which You have given to Your people as an inheritance.
22. **2CH 17:7** Also in the third year of his reign he (Jehoshaphat) sent his leaders, Ben-Hail, Obadiah, Zechariah, Nethanel, and Michaiiah, to TEACH in the cities of Judah. 8 And with them he sent Levites: Shemaiah, Nethaniah, Zebadiah, Asahel, Shemiramoth, Jehonathan, Adonijah, Tobijah, and Tobadonijah—the Levites; and with them Elishama and Jehoram, the priests. 9 So they TAUGHT in Judah, and had the Book of the Law of the Lord with them; they went throughout all the cities of Judah and TAUGHT the people.
23. **2CH 15:3** “For a long time Israel has been without the true God, without a TEACHING priest, and without law; 4 “but when in their trouble they turned to the Lord God of Israel, and sought Him, He was found by them.
24. **2CH 17:7** Also in the third year of his reign he sent his leaders, Ben-Hail, Obadiah, Zechariah, Nethanel, and Michaiiah, to TEACH (*lamad*) in the cities of Judah. 9 So they TAUGHT in Judah, and had the Book of the Law of the Lord with them; they went throughout all the cities of Judah and TAUGHT the people.

25. **2CH 30:22** And **Hezekiah gave encouragement to all the Levites who TAUGHT the good knowledge of the Lord**; and they ate throughout the feast seven days, offering peace offerings and making confession to the Lord God of their fathers.
26. **EZR 7:9** On the first day of the first month he (Ezra) began his journey from Babylon, and on the first day of the fifth month he came to Jerusalem, according to the good hand of his God upon him. 10 For **Ezra had prepared his heart to seek the Law of the Lord, and to do it, and to TEACH statutes and ordinances in Israel.**
27. **EZR 7:25** And **you, Ezra, according to your God-given wisdom, set magistrates and judges who may judge all the people who are in the region beyond the River, all such as know the laws of your God; and TEACH (lamad) those who do not know them.** 26 Whoever will not observe the law of your God and the law of the king, let judgment be executed speedily on him, whether it be death, or banishment, or confiscation of goods, or imprisonment.
28. **NEH 9:20** **You also gave Your good Spirit to INSTRUCT them, And did not withhold Your manna from their mouth, And gave them water for their thirst.**
29. **JOB 6:24** **“TEACH (yarah) me, and I will hold my tongue; Cause me to understand wherein I have erred.**
30. **JOB 32:7** **I said, ‘Age should speak, And multitude of years should TEACH (yadah) wisdom.’ 8 But there is a spirit in man, And the breath of the Almighty gives him understanding**
31. **JOB 34:31** **“For has anyone said to God, ‘I have borne chastening; I will offend no more; 32 TEACH me what I do not see; If I have done iniquity, I will do no more’?”**
32. **PSA 16:7** **I will bless the Lord who has given me counsel; My heart also INSTRUCTS me in the night seasons.**
33. **PSA 25:4** **Show me Your ways, O Lord; TEACH me Your paths. 5 Lead me in Your truth and TEACH me, For You are the God of my salvation; On You I wait all the day. 8 Good and upright is the Lord; Therefore He TEACHES sinners in the way. 9 The humble He guides in justice, And the humble He TEACHES His way. 12 Who is the man that fears the Lord? Him shall He TEACH in the way He chooses. 13 He himself shall dwell in prosperity, And his descendants shall inherit the earth. 14 The secret of the Lord is with those who fear Him, And He will show them His covenant.**
34. **PSA 27:11** **TEACH me Your way, O Lord, And lead me in a smooth path, because of my enemies.**
35. **PSA 32:8** **I will INSTRUCT you and TEACH you in the way you should go; I will guide you with My eye.**
36. **PSA 34:11** **Come, you children, listen to me; I will TEACH you the fear of the Lord.**
37. **PSA 51:12** **Restore to me the joy of Your salvation, And uphold me by Your generous Spirit. 13 Then I will TEACH transgressors Your ways, And sinners shall be converted to You.**
38. **PSA 86:11** **TEACH me Your way, O Lord; I will walk in Your truth; Unite my heart to fear Your name.**
39. **PSA 90:12** **So TEACH us to number our days, That we may gain a heart of wisdom.**
40. **PSA 119:12** **Blessed are You, O Lord! TEACH me Your statutes! 26 I have declared my ways, and You answered me; TEACH me Your statutes. 33 TEACH me, O Lord, the way of Your statutes, And I shall keep it to the end. 34 Give me understanding, and I shall keep Your law; Indeed, I shall observe it with my whole heart. 64 The earth, O Lord, is full of Your mercy; TEACH me Your statutes. 108 Accept, I pray, the freewill offerings of my mouth, O Lord, And TEACH me Your judgments. 124 Deal with Your servant according to Your mercy, And TEACH me Your statutes. 135 Make Your face shine upon Your servant, And TEACH me Your statutes.**
41. **PSA 132:12** **If your sons will keep My covenant And My testimony which I shall TEACH them, Their sons also shall sit upon your throne forevermore.”**
42. **PSA 143:10** **TEACH me to do Your will, For You are my God; Your Spirit is good. Lead me in the land of uprightness.**
43. **PRO 9:9** **Give INSTRUCTION to a wise man, and he will be still wiser; TEACH a just man, and he will increase in learning. 10 “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, And the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.**
44. **PROS 22:17** **Incline your ear and hear the words of the wise, And apply your heart to my knowledge; 18 For it is a pleasant thing if you keep them within you; Let them all be fixed upon your lips, 19 So that your trust may be in the Lord; I have instructed you today, even you.**
45. **ECC 12:9** **And moreover, because the Preacher was wise, he still taught the people knowledge; yes, he pondered and sought out and set in order many proverbs.**
46. **ISA 2:3** **Many people shall come and say, “Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, To the house of the God of Jacob; He will TEACH us His ways, And we shall walk in His paths.” For out of Zion shall go forth the law, And the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.**

