# Psalm 119 & the Hebrew Aleph Bet - Part 1





#### **Introduction: the Story of Psalm 119**

This long Psalm deserves a long introduction. The author is unnamed; older commentators almost universally say it is a Psalm of David, composed throughout his entire life. More modern commentators often say that it is post-exilic, coming from the days of Nehemiah or Ezra. We lean towards agreement with the older commentators, believing it to have been written by David. No matter who wrote it, we notice that it was likely written over some period of time and later compiled, because there is not a definite flow of thought from the beginning of the Psalm to the end. The sections and verses are not like a chain, where one link is connected to the other, but like a string of pearls were each pearl has equal, but independent value.

The Psalm is arranged in an acrostic pattern. There are 22 letters in the Hebrew alphabet, and this Psalm contains 22 units of 8 verses each. Each of the 22 sections is given to a letter of the Hebrew alphabet, and each line in that section begins with that letter. The closest parallel to this pattern in Scripture is found in Lamentations 3, which is also divided into 22 sections, and there are a few other passages in the Hebrew Scriptures which use an acrostic pattern.

Since this is a Psalm glorifying Yahweh and His Law and Word, it refers to Scripture and Torah over and over again. Scripture is mentioned in at least 171 of 176 verses. Throughout this course of Bible study, we will study each of the 22 sections, one-by-one – along with their corresponding Hebrew aleph bet letter. In the end, we believe a wealth of Wisdom and Truth will be gained, along with a rudimentary understanding of the spiritual depth of the Hebrew language.

The Name of the Creator God is used in interesting ways in Psalm 119. In all cases except one, the Personal Name of the Creator God (Yahweh) is used, appearing 24 times. Multiples of twelve are frequently used in the Bible. In the remaining case, the Hebrew word Elohiym is used, which means Creator God.

Psalm 119 is telling us that to know the Creator God you must know His Law, Ordinances, Word, Commandments, Statutes, Precepts, Decrees, Testimonies, Ways, and Faithfulness.

#### Writing the Letter: Aleph





The numbered arrows show the order and direction for drawing the lines to make a hand-written aleph.

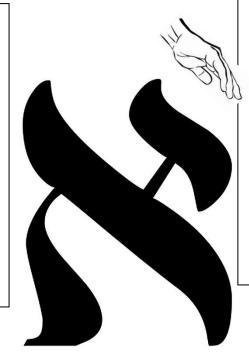
Practice making the Aleph here:

#### Spiritual Meaning of the Aleph

Aleph = 1 and is A, E, I, O, U of Hebrew

- The *Aleph* is one letter, made up of three other Hebrew letters, signifying ONE and singly representing *YAH*.
- Because it is one letter comprised of three letters, it shows the three aspects of YAH.
- The three parts are: an upper and lower *yod* and a middle *vav*.

The *vav* is the number 6, being the number of MAN. It shows that *YAH* manifested in the flesh and became a MAN for our Salvation. Of all *YAH's* Work on earth, this is the most powerful, thus it is fitting that it be part of the *aleph* – being the letter signifying power and strength. The *vav* means HOOK or NAIL and is a CONNECTOR, showing how *Yahweh* connects lost mankind to Himself through the Redemption of Calvary and the nails which pierced *Yahshua's* Hands.



The yod is the smallest letter of the Hebrew alphabet. It portrays a HAND and signifies WORK, done with the hand. Hands have 10 fingers. So it signifies the Work of Yahweh in Creation and in writing the 10 Commandments. The upper yod in the aleph is reaching down, showing Yahweh reaching down to mankind.

"For Thou, Yahweh, hast made me glad through Thy Work: I will triumph in the Works of Thy Hands," Psalm 92:4.

The lower *yod* shows the WORK of *Yahweh* in sending His SPIRIT to mankind.

"And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out My Spirit upon all flesh... in those days will I pour out My Spirit."

Joel 2:27-29

Not only do the parts of the Aleph deepen its meaning, the whole of the Aleph reveals a powerful, overall message. The Aleph, as a whole, is the ox. This was very plain in its original form, for the Aleph was drawn as a pictorial ox-head:

The *Aleph*, as the ox, shows the STRENGTH and POWER of *Yahweh*. It is the letter that singly represents *YAH* – thus, every word beginning with an *Aleph*, is predominantly a message and revelation about *Yahweh* (see the following page).

