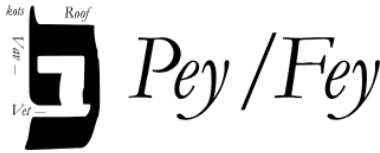
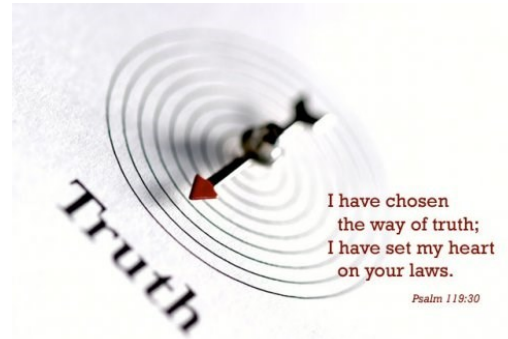


Psalm 119 & the Hebrew Aleph Bet - Part 17



The seventeenth letter of the Hebrew alphabet is called “*Pey*” (sounds like “**pay**”). It has the sound of “p” as in “park”. *Pey* has the numeric value of 80. In modern Hebrew, the letter *Pey* can appear in three forms:

Book Print	Manual Print	Cursive

Writing the Letter: *Pey*

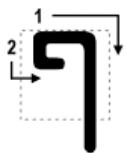
Note: Most people draw the *Pey* in two strokes, as shown. The dot, or “dagesh” mark means the *pey* makes the “p” sound, as in “park”.

Note: The sole difference between the letter *Pey* and the letter *Fey* is the presence or absence of the dot in the middle of the letter (called a **dagesh** mark). When you see the dot in the middle of this letter, pronounce it as a “p”; otherwise, pronounce it as “ph” (or “f”).

If no dot appears in the middle of the letter (called a dagesh mark), *Pey* is called “*Fey*” and is pronounced as a “ph” as in phone.

The Letter Fey

The Letter Fey



Five Hebrew letters are formed differently when they appear as the last letter of a word (these forms are sometimes called “**sofit**” (pronounced “so-feet”) forms). Fortunately, the five letters sound the same as their non-sofit cousins, so you do not have to learn any new sounds (or transliterations). The *Pey* (pronounced “*Fey*” sofit) has a descending tail, as shown on the left.

Pey: The Mouth, or Word



The pictograph for *Pey* looks something like a mouth, whereas the classical Hebrew script (*Ketav Ashurit*) is constructed of a *Kaf* with an ascending *Yod*:

Notice the “hidden *Bet*” within the letter *Pey*. This shape of the letter is required when a Torah scribe writes Torah scrolls, or mezzuzahs. From the Canaanite pictograph, the letter morphed into the Phoenician *ketav Ivri*, to the Greek letter π (Pi), which became the Latin letter “P.”

The word *Pey* (פה) means “mouth” and by extension, “word,” “expression,” “vocalization,” and “speech”. In the order of the Hebrew alphabet, *Pey* follows the letter ‘*Ayin*, suggesting the priority of the eyes (i.e., understanding, awareness) before verbal expression (reversing this order results in mindless chatter).

Spiritual Meaning of the *Pey*

Pey = 80 and means “MOUTH”, “SPEECH” or “WORD”.



The Pey is, first and foremost, the letter of Yahweh’s Word – His Mouth and Speech and Commands. Because it first signifies God’s Word, it is associated with healing. “He sent His WORD and HEALED them, and delivered them...” Psalm 107:20

*“(Master) I am not worthy that You should come under my roof, but SPEAK the WORD only, and my servant shall be HEALED,”
Matthew 8:8*

Pey is composed of two other letters: Kaf and Yod. Since one of the meanings of Kaf is “container” (i.e., spoon), it is suggested that the letter Pey is a picture of the Divine spark (Yod) of God within His Word.

