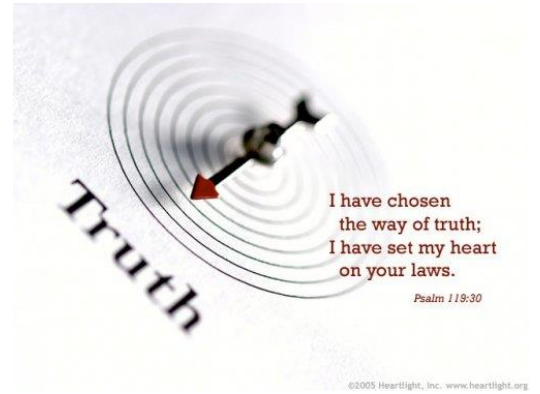


Psalm 119 & the Hebrew Aleph Bet - Part 1



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 where each pearl has equal, but independent value.

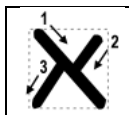
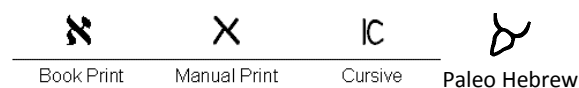
The Psalm is arranged in an acrostic pattern. There are 22 letters in the Hebrew alphabet, and this Psalm contains 22 units of 8 verses each. Each of the 22 sections is given to a letter of the Hebrew alphabet, and each line in that section begins with that letter. The closest parallel to this pattern 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.

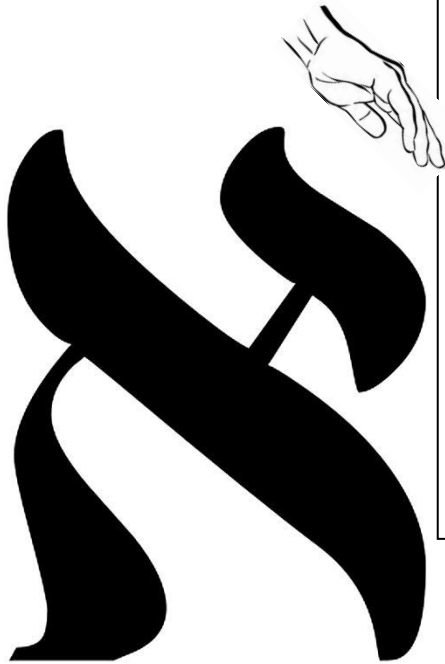
Practice making the Aleph here:

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



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.

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!

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
אב	Av or Ab	Father – <i>Yah</i> is our ultimate Father. All fathers are to show <i>Yahweh</i> , following His Pattern.
אבא	Abba	Daddy – the most intimate reference to one’s Father
אֲהִיָּהּ	A’hyah	I AM – <i>Yah</i> is the Self-Existent, Eternal One
אל	El	God – Mighty One - singular
אחד	Echâd	One – United, first – see Deut. 6:4
אדם	Adam	Red – man was created in <i>Yah’s</i> Image Adam - א = blood (<i>bloodshed happens when man leaves God</i>)
אִישׁ	Enash	Man Man - א = substance (<i>when God is removed from man, what remains is merely substance</i>)
אש	Ish	Fire – <i>Yah</i> is a consuming FIRE – Deut. 4:24
אור	Or	Light – <i>Yah</i> is the Source of all LIGHT – 1 John 1:5
אהבה	Ahabah	Love – <i>Yah</i> 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).

את

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.

אֲנִי אֵלֶּךָ וְתוֹ רֵאשֹׁן וְאַחֲרוֹן רֵאשׁ וְסוֹף

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:

אֲנִי הַדֶּרֶךְ וְהָאֱמֶת וְהַחַיִּים
וְאִישׁ לֹא יָבֹא אֶל־הָאֵב פֶּלְתִי עַל־יָדִי

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 אמת (*emet*) contains the first letter א, the middle letter מ, and the last letter ת 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).

יְהוָה יְהוָה אֵל רַחוּם וְחַנוּן אֶרְךָ אַפַּיִם וְרַב־חַסֵּד וְאֱמֶת

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.

הוּא אֹר אֱמֶת אֲשֶׁר בָּא לְעוֹלָם לְהַאִיר לְכָל־אָדָם

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:

אֵת

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

בְּרֵאשִׁית בָּרָא אֱלֹהִים אֵת הַשָּׁמַיִם וְאֵת הָאָרֶץ

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)

כֹּה אָמַר הָאֱמֵן עַד הָאֵמֶת וְהַצֶּדֶק וְרֵאשִׁית בְּרִיאַת הָאֱלֹהִים

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

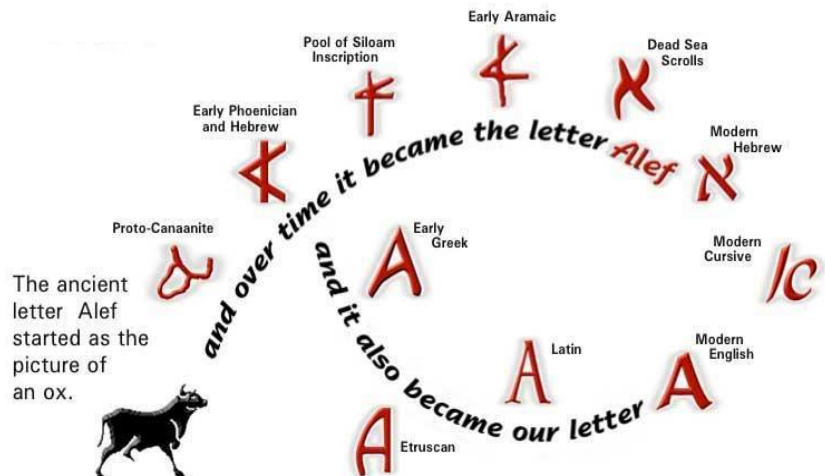
Yahshua is the Strong Sign

The Ancient Hebrew Letters (Paleo-Hebrew Alphabet)					
Aleph Ox Strength Leader	Beyt House "In"	Gimel Foot Camel Pride	Dalet Tent Door Pathway	Hey Lo! Behold! "The"	Vav Nail Peg "And"
Zayin Plow Weapon Cut Off	Chet Tent Wall Fence Separation	Tet Basket Snake Surround	Yod Arm and Hand Work Deed	Kaf Palm of Hand To Open	Lamed Staff Control "To"/"From"
Mem Water Chaos	Nun Seed Fish Life	Samekh Hand on Staff Support Prop	Ayin Eye To See Experience	Pey Mouth Word Speak	Tsade Man on Side Desire Need
Qof Sun on Horizon Behind	Resh Head Person First	Shin Eat Consume Destroy	Tav Mark Sign Convenant		

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. **Blessed** are the **undefiled** in the **way**, who **walk** in the **Law** of the **LORD**. Blessed are they that **keep** His **Testimonies**, and that **seek** Him with the whole **heart**.

Keyword	Strong's #	Hebrew Word	Meaning
Blessed			
Undefiled			
Way			
Walk			
Law			
LORD			
Keep			
Testimonies			
Seek			
Heart			

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

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			
Iniquity			
Walk			
Ways			
Commanded			
Keep			
Precepts			
Diligently			

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

Keyword Study: Psalm 119:5-6

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

Keyword	Strong's #	Hebrew Word	Meaning
O That			
Were Directed			
Thy Statutes			
Then			
Be Ashamed			
Respect			
Commandments			

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

Keyword Study: Psalm 119:7-8

I will **praise** Thee with **uprightness** of **heart**, when I shall have **learned** Thy **righteous Judgments**. I will **keep** Thy **Statutes**: O **forsake** me not **utterly**.”

Keyword	Strong's #	Hebrew Word	Meaning
Praise			
Uprightness			
Heart			
Learned			
Righteous			
Judgments			
Keep			
Statutes			
Forsake			
Utterly			

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

Psalm 119:1-8 Reveals the Aleph Message:

תהילים קיט PSALM 119

The Westminster Leningrad Codex :: <http://tanach.us>

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

<p>אָשְׁרֵי תְּמִיּוּמֵיךָ הַחֲלָקִים בְּתוֹרַת יְהוָה: YHWH TORAH</p> <p>אָשְׁרֵי נֹצְרֵי עֲדָתְךָ בְּכָל־לֵב יְדָרְשׁוּךָ: EDAH</p> <p>אֵף לֹא־פָגְלוּ עוֹלָה בְּדַרְכֵיךָ הַלְכוּ: DEREK</p> <p>אֲתָה צִוִּיתָה פְּקֻדֹתֶיךָ לְשֹׁמֵר מֵאֵד: PIQQUWD</p> <p>אֲחֲלִי יִכְנֹו דְרָכֶי לְשֹׁמֵר חֻקֶּיךָ: CHOQ</p> <p>אִנִּי לֹא־אֲבֹשׁ בְּהִבִּטִּי אֶל־כָּל־מִצְוֹתֶיךָ: MITSVAH</p> <p>אוֹדֶךָ בְּיִשָּׁר לֵבָב בְּלִמְדֵי מִשְׁפָּטֶיךָ צְדָקָה: MISHPAT</p> <p>אֲחֻקֶּיךָ אֲשֶׁמֶר אֶלְתַּעֲזֹבֵנִי עַד־מָאֵד: CHOQ</p>	<p>1 ALEPH</p> <p>1 Blessed are those whose ways are blameless, who walk according to Yahweh's law.</p> <p>2 Blessed are those who keep his statutes, who seek him with their whole heart.</p> <p>3 Yes, they do nothing wrong. They walk in his ways.</p> <p>4 You have commanded your precepts, that we should fully obey them.</p> <p>5 Oh that my ways were steadfast to obey your statutes!</p> <p>6 Then I wouldn't be disappointed, when I consider all of your commandments.</p> <p>7 I will give thanks to you with uprightness of heart, when I learn your righteous judgments.</p> <p>8 I will observe your statutes. Don't utterly forsake me.</p>
--	--

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 Aleph revealed in the Word and Verse:
Psalm 119:1-2	אָשֶׁר <i>'esher</i>	Blessed	Word Message: Verse Context Message:
Psalm 119:3	אֵף <i>'aph</i>	They also (<i>or yes</i>)	Word Message: Verse Context Message:
Psalm 119:4	אֲתָה <i>'attáh</i>	Thou (<i>You</i>)	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	אֲתָה <i>'attáh</i>	O that! (<i>Would that! I wish that!</i>)	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 life-patterns, 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	Aleph Word	English Word	Message of Aleph revealed in the Word and Verse:
Psalm 119:6	אז 'áz	Then (<i>at that time</i>)	<u>Word Message:</u> <u>Verse Context Message:</u>
Psalm 119:7-8	אֶהְיֶה a'hyah	I Will (<i>I Am</i>)	<u>Word Message:</u> 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 <i>Yahweh's</i> Name in a vow, which we must carry out. <i>To see this, study H1961 (translated as I Am, and more...)</i> <u>Verse Context Message:</u> As children of <i>Yahweh</i> , 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?
2. What was the most personally meaningful message of the *aleph* that you found in this study?
3. What insights about *Yahweh* did you gain?