**Trinity?** The *Aleph* is the letter of *Yah*, revealing His Work and Nature. It clearly shows the Trinity doctrine to be false. There is only ONE (echad – which starts with aleph) God. This does not take away the divinity of Yahshua, rather it deepens it! Yahshua is Yah manifested in the flesh! (See 1 Timothy 3:16, John 14:8-9, Isaiah 9:6). Matthew 28:19 was manipulated by Rome, changed to speak of a Trinity – which wasn't in the original!)

The symbol suggests an eternal link between the Creator with everything that emanates from Him. As One Who is composed by both the upper realm of Heaven and the lower realm of the earth, connected by the humility of the body, *Aleph* is a picture of the God-Man unity, or the Divine Man – *Yahshua*, *Yah* manifested in the flesh.

Aleph's simple apparent value is 1. But its inherent hidden numerical value is 111 (because the letter aleph is spelled: Aleph + Lamed + Peh: 1 + 30 + 80 = 111).

The shape of *Aleph* is composed of two *Yods* and a dividing line which stands for the letter Vav). This gives another numerical value: 10 + 10 + 6 = 26. The number 26 is the value of the tetragrammatron YHWH, or Yahweh, the Covenant Name of YAH.

#### **Hebrew Words Beginning with** *Aleph***:**

Hebrew Word	Pronunciation	Meaning
<u> </u>	Av or Ab	Father – Yah is our ultimate Father. All fathers are to show Yahweh, following His Pattern.
<b>×</b> □ <u>×</u>	Abba	Daddy – the most intimate reference to one's Father
<u>א</u> היה	A'hyah	I AM – Yah is the Self-Existent, Eternal One
<u>א</u> ל	El	God – Mighty One - singular
TITIE	Echâd	One – United, first – see Deut. 6:4
	Adam	Red – man was created in Yah's Image
<u>א</u> רם		Adam - $\aleph$ = blood (bloodshed happens when man leaves God)
		Man
<u>א</u> יש	Enash	Man - <b>X</b> = substance (when God is removed from man, what
		remains is merely substance)
<b>272</b>	Ish	Fire – Yah is a consuming FIRE – Deut. 4:24
Nic.	Or	Light – Yah is the Source of all LIGHT – 1 John 1:5
אהכה	Ahabah	Love – Yah is LOVE – 1 John 4:8

#### The Mighty Aleph Tav:

The *Aleph* is the first letter of the Hebrew alphabet. The *Tav* is the last letter. The Messiah *Yahshua* said that He is the *Aleph* and the *Tav*, the First (*rishon*) and the Last (*acharon*), and the Beginning (*rosh*) and the Ending (*sof*): *I am the Aleph and the Tav*, (Alpha and Omega in Greek) *the beginning and the end, the first and the last* (Rev. 22:13).

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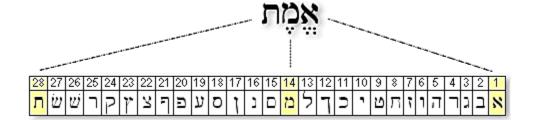
When *Yahshua* said this, He was making a direct reference to Isaiah 41:4, 44:6, and 48:12, where *Yahweh* Himself says that He is the First and the Last -- and explicitly declared that there is no other "god" beside Him.

*Yahshua* was stating that He was the One to whom the references in Isaiah pertain. He is the "direct object" of which the Scriptures speak (see about the role of the direct object marker).

Yahshua also said He was the Truth of God Himself:

I Am the Way and the Truth and the Life; no man comes to the Father apart from Me (John 14:6).

Notice that the word for truth pan(*emet*) contains the first letter n, the middle letter n, and the last letter n of the Hebrew alphabet, which the Jewish sages say means that the truth contains everything from *Aleph* to *Tav*:



The Hebrew word *emet* has a more concrete meaning than the English word for "truth" (the English word derives from the Greek/Western view of truth as a form of correspondence between language and reality, but invariably languished over epistemological questions that led, ultimately, to skepticism). In the Hebraic mindset, the person who acts in *emet* is one who can be *trusted* (Gen. 24:49; 42:16; 47:26; Josh. 2:14). Actions, speech, reports, or judgment are *emet* because they are *reliable* (Dt. 13:14; 22:20; 1 Kg. 10:6; 22:16; Pr. 12:19; Zech. 8:16). If a seed is a seed of *emet*, its quality is *trustworthy* (Jer. 2:21).

