## Chapter 4a - Hebrew Nouns

### inflectional endings

#### 4.2 Endings on Masculine and Feminine Nouns.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Masculine</th>
<th>Feminine</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Singular</strong></td>
<td>סוס horse</td>
<td>תּוֹרָה law</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Plural</strong></td>
<td>סוסים horses</td>
<td>תּוֹרוֹת laws</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Dual</strong></td>
<td>יִם סוסים two horses</td>
<td>יִם תּוֹרוֹת two laws</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### 4.4 Summary of Noun Endings.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Masculine</th>
<th>Feminine</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Singular</strong></td>
<td>endingless</td>
<td>תחָת ותּוֹרָה</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Plural</strong></td>
<td>יִם</td>
<td>תּוֹרָה</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Dual</strong></td>
<td>יִם</td>
<td>תּוֹרָת ותּוֹרָת</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Chapter 4 b- Hebrew Nouns
exceptions to rules

1. *Endingless Feminine Nouns.* Not all endingless nouns are masculine singular. In a few instances, feminine singular nouns are also endingless as in רֶץ (land), עִיר (city) and בֶן (stone).

2. *Exception to Normal Pluralization.* Some singular nouns of one gender take the plural endings of the other gender. For example, the masculine singular noun אָב (father) takes the feminine plural ending לֹת as in אָבוֹת.

3. *Special Dual Nouns.* There are three special Hebrew words that are always dual in form but normally singular in translation: יִם (heaven, heavens), מִצְרַ (Egypt) and מַ (water).

4. *Irregular Stem Change.* Some Hebrew nouns will alter their actual (consonantal) stem when they add their plural endings. For example, the plural of יוֹם (day) is יָמִים (days), the plural of אִישׁ (man) is אֲנָשִׁים (men) and the plural of אִשָּׁה (woman) is נָשִׁים (women).

5. *Defective Spelling of לֹת.* Occasionally, the feminine plural ending לֹת will be spelled ל (with Holem rather than Holem Waw). For example, the plural of העֵדָה (congregation) may appear either as העֵדוֹת or עֵדוֹת. The shorter spelling is called “defective spelling” and the longer spelling is called “full spelling.”
Chapter 4c - Hebrew Nouns
patterns of noun pluralization

1. **Pluralization with No Change**

   שִׁיר song ➔ שִׁירִים songs
   דָּבָר word ➔ דְּבָרִים words
   עָנָן cloud ➔ עֲנָנִים clouds

2. **Pluralization with Propretonic Reduction**

   דָּבָר word ➔ דְּבָרִים words
   עָנָן cloud ➔ עֲנָנִים clouds

3. **Pluralization of Segholate Nouns**

   מֶלֶךְ king ➔ מְלָכִים kings
   סֶפֶר book ➔ סְפָרִים books

4. **Pluralization of Geminate Nouns**

   עַם people ➔ עַמִּים peoples
   חֹק statute ➔ חֻקִּים

5. **Irregular Pluralization**

   בֵּן son ➔ בָּנִים sons
   אִישׁ man ➔ אֲנָשִׁים men