

*Caelitus mihi vires....<sup>1</sup>*



## Bible Words: *caelum*

*Caelum* (KAY-lum) means “sky” or “heaven.” It is a second declension neuter noun and follows the same pattern as *bellum*. Add it to your notebook and chant it through. In the Bible the word stands for three different concepts:

1. the sky or the atmosphere,
2. outer-space
3. God's holy, eternal dwelling place.

*in principio creavit Deus caelum et terram* Genesis 1:1

You will be able to translate this verse without my help! Which of the concepts mentioned above are included in the meaning here?

*non omnis qui dicit mihi Domine Domine intrabit in regnum caelorum sed qui facit voluntatem Patris mei qui in caelis est ipse intrabit in regnum caelorum* Matthew 7:21

In this well-known verse Jesus speaks about the kingdom (*regnum*) of heaven (notice the genitive plural form of the word: *caelorum* – literally the “kingdom of the heavens” in the Vulgate) and explains who will enter (*intrabit*) this kingdom. There are plenty of words you already know here and if you are familiar with the text you will probably not need to look it up before you translate it. Which of the different concepts mentioned above is meant in this verse?

*eduxitque eum foras et ait illi “suspicere caelum et numera stellas si potes” et dixit ei “sic erit semen tuum”* Genesis 15:5

Here God is speaking to Abraham about his descendants. There are some words you can guess here: Abraham is told to *suspice* (“look up at”) *caelum* and to *numera* (related to “number” and “enumerate”) *stellas* (now you can guess what the girl's name “Stella” means). You know *si* already and *potes* is related to “potential” and “potent” – i.e. it means “can.” Remember that *que* on the end of a word just means “and” in front of the word in English so the text starts with “and.” *Eduxit* is *e* (out) *duxit* (related to “conduct” and “duke” meaning “lead”). Which of the concepts mentioned at the beginning of this lesson is meant by *caelum* in this verse?

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<sup>1</sup> Strength comes to me from heaven. Jones family motto.