In the *Tanakh*, *emet* is often coupled with *chesed*, covenant faithfulness, which designates Yahweh's loyalty in fulfilling His Promises and His Covenant. For example, God's *emet* and *chesed* were majestically revealed in giving the Covenant at Sinai (Ex. 34:6).

The LORD, The LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth (Exodus 34:6).

Indeed, Pilate's question, "What is truth?" is a category mistake, since truth is not about "what" but about "Who." That is, truth is not something objective and static, a thing to be known and studied from a distance. No. Truth is essentially personal. It is personal disclosure of the character of the subject. Understood in this way, Truth is a way of living, a mode of existence, a relational truth.

He is the true Light, who lights every man that comes into the world (John 1:9).

Interestingly, Aleph and Tav form a unique word that functions as a "direct object marker" in the both Biblical and modern Hebrew:



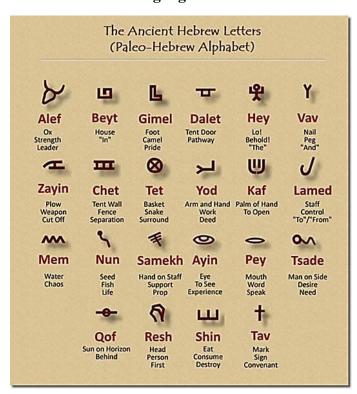
As it is written in Genesis 1:1, "In the beginning God (ALEPH/TAV) created the heavens and the earth."

Considered this way, *Yahshua* is the Direct Object of the Universe, the End (*sof*) of all of creation. And not only is *Yahshua* the End of all creation, but He is the "Beginning," the Creator and Sustainer of all things: "For by Him were all things created that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him and for him: And He is before all things and by Him all things consist." (Colossians 1:16-17)

### פֹה אָמֵר הָאָמֵן עַד הָאֵמֶת וְהַצֶּדֵק וְרֵאשִׁית בְּרִיאַת הָאֱלֹהִים

Thus says the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God (Rev. 3:14).

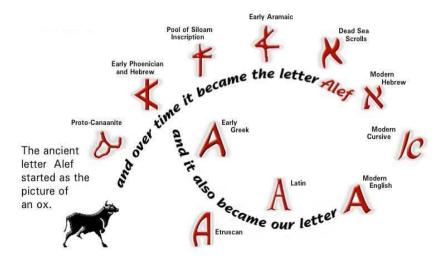
#### Yahshua is the Strong Sign



Finally, using the ancient pictographs of Paleo Hebrew, we can see that Yahshua is the "Strong Sign" from Adonai:



He is the One who comes in humble, silent strength (*Aleph*) bearing the Sign of the true Covenant of God (*Tav*).



#### **Keyword Study: Psalm 119:1-2**

"ALEPH. <u>Blessed</u> are the <u>undefiled</u> in the <u>way</u>, who <u>walk</u> in the <u>Law</u> of the <u>LORD</u>. Blessed are they that <u>keep</u> His <u>Testimonies</u>, and that <u>seek</u> Him with the whole <u>heart</u>.

Keyword	Strong's #	Hebrew Word	Meaning
Blessed	Н835	'esher	happiness; only in masculine plural construction as interjection, how happy!: - blessed, happy
Undefiled	H8549	tâmîym	Entire, integrity, truth: - without blemish, complete, full, perfect, sound, without spot, undefiled, upright, whole
Way	H1870	derek	a <i>road</i> ; figuratively a <i>course</i> of life or <i>mode</i> of action, conversation, custom, manner, [path-] way
Walk	H1980	hâlak	to <i>walk</i> (literally and figuratively): behave (self), come, (on) continually, be conversant
Law	H8451	tôrâh	a <i>precept</i> or <i>statute</i> , especially the <i>Decalogue</i> or <i>Pentateuch:</i> - law
LORD	Н3068	יהוה y <sup>e</sup> hôvâh	(the) <i>self Existent</i> or eternal; <i>Jehovah</i> , Jewish national name of God. ( <i>Note: the V is interchanged as W YHWH</i> )
Keep	H5341	nâtsar	to <i>guard</i> , (to <i>protect</i> , <i>maintain</i> , <i>obey</i> , etc.) keep (-er, -ing), monument, observe, preserve (-r), subtil, watcher (-man)
Testimonies	H5713	`êdâh	testimony: - testimony, witness
Seek	H1875	dârash	to <i>tread</i> or <i>frequent</i> ; to <i>follow</i> (for pursuit or search); by implication to <i>seek</i> or <i>ask</i> ; specifically to <i>worship</i> : - ask, care for, diligently, inquire, make inquisition
Heart	H3820	lêb	the <i>heart</i> ; also used (figuratively) very widely for the feelings, the will and even the intellect

