

A brief note on Hebrew

Hebrew script is written from right to left, not left to right like English. It was originally written using only consonants – a bit like English written like this:

TH CT ST N TH MT

You might be able to work out – as a competent speaker of English – that that sentence probably says “the cat sat on the mat”, but it would be easier, and less ambiguous, with the vowels added too. So by about the 10th century CE scribes called Masoretes had added vowels, in the form of “pointing”, to the Hebrew text of the Bible (the Christian Old Testament).

So, for example, the Hebrew word “Adam” is written with three consonants: אָדָם

When “pointed” the word looks like this: אָדָם