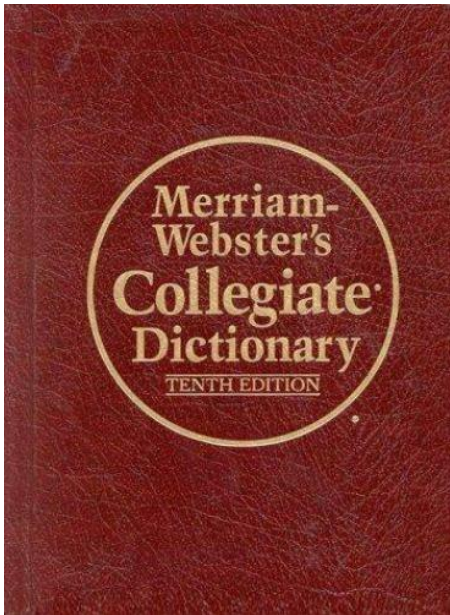


Big Bible Words

A M E N

How do you define “amen”?



amen \(')ä-'men, (')ā-; 'ä- when sung\ *interjection*

[Middle English, from Old English, from Late Latin, from Greek *amēn*, from Hebrew *āmēn*] (before 12th century)

— used to express solemn ratification (as of an expression of faith) or hearty approval (as of an assertion)

