

Psalm 119 & the Hebrew Aleph Bet - Part 13



The thirteenth letter of the Hebrew alphabet is called “*Mem*” and has the sound of “M” as in “mom”. It has the numeric value of 40. There are two ways to write a Mem. A *Mem* appearing at the end of a word (*stumah*) looks more like a box, being closed at the base. It shows something CONCEALED. A regular *Mem* (*pesucha*) has an opening at the base and shows something REVEALED.



In modern Hebrew, the letter Mem can appear in three forms:

Book Print	Manual Print	Cursive

Writing the Letter: *Mem* - Note that there is a gap at the bottom of the letter.



Revealed or Concealed?

As mentioned above, Mem has two forms: an open form and a closed form. The open form (*pesucha*) is said to represent the revealed truth of God (as demonstrated by Moses), whereas the closed form (*stumah*) is said to represent the concealed truth of God (as demonstrated by the Mashiach, the revealer of mysteries).



“Then the disciples came and said to Him, “Why do You speak to them in parables?” And He answered them, “To you it has been given to know the *Mysteries* of the Kingdom of Heaven, but to them it has not been given.” (Matt 13:10-11).

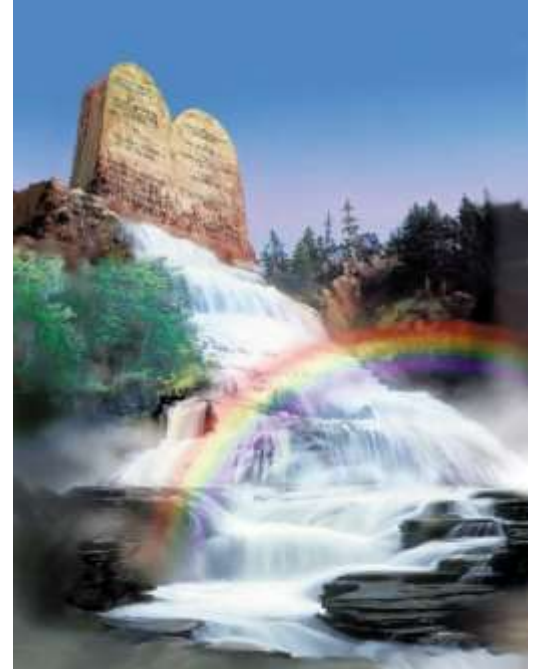
Spiritual Meaning of the Mem

Mem = 40 and means "WATER" of *Yahweh* or "PEOPLE/NATIONS".

Mem is the letter of "water" (*mayim*), symbolizing the "spring" of the *Torah*. Just as the waters of an underground spring rise upward from an unknown source to reveal themselves, so does the spring of wisdom rise up from the mysterious Source that is God. This flowing stream of the inner wisdom can be expressed through the gift of man's speech:

מַיִם עֲמוּקִים דְּבַרֵּי פִי־אִישׁ נַחַל נֹבֵעַ נֹקֹרֵר הַכְּנֹדָה

"The words a man speaks are deep waters, A flowing stream, a fountain of wisdom." (Proverbs 18:4)



The letter *Mem* is composed of two parts: a *Vav* and a *Kaf*. The gematria of these parts is 26, the same value for the sacred Name *YHVH*. In traditional Hebrew gematria, *Mem* has the value of 40, and is associated with TRIAL and TESTING, as we see in the following:

1. 40 days and nights of flood waters in the time of Noah.
2. The Children of Israel were 40 years in the Wilderness
3. 40 days Moses was upon Mount Sinai
4. 40 days of Teshuvah before *Rosh Hashanah*
5. 40 days of fasting by *Yahshua* the *Mashiach*



The *Mem* shows waves or rough waters. But the closed *Mem*, at the end of the word, shows how *Yahshua* makes our rough waters smooth, at the end. The word "SHALOM" is a perfect example of the *Mem* at the end of the word. "SHALOM" means "PEACE." Messiah gives ETERNAL PEACE... in the End.



