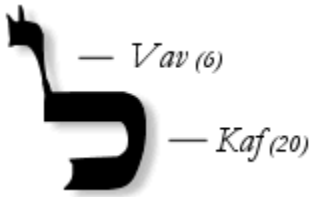


Psalm 119 & the Hebrew Aleph Bet - Part 12



The twelfth letter of the Hebrew alphabet is called “*Lamed*” and has the sound of “L” as in “look”. It has the numeric value of 30. The pictograph for Lamed looks like a shepherd's staff or goad, whereas the classical Hebrew script is constructed of a *Kaph* with a *Vav* standing upon it:



In modern Hebrew, the *Lamed* appears in three forms:

Book Print	Manual Print	Cursive

Writing the Letter: *Lamed* Note that the first stroke extends above the line and inclines from left to right.

	<p>Practice making the Lamed here:</p>
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King of the Letters

The letter *Lamed* is unique in the Hebrew alphabet since it is the *tallest* letter (it is the only letter that rises above the baseline) and, as the 12th letter, it is considered the *central* letter (or "heart") of the Hebrew alphabet:



Since *Lamed* towers over the other letters from its central position, it is said to represent *melekh hamelakhim*, the King of Kings. This idea is supported by the idea that the preceding letter stands for *kisei hakavod*, "the throne of Glory," and the following letter stands for *malkhut*, "kingdom." The sages also point out

that the three central letters can spell the word *melekh*, King.

Spiritual Meaning of the Lamed

Lamed = 30 and means "TEACHING" of Yahweh or "LEARNING" of Yah in Torah.

Learning is not an end in itself, but should spur us on to *action*. For example, in *Pirkei Avot* 1:7 it is written:

וְלֹא הַמְדָּרֵשׁ הָעֵקֶר, אֲלָא הַמַּעֲשֵׂה.

"Study is not the ultimate goal, rather the deeds."

In other words, a true student or learner is not one who is entirely bookish and without deeds of righteousness that accompany his or her learning. This is echoed in the famous words of Simon the Just, who said that the world stands upon three things: upon Torah, upon worship and upon loving deeds:

"Upon three things the world does stand: upon the Torah and upon worship and upon acts of lovingkindness."

In light of this, we can see how the word Lamed is connected with *malmad*, a goad or spur to action. Like a wise shepherd, learning will both spur us on to good deeds



Lamed can be seen as an acronym for the phrase *lev meivin da'at*, meaning "a heart that understands knowledge":



In other words, the goal of learning and teaching (*lamed*) is heart knowledge. Moreover, since it is the only letter allowed to ascend above the other letters in the sacred writings, Lamed represents the prominence of learning and understanding to the heart.



The Hebrew name of the letter itself, *lamed*, comes from the root *lamad* meaning to learn or teach, which first occurs in Deuteronomy 4:1

וְעַתָּה יִשְׂרָאֵל שִׁמְעוּ אֶל-הַחֻקִּים וְאֶל-הַמִּשְׁפָּטִים
אֲשֶׁר אָנֹכִי מְלַמֵּד אֶתְכֶם

"And now, O Israel, listen to the statutes and the rules that I am **teaching** you..." From this we can see that the first business of learning is *mishnei Torah*, the repetition (or inculcation) of the Torah. Indeed, since Lamed is the tallest of the Hebrew letters, it draws our attention to the source of all learning, namely the *Torah* itself.

Hebrew Words Beginning with *Lamed*:

Hebrew Word	Pronunciation	Meaning
למד	<i>lamad</i>	Yahweh TEACHES me what is best and directs me. Isa 48:17 Thus ^{H3541} saith ^{H559} the LORD, ^{H3068} thy Redeemer, ^{H1350} the Holy One ^{H6918} of Israel; ^{H3478} I ^{H589} <i>am</i> the LORD ^{H3068} thy God ^{H430} which teacheth ^{H3925} thee to profit, ^{H3276} which leadeth ^{H1869} thee by the way ^{H1870} <i>that</i> thou shouldst go. ^{H1980}
לבב	<i>lébâb</i>	I am to Love Yahweh will all my HEART Deu 10:12 And now, ^{H6258} Israel, ^{H3478} what ^{H4100} doth the LORD ^{H3068} thy God ^{H430} require ^{H7592} of ^{H4480} H ⁵⁹⁷³ thee, but ^{H3588} H ⁵¹⁸ to fear ^{H3372} (H ⁸⁵³) the LORD ^{H3068} thy God, ^{H430} to walk ^{H1980} in all ^{H3605} his ways, ^{H1870} and to love ^{H157} him, and to serve ^{H5647} (H ⁸⁵³) the LORD ^{H3068} thy God ^{H430} with all ^{H3605} thy heart ^{H3824} and with all ^{H3605} thy soul, ^{H5315}
לשון	<i>lâshôn</i>	I am to Speak in Torah Wisdom – with the TONGUE Pro 10:20 The tongue ^{H3956} of the just ^{H6662} <i>is as</i> choice ^{H977} silver: ^{H3701} the heart ^{H3820} of the wicked ^{H7563} <i>is</i> little worth. ^{H4592}