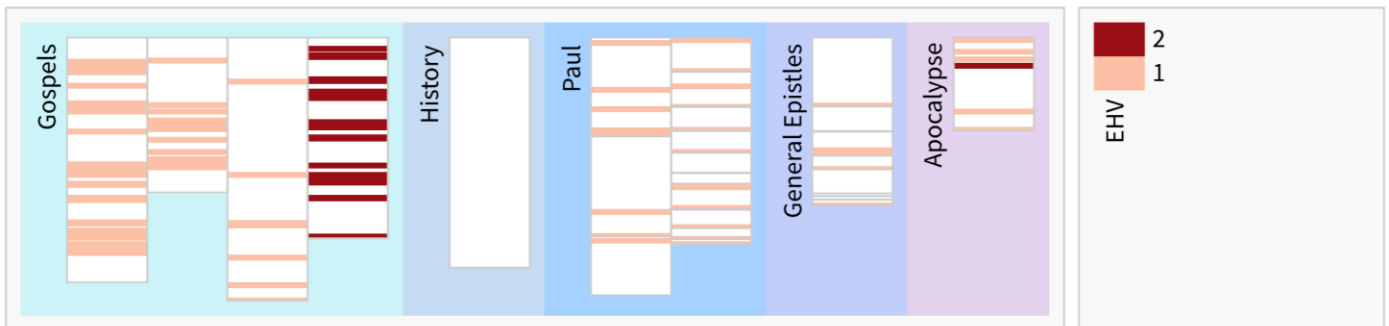
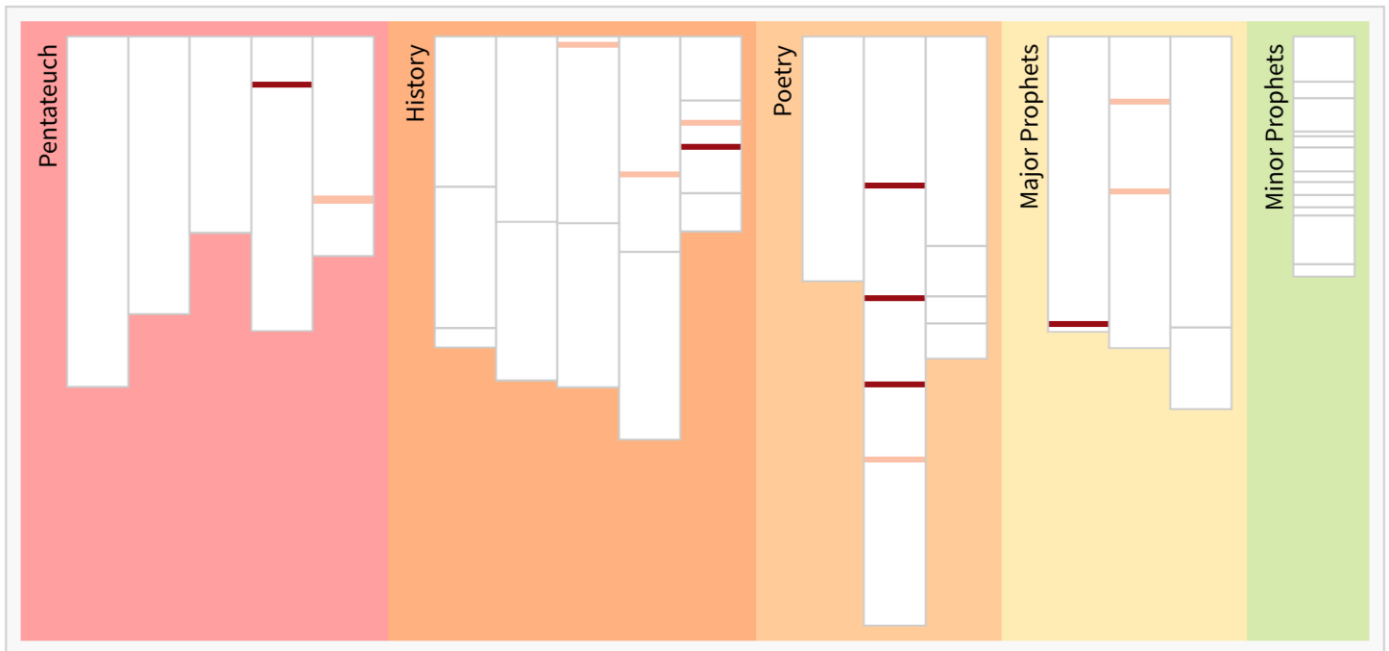
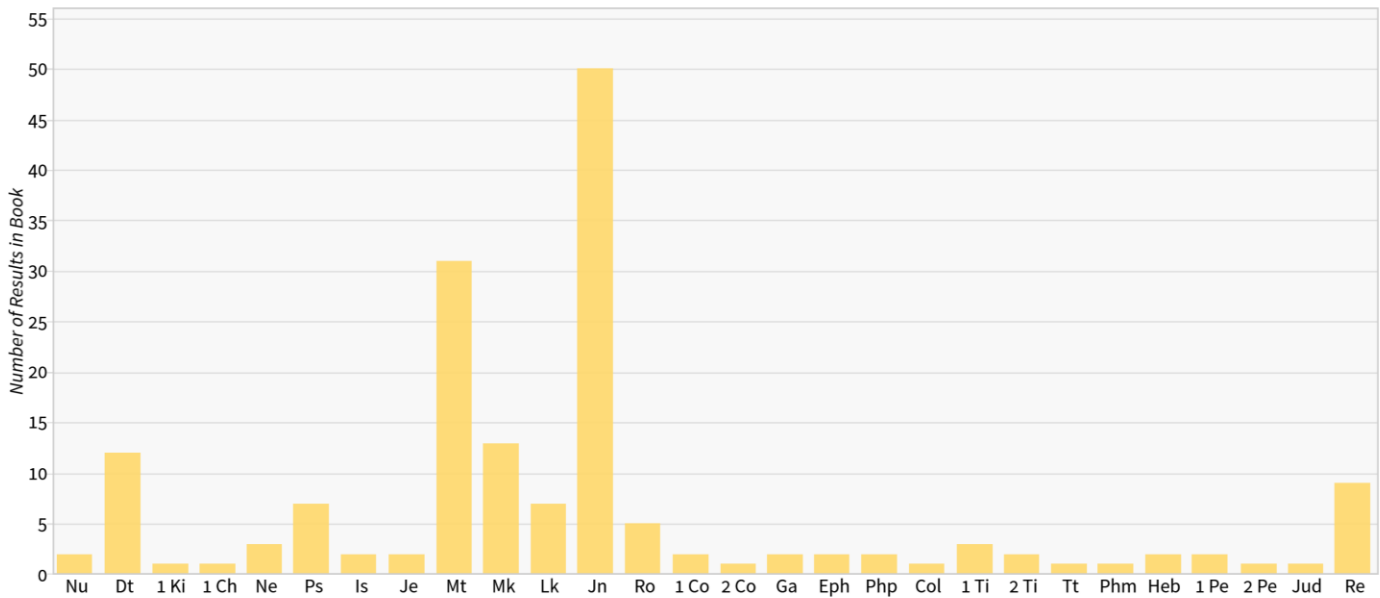
Webster's original 1828 Dictionary defines the word Amen: “This word, with slight differences or orthography, is in all the dialects of the Assyrian stock. As a verb, it signifies to confirm, establish, verify; to trust, or give confidence; as a noun, truth, firmness, trust, confidence; as an adjective, firm, stable. In English, after the oriental manner, it is used at the beginning, but more generally at the end of declarations and prayers, in the sense of, be it firm, be it established. ‘And let all the people say amen’ Psalms 104:1. The word is used also as a noun. ‘All the promises of God are amen in Christ; ‘ that is, firmness, stability, constancy.”