Rewrite these 2 verses using the fuller meaning you found in your Keyword study above:

Happy are those who live pure lives, who follow, protect and keep the YAHWEH's Torah. They are faithful watchmen who have the Testimony of Yahshua and are Witnesses of the transforming power of Yah. Happy are those who keep His rules, who obey Him with their whole hearts.

#### **Keyword Study: Psalm 119:3-4**

They also **do** no **iniquity**: they **walk** in His **Ways**. Thou hast **commanded** us to **keep** Thy **Precepts diligently**.

Keyword	Strong's #	Hebrew Word	Meaning
Do	H6466	pâʿal	to <i>do</i> or <i>make</i> (systematically and habitually), especially to <i>practice:</i> - commit, [evil] doer, make, ordain, worker
Iniquity	H5766	`evel	(moral) <i>evil:</i> - iniquity, perverseness, unjust (-ly), unrighteousness (-ly), wicked (-ness)
Walk	H1980	hâlak	to <i>walk</i> (literally and figuratively), behave (self), continually, be conversant, be eased, follow, grow, be wont to haunt, lead, move (self), tale-bearer, travel (-ler)
Ways	H1870	derek	a <i>road</i> (as <i>trodden</i> ); a <i>course</i> of life or <i>mode</i> of action, often conversation, custom, manner
Commanded	Н668о	tsâvâh	to <i>constitute</i> , <i>enjoin:</i> - appoint, (for-) bid. (give a) charge, command (-er, ment), put, (set) in order

Keep	H8104	shâmar	to hedge about (as with thorns), guard; protect, attend to, beware, be circumspect, take heed (to self), keep, mark, look narrowly, observe, preserve, regard, reserve, save (self), sure, (that lay) wait (for), watch (-man).
Precepts	Н6490	piqqûd	properly <i>appointed</i> , that is, a <i>mandate</i> (of God; plural only, collectively for the <i>Law</i> ): - commandment, precept, statute
Diligently	Н3966	m <sup>e</sup> 'ôd	vehemence, vehemently; wholly, speedily, diligently, especially, exceeding (-ly), might (-ily, -y), quickly, well

Rewrite these 2 verses using the fuller meaning you found in your Keyword study above:

Those who love Yahweh don't choose to habitually practice or do what is wicked, according to Yah's Word. They follow, are comfortable in, obey and are conversant in Yahweh's Ways and Course of Life. Yahweh gave [commanded] His Torah orders [precepts], which are to be observed, obeyed, guarded, and valued completely, quickly, and wholeheartedly by all who love and worship Yahweh.

#### **Keyword Study: Psalm 119:5-6**

<u>O that</u> my ways <u>were directed</u> to keep <u>Thy Statutes</u>! <u>Then</u> shall I not <u>be ashamed</u>, when I have <u>respect</u> unto all Thy <u>Commandments</u>.

Keyword	Strong's #	Hebrew Word	Meaning
O That	H305	'achălay	would that!: - O that, would God.
Were Directed	Н3559	kûn	to be erect (that is, stand perpendicular), to set up, (establish, fix, prepare, apply), (appoint, render sure, proper or prosperous), faithfulness
Thy Statutes	H2706	chôq	an <i>enactment</i> ; an <i>appointment</i> (of time, space, quantity, labor or usage): bound, commandment, custom, decree, due, law, necessary ordinance, portion, set time, statute
Then	H227	'âz	at that time or place; also as a conjugation, therefore: - beginning, for, from, hitherto, now, of old, once, since, then, at which time, yet
Be Ashamed	H954	bûsh	to <i>pale</i> , that is, by implication to <i>be ashamed</i> ; also (by implication) to <i>be disappointed</i> , or <i>delayed</i> : - (be, make, bring to, cause, put to, with, a-) shame (-d), be (put to) confounded (-fusion), become dry, delay, be long
Respect	H5027	nâbaț	that is, look intently at; by implication to <i>regard</i> with pleasure, favor or care: - (cause to) behold, consider, look (down), regard, have respect, see
Commandments	H4687	mitsvâh	a <i>command</i> , whether human or divine (collectively the <i>Law</i> ): - (which was) commanded (-ment), law, ordinance, precept

Rewrite these 2 verses using the fuller meaning you found in your Keyword study above:

It is my deepest heart's desire that my habits of life, choices, conversation and way of life would stand up like a monument of faithfulness to Yahweh! This happens when I am mindful of, and obedient to and living by Yahweh's Statutes. When I find pleasure in and respectfully regard Yahweh's Commandments, I will not be confounded, spiritually dry, pale with shame on Judgment Day, or disappointed in the End.

