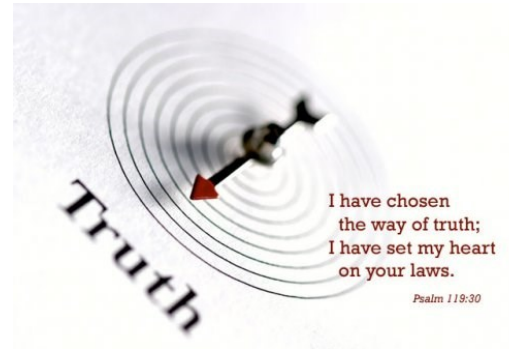


Psalms Im 119 & the Hebrew Aleph Bet - Part 15



The next letter of the Hebrew alphabet is “*Samech*” (pronounced “**sah**-mekh”) and has the sound of “s” as in “son”. The letter *Samech* is the 15th letter of the Aleph-Bet, having the numeric value of 60. The pictograph for *Samech* looks something like a shield, whereas the classical Hebrew script (*Ketav Ashurit*) is constructed of a circular shape with a squared left corner:



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

Book Print	Manual Print	Cursive

Writing the Letter: *Samech* – Note that the top stroke has an “overhang” on the left.



Samech: Letter of Support and Consecration

The root of the word *Samech* סָמַךְ means “to lean upon,” “to uphold,” or “to support.” The root is also found in the Hebrew concept of *semikhah*, the laying on of hands upon the head of a sacrificial victim in a blood ritual of the Temple, which was also a means of consecrating the priesthood (Lev 8; Exodus 29, etc.). Biblical references to the root occur in Lev 16:21, Deut 34:9, Ezekiel 24:2, and elsewhere. In ancient times, *Samech* may have represented a shield. Today, the Rabbinical ordination ceremony is called a *semikhah*.



“Then you shall bring the bull before the tent of meeting. Aaron and his sons shall lay (*samakh*) their hands on the head of the bull.” Exodus 29:10

והקרבת את־הֶפֶר לפני אֵהָל
 מוֹעֵד וְסָמַךְ אֶהָרֵן וּבָנָיו אֶת־יָדֵיהֶם
 עַל־רֹאשׁ הַפָּרִי:

Spiritual Meaning of the Samech

Samech = 60 and means “PROP”, “SUPPORT” or “COMPASS ABOUT”.



Samech has an enclosed, circular form. It shows how *Yahweh* surrounds and compasses us. *Samech* portrays how we are completely surrounded by Messiah’s Loving Arms.

Samech is for *Sabab* – “to compass about.”

“Thou shalt COMPASS me about with songs of deliverance,”
Psalms Im 32:7.

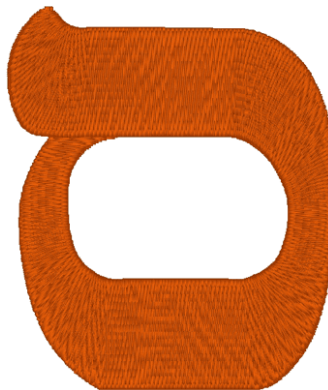


Samech shows us a picture of a PROP, strongly supporting and upholding a tree to enable it to weather storms safely. This reveals how Messiah supports and upholds us, strengthening us to endure the “Storms” of trial.

“The eternal *YAH* is thy refuge, and underneath are the Everlasting Arms,”
Deuteronomy 33:27.

“His Left Arm is under my head, and His Right Arm embraces me... Who is this coming up from the desert, LEANING upon her Beloved?” Song of Solomon 8:3 & 5.

“He that trusts in *Yahweh*, mercy shall COMPASS him about,” Psalms Im 32:10



Samech is also the letter for *Sukkah*, indicating that God’s Omnipresence is our Support and Shelter. God actively supports His own (Hebrews 1:3), and we trust in His provision and care.



The first set of Hebrew letters shows the Gospel. The second set of seven Hebrew letters gives the details of Sanctified Living. And the third set of seven letters, beginning with *Samech*, shows *Yah*’s Promises and Warnings to His People. The final Hebrew letter, set apart on its own is the *Tav*...