How many times is the word “amen” used in the Bible?

- Christian Standard Bible – 56x in 50 verses
- English Standard Version – 56x in 50 verses
- Evangelical Heritage Version – 168x in 136 verses
- King James Version – 78x in 72 verses
- New American Standard Bible – 59x in 53 verses
- New International Version – 57x in 52 verses

More than 50% of the amens in the Bible come from the 4 Gospel accounts, with John leading the way with 50 uses.

Amen in EHV





“Amen” originated from the Hebrew language. It’s root אָמֵן means that something is firm or sure. This root occurs more times than we probably think. Here are five examples with their English meaning:

- Emunah – Faith, faithfulness, steadfastness
- Amanah – Indeed, correct, for sure, contract
- Oman – Artist
- Omen – Foster parent
- Ne’eman – Faithful

Noun Form: אָמֵן

Strong's H543 – Amen (aw-mane)

Outline of Biblical Usage: verily, truly, amen, so be it

From H539; sure; abstract, faithfulness; adverb, truly:—Amen, so be it, truth

Verb Form: אָמַן

Strong's H539 – Aman (ah-mahn)

Outline of Biblical Usage: to support, confirm, be faithful, be carried, make firm, to trust, to be certain, to believe in

In the Old Testament, the word is אָמֵן . It occurs 32 times in 29 verses.

Amen means...

1 Kings 1:36 (EHV) Then Benaiah son of Jehoiada responded to the king, “Amen! May the LORD, the God of my lord the king, confirm this!

Amen means...

Numbers 5:22 (EHV) May this water that brings a curse go inside you and make your belly swell and your thigh shrivel." The woman will say, "Amen, Amen."

Deuteronomy 27:15–26 (EHV)

¹⁵Cursed is the man that makes a carved image or a molten metal image, an abomination to the LORD, a work of the hands of a craftsman, and sets it up secretly. All the people will say, "Amen!"

¹⁶Cursed is anyone who dishonors his father or his mother. All the people will say, "Amen!"

¹⁷Cursed is anyone who moves the boundary marker of his neighbor. All the people will say, "Amen!"

¹⁸Cursed is anyone who leads astray a blind man on his way. All the people will say, "Amen!"

¹⁹Cursed is anyone who perverts the justice due to an alien who resides among you, or justice due to the fatherless or a widow. All the people will say, "Amen!"

²⁰Cursed is any man who lies down with his father's wife, because he has removed the skirt that is reserved for his father. All the people will say, "Amen!"

²¹Cursed is anyone who lies down with any animal. All the people will say, "Amen!"

²²Cursed is any man who lies down with his sister, either the daughter of his father or the daughter of his mother. All the people will say, "Amen!"

²³Cursed is any man who lies down with his mother-in-law. All the people will say, "Amen!"

²⁴Cursed is anyone who strikes down his neighbor secretly. All the people will say, "Amen!"

²⁵Cursed is anyone who takes payment to strike down an innocent person. All the people will say, "Amen!"

²⁶Cursed is anyone who does not uphold the words of this law by doing them. All the people will say, "Amen!"

Jeremiah 11:5 (EHV) Then I will ratify the oath I swore to your fathers, that I would give them a land flowing with milk and honey—as it is today. I answered, "Amen, LORD."

Nehemiah 5:13 (EHV) I also shook out the folds of my garment and said, "In this way may God shake out from his home and from his property every man who does not keep this promise. May he be shaken out and emptied in this way." The entire assembly said, "Amen," and they praised the LORD. Then the people kept this promise.

