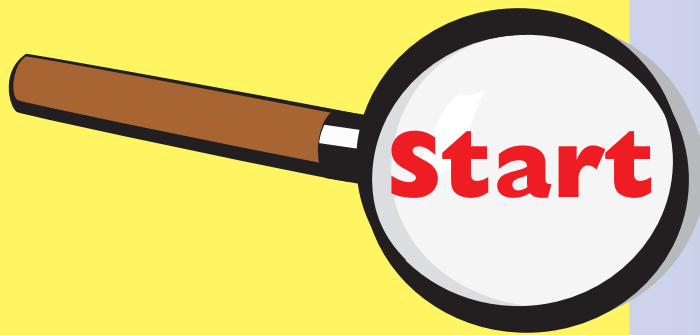


PROVERBS 22:6

FROM BIRTH TO DEATH



ETYMOLOGY

פִּי

"mouth, palate, roof of the mouth"
ancient custom of rubbing
the palate of newborn babies
with oil or chewed dates or figs
to encourage (train) them
to begin sucking

INAUGURATION

*first use calls for
a dedication ceremony*

- new house (Deut 20:5)
- new city wall (Neh 12:27)
 - new idol (Dan 3:2)
- new temple (1 Kings 8:63; Ps 30:1)
- new altar (Num 7:10; 2 Chr 7:9)
 - Feast of Lights (Hanukkah):
temple cleansed and rededicated
for service (164 B.C.)

CHILD TRAINING

- start training a child to fast
on the Day of Atonement
a year or two before
religious maturity—
age 12 for girls and
13 for boys (Yoma 8:4).
- 318 men born and trained
in Abraham's house
(Gen 14:14).

command at birth
qal imperative of פִּי

(training) a child
according to **the mouth**
[=words] of His way;

metonymy
of the cause
in which the
mouth is put for
the words spoken

אֲשֶׁר emphasizes an extreme case:
he may never depart from God's way
as long as he lives—even in old age!

Even when he is old
he **may not depart** from it.

promise but
no guarantee
in old age
potential imperfect of אֲשֶׁר