

## Exodus 1:1-7

וְאֵלֶּה שְׁמוֹת בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל הַבָּאִים מִצְרֵימָה אֶת יַעֲקֹב אִישׁ וּבֵיתוֹ  
בָּאוּ: 2 רְאוּבֵן שִׁמְעוֹן לֵוִי וַיהוּדָה: 3 יִשָּׁשׁוּר זְבוּלֹן וּבְנֵימִן: 4 דָּן  
וְנַפְתָּלִי גָד וְאַשֵּׁר: 5 וַיְהִי כָל־נֶפֶשׁ יִצְאֵי יֶרֶךְ־יַעֲקֹב שְׁבַעִים נֶפֶשׁ וַיֹּסֶף  
הָיָה בְּמִצְרַיִם: 6 וַיֵּמֶת יוֹסֵף וְכָל־אָחִיו וְכָל הַדּוֹר הַהוּא: 7 וּבְנֵי  
יִשְׂרָאֵל פָּרוּ וַיִּשְׂרְצוּ וַיִּרְבוּ וַיַּעֲצֻמוּ בְּמֵאֵד מְאֹד וַתִּמְלֵא הָאָרֶץ אֹתָם:  
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### Vocabulary

#### Verse 1-4

מצרים name: "Egypt"

יעקב name: "Jacob"

Names (in order): "Reuben, Simeon, Levi and Judah; Issachar, Zebulun and Benjamin; Dan and Naphtali; Gad and Asher"

#### Syntax & Miscellaneous

- The order of a noun-demonstrative combination differentiates between a verbless class and a noun phrase. If a noun is preceded by a **demonstrative** as in verse 1, then it is rendered as a verbless clause: "This is the man." If a noun is followed by a demonstrative that agrees in person, number, and defines, then it is rendered as a noun phrase: "this man."
- The particle, אֶת, serves as both a preposition (7.5% of the time [890x] in MT) the direct object marker (10,978x). The prepositional use is normally translated "with, beside."
- Notice the usage of waw in verses 2 & 3. In a three (or more) component series, the conjunction frequently is included with the last **nominal** and not with the middle nominals. This construction is similar to the English: "lock, stock, and barrel" or "Tom, Dick and Harry."

#### Verse 5

ירך noun: "loins" (BDB, 437)

שבעים numeral: "seventy"

דור noun: "generation"

#### Verse 7

פרה verb: "be fruitful" (BDB, 826)

שרץ verb: "swarm" (BDB, 1056)

רבה verb: "multiply, become numerous"

עצם verb: "be numerous" (BDB, 782)

מאד "very much, exceedingly"

מלא verb (Niphal impf 3fs): "be filled"

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## Syntax & Misc.

### **Verse 5**

- The participle (mpl construct) יְצִיאִי is a [substantival participle](#).
- The plural form of the number seven, שִׁבְעִים, is seventy, שִׁבְעִים .
- The word is commonly understood as “soul” but has a broader range of meanings, such as “person” in this context. See the article in *BDB* or *HALOT* for further description.

### **Verse 6**

- הַזֶּה is functioning as a demonstrative.

### **Verse 7**

- Notice the continuous verbal sequence *Qal* perfect + *waw*-consecutive imperfect (3x).