

Seven, Swearing, Satiation

Letters and Numbers of Torah – Bo

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Three times in the Torah the word השביעי *ha-shvi'i*, 'the seventh' is missing a letter *Yud*: השבעי. The first time is in this week's portion, in the verse prohibiting eating *chameitz*, bread and leavened products, on the festival of Passover. Here the Torah states, "Anyone who eats leaven from the first day to the *seventh* day..." (Exodus 12:15)

The second time the letter *Yud* is missing is in a verse concerning *Shabbos*, "The people rested on the *Seventh Day*." (Exodus 16:30)

The third time is in reference to the High Holy Days, as it states, "You shall sound a blast on the *shofar* in the *seventh* month." (Leviticus 25:9)

Why are these three words lacking the letter Yud?