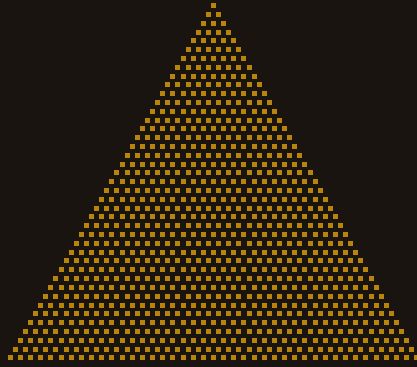




SAPIR 861

Which name to choose

A name for a child

SAPIR 861

sapi861.com

Which name to choose

You gave 3 name options and the parents' names: שרה, דוד.

We computed each option: turned it into Hebrew letters, added them up into a number, found the Torah word with that number, the Torah page, and the books that mention the number. Then we looked at what each option shares with your names and with the date. The result comes first, then each option on its own.

Result

All options have the same number of matches. Choose by sound and meaning — each one has both below.

The number 166 is the Torah word עליון — «Most High» (Genesis 14:18).

— shared letters with the name דוד: ו

Next, by number of matches:

2. אריאל (242) — 1 match: shared letters with the name שרה: ר

3. יונתן (516) — 1 match: shared letters with the name דוד: ו

We do not say which name is better. We show where letters and numbers meet your names. The choice is yours.

Parents' names

דוד — Number: 14. The number 14 is the Torah word יד — «hand» (Genesis 3:22)

From the root “beloved.” The shepherd from Bethlehem who defeated Goliath, second king of Israel and author of psalms; the Pentateuch does not yet know him — his story is in Samuel.

How the number adds up: ד=4 ו=6 ד=4 = 14

שרה — Number: 505. The number 505 is the Torah word שרה — «Sarah, wife of Abraham» (Genesis 17:15)

“Lady, princess.” Abraham’s wife and the first matriarch; the Torah changes Sarai to Sarah with the promise of a son (Genesis 17:15).

How the number adds up: ש=300 ר=200 ה=5 = 505

Option 1: נועם · 166

A modern name from “pleasantness”; the word appears in the psalm “to behold the pleasantness of the Lord” (Psalm 27:4).

The number 166 is the Torah word עליון — «Most High» (Genesis 14:18).

How the number adds up: נ=50 ו=6 ע=70 מ=40 = 166

Letters: נ nun (“fish”), ו vav (“hook”), ע ayin (“eye”), מ mem (“water”)

Torah page 166 (Vayikra (Leviticus)) — it begins with the words: מן הכשבים או מן העזים לעלה

In the classical works this number appears 19 times in 11 works; the earliest is בעל הטורים על התורה (~1300).

Matches:

— shared letters with the name דוד: 1

Option 2: אריאל · 242

“Lion of God.” A name for Jerusalem in Isaiah (29:1) and for the altar in Ezekiel (43:15). The number 242 is the Torah word ארְאֵלִי — «Areli, son of Gad» (Genesis 46:16).

How the number adds up: א=1 ר=200 י=10 א=1 ל=30 = 242

Letters: א alef (“ox”), ר resh (“head” (rosh)), י yod (“hand”), א alef (“ox”), ל lamed (“to learn”)

Torah page 242 (Bamidbar (Numbers)) — it begins with the words: וּלְקַחְתָּ אֶתְּךָ אֶל־אֹהֶל מוֹעֵד וְהִתְיַצְּבוּ ...

In the classical works this number appears 6 times in 5 works; the earliest is עץ חיים (~1573).

Matches:

— shared letters with the name שרה: ר

Option 3: יונתן · 516

“The Lord has given.” Son of King Saul and David’s closest friend (1 Samuel 18–20).

The number 516 is the Torah word גִּרְגָּשִׁי — «Girgashite» (Genesis 10:16).

How the number adds up: קט=10 ו=6 נ=50 ת=400 נ=50 = 516

Letters: י yod (“hand”), ו vav (“hook”), נ nun (“fish”), ת tav (“mark”), נ nun (“fish”)

Torah page 162 (Shmot (Exodus)) — it begins with the words: ... הִזְהַב עַל שְׁתֵּי הַטִּבְעוֹת עַל קִצּוֹת

In the classical works this number appears 2 times in 2 works; the earliest is בעל הטורים על התורה (~1300).

Matches:

— shared letters with the name דוד: 1

Is the name in the Tanakh

נועם — Our Tanakh name base has no such spelling. That does not mean the name is new — the base is not complete.

אריאל — Yes: Ариэль.

יונתן — Yes: Ионафан.

How the name will be read

The same name is written differently in different countries, and the number depends on the spelling. Here is how it maps to Latin and Cyrillic.

נועם — Latin: Noam

אריאל — Latin: Ariel

יונתן — Latin: Yonatan

The custom of naming

Ashkenazim do not name a child after a living person — the name is given in memory of someone gone. Sephardim name after the living too. If you name after someone, how they themselves spelled it matters: the spelling changes the number.

How rare the number is

נועם — A word with the number 166 occurs in 19 of the 54 portions.

אֲרִיָּאֵל — A word with the number 242 occurs in 4 of the 54 portions.

יוֹנָתָן — A word with the number 516 occurs in 26 of the 54 portions.

What happens there

Melchizedek, king of Salem, brings Abram bread and wine; he is a priest of "El Elyon", God Most High. "Elyon" means highest, the one above all the kings who have just been at war. After the battle a man hears that victory does not make him supreme. Abram gives Melchizedek a tenth. A family might consider how it remembers what is higher in moments of success, and what it means for it to give away part of what it has received.

If you look closer

Melchizedek calls God the Most High and blesses Abram without asking anything in return. There is an upward gaze in this scene that helps people see one another with respect. Many know how, in the everyday bustle, a family lives only horizontally: chores, shopping, schedules. It happens that there is no moment when everyone together looks beyond the ordinary. Such a moment does not cancel one's cares, but it puts them in their proper place. This week, before the Shabbat or holiday dinner, you might pause so that each person silently recalls what they are grateful for before the meal begins.

How to announce the name

1. Announce the name in the way your family keeps: at a celebration for the birth, at a christening, at a brit milah, or simply at the family table. What matters is not the rite but the moment when those close hear the name together and learn why it was chosen.

2. Give the guests one sentence: the name, its number, and the Torah word with the same number. That is enough for a name to be remembered.

3. Keep this book. When the child grows and asks why this name was given, the answer will be ready — yours, not the internet's. Give the book at the coming of age, together with the certificate page.

Text for the invitation: "We have named our child Noam. The number of the name is 166, like the Torah word עליון («the Most High God»)." 

How to check

Take the letter table (alef 1, bet 2 ... tav 400) and add up the letters of the name — that is the number. Divide by 354; the remainder is the page. Look up the word by its reference in any edition of the Torah. Everything here can be checked without us.

Sources

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Биньямин Пичхадзе, «Хумаш 354» (חומש 354), Бней-Брак, 2002 / התשס"ג

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נועם

166

The number 166 — the same as the word עליון («Most High») in the Torah (Genesis 14:18).

Issued 2026-10-24 · sapis861.com · the calculation can be checked with the letter table

A letter to the parents

You chose a name — and now it has a number, letters and a place in the Torah. All of it can be shown to your child as they grow.

At 5: show how the name is written in Hebrew and let them add the letters on their fingers. Their first arithmetic is their own name.

At 10: find the Torah word with the same number together and read the verse where it stands.

At 13 (bar or bat mitzvah): let them recompute the name from the table and tell the guests what they found. It is their discovery, not ours.