A Hebrew Name of God is *Makom* meaning "Place" or "Presence". Note that this Name includes both an open and a closed *Mem*:

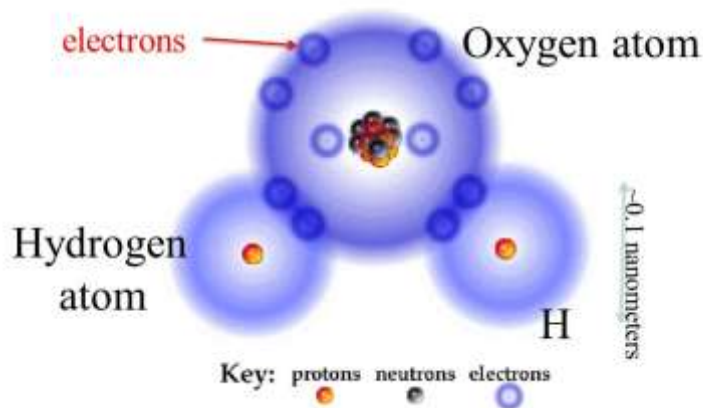
מָקוֹם

The sages have taught that God's Presence is both open and revelatory, yet is also shrouded in deep mystery, closed off to the apprehension of human reason.

Hebrew Words Beginning with Mem:

Hebrew Word	Pronunciation	Meaning
משיח	<i>Mâshîyach</i>	<p>Mem is the first letter of Mashiyach (Messiah) –Anointed One</p> <p>Dan 9:24 Seventy^{H7657} weeks^{H7620} are determined^{H2852} upon^{H5921} thy people^{H5971} and upon^{H5921} thy holy^{H6944} city,^{H5892} to finish^{H3607} the transgression,^{H6588} and to make an end^{H2856} of sins,^{H2403} and to make reconciliation^{H3722} for iniquity,^{H5771} and to bring in^{H935} everlasting^{H5769} righteousness,^{H6664} and to seal up^{H2856} the vision^{H2377} and prophecy,^{H5030} and to anoint^{H4886} the most Holy.^{H6944 H6944}</p> <p>Dan 9:25 Know^{H3045} therefore and understand,^{H7919} <i>that</i> from^{H4480} the going forth^{H4161} of the commandment^{H1697} to restore^{H7725} and to build^{H1129} Jerusalem^{H3389} unto^{H5704} the Messiah^{H4899} the Prince^{H5057} <i>shall be</i> seven^{H7651} weeks,^{H7620} and threescore^{H8346} and two^{H8147} weeks:^{H7620} the street^{H7339} shall be built^{H1129} again,^{H7725} and the wall,^{H2742} even in troublous^{H6695} times.^{H6256}</p>
מלך	<i>melek</i>	<p>Mem is the first letter of Melek - King</p> <p>Psalms 145:1 ...I will extol^{H7311} Thee, my God,^{H430} O King;^{H4428} and I will bless^{H1288} Thy Name^{H8034} for ever^{H5769} and ever.^{H5703}</p>
ממלכה	<i>mamlâkâh</i>	<p>Mem is the first letter of Mamlakah - Kingdom</p> <p>Exo 19:6 And ye^{H859} shall be^{H1961} unto Me a Kingdom^{H4467} of priests,^{H3548} and an holy^{H6918} nation.^{H1471} These^{H428} <i>are</i> the words^{H1697} which^{H834} thou shalt speak^{H1696} unto^{H413} the children^{H1121} of Israel.^{H3478}</p>
מכּוּה	<i>mikvâh</i>	<p>Mem is for Mikvah – which means Baptism – This the way to enter Yah’s Kingdom – It is interesting that the Water BATH which Yahweh set up to symbolize the taking away of our sins was called <i>Mikvah</i> – which literally means “BURNING” or a “FIRE THAT BURNETH”</p> <p>Lev 13:25 Then the priest^{H3548} shall look upon^{H7200} it: and, behold,^{H2009} <i>if</i> the hair^{H8181} in the bright spot^{H934} be turned^{H2015} white,^{H3836} and it <i>be in</i> sight^{H4758} deeper^{H6013} than^{H4480} the skin;^{H5785} it^{H1931} <i>is</i> a leprosy^{H6883} broken out^{H6524} of the burning;^{H4348} wherefore the priest^{H3548} shall pronounce him unclean:^{H2930 (H853)} it^{H1931} <i>is</i> the plague^{H5061} of leprosy.^{H6883}</p> <p>Yahweh’s Presence is a consuming Fire, which burns the dross of sin out of our souls.</p>