#### **Keyword Study: Psalm 119:7-8**

I will <u>praise</u> Thee with <u>uprightness</u> of <u>heart</u>, when I shall have <u>learned</u> Thy <u>righteous Judgments</u>. I will <u>keep</u> Thy <u>Statutes</u>: O <u>forsake</u> me not <u>utterly</u>."

Keyword	Strong's #	Hebrew Word	Meaning
Praise	Н3034	yâdâh	to use (that is, hold out) the hand; to revere or worship (with extended hands); (make) confess (-ion), praise, (give) thanks
Uprightness	H3476	yôsher	the right: - equity, meet, right, upright (-ness).
Heart	H3824	lêbâb	the <i>heart</i> (as the most interior organ); bethink themselves, breast, comfortably, courage, mind, understanding
Learned	H3925	lâmad	to <i>goad</i> , to <i>teach</i> (the rod being an Oriental <i>incentive</i> ): - [un-] accustomed, diligently, expert, instruct, learn, skillful teach (-er, -ing)
Righteous	Н6664	tsedeq	the right, equity, prosperity: just, justice, righteous
Judgments	H4941	mishpâṭ	a <i>verdict</i> (favorable or unfavorable), judicially, a <i>sentence</i> or formal decree, divine <i>law</i> , <i>justice</i> , determination
Keep	H8104	shâmar	to hedge about (as with thorns), guard; protect, attend to, beware, be circumspect, take heed (to self), keep, mark, look narrowly, observe, preserve, regard, reserve, save (self), sure, (that lay) wait (for), watch (-man).
Statutes	H2706	chôq	an <i>enactment</i> ; an <i>appointment</i> (of time, space, quantity, labor or usage): bound, commandment, custom, decree, due, law, necessary ordinance, portion, set time, statute
Forsake	H5800	`âzab	to <i>loosen</i> , <i>relinquish</i> , <i>permit</i> , commit self, fail, forsake, fortify, help, leave (destitute, off), refuse
Utterly	Н3966	m <sup>e</sup> 'ôd	vehemence, vehemently; wholly, speedily, diligently, especially, exceeding (-ly), might (-ily, -y), quickly, well

Rewrite these 2 verses using the fuller meaning you found in your Keyword study above:

I will praise *and* give thanks to You with uprightness of heart and the right thinking, when I learn [by sanctified experiences and Your loving Instruction] Your righteous judgments [Your verdicts on behalf of obedience and punishments against lawless thought and conduct]. I will keep Your Statutes, including your appointments, Commandments, and Law. O forsake me not utterly, nor relinquish Your claim over my soul. Please, never leave me!

#### Psalm 119:1-8 Reveals the Aleph Message:

# תהילים קיט The Westminster Leningrad Codex :: http://tanach.us

## PSALM 119

World English Bible :: http://ebible.org

אַ אַשְרֵי תְּמִימֵּוֹדְרֶךְ הָהֹלְכִים בְּתּוֹרֶת יְהְוָה:
אַשְרֵי תְּמִימֵּוֹדְרֶךְ הָהֹלְכִים בְּתּוֹרֶת יְהְוָה:

EDAH

אַשְרֵי נְצְרִי עֻדְּתִיו בְּלֶלֹבְ יִלְּדְשְׁוּהּ:

EDAH

Aשְרֵי בְּעָלָה שָּלָה מְּלֶרִי הָלָכו:

PIQQUWO

A שְׁתְלִי יְבָּנוּ דְרָכִי לְשֶׁלֶר מְאָר:

אָז לאֹאֲבוֹשׁ בְּהָבִייִי אֶלְכֶלְמֵּצְיתְיָּוְּה:

MITSVAH

A הודף בְּישֶׁר לֵבָב בְלְמִדְי מִשְׁבְּטֵי צִּוְקְהָּ:

MISHAT

MISHAT

CHOQ

Blessed are those whose ways are blameless, who walk according to Yahweh's law. Blessed are those who keep his statutes, who seek him with their whole heart.

Yes, they do nothing wrong. They walk in his ways.

1 ALEPH

You have commanded your precepts, that we should fully obey them. Oh that my ways were steadfast to obey your statutes!

Then I wouldn't be disappointed, when I consider all of your commandments.

I will give thanks to you with uprightness of heart, when I learn your righteous judgments.

I will observe your statutes. Don't utterly forsake me.

Go deeper in your understanding of the *Aleph* message by putting what you have found all together now. Explain the meaning of the *Aleph* words, combined with the contextual meaning of the verse around it (use your rewriting of the verses to help with this part). A few have been done for you, to show how this works.

Verse	Aleph Word	English Word	Message of <i>Aleph</i> revealed in the Word and Verse:
Psalm 119:1-2	אשר 'esher	Blessed	Word Message: Blessed is to be exceedingly happy, fulfilled and joyful. Only Yahweh can bless me!  Verse Context Message: I will only experience Yahweh's full blessing, when I walk according to His Law, keeping His Statutes.
Psalm 119:3	ቫ <b>አ</b> 'aph	They also (or yes)	Word Message: <i>aph</i> refers to affirmation and accession (concurrence, agreement).  Verse Context Message: It gives the concept that when we live in Grace-empowered works instead of lawless wickedness, we are brought into agreement or concord with Heaven.
Psalm 119:4	חחא 'attâh	Thou (You)	Word Message: Because nothing can exist without <i>Yahweh</i> , as Creator, state of being verbs like I AM, I Will, You, etc. start with <i>aleph</i> (He is Eternal. There is no state of being outside of Him.)  Verse Context Message: We honor Him as our Source of existence, recognizing Him as the Creator, by obeying His Precepts.
Psalm 119:5	חחא 'attâh	O that! (Would that! I wish that!)	Word Message: Our heartfelt desires are to be founded upon <i>Yahweh</i> . As such, they are prayers which He delights to grant (Psalm 37:4)  Verse Context Message: When we desire to have lifepatterns, habits and behaviors that are obedient to <i>Yahweh's</i> Statutes, this desire is from Him. It is a prayer He will grant!

Verse	<i>Aleph</i> Word	English Word	Message of <i>Aleph</i> revealed in the Word and Verse:
Psalm 119:6	TX 'âz	Then (at that time)	Word Message: Az is a Hebrew word encompassing past, present and future.  Verse Context Message: From of old, those who consider and heed Yahweh's Commandments have nothing to fear on Judgment Day. I also, if I live according to His Torah, can look forward to a future without shame.
Psalm 119:7-8	ארירה a'hyah	I Will (I Am)	Word Message: I Will is another form of I Am. Thus, whenever Yahweh tells us that He Will do something, He is reminding us of His Great Power and unfailing Promise to complete it! Also, when we say "I will," we are invoking Yahweh's Name in a vow, which we must carry out. To see this, study H1961 (translated as I Am, and more)  Verse Context Message: As children of Yahweh, we vow to seek His Truth, praising Him for whatever He reveals in that study/search, no matter what inconvenience it brings or what it costs. Also, we are vowing to obey what we learn, by His Grace (Numbers 30:2, Psalm 15:4)

#### **Personal Application:**

- 1. Why is the *aleph* known as the "letter of *Yah*"? What does this mean to you? It shows the triune Nature of *Yah* and even reveals the skeletal message of Salvation. The aleph also reveals *Yahweh* as my Heavenly Father. It is the letter showing *Yahweh*'s supremacy and that He is to be kept First in my heart and home.
- 2. What was the most personally meaningful message of the *aleph* that you found in this study? The *aleph* shows how *Yahweh*, the Creator, is connected to me, His Creation.
- 3. What insights about *Yahweh* did you gain? There was a deeper sense of the true JOY of obedience, which I came to comprehend. Not that I didn't know keeping the Torah brought joy, it's just that I saw, even more deeply, how I should seek to fully delight in His Ways, and in so-doing, my life will be a blessing and a delight. Deviating from His Will cannot bring true joy. Thus, I saw that Yahweh is a God Who truly wants His children to be happy, blessed and fulfilled.