

# SEFER YETZIRAH 2.2



**משנה ב': עשרים ושתים אותיות יסוד חקקן חצבן צרפן  
שקלן והמירן וצר בהם את כל היצור ואת כל העתיד לצור:**

2.2: Twenty-two Foundation Letters: He engraved them, He carved them, He permuted them, He weighed them, He transformed them, and with them, He depicted all that was formed and all that would be formed.

*(Rabbi Aryeh Kaplan translation)*

2:2 Twenty-two letters of foundation. IT decreed them, shaped them, combined them, weighed them, and exchanged them, and IT formed with them all that was formed and all the multiplications to be formed.

*(Doc Benton translation)*

This passage is giving a succinct description of the process of creation from the twenty-two letters of the Hebrew alphabet. Remember that the first step is a *decree*, an act of will, and this represents *something from nothing creation*. The second step is *shaping*, refining our inspiration, and we call this *something from something creation*. Next, we *combine* letters, and remember, too, that letters form words and words create the structure of the reality we see. The third step is called *weighing*, and this refers to solidifying the characteristics of what we perceive. And the last step is *exchanging* or *transforming*, and this can be thought of as taking a successful pattern and using it as a template for another context.

For example, if you identify yourself as a hard working individual, then this becomes a template or pattern which can be applied over and over to different situations in your life. Notice also that since the *ten sefirot* correspond to ten letters of the alphabet (the *three mother letters* plus the *seven double letters*), creation via the twenty-two letters contains within it creation through the ten utterances.