Amen means...

Psalms 41:13 (EHV) Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel, from eternity to eternity. Amen and Amen.

Psalms 72:19 (EHV) Blessed be his glorious name forever. May the whole earth be filled with his glory. Amen and Amen.

Nehemiah 8:6 (EHV) Then Ezra blessed the LORD, the great God, and all the people answered, "Amen! Amen!" while they lifted up their hands and then knelt and bowed down with their faces to the ground.

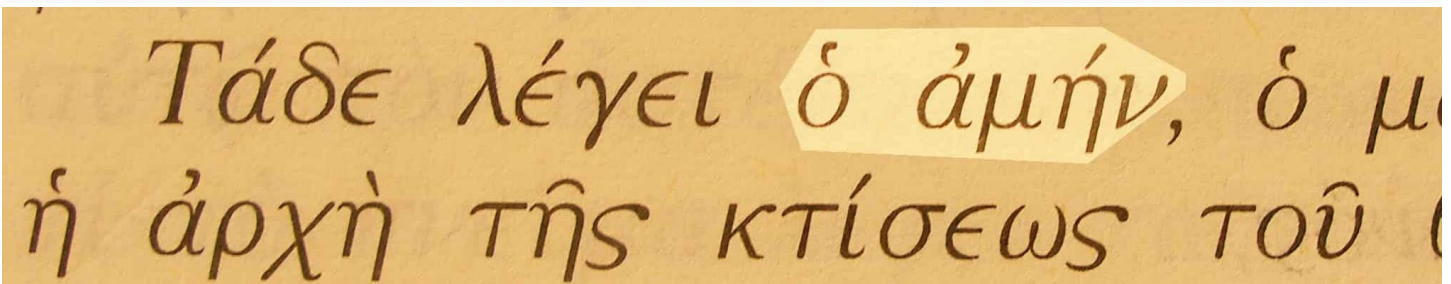


In Judaism the use of Amen is widespread and firmly established. An extraordinary value is attached to its utterance. In synagogue though not in temple worship it occurs as the response of the community to the detailed praises which the leader utters with the prayers or on other occasions, and to each of the three sections into which the priests divided the Aaronic blessing of Numbers 6:24–26. It was the confession of the praise of God which was laid on the community and which the community was to affirm by its answer. And it was the confession of the blessing of God which was pronounced to the

community and which the community was to make operative by its Amen. Apart from divine service it was to be used in response to any prayer or praise uttered by another. The concluding Amen signified concurrence. Amen to a vow meant engagement to fulfil it. Amen to a curse implied either the cursing of what the other cursed or placing oneself under the curse. The same is true of Amen to a blessing. If in these cases Amen retains its character as the response to a word spoken by another, and as a confirmation of it, there is a shift in meaning in the few instances in which it is a concluding wish at the end of one's own prayers. In such cases it is not so much a confirmation of what is, but rather hope for what is desired.

ἀμήν

amēn / amen



In the New Testament, the Hebrew word אָמֵן is transliterated into Greek and becomes ἀμήν.

Amen means...

2 Corinthians 1:18–20 (EHV) ¹⁸ As surely as God is faithful, our message to you is not “Yes” and “No.” ¹⁹ For the Son of God, Jesus Christ, who was preached among you by us (by me, Silas, and Timothy), was not “Yes” and “No,” but in him the “Yes” stands firm. ²⁰ In fact, as many promises as God has made, they have always been “Yes” in him. For that reason we also say “Amen” through him to the glory of God.

Revelation 1:7 (EHV) Look, he is coming with clouds, and every eye will see him, including those who pierced him. And all the nations of the earth will mourn because of him. Yes. Amen.

Amen means...

1 Corinthians 14:16 (EHV) Otherwise, how will an uninformed person say the “Amen” after you give thanks, since he does not know what you are saying?

Revelation 5:11–14 (EHV) ¹¹ And I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels who were around the throne and around the living creatures and the elders. Their number was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands upon thousands. ¹² With a loud voice they were saying: Worthy is the Lamb who was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and blessing. ¹³ I also heard every creature that is in heaven and on earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all that is in them, saying: To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever. ¹⁴ The four living creatures said, “Amen,” and the elders bowed down and worshipped.