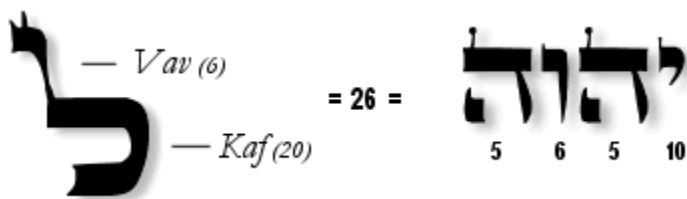
When *Lamed* appears as a prefix to a word in Hebrew, it often denotes the grammatical object which we translate with "to" or "for." For example, *melekh* means king, but *l'melekh* means "to a king" or "for a king." In other words, *Lamed* designates the direction or goal of action as well as the goal of that action.



Learning is then a means to an end, not the end itself. But what is the end to which it leads? Is it not the love of the YAHWEH Himself and His salvation? Is not a relationship with Yahweh God of Israel the final goal of *Torah*? As Yahshua Himself said, "You search the Scriptures (i.e., *Torah*) because you think that in them you have eternal Life; but it is they that bear witness of Me" (John 5:39). In other words, studying and learning *Torah* is meant to ultimately reveal the love and grace of the Mashiach, Yahshua, the true Teacher and King of Kings.

Lamed: Secrets in the Letter Formation

The letter *Lamed* itself represents the number 30, but its constituent parts, *Vav* and *Kaf*, yield the number 26, which is the number of יהוה, YHWH:



Since *Lamed* is central and raised above all the other letters, it represents YHWH, or the King of Kings.

In Genesis 27:30 there is an unusual tag added to the normal *Lamed*: This reads, "As soon as Isaac *finished* blessing Jacob..." (The flourish on the *Lamed* occurs in the

וַיְהִי כִּשְׁמֹנֶה עָשָׂר יָמִים וַיִּצְחַק לְבָרְךְ אֶת־יַעֲקֹב



word *kalah* “finished” “made an end”). This extra embellishment on the *Lamed* points to the blessing that God gave to Jacob and His Seed. It means that this is a blessing descending directly from *Yahweh* out of Heaven.

The word *Yisrael* (Israel) begins with the smallest letter (*Yod*) and ends with the largest letter (*Lamed*), suggesting Israel's dependence upon *Yahweh*. In fact, in Exodus 19:5 the scribes write a deliberately oversized *Lamed* and a deliberately undersized *Yod* right next to one another:



וְהָיִיתֶם לִי סְגֻלָּה מִכָּל־הָעַמִּים

This reads, "And you shall be **to Me** a treasure among all the peoples." Israel is “*am segulah*,” a treasured people, when they keep the Covenant of *Yahweh* by acknowledging His greatness and Israel's smallness. That is, God is the great *Lamed*, Teacher, King of Kings, whereas Israel is the small *Yod*, the small hand extended upward to Heaven in praise and in worship. When the relationship between *Yahweh* and us is like this, we are truly Israel - the treasured possession to *Yahweh*.

In Deuteronomy 29:28 there is an oversized *Lamed*:

וַיִּשְׁלַחְכֶם אֶל־אֶרֶץ אַחֶרֶת

↑
oversized

This reads, "**and He cast them** into another land..." This oversized *Lamed* suggests that Israel's rebellion against Torah resulted in their ejection from the Promised Land. But even this punishment would be used by *Yahweh* to greatly teach them about His Greatness. And in these Last Days, we behold the manifold wisdom of *Yahweh* as He gathers all of spiritual Israel back to the Torah Truth in anticipation of His soon coming as Israel's true King of Kings!