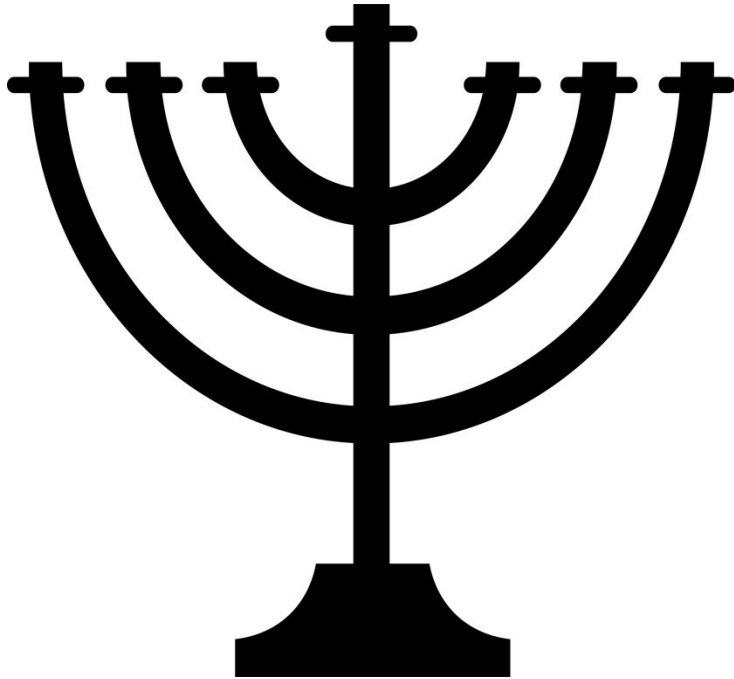
According to the sages, *Samech* is said to represent the endless and ever-ascending spiral of God’s Glory in the universe. This cycle is revealed in both the seasons and in the rhythm of the *mo’edim* (festivals).”

Meaning from its Context: Setting Samech within its Letter Family:

The First Set of Seven Letters:

ז ב ג ד ה ו א

The first seven Hebrew letters portray the GOSPEL:

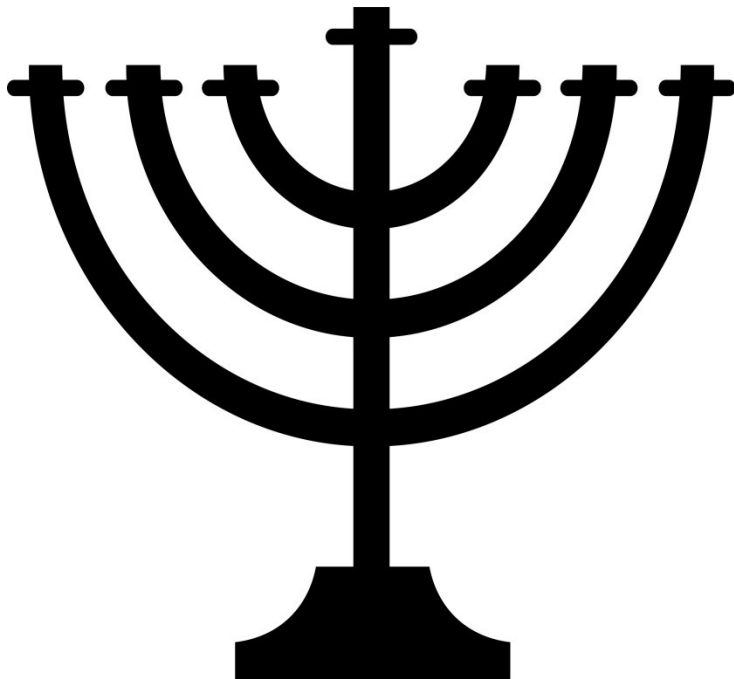


א	<i>Aleph</i> – In <i>Yah</i> 's Image
ב	<i>Beit</i> – <i>Yah</i> 's Word, Tabernacled in Flesh
ג	<i>Gimel</i> – The Elijah Message
ד	<i>Dalet</i> – ...I Stand at the Door and Knock
ה	<i>Hey</i> – The Breath of <i>Yah</i>
ו	<i>Vav</i> – Man Joined with Heaven
ז	<i>Zayin</i> – Sword (Weapon) of our Warfare

The Second Set of Seven Letters:

ח ט י כ ל מ נ

The second grouping of seven Hebrew letters portray the SPIRITUAL WALK:



ח	<i>Chet</i> – Abundant Life is found in <i>Yah</i>
ט	<i>Tet</i> – Judgment – Life (Fruit of Spirit) in Death to Self
י	<i>Yod</i> – The Hand (Works) of <i>Yah</i>
כ	<i>Kaf</i> – Grace-empowered Works (Obedience)
ל	<i>Lamed</i> – A Light to the World
מ	<i>Mem</i> – Living Water from the Belly
נ	<i>Nun</i> – Fish, Building up the Church, Humility

The Third Set of Seven Letters:



The third grouping of seven Hebrew letters portray *Yah's* PROMISES and WARNINGS to His Church:

ט	<i>Samech</i> – We are Supported and Encompassed by <i>Yah</i>
ע	<i>Ayin</i> – Eye – Window to the Soul
פ	<i>Peh</i> – The Power of Speech
צ	<i>Tzaddi</i> – The Righteousness of the Saints
ק	<i>Kof</i> – Holy unto <i>Yahweh</i>
ר	<i>Resh</i> – Human Reasoning vs. Obedience
ש	<i>Shin</i> – Peace and Protection

And the Final Hebrew letter (*Tav*) ת is set apart – on its own – the Capstone Message which underlies all the three sets – it is the letter of the Cross of Messiah!

Hebrew Words Beginning with *Samech*:

Hebrew Word	Pronunciation	Meaning
סתר	<i>satar</i>	“hiddenness”
סוד	<i>sod</i>	“Secrets” of <i>Yahweh</i> , revealed only to those who are close to Him.
סגר	<i>sagar</i>	“to close”
סבב	<i>sabab</i>	to revolve, surround or compass about – <i>Psalms 32:7</i>

Samech and the Priestly Blessing

The letter *Samech* represents the number 60. This is the same number of letters found in the *Birkat Kohanim* - the “Priestly Blessing” found in Numbers 6:23-27. The text of the Priestly Blessing recited by the *Kohanim*, (priests) which appears verbatim in the *Torah*, is:

May *Yahweh* bless you and guard you –

יְבָרֵךְ יְהוָה, וַיִּשְׁמְרֵךְ
(*Yevhārēkh-khā Adhōnāy veyishmerēkhā ...*)

May *Yahweh* make His Face shed Light upon you and be gracious unto you –

יָאֵר יְהוָה פְּנֵיו אֵלֶיךָ, וַיַּחֲנֵךְ
(“*Yā`ēr Adhōnāy pānāw ēlekhā viḥunnēkkā ...*)

May Yahweh lift up His Face unto you and give you peace –

שָׁלוֹם לְךָ יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ, וְיִשָּׂם לְךָ שָׁלוֹם

("Yissā Adhōnāy pānāw ēlekhā viyāsēm lekhā shālōm.")

Also of note is the fact that the Priestly Blessing's 60 letters are used to form 15 words - the same ordinal number that represents the letter *Samech*. Notice that the Gematria for the word "Samekh" is 120 (*Samekh+Mem+Kaf*), which represents the double portion of blessing in *Yahshua*.

Secrets of the Samech

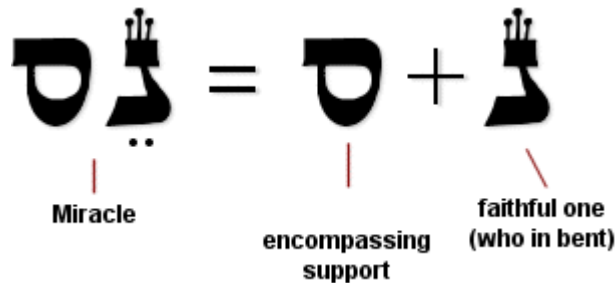
The Gematria of Samech

The letter *Samech* is represented as *Yod - Hey* in the Hebrew numbering system, which is also one of the Sacred Names of God.

יה = י"ה = 15 (ס)

The Miracle of Samech

The letter Nun, which immediately precedes the letter *Samech* in the alphabet, suggests someone who is "bent," or someone who humbles himself in brokenness and submission to *Yahweh*. Putting these two letters together, we have the Hebrew word *nes*, miracle.



A person of faith is a walking miracle! *Yahweh* gives support to the fallen and broken ones who put their trust in Him. Indeed, this is directly illustrated in Psalms Im 145, an acrostic Psalms Im that begins its verse about *Samech* as follows:

סוּמְךָ יְהוָה לְכָל-הַנִּפְלִים וְזוֹקֵף לְכָל-הַכַּוְּפִים:

Yahweh upholds all who are falling and raises up all who are bowed down.