The inner space of the letter *Pey* reveals the letter *Bet*. Since the first word of Scripture (*bereshit*) begins with an enlarged letter *Bet* (representing the house of Creation), it is inferred that the invisible letter *Pey* (surrounding the *Bet*) represents the Word of God that created the heavens and the earth (Gen. 1:1; John 1:1-3). The very first letter of the Scriptures is a picture that the ‘Word’ of God is the agency behind the entire universe Psalm 33:6:

By the word of Yahweh were the heavens made; and all the host of them by the Breath of His Mouth.



*By the word of the Lord the heavens were made.
And all the host of them by the breath of His mouth.
Psalm 33:6, nkjv*



Pey predominantly signifies the Word of *Yahweh*. But, on a lesser scale, it also indicates the word of man. A drash on the hidden *Bet* suggests that since *Pey* means mouth and *Bet* means home, what is spoken within the home is likewise spoken outside the home. In other words, our private conversation within our homes will reflect itself in our public life. Conversely, what we speak in public will also affect the quality of our life at home.

The letter *Pey* represents the number 80. 80 is the same value found in the words *yesod* (foundation) and *gevurah* (strength). This is also the age of Moses when he was called to lead the Children of Israel out of Egypt, and seems to be indicative of a sign of strength in human life.”



Psalm 90:10 “The days of our years are threescore years and ten; and if **by reason of strength they be fourscore (80) years**, yet is their strength labour and sorrow; for it is soon cut off, and we fly away.”

Hebrew Words Beginning with *Pey*:

Hebrew Word	Pronunciation	Meaning
פלא	pele'	a <i>miracle</i> : - marvellous thing, wonder (-ful, -fully).
פתח	pêthach	<i>opening</i> (figuratively) that is, <i>disclosure</i> : - entrance
פער	pâ'ar	to <i>yawn</i> , that is, <i>open</i> wide (literally or figuratively): - gape, open (wide).
פה	peh	the <i>mouth</i> (as the means of <i>blowing</i>), (particularly <i>speech</i>); specifically <i>edge, portion</i> or <i>side</i> ; <i>according to</i> : - accord (-ing to), command (-ment), mind, speech, spoken, talk, two-edged, wish, word.

Pey: Meaning from its Place Among the Letters

In the Hebrew alphabet, *Pey* (the mouth) follows *Ayin* (the eye), which follows *Samech* (strength from support). This progression of letter messages, is found in Exodus 13:9, regarding the process of Sanctification and being Sealed. Let's start with verse 7, for the context, as the Sealing Promise is given to those who keep the Feast. But pay special attention to verse 9, as it shows the progression of letter messages (from *Samech*, to *Ayin*, to *Pey*):

(Verses 7-8) “Unleavened bread shall be eaten seven days; and there shall no leavened bread be seen with thee, neither shall there be leaven seen with thee in all thy quarters. And thou shalt show thy son in that day, saying, This is done because of that which Yahweh did unto me when I came forth out of Egypt.”

(Verse 9) “And it shall be for a sign unto thee upon thine hand, and for a memorial between thine eyes, that *Yahweh's* Law may be in thy mouth: for with a strong Hand hath Yahweh brought thee out of Egypt.”

Phrase in Exodus 13:9	Hebrew Letter	Meaning of Hebrew Letter
“ <i>And it shall be for a sign unto thee upon thine hand...</i> ” (<i>arm- which is a symbol of strength</i>)	ס (<i>Samech</i>)	“Support”, “Strength”
“ <i>...And for a memorial between thine eyes...</i> ” (<i>a reminder</i>)	ע (<i>Ayin</i>)	“Eyes”, “Insight”, “Understanding”
“ <i>...That Yahweh's Law may be in your mouth...</i> ”	פ (<i>Pey</i>)	“Mouth”, “Speech”

Wisdom from the Pey

Pey has two forms: the closed (פ) and the open (ף). The closed *Pey* appears at the beginning and in the middle of words, while the open form only appears at the end of words. The lesson in this is simple: Learn to be silent (פ), listening to *Yah*, before you speak (ף). Only then will His Living Word (*Pey*) come out of your life and mouth.

