

## What a Difference Vowels, Punctuation, and Articles Make!

Biblical Hebrew had none of the three.

Notation has evolved (points”) to record what we *think* the manuscripts mean.

For example, Genesis 1:1

בְּרֵאשִׁית בָּרָא אֱלֹהִים אֶת הַשָּׁמַיִם וְאֶת הָאָרֶץ:  
(Gen. 1:1 WTT)<sup>1</sup>

See the things below the letterforms? They are the points. And they make a difference.

<sup>KJV</sup> **Genesis 1:1** In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.  
(Gen. 1:1 KJV)

<sup>NRSV</sup> **Genesis 1:1** In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth,  
(Gen. 1:1 NRS)

<sup>BGT</sup> **Genesis 1:1** ἐν ἀρχῇ ἐποίησεν ὁ θεὸς τὸν οὐρανὸν καὶ τὴν γῆν  
(Gen. 1:1 BGT)

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<sup>1</sup> Codex Leningradensis Hebrew text.