Water Molecule: H₂O



The word *Mem* (מם) is a shortened form of *Maim* (מים), which means “WATER.” In chemistry, water is designated as H₂O, which means that a molecule of water is comprised of one atom of oxygen joined with two atoms of hydrogen.

Water’s chemical form can also be written
H + O + H.

Hebrew scholars have noticed the obvious resemblance this pattern bears to the Hebrew spelling of WATER:

ם + י + ך

Mem: Water from the Rock

One curious play on words discovered by Hebrew scholars is based upon an incident found in the book of Numbers (Numbers 20:11): “*And Moses lifted up his hand, and with his rod he smote the **ROCK** twice: and the water came out abundantly, and the congregation drank, and their beasts also.*”



The word for “rock”

used in this Passage is *SELA* (סלע). The three letters which form SELA are *samech*, *lamed*, and *ayin*, respectively. The names of these three letters are spelled out in the diagram below:

Sela

ס	ל	ע	← <i>samech</i>
מ	מ	ל	← <i>lamed</i>
ך	י	ע	← <i>ayin</i>



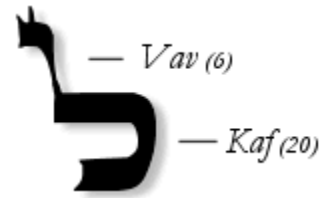
Now that we have spelled out the names of the three letters which spell “ROCK”, we can think of this box and its nine letters as representing the rock which Moses struck with his staff. When we strike the letters from the beginning and ending, we are left with the letters which can be arranged to spell “WATER”.

Notably, Scripture identifies the ROCK as symbolic of Christ – Who is also the Living Water:


ך	מ	ע	1 Corinthians 10:4 “ <i>And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ.</i> ”
ל	מ	ל	John 4:14 “ <i>But whosoever drinketh of the Water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the Water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into Everlasting Life.</i> ”
י	י	ע	

Mem: Revealed and Hidden Truth

As with *lamed* (pictured on the right), *mem* is constructed from a *kaf* and a *vav*. But, whereas the *lamed* shows the *vav* standing atop the *kaf*, in its normal form, *mem* shows the *vav* standing to the left of the *kaf* as shown below:



The numeric value of the *kaf* is 20 + the numeric value of the *vav* is 6 = 26. 26, as was pointed out in the *lamed* study, is the number of God's Name: *YHWH*. This plainly reveals that the Source of all Living Water, is *Yahweh* Himself.

Because of the tiny opening which appears at the bottom of the normal *mem* (see above), the *mem* is said to be "open". The final form of *mem*, however is closed: 



These open and closed forms are described by Hebrew scholars as representing both the OPEN teachings and the HIDDEN wisdom of the Torah. It is typical of *Yahweh*'s Ways to hide certain things from one's understanding until the proper time. The Bible is filled with examples of God revealing His Hidden Wisdom. Let's consider some examples:

Daniel proclaimed that *Yahweh* "reveals deep and hidden things; He knows what lies in darkness, and Light dwells with Him," Daniel 2:22.

Yahshua quoted Psalms when He said, "I will open My Mouth in parables, I will utter things hidden since the Creation of the World," Matthew 13:35 quoted from Psalm 78:2.