Revelation 7:11–12 (EHV) ¹¹ All the angels stood around the throne, the elders, and the four living creatures. They fell on their faces before the throne and worshipped God, ¹² saying: Amen. Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanks and honor and power and might belong to our God forever and ever. Amen.

Amen means...

Romans 1:25 (EHV) Such people have traded the truth about God for the lie, worshipping and serving the creation rather than the Creator, who is worthy of praise forever. Amen.

1 Peter 4:11 (EHV) If anyone speaks, let him do it as one speaking the messages of God. If anyone serves, let him do it as one serving with the strength God supplies so that God may be glorified in every way through Jesus Christ. To him belong the glory and the power forever and ever. Amen.

Hebrews 13:20–21 (EHV) ²⁰ Now may the God of peace—who brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, in connection with his blood, which established the eternal testament—²¹ may he equip you with every good thing to do his will, as he works in us what is pleasing in his sight through Jesus Christ. To him be glory forever and ever. Amen.

Amen means...

John 3:1–16 (EHV)

3 There was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a member of the Jewish ruling council. ²He came to Jesus at night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one can do these miraculous signs you are doing unless God is with him.”

³Jesus replied, “Amen, Amen, I tell you: Unless someone is born from above, he cannot see the kingdom of God.”

⁴Nicodemus said to him, “How can a man be born when he is old? He cannot enter a second time into his mother’s womb and be born, can he?”

⁵Jesus answered, “Amen, Amen, I tell you: Unless someone is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God! ⁶Whatever is born of the flesh is flesh. Whatever is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷Do not be surprised when I tell you that you must be born from above. ⁸The wind blows where it pleases. You hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.”

⁹“How can these things be?” asked Nicodemus.

¹⁰“You are the teacher of Israel,” Jesus answered, “and you do not know these things? ¹¹Amen, Amen, I tell you: We speak what we know, and we testify about what we have seen. But you people do not accept our testimony. ¹²If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how will you believe if I tell you heavenly things? ¹³No one has ascended into heaven, except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man, who is in heaven.

¹⁴“Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, ¹⁵so that everyone who believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

¹⁶“For God so loved the world that he gave his only-begotten Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish, but have eternal life.



The Finnish author and scholar Risto Santala wrote about this in his book “The Messiah in the New Testament in the light of Rabbinical writings” (1992): Critics have long considered the words of Jesus, “Truly, truly, I tell you”, to be rather strange. In the Greek original the Hebrew words amen, amen are used, in a way which is not found in either the Old Testament or the Rabbinic literature. ‘Amen’ there is found at the end of prayers and speeches, whereas Jesus used it to introduce what he had to say. In the early 1960’s a fragment from a deed of transaction was found in which a contemporary of Jesus solemnly states “Amen, amen, ani lô ashem”, ‘Truly, truly, I am innocent’. Jesus seems to have borrowed this grave formula of his from a juridical oath. In Hebrew the words for ‘faith’ and ‘amen’ are derivatives of the same root. The word ‘amen’ is indeed the only permissible affirmation: ‘You can believe this; it is true!’” As Santala points out, “Amen” was used in the times of Jesus in a binding legal way – and he used that formula to convey spiritual truths about who he is. He is binding himself under an oath that what he says is true – also when he says “Amen, amen, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am.” (John

8:58)

Amen means...

Isaiah 65:15–16 (EHV) ¹⁵ You will leave your name for my chosen ones to use as a curse, and the LORD God will put you to death, but he will call his servants by another name, ¹⁶ so that anyone on earth who blesses himself will bless himself by the God of Amen, and anyone on the earth who swears will swear by the God of Amen! For the past troubles will be forgotten. Yes, they are certainly hidden from my eyes.

Revelation 3:14 (EHV) To the messenger of the church in Laodicea write: The Amen, the faithful and true witness, the ruler of God’s creation, says this:



The last word of the Old Testament is “curse” (**Malachi 4:6**): “And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse.” The last word in the Bible is “Amen” (**Revelation 22:21**): “The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.”



Is it Amen (AH-men) or Amen (AY-men)?

In summary, amen in the Bible means...