



# New Testament Studies: Pauline Epistle

## THE SEVEN MIDDOT OF HILLEL<sup>1</sup>

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1. *Qal wa-homer* (from the lighter to the heavier) – If something is true in a lesser case then it is true in the greater, and vice versa.
2. *Gezerah shawah* (equal ordinance) – an argument based on an analogy between two similar passages.
3. *Binyan ab mi-katub ehad* (“founding of a family”) – “[A] specific stipulation found in only one of a group of topically related biblical passages is related to them all. Thus the main passage bestows on all the others a common character which combines them into a family.”
4. *Biyān ad mi shnê ketubim* (“founding of a family on two passages”) – Like middah #3 but the general rule is founded on two passages rather than one.
5. *Kelal u-ferat u-ferat u-kelel* (“the general and the particular, the particular and the general”).
6. *Ke-yolise bô be-maqom aher* (“something similar to this in another passage”) – this middah is like number 2 but it less restrictive in usage.
7. *Dabar ha-lamed me-’inyanô* (“the argument from context”).

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<sup>1</sup>This summary is taken from H. L. Strack and Günther Stemberger, *Introduction to the Talmud and Midrash* (Minneapolis: Fortress, 1996), 16-20.