Paul spoke about the secret wisdom of *Yahweh*, understood only under the revelation of *Yah*'s Spirit:

1 Corinthians 2:7-8 "But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world unto our glory. Which none of the princes of this world knew: for had they known it, they would not have crucified the (Master) of Glory."

Because the deep, spiritual Truths of *Yahweh* are incomprehensible to the carnal heart, the most precious gems of Wisdom appear as foolishness to lost mankind. The natural heart is blind to them. This is why we need to ask *Yahweh* for enlightenment and true understanding. Only then can we have true wisdom:

1 Corinthians 3:18-19 *“Let no man deceive himself. If any man among you seemeth to be wise in this world, let him become a fool, that he may be wise. For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written, He taketh the wise in their own craftiness.”*

In fact, the True Wisdom of Heaven is absolutely opposite from what the human mind would naturally think. Consider the following examples:

Human Reasoning	Heavenly Wisdom
I am “free” when I am my “own boss”, holding the “driver’s seat” of my own life.	While I am in the “driver’s seat”, I will be destroyed and brought into bondage in darkness. The only way to really be free, is to be the “bondservant” of the Most High!
I have very little money with which to pay my bills. I certainly cannot afford to give God tithe.	9/10 actually goes farther than 10/10! Always give back the tithes and offerings to God and He will bless what remains, making it enough.
Laying down one’s life and dying the ignominious death of a criminal is the ultimate evidence of failure and defeat.	Through His Death on the Cross, <i>Yahshua</i> was able to gain the Victory over satan and break the stronghold of every sin. It is the ultimate evidence of Heaven’s Power and Victory.



Paul, who was a student of the famed Hebrew teacher Gamaliel (who required his students to have the *Torah* entirely memorized by the age of 12), understood the hidden mysteries of the *Torah* better than most. In his letter to the Ephesians and the Corinthians shows the key to unlocking all Divine Mysteries, which in itself, is a mystery, also.

Ephesians 3:8-9 *“Unto me, who am less than the least of all saints, is this grace given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ. And to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the*

beginning of the world hath been hid in God...”

Colossians 1:26-27 *“Even the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to His saints: To whom God would make known what is the riches of the Glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is **Christ in you, the hope of glory.**”*

This secret is the life-saving message of the Gospel. And, as with the wine at Cana, *Yahweh* has saved the best for last (John 2:1-10). The Good News that the Word of *Yahweh* proclaims to Jews and Gentiles alike goes far beyond what could ever have been imagined before Paul’s day.

Mem: the Heart of Truth

In the Bible’s description of the New Jerusalem, we encounter the concept of *MEM*, in the Water pouring out from the heart of the City:

Revelation 22:1-2 “*And He showed me a pure River of Water of Life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the Throne of God and of the Lamb. In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, was there the Tree of Life, which bare twelve manner of fruits, and yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.*”

The order of the letters, as they appear in the Hebrew alphabet follows the same pattern. At the center of the alphabet list, we find the letter *mem*. And at opposite ends, we find the *aleph* and *tav*:

ט	ח	ז	ו	ה	ד	ג	ב	א
Teit	Cheit	Zayin	Vav	Hei	Dalet	Gimel	Beit	Alef
(T)	(Ch)	(Z)	(V/O/U)	(H)	(D)	(G)	(B/V)	(Silent)

ס	ן	נ	מ	מ	ל	ך	כ	י
Samekh	Nun	Nun	Mem	Mem	Lamed	Khaf	Kaf	Yod
(S)	(N)	(N)	(M)	(M)	(L)	(Kh)	(K/Kh)	(Y)

ת	ש	ר	ק	ץ	צ	ף	פ	ע
Tav	Shin	Reish	Qof	Tzadei	Tzadei	Fe	Pei	Ayin
(T/S)	(Sh/S)	(R)	(Q)	(Tz)	(Tz)	(F)	(P/F)	(Silent)



If we picture these letters as being joined by a connecting thread, we get the word:

TRUTH (*amet* - אמת)

Each of the 22 letters of the Hebrew alphabet are instruments through which *Yahweh* communicates TRUTH, spanning and encompassing the messages of ALL the alephbeit.