47. **ISA 28:9** “Whom will he TEACH knowledge? And whom will he make to understand the message? Those just weaned from milk? Those just drawn from the breasts? 10 For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept, Line upon line, line upon line, Here a little, there a little.” 11 For with stammering lips and another tongue He will speak to this people, 12 To whom He said, “This is the rest with which You may cause the weary to rest,” And, “This is the refreshing”; Yet they would not hear. 13 But the word of the Lord was to them, “Precept upon precept, precept upon precept, Line upon line, line upon line, Here a little, there a little.” That they might go and fall backward, and be broken And snared and caught. 26 For He INSTRUCTS him in right judgment, His God TEACHES him.
48. **ISA 28:26** For He INSTRUCTS him in right judgment, His God teaches him.
49. **ISA 50:4** “The Lord God has given Me The tongue of the LEARNED, That I should know how to speak A word in season to him who is weary. He awakens Me morning by morning, He awakens My ear To hear as the learned.” 5 The Lord God has opened My ear; And I was not rebellious, Nor did I turn away.
50. **ISA 54:13** All your children shall be TAUGHT by the Lord, And great shall be the peace of your children.
51. **JER 31:34** “No more shall every man TEACH his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, ‘Know the Lord,’ for they all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them, says the Lord. For I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more.”
52. **JER 32:33** ‘And they have turned to Me the back, and not the face; though I TAUGHT them, rising up early and teaching them, yet they have not listened to receive INSTRUCTION.’ 34 ‘But they set their abominations in the house which is called by My name, to defile it.
53. **EZE 44:23** “And they shall TEACH My people the difference between the holy and the unholy, and cause them to discern between the unclean and the clean.”
54. **DAN 11:32** “Those who do wickedly against the covenant he shall corrupt with flattery; but the people who know their God shall be strong, and carry out great exploits. 33 “And those of the people who understand shall INSTRUCT many; yet for many days they shall fall by sword and flame, by captivity and plundering.”
55. **HOS 11:3** “I TAUGHT Ephraim to walk, Taking them by their arms; But they did not know that I healed them. 4 I drew them with gentle cords, With bands of love, And I was to them as those who take the yoke from their neck. I stooped and fed them.
56. **MIC 4:2** Many nations shall come and say, “Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, To the house of the God of Jacob; He will TEACH (yarah) us His ways, And we shall walk in His paths.” For out of Zion the law shall go forth, And the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.