The Enlarged Samech

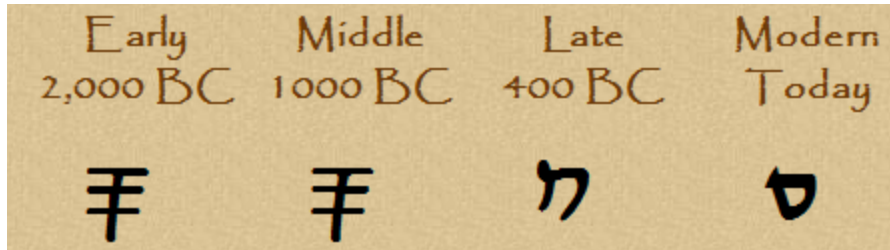
There is a textual oddity that *soferim* (scribes) preserve in Ecclesiastes 12:13, where the Samekh is enlarged:


סוּף דְבַר הַפֶּלֶא נִשְׁמַע אֶת-הָאֱלֹהִים
יֵרָא וְאֶת-מִצְוֹתָיו שְׂמֹר כִּי-זֶה כָּל-הָאָדָם:

“Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep His Commandments: for this is the whole duty of man.”

This *Samech* is drawn enlarged to show that out of respect for and awareness of the all-encompassing Presence of God (as represented by the letter *Samech*), our primary response should be one of reverent awe and obedience.

Paleo-Hebrew Look at Samech:



The pictograph  is used almost exclusively through the history of this letter. This picture has the meanings of pierce and sharp. This letter also has the meaning of a shield as thorn bushes were used by the shepherd to build a wall or shield, made to enclose his flock during

the night to protect them from predators. This concept is found in the Hebrew word “*shamar*” which is translated as “keep”:

Exodus 15:26 “And said, ^{H559} If ^{H518} thou wilt diligently hearken ^{H8085 H8085} to the voice ^{H6963} of *Yahweh* ^{H3068} thy God, ^{H430} and wilt do ^{H6213} that which is right ^{H3477} in His Sight, ^{H5869} and wilt give ear ^{H238} to His Commandments, ^{H4687} and keep ^{H8104} all ^{H3605} His Statutes, ^{H2706} I will put ^{H7760} none ^{H3808 H3605} of these diseases ^{H4245} upon ^{H5921} thee, which ^{H834} I have brought ^{H7760} upon the Egyptians: ^{H4714} for ^{H3588} I ^{H589} *am Yahweh* ^{H3068} that healeth ^{H7495} thee.”

Psalms 119:113-120 Shows the Samech:

In Psalms 119:113-120, we find the *Samech* section. In this part of Psalms Im 119, we see what it means to be protected within *Yahweh’s* Encompassing Presence. We also see vital keys to what is our part in having such an intimate walk with *Yah*.

<p>ס טַעֲפִים שְׁנֵאֲתִי וְתוֹרַתְךָ אֱהַבְתִּי: TORAH</p>	<p>113 I hate double-minded men, but I love your law.</p>
<p>סִתְרִי וּמְגִנִי אֶתָּה לְדַבְרְךָ יִחְלַתִּי: DABAR</p>	<p>114 You are my hiding place and my shield. I hope in your word.</p>
<p>סוֹרְאֵי מַמְּנֵי מַרְעִים וְאַצְרָה מִצְוֹת אֱלֹהִי: ELOHIYM MITSAVAH</p>	<p>115 Depart from me, you evildoers, that I may keep the commandments of my God.</p>
<p>סִמְכֵנִי כְאִמְרַתְךָ וְאַחֲזֵה וְאַלֹתֵי שִׁנֵּי מִשְׁבְּרִי: IMRAH</p>	<p>116 Uphold me according to your word, that I may live. Let me not be ashamed of my hope.</p>
<p>סַעֲדֵנִי וְאַוְשְׁעָה וְאַשְׁעָה בְּחֻקֶיךָ תָּמִיד: CHOQ</p>	<p>117 Hold me up, and I will be safe, and will have respect for your statutes continually.</p>
<p>סָלִיתָ כָּל־שׁוֹגִים מִחֻקֶיךָ כִּי־שֶׁקֶר תִּרְמִיתָם: CHOQ</p>	<p>118 You reject all those who stray from your statutes, for their deceit is in vain.</p>
<p>סָגִים הַשְׁבַּת כְּלוֹשְׁעֵי־אָרֶץ לְכֵן אֱהַבְתִּי עֲדוּתֶיךָ: EDAH</p>	<p>119 You put away all the wicked of the earth like dross. Therefore I love your testimonies.</p>
<p>סֵמֶר מִפְּחָדְךָ בְּשָׂרִי וּמִפֶּשַׁטֶיךָ יִרְאֵתִי: MISHPAT</p>	<p>120 My flesh trembles for fear of you. I am afraid of your judgments.</p>

Keyword Study: Psalms 119:113-114 (words starting with *Samech* are highlighted)

“SAMECH. I hate **vain thoughts**: but Thy Law do I love. Thou **Art my