

T'amei HaMikrah=A Taste of Reading of Sacred Texts=Tropes

- I. Why Use T'amei HaMikra?**
- A. Punctuation
 - B. Accent (ancient scrolls looked like modern Israeli literature—no vowels!)
 - C. Organize ideas
 - D. Beauty: The Talmud says that sacred texts should be sung. Music enhances the inherent beauty of texts. One who doesn't chant (sing) sacred texts "it is as if they do not understand them." (khibor mitzvah)
- II. Three Major Trope Groups (Families)**
- Torah has been chanted publicly since the return from Babylonian exile in 440 B.C.E. (by Ezra). The Talmud acknowledges three melodic formulae used in the 2nd Temple.
- A. A downward melody= Etnakhta
 - B. A concluding melody= Sof Pasuk
 - C. An upward melody= Katon
- III. Different Trope Systems Use the Same Symbols**
- A. Torah (most variation of melodies)
 - B. Haftarah
 - C. High Holiday
 - D. Shalosh Regalim = Shir HaShirim Trope
 - 1. Sukot (Ecclisiates)
 - 2. Pesakh (Shir HaShirim)
 - 3. Shavuot (Book of Ruth)
 - E. Book of Esther
 - F. Book of Lamentations
 - G. Shirat HaYam in Parashat B'Shallakh uses a Sephardic Melody when G d's name is mentioned (not a separate trope system)
- IV. Amen (Tevir Trope) Always Introduces Torah Chanting**
- V. Approaches to Learning**
- A. Kinesthetic
 - B. Visual
 - C. Audio
 - D. Text
- VI. Chanting Torah Step-By-Step**
- A. Read text fluently
 - B. Identify trope groups with vertical line
 - C. Chant tropes
 - D. Say text
 - E. Chant tropes and text together.
- VII. Transfer = Systematic transfer of text+tropes+vowels to Torah scroll**
- A. Chant 1 trope family (right side) with text and tropes
 - B. Chant 1 trope family (left side) on Torah scroll
 - C. Alternate, adding 1 trope family at a time.
 - D. Complete 1 pasuk/sentence (right & left).