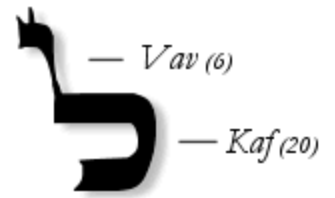
Lamed: Lights of the World



The shape of the *lamed* has been compared to a watchtower, or a lighthouse, serving as a sen-tinel at the heart



of the Hebrew alphabet. In the *Torah* scrolls, the vase of the *lamed* is formed by a *kaph* (the letter which symbolizes our submission to *Yahweh* and obedience – which results in good (Grace Empowered) works (which are obedient to *Torah*). To form the *lamed*, atop the *kaph* sits a *vav*, in the shape of a flame. This shows that our Spirit-empowered, *Torah*-obedient GOOD WORKS give Light to all those around. It was this symbology that *Yahshua* was referring to when He said, in the context of the *Torah* (Matthew 5:14-18):

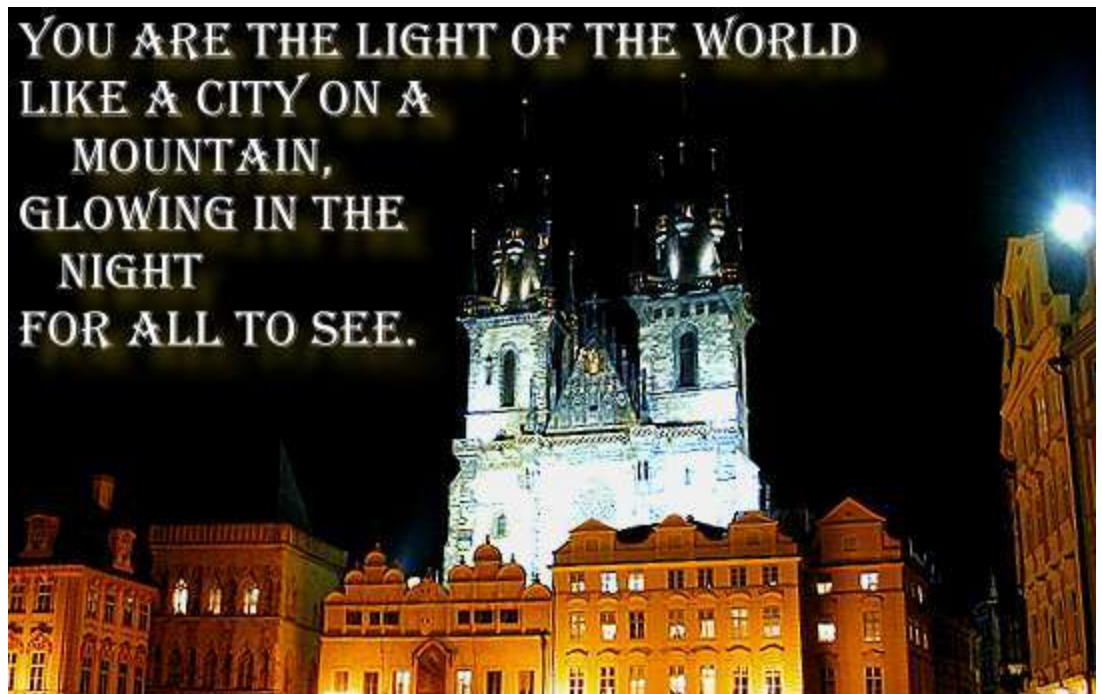


Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven. Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil (“level up, fully preach, accomplish, perfect supply”). For verily I say unto you, Till Heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the Law, till all be

fulfilled.

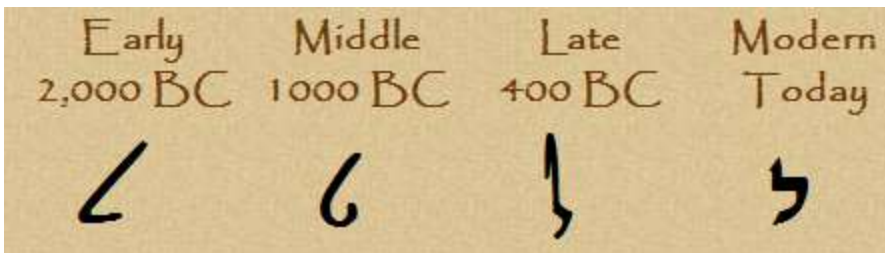
As the flame-like protrusion stands atop the *kaph* in the formation of the *lamed*, so our good deeds should provide a platform to display the Light of *Yahweh’s* Truth, emanating from the *Torah*.


The arrangement of the *vav* supported by the *kaph* (which is a hand, as well as wings) also illustrates the verse, “Humble yourselves, therefore under



God’s mighty Hand, that He may lift you up in due time,” (1 Peter 5:6). It is only the humble one who has been dealt with by *Yahweh’s* Hand who can produce works that are truly Good and *Torah*-obedient. As the *vav* stands atop the *kaph*, so the man who is filled with *Torah*-understanding (knowing and doing) will be like a city on a hill whose light shines forth to illuminate a dark world.