On the other hand, the letters which spell FALSEHOOD (שקר) are grouped together at the end of the alphabet. Their combined influence does not span the alphabet. Nor do these letters, spelling FALSEHOOD, follow the natural order of the letters, as they normally appear in the alphabet. They are out of order. This depicts the perversion of order that takes place whenever a falsehood is spoken. In the same way that rat poison is 99% nutritious, Falsehood, like the letters which form it, contains some elements of Truth (as these letters are truly part of *Yahweh*’s whole alphabet message). But by taking only parts of the picture, pieces of doctrine, the whole becomes twisted and perverted, distorted and no longer accurate. Unlike, real TRUTH, which the Hebrew letters show encompasses ALL of *Yahweh*’s teachings, falsehood comes from taking part of the Law (which the Bible calls “being partial” in it) and not embracing the whole.

Malachi 2:8-9 “*But ye are departed out of the Way (the Old Path of Truth – Jeremiah 6:16); ye have caused many to stumble at the Law; ye have corrupted the covenant of Levi, saith Yahweh of hosts. Therefore have I*

also made you contemptible and base before all the people, according as ye have not kept My Ways, **but have been partial in the Law.**”

The Walk of Faith in the Second Set of Seven Letters:

With the Hebrew letters, the Message they contain is lumped into “phrases” of seven letters. The second set of seven letters present the Walk of Faith. In a nutshell, the Walk of Faith involves (from right to left):

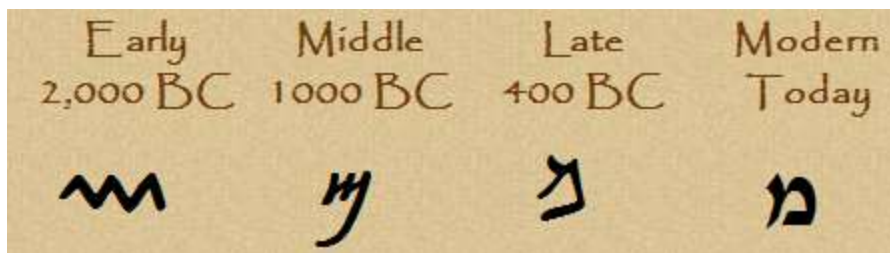
מ	ל	כ	י	ט	ח
Mem	Lamed	Kaf	Yod	Tet	Chet
The letter of the WATER of LIFE – those who possess it have a secret, hidden life (closed mem). But Yahweh says that that which is done in secret, will one day be rewarded openly (open mem).	The letter of Yah’s STAFF and LIGHT – His Teaching and our Learning, largely accomplished through Torah.	The letter of ATONEMENT – being COVERED under Yahweh’s WINGS (KAHAPH)	The letter of the HAND of YAH – being truly claimed by Him as we live in obedience to His Ten Commandments.	The letter of DEATH – being death to self and total surrender to Yahweh.	The letter of LIFE – being the yoke whereby we are joined to our Master

It is by living the lessons of these letters (by Yah’s Grace) that we truly walk by Faith and not by sight.

Hebrews 11:6 “But without faith it is impossible to please Him: for he that cometh to God must believe that He is, and that He is a Rewarder of them that diligently seek Him.”

Romans 10:17 “So then faith cometh by hearing (which involves obedience), and hearing by the Word of God.”

Paleo-Hebrew Look at Mem:



The Early Semitic pictograph for this letter is **מ** a picture of waves of water. This pictograph has the meanings of liquid, water and sea, mighty and massive from the size of the sea and chaos from the storms of the sea. To the Hebrews the sea was a feared and

unknown place, for this reason this letter is used as a question word, who, what, when, where, why and how, in the sense of searching for an unknown.

