

# The Living Words

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## ~~ Order ~~

The parent root דרר *dar* does not appear in the Biblical text, but by examining other words derived from this root, we discover that it has the meaning of “order.”

*The land dark as midnight, The land of the shadow of death, without any **order** (seder), And where the light is as midnight*

Job 10:22

This is the only Biblical occurrence of the word סדר *seder* <sup>[H:5468]</sup>, but nouns derived from this verb are used in the Hebrew language today. The Passover service and meal is called a *seder*, an ordered arrangement. Also, the word *sidur*, the Jewish prayer book, is composed of an ordered arrangement of prayers.

*All these being men of war, that could **order** (eder) the battle array...*

1 Chronicles 12:38 (ASV)

Here the word עדר *eder* <sup>[H:5737]</sup> is used for the order of a battle arrangement.

In a previous discussion, we looked at the root דָּבַר *davar* <sup>[H:1696]</sup> and the words derived from it, all having the concept of order behind them.<sup>1</sup>

*Thy name, O LORD, endureth for ever; and thy memorial, O LORD, throughout all generations (dor).*

Psalm 135:13 (KJV)

Another word derived from the parent דָּר *dar* is the Hebrew word דֹּר *dor* <sup>[H:1755]</sup>, usually translated as “generation.”

From a western view, a generation is the time from the birth of one man to the birth of his children. We perceive each generation as a linear timeline, with a beginning and an end. The Hebrew mind, however, sees time as circular where each generation is one circle of time and each of the following generations are overlapping circles, like a spring seen on edge. There is no beginning and no end. This circular view of time is perceived as order.

The phrase “all generations,” found in the verse above, is דָּר לְדָר *le dor vador* in Hebrew and is literally translated as “to a generation and a generation, a Hebraic idiom meaning “time after time.”

In the ancient pictographic script, the root דָּר *dar* is written as דַּר. The ם is a picture of a tent door<sup>2</sup> and has the meaning of an “in and out” or “back and forth” movement. The ם is the head of

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<sup>1</sup> See “Wilderness” on Page **Error! Bookmark not defined.**

<sup>2</sup> The name of the letter ם is dalet and is derived from the word דַּלַּת *delet* <sup>[H:1817]</sup> meaning a door.

a man<sup>3</sup>. When combined, these mean “the movement of man” and is very descriptive of a generation from a Hebraic perspective as the movement through the circle of one man’s life. The next generation is the movement of his son’s life through the following circle.

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<sup>3</sup> The name of the letter ר is resh and is derived from the word ראש *rosh* [H:7218] meaning a head of a man.