TEACHING. Twelve Hebrew words are used to convey the idea of teaching in the O.T. In **DEU 6:7**, ‘Thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children,’ the word **Shanan** (שָׁנַן), to whet or sharpen, is used. Here the idea seems to be not so much the sharpening of the children’s understanding as the plying of the Divine statutes to and fro in their hearts, and the setting forth God’s truth in all its aspects. In **2CH 30:22**, where we are told that the Levites ‘taught the good knowledge of the Lord,’ the word **Sacal** (שָׁכַל, Ass. sukhallu, ‘intelligence’), ‘to make wise,’ is used, to mark the fact that the Levites were not content with superficial teaching. The same word is found in **PRO 16:23**, ‘The heart of the wise teacheth his mouth.’ In **ISA 43:27**, ‘Thy teachers have transgressed against me,’ the marginal rendering ‘interpreters’ is probably the best, reference being made to the expositors (מְלִיצִי) of the law. In **PRO 31:1**, and **EZE 23:48**, **Yasar** (יָסַר), ‘to chasten,’ is used, a word which answers to the Greek παιδεύω, by which it is usually rendered, the instruction often involving chastisement. In **PSA 105:22** we find **Chacam** (חָכַם), a word often heard in a modern Jewish school, and cognate with the Arabic hakim, a wise man. In **EXO 18:20** the word used is **Zahar** (זָהַר), to illuminate, and hence to warn. Thus the analogy of spiritual and intellectual light was set before Israel at the beginning of their history. This is the word rendered shine in **DAN 12:3**.

Alaph (אָלַף), a verb connected with the first letter of the Hebrew alphabet, is found in **JOB 33:33**, ‘I shall teach thee wisdom,’ and **35:11**, (God) ‘teacheth us more than the beasts of the earth, and maketh us wiser than the fowls of heaven.’ It is also found in chap.15:5, ‘Thy mouth uttereth (margin, teacheth) thine iniquity.’ Compare **PRO 22:25**, ‘Lest thou learn his ways.’ Evil, like good, has its alphabet. **Davar** (דָּבַר), to speak or to broach a subject, is used in **JER 28:16**, and 29:32, ‘Thou hast taught rebellion against the Lord.’ The so-called prophetic utterances of Hananiah had really been rebellious words. **Bin** (בִּין), ‘to make to understand,’ is found in **1CH 25:8**, where the teacher is put in contrast, or rather in compare, with the scholar; it also occurs in **2CH 35:3**, and **NEH 8:9**, with reference to the teaching of the Levites. **Yada** (יָדַע, Ass. idu), ‘to make to know,’ is used in **DEU 4:9**, and **JDG 8:16**, ‘He taught the men of Succoth,’ i.e. gave them a lesson which they would not readily forget. Compare **2CH 23:13**; **EZR 7:25**; **JOB 32:7**, **37:19**; **PSA 90:12**; **PRO 9:9**; and **ISA 40:13**.

Lamad (לָמַד, Ass. lamadu), whence the name Talmud is derived, is frequently used; it signifies to *chastise*, and hence to *teach*, and is rendered διδάσκω, and μαθηάω. Also **Yarah** (יָרָה), to *cast forth*, hence to *guide or direct*, is applied to teaching several times. The master and the scholar in **MAL 2:12** are literally the awakener and the answerer. It is the teacher’s business to awaken thought in the heart of the pupil, and it is the scholar’s business to answer to the test to which his understanding is put.