Psalm 46:10 “*Be still, and know that I Am God: I will be exalted among the heathen, I will be exalted in the earth.*”

Isaiah 50:4 “*Yahweh GOD hath given me the tongue of the learned, that I should know how to speak a word in season to him that is weary: He wakeneth morning by morning, He wakeneth mine ear to hear as the learned.*” (FIRST, we are wakened to hear with the ear of the learned – THEN we will have the tongue of the learned.)

Warning! Warning! Misuse of Pey will Bring Unholy Fire!

James 3:6-10 *“And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity: so is the tongue among our members, that it defileth the whole body, and setteth on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire of hell. For every kind of beasts, and of birds, and of serpents, and of things in the sea, is tamed, and hath been tamed of mankind: But the tongue can no man tame; it is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison. Therewith bless we God, even the Father; and therewith curse we men, which are made after the similitude of God. Out of the same mouth proceedeth blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not so to be.”*

The Hateful Tongue

Jeremiah spoke of those “treacherous” people who “bend their tongue like a bow.” He cautioned that no one should place trust in the person who “deceives” and “slanders,” nor with those who “have taught their tongue to speak lies” (Jer. 9:2-5). *Yahweh* hates the lying tongue (Prov. 6:17; cf. Acts 5:3-4). Some use their tongues to rip and gut others—even their brethren in Christ.



The Immoral Tongue

Solomon said that the mouth of the forbidden woman is a “deep pit” (Prov. 22:14). Note the perfume-drenched words (“fair speech”) of the immoral woman who lures a man to his destruction (7:14). Men have similarly taken advantage of vulnerable, lonely women by their deceitful language.

The Boasting Tongue

The vain Pharisee, in a dramatic presentation before *Yahweh*, paraded his feigned accomplishments, but he was not accounted as just with God, in spite of his boasting (Lk. 18:9). It was Francis Bacon who said something to the effect that “a bragging man is scorned by the wise, and admired by fools.” Wise words are those spoken in humility and repentance.

The Impetuous Tongue

An inspired writer declared: “Let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak” (Jas. 1:19). The poet Robert Frost once said that “half the world is composed of people who have something to say and can’t, and the other half who have nothing to say and keep on saying it.” A wise man wrote: “Even a fool who keeps silent is considered wise” (Prov. 17:28). Unfortunately, he frequently opens his mouth and removes all doubt! There are far too many people who talk, having not first listened to *Yahweh* – awaiting the Gift of His Word.

The Critical Tongue

A wise man values constructive criticism; it’s just that sometimes it is difficult to distinguish between constructive criticism and plain old **meanness**. But, as Solomon observed, “A rebuke enters deeper into one who has understanding, than do a hundred stripes into a fool” (Prov. 17:10). A wise person can learn valuable lessons from his critics if he but will. On the other hand, there are those who have turned criticism into a recreational sport. Whenever they gather, like vicious piranha, they devour all flesh in sight.

The Double-Tongued

In setting forth qualifications for deacons, Paul admonished that they must not be “double-tongued” (1 Tim. 3:8). The double-tongued person is one who has refined the art of duplicity. He will say anything to get you off his back, then say quite another to someone else. His word is not his bond. His tongue flaps like an irritating awning in a winter storm (see Prov. 8:8).

The Explosive Tongue

James observed that the tongue is an instrument that no man can control completely (cf. Jas. 3:8). But some make almost no attempt at the effort. At the least irritant they explode with expletives. One might be surprised to listen to the language of the person on Sunday who has spoken so piously on Sabbath! To those who operate in such fashion, *Yahweh* says: “What right have you to recite My Statutes or take My Covenant upon your lips?” (Psa. 50:16).

Conclusion

“Let no corrupt speech proceed out of your mouth” (Eph. 4:29), rather, put away shameful speaking from your mouth (Col. 3:8). Listen to the warning of the Judge of the universe: “I say unto you, that every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the Day of Judgment. For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned” (Mt. 12:36-37).

Recognizing this, helps us to place *Pey* in its Sealing context. Truly, we cannot be Sealed, without a right use of the mouth, having refrained from speaking from self, but speaking instead in *Yah*-Governed Words and Ways.

For those who keep the Sabbath, we get a shadow picture of how important *Pey* (controlling the mouth) is if we would enjoy the ultimate Sabbath of the Jubilee with *Yah*.

Isaiah 58:13-14 *“If thou turn away thy foot from the Sabbath, from doing thy pleasure on My holy Day; and call the Sabbath a delight, the holy of Yahweh, honourable; and shalt honour Him, not doing thine own ways, nor finding thine own pleasure, nor speaking thine own words: (Pey פ) Then shalt thou delight thyself in Yahweh; and I will cause thee to ride upon the high places of the earth, and feed thee with the heritage of Jacob thy father: for the Mouth of Yahweh hath spoken it (Pey פ).”*

Godly Pey – Like Apples of Gold in Pictures of Silver



There is a great deal of meaning in the fact that the letter *Bet* (ב) is hidden within the *Pey* (פ). Solomon wrote –

Proverbs 25:11 *“A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in pictures of silver.”*

How can our words be like golden apples? And what are the “settings of silver” to which Solomon refers? In Hebrew, “gold” (*zahab* זָהָב) ends with the letter *bet* (ב), and the word for “silver” (*ceseph* כֶּסֶף) ends with the letter *pey* (פ). When the Word of Wisdom, from *Yah’s Torah* (ב) resides in the mouth (פ), then the resulting words will be “aptly spoken” and of great value... Like apples of Gold in pictures of Silver.

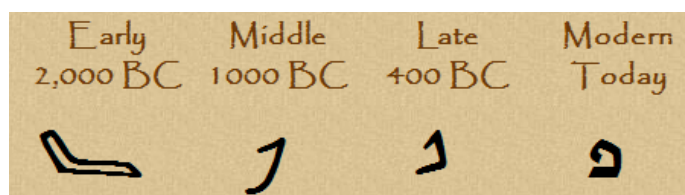
Like Apples Of Gold In Pictures Of Silver




- ◆ A Are my words APPROPRIATE?
- ◆ P Are my words PLEASANT?
- ◆ P Are my words PURE?
- ◆ L Are my words LOVELY?
- ◆ E Are my words ENCOURAGING?
- ◆ S Are my words SOFT?

Psalm 15:1-3 “YAH, who shall abide in Thy Tabernacle? Who shall dwell in Thy holy Hill? He that walketh uprightly, and worketh righteousness, and speaketh the truth in his heart. He that backbiteth not with his tongue, nor doeth evil to his neighbour, nor taketh up a reproach against his neighbour.”

Pey in Paleo Hebrew:



The Semitic word “*pey*” means a “mouth” and there are several ancient Semitic pictographs believed to be this letter, none of which resemble a mouth. The only exception is the South Arabian pictograph . This pictograph closely resembles a mouth and is similar to the later Semitic letters for the letter “*pey*”. This

pictograph has the meanings of speak and blow from the functions of the mouth as well as the edge of something, as the lips are at the edge of the mouth. **Psalm 150:6** “*Let everything that hath breath praise Yahweh. Praise ye Yahweh.*”

Psalms 119:129-136 Shows the Pey:

In Psalms 119:129-136, we find the *Pey* section. In this part of Psalms 119, we see what it means to be wakened morning by morning to Hear the Word of Yahweh, so that we may be speak Golden Words.

פ	17 PEY
פְּלֹאוֹת עֲדוּתֶיךָ עֲלֵמֶן נִצְרָתָם נִפְשֵׁי:	129 Your testimonies are wonderful, therefore my soul keeps them.
E D U W T H	
פֶּתַח דְּבָרֶיךָ יֵאִיר מַבִּין פְּתִיִּים:	130 The entrance of your words gives light. It gives understanding to the simple.
D A B A R	
פִּיִּפְעַרְתִּי וְאִשְׁאַפֶּה כִּי לְמִצְוֹתֶיךָ יֵאָבְדִי:	131 I opened my mouth wide and panted, for I longed for your commandments .
M I T S V A H	
פְּנֹה־אֵלַי וְחַנּוּנִי כְּמִשְׁפָּט לְאֹהֲבֵי שְׁמֶךָ:	132 Turn to me, and have mercy on me, as you always do to those who love your name.
M I S H P A T	
פְּעַמֵּי הַכֶּבֶן בְּאִמְרֹתֶיךָ וְאַל־תִּשְׁלַטְבֵּי כְּלֹאֲוֹן:	133 Establish my footsteps in your word . Don't let any iniquity have dominion over me.
I M R A H	
פְּדֵנִי מֵעֲשָׂק אָדָם וְאִשְׁמְרָה פְּקוּדֶיךָ:	134 Redeem me from the oppression of man, so I will observe your precepts .
P I Q Q U W D	
פְּנֵיךָ הָאֵר בְּעַבְדְּךָ וּלְמַדְנִי אֶת־חֻקֶּיךָ:	135 Make your face shine on your servant. Teach me your statutes .
C H O Q	
פְּלִגְמִים יָרְדוּ עַל־לִאשְׁמֹרֵת תּוֹרָתֶךָ:	136 Streams of tears run down my eyes, because they don't observe your law .
T O R A H	

Keyword Study: Psalms 119:129-130 (words starting with *Pey* are highlighted)

“PE. Thy Testimonies are **wonderful**: therefore doth **my soul keep** them. **The entrance** of Thy Words **giveth light**; it giveth understanding unto **the simple**.”

Keyword	Strong's #	Hebrew Word	Meaning
Wonderful			
My Soul			
Keep			
The Entrance			
Light			
The Simple			

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

Cross References:

Keyword Study: Psalms 119:131-132 (words starting with *Pey* are highlighted)

“**I opened my mouth**, and **panted**: for I longed for **Thy Commandments**. **Look** Thou upon me, and be merciful unto me, as **Thou usest to do** unto those that love **Thy Name**.”

Keyword	Strong's #	Hebrew Word	Meaning
I opened			
My mouth			
Panted			
Thy Commandments			
Look			
Thou usest to do			
Thy Name			

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

Cross References:

Keyword Study: Psalms 119:133-134 (words starting with *Pey* are highlighted)

“**Order my steps** in **Thy Word**: and let not any **iniquity have dominion** over me. **Deliver** me from the **oppression** of man: so **will I keep Thy Precepts**.”

Keyword	Strong's #	Hebrew Word	Meaning
Order			
My steps			
Thy Word			
Iniquity			
Have dominion			
Deliver			
Oppression			
Will I keep			
Thy Precepts			

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

Cross References:

Keyword Study: Psalms 119:135-136 (words starting with *Pey* are highlighted)

“**Make Thy Face to shine** upon Thy servant; and teach me **Thy Statutes**. **Rivers** of waters run down mine eyes, because they keep not **Thy Law**.”

Keyword	Strong's #	Hebrew Word	Meaning
Make Thy Face			
To shine			
Thy Statutes			
Thy Law			

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

Cross References:

Psalm 119:129-136 Reveals the *Pey*

Message:

(write your own personal “Bible Commentary” Message about these verses, now that you’ve studied them. Include Cross-reference Scriptures.)

Personal Application:

1. What was the most personally meaningful message of the *Pey* that you found in this study?

2. What insights about *Yahweh* did you gain?