Psalm 119:97-104 Shows the Mem:

In Psalm 119:97-104, we find the *Mem* section. In this part of Psalm 119, we see what it means to have TRUTH instead of FALSEHOOD – to possess the Water of Life, all of which issues out of Torah: Proverbs 13:14 “The Law of the wise is a fountain of Life, to depart from the snares of death.”

<p>ד מֵהָאֱהָבָתִּי תוֹרַתְךָ כְּלֵיוֹם הִיא שִׁחְתִּי: TORAH</p> <p>מֵאֵיבֵי תַחֲכֻמֵּי מִצְוֹתֶיךָ כִּי לְעוֹלָם הֵיאֵלֶי: MITSVAH</p> <p>מִכָּל־לִמְדֵי הַשְּׂפָלִתִּי כִּי עֲדוּתֶיךָ שִׁיחָה לִּי: EDUWTH</p> <p>מִזְקֵנִים אֲתַבּוֹן כִּי פְקוּדֶיךָ נִצְרָתִי: PIQQUWD</p> <p>מִכָּל־אֲרָח רָע כָּל־אֲתֵי רַגְלִי לְמַעַן אֲשַׁמֵּר דְּבָרְךָ: DABAR</p> <p>מִמִּשְׁפָּטֶיךָ לֹא־סָרְתִּי כִּי־אָתָּה הוֹרַתְנִי: MISHPAT</p> <p>מֵהַנְּמַלְצוֹ לַחֲכִי אֲמַרְתָּךְ מִדְּבַשׁ לִפִּי: IMRAH</p> <p>מִפְקוּדֶיךָ אֲתַבּוֹן עַל־כֵּן שָׂנֵאתִי כָּל־אֲרָח שָׁקֵר: PIQQUWD</p>	<p>13 MEM</p> <p>97 How I love your law! It is my meditation all day.</p> <p>98 Your commandments make me wiser than my enemies, for your commandments are always with me.</p> <p>99 I have more understanding than all my teachers, for your testimonies are my meditation.</p> <p>100 I understand more than the aged, because I have kept your precepts.</p> <p>101 I have kept my feet from every evil way, that I might observe your word.</p> <p>102 I have not turned aside from your ordinances, for you have taught me.</p> <p>103 How sweet are your promises to my taste, more than honey to my mouth!</p> <p>104 Through your precepts, I get understanding; therefore I hate every false way.</p>
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Keyword Study: Psalm 119:97-98 (words starting with Mem are highlighted)

“MEM. O how love I Thy Law! It is my meditation all the day. Thou through Thy Commandments hast made me wiser than mine enemies: for they are ever with me.”

Keyword	Strong's #	Hebrew Word	Meaning
Thy Law			
Meditation			
...through Thy Commandments			
Hast made me wiser			

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

Cross References:

Keyword Study: Psalm 119:99-100 (words starting with Mem are highlighted)

“**I have more understanding** than all my teachers: for thy testimonies are my meditation. **I understand** more than **the ancients**, because **I keep Thy Precepts.**”

Keyword	Strong's #	Hebrew Word	Meaning
I have More Understanding			
I understand			
The ancients			
I Keep			
Thy Precepts			

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

Cross References:

Keyword Study: Psalm 119:101-102 (words starting with Mem are highlighted)

“**I have refrained my feet from every** evil way, that I might **keep** Thy Word. I have not **departed** from **Thy Judgments**: for Thou **hast taught me.**”

Keyword	Strong's #	Hebrew Word	Meaning
I have refrained			
My feet			
Way			
Keep			
Departed			
Thy Judgments			
Hast taught me			

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

Cross References:

Keyword Study: Psalm 119:103-104 (words starting with Mem are highlighted)

“How **sweet** are Thy Words unto my taste! Yea, sweeter **than** honey to **my mouth**! Through Thy Precepts I get understanding: **therefore I hate** every **false** way.”

Keyword	Strong's #	Hebrew Word	Meaning
Sweet			
My Mouth			
I Hate			
False			

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

Cross References:

