

MIQDASH BETHEL COVENANT INSTITUTION

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Re: A Formal Covenant Research Transmission — Tanakh-Authority Comparative Ethics
and the Iceland Covenant Assessment

HOW TO READ THIS DOCUMENT — TANAKH BOOK NAMES

This document operates under the sole authority of the Tanakh (Hebrew Bible). The following books are cited herein, identified by their Hebrew names with English equivalents provided. All scholars referenced are historical witnesses only — no commentary or tradition holds binding authority in this institution.

HEBREW NAME	ENGLISH NAME / FUNCTION IN THIS DOCUMENT
Bereishit (בְּרֵאשִׁית)	Genesis — Creation covenant; universal mandate
Shemot (שְׁמוֹת)	Exodus — Covenant text of Sinai; primary legal source
Vayikra (וַיִּקְרָא)	Leviticus — Jubilee economics; gleaning law; equal courts
Devarim (דְּבָרִים)	Deuteronomy — Covenant renewal; ruler limitation; justice framework
Yeshayahu (יֵשַׁעְיָהוּ)	Isaiah — Servant texts; iyyim (coastland) prophetic passages
Tzefanyah (צְפַנְיָה)	Zephaniah — Universal speech restoration prophetic text
Yechezkel (יְחֶזְקֵאל)	Ezekiel — Covenant justice indictment; comparative social ethics

Micha (מִיכָה)	Micah — Universal covenant ethics; nations coming to the mountain
Tehillim (תְּהִלִּים)	Psalms — Covenant justice poetry; protection of the vulnerable

DOCTRINAL AUTHORITY — STANDING RULE OF MIQDASH BETHEL COVENANT INSTITUTION

Miqdash Bethel Covenant Institution operates under the sole authority of the Tanakh (Torah, Nevi'im, Ketuvim). The witness standard of **Devarim 19:15** requires two or three independent authoritative witnesses for every covenant claim. **Yahweh** (יְהוָה) and **Elohim** (אֱלֹהִים) are addressed by their covenant names. No rabbinical, ecclesiastical, papal, or caliphate opinion holds binding authority in this institution. All external sources are historical witnesses only.

I. TO THE FACULTY AND RESEARCHERS OF HÁSKÓLI ÍSLANDS

Miqdash Bethel Covenant Institution submits this letter to the University of Iceland as a formal academic covenant research transmission. This institution operates under the sole authority of the Tanakh (Hebrew Bible) and applies the evidentiary standard of **Devarim (Deuteronomy) 19:15** — requiring two or three independent authoritative witnesses for every covenant claim — as the methodological standard for all research. We address the Faculty of Theology and Religious Studies as the primary academic body in Iceland engaged with the textual, historical, and ethical study of the Hebrew Bible and its covenant framework.

The University of Iceland was founded in 1911, beginning with the merger of Iceland's Theological Seminary (established 1847), the School of Medicine, and the School of Law. Theology was not incidental to Iceland's highest academic institution — it was foundational to it. The Tanakh that undergirds that theological tradition is the same Tanakh from which Miqdash Bethel Covenant Institution derives its authority. We write as a Tanakh-authority institution to a Tanakh-rooted academic community.

II. THE RESEARCH QUESTION AND METHODOLOGY

This institution recently completed a comprehensive covenant research study titled *"The Nation Closest to the Covenant of Yahweh: A Global Covenant Plumb-Line Assessment."* The study applied six covenant benchmarks drawn directly from the Tanakh — with primary source citations from **Shemot, Vayikra, Devarim, Yeshayahu, Yechezkel, and Tzefanyah** — to every nation on

earth, asking: which nation today most closely walks in alignment with the covenant standards of **Yahweh** (יהוה)?

The covenant benchmarks applied were:

- Care for the poor, widow, orphan, and stranger (Shemot 22:21-22; Devarim 10:17-18; Vayikra 23:22)
- Impartial courts with no deference to the wealthy or powerful (Vayikra 19:15; Devarim 16:18-19)
- Debt release and Jubilee economics (Devarim 15:1; Vayikra 25:10)
- Accountability of rulers under covenant law (Devarim 17:16-20)
- Land stewardship as trusteeship, not absolute ownership (Vayikra 25:23)
- Absence of aggressive national militarism and idolatry (Shemot 20:2-3; Micha 4:3)

The research finding was unambiguous: Iceland — and specifically the Alpingi — demonstrates the highest measurable alignment with Tanakh covenant ethics of any nation on earth. This conclusion is supported by independently verifiable data including:

- 17 consecutive years as the world's most peaceful nation (Global Peace Index, Institute for Economics and Peace)
- Prosecution and conviction of 36 banking executives to a combined 96 years imprisonment following the 2008 financial collapse — while no comparable nation prosecuted a single executive
- National debt forgiveness program for citizens affected by the financial crisis — independently described by international media as a "jubilee" — a direct echo of Devarim 15 and Vayikra 25
- Universal healthcare and welfare infrastructure covering citizens and immigrants as a legal right — mirroring the covenant's protection of the widow, orphan, and stranger
- Criminal prosecution of a sitting Prime Minister — the first anywhere in the world in the post-2008 era — in direct alignment with Devarim 17's covenant limitation on rulers

III. THE PROPHETIC DIMENSION — TANAKH TEXTS POINTING TO ICELAND

Beyond the applied ethics assessment, this institution's research identified a cluster of prophetic texts in the Tanakh's Nevi'im (Prophets) that point with covenant specificity toward island coastland peoples at the far reaches of the earth. The Hebrew term **יַיִם** (*iyyim*) — Strong's H339, defined in BDB (Brown-Driver-Briggs Hebrew Lexicon) as "island, coastland, habitable land" — appears in prophetic contexts in **Yeshayahu (Isaiah) 42:4; 49:1; 60:9** and elsewhere, consistently in association with peoples who are described as:

- *Waiting (yachal, Strong's H3176 — to hope with expectation) for the Torah-instruction of Yahweh (Yeshayahu 42:4)*
- *Being called from afar by covenant invitation (Yeshayahu 49:1)*
- *Hoping in Yahweh and being brought to the covenant light (Yeshayahu 60:9)*
- *Receiving pure speech (safah berurah) to call on the Name of Yahweh in unity (Tzefanyah 3:9)*

Iceland is, by every geographic and historical measure, precisely an *iyyim* people — an island coastland nation at the far reaches of the known world from the Sinai covenant's original geographic context. The academic question this research raises for the Faculty of Theology and Religious Studies is one of genuine textual and historical significance: **Has the prophetic literature of the Tanakh been describing Iceland?**

This is not a homiletical claim. It is a hermeneutical research question grounded in lexical analysis of the primary Hebrew text, measured against verifiable historical and contemporary data about a specific nation. This institution submits that it is a question worthy of serious academic examination under the Devarim 19:15 two-witness evidentiary standard.

IV. THE RESEARCH INVITATION

Miqdash Bethel Covenant Institution extends the following formal invitation to the Faculty of Theology and Religious Studies at Háskóli Íslands:

- To receive the full covenant research documentation produced by this institution on the Iceland Covenant Assessment, including primary Tanakh source citations, lexical analysis of key Hebrew terms (*iyyim*, *yachal*, *safah berurah*, *shekhem echad*), and the comparative six-benchmark national assessment
- To consider the prophetic *iyyim* texts of Yeshayahu and Tzefanyah in their application to Iceland's specific geographic, historical, and ethical context — as a legitimate object of academic covenant hermeneutics
- To open a formal academic correspondence with this institution under the evidentiary standards of Devarim 19:15 — two or three independent authoritative witnesses — as the methodological framework
- To consider hosting a covenant research symposium or lecture series at which Miqdash Bethel Covenant Institution's findings can be presented, examined, and evaluated by Iceland's theological and religious studies academic community

This institution's research draws on primary sources from: BDB (Brown-Driver-Briggs Hebrew and English Lexicon), HALOT (Hebrew and Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament), Gesenius' Hebrew Grammar and Lexicon, TWOT (Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament), Sefaria.org primary

text database, AlHaTorah.org, and Chabad.org Tanakh resources — all under the **Devarim 19:15** two-witness research standard. We do not present single-source claims. Every assertion in our research is independently corroborated.

Respectfully submitted in covenant research,

Elder Kepha Arcemont

Founder, Miqdash Bethel Covenant Institution

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"Many nations shall come, and say: Come, let us go up to the mountain of Yahweh, to the house of the Elohim of Jacob, that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths." — Micha (Micah) 4:2