Paleo-Hebrew Look at *Lamed*:



The Early Hebrew pictograph is , a shepherd's staff. The shepherd staff was used to direct sheep by pushing or pulling them. It was also used as a weapon against predators to defend and protect the sheep.

The meaning of this letter is toward as moving something in a different direction. This letter also means authority, as it is a sign of the shepherd, the leader of the flock. It also means yoke, a staff on the shoulders as well as tie or bind from the yoke that is bound to the animal.

Psa 25:5 Lead^{H1869} me in thy truth,^{H571} and teach^{H3925} me: for^{H3588} thou^{H859} art the God^{H430} of my salvation;^{H3468} on thee do I wait^{H6960} all^{H3605} the day.^{H3117}

(TEACH = to *goad*, that is, (by implication) to *teach* (the rod being an Oriental *incentive*): - [un-] accustomed, X diligently, expert, instruct, learn, skilful, teach (-er, -ing).

Psalm 119:89-96 Shows the *Lamed*:

In Psalm 119:89-96, we find the *Lamed* section. In this part of Psalm 119, we see the Torah being exonerated as the permanent principles of Yahweh's Kingdom. We also see man's choice to comply with Heaven's Rules – living as a bright and shining Light upon the earth.

ל	12 LAMED
לְעוֹלָם יְהוָה דְּבַרְךָ נָצַב בַּשָּׁמַיִם:	89 Yahweh, your word is settled in heaven forever.
DABAR YHWH	
לְדוֹר וָדוֹר אֱמוּנָתְךָ כִּוְנַת אֶרֶץ וַתִּעֲמֹד:	90 Your faithfulness is to all generations. You have established the earth, and it remains.
EMUWNAH	
לְמִשְׁפָּטֶיךָ עֲמִדוּ הַיּוֹם כִּי הִכַּל עֲבָדֶיךָ:	91 Your laws remain to this day, for all things serve you.
MISHPAT	
לִילֵי תוֹרָתְךָ שִׁעֲשֵׂי אֵז אֲבֹרְתִי בְעֵינַי:	92 Unless your law had been my delight, I would have perished in my affliction.
TORAH	
לְעוֹלָם לֹאֲשַׁכַּח פְּקוּדֶיךָ כִּי בָם חַיֵּיתָנִי:	93 I will never forget your precepts, for with them, you have revived me.
PIQUUWD	
לְרָאֵנִי הוֹשִׁיעֵנִי כִּי פְקוּדֶיךָ דְרָשָׁתִּי:	94 I am yours. Save me, for I have sought your precepts.
PIQUUWD	
לִי קוֹו רְשָׁעִים לְאַבְדֵּנִי עֲדִיתִךָ אֲתַבּוּנוּ:	95 The wicked have waited for me, to destroy me. I will consider your statutes.
EDAH	
לְכֹל תִּכְלֶה רְאִיתִי קֶץ רַחֲבָה מִצְוֹתֶיךָ מְאֹד:	96 I have seen a limit to all perfection, but your commands are boundless.
MITSVAH	

Keyword Study: Psalm 119:89-90 (words starting with *Lamed* are highlighted)

“**LAMED**. **Forever**, O LORD, Thy Word is **settled** in Heaven. **Thy Faithfulness** is unto **all generations**: Thou hast established the earth, and it **abideth**.”

Keyword	Strong's #	Hebrew Word	Meaning
Forever			
Settled			
Thy Faithfulness			
All Generations			
Abideth			

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

Cross References:

Keyword Study: Psalm 119:91-92 (words starting with *Lamed* are highlighted)

“**They continue this day** according to Thine ordinances: for all are Thy servants. **Unless Thy Law** had been **my delights**, I should then have perished in mine affliction.”

Keyword	Strong's #	Hebrew Word	Meaning
They Continue			
This Day			
Unless			
Thy Law			
My Delights			

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

Cross References:

Keyword Study: Psalm 119:93-94

“I will **never** **forget** Thy Precepts: for with them Thou hast **quickened** me. I am Thine, **save me**; for I **have sought** Thy Precepts.”

Keyword	Strong's #	Hebrew Word	Meaning
Forget			
Quickened			
Save me			
Have Sought			

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

Cross References:

Keyword Study: Psalm 119:95-96 (words starting with *Lamed* are highlighted)

“The **wicked** **have waited** for me to destroy me: but I will **consider** Thy Testimonies. I have seen an **end** of all **perfection**: but Thy Commandment is exceeding **broad**.

Keyword	Strong's #	Hebrew Word	Meaning
Wicked			
Have Waited			
Consider			
End			
Perfection			
Broad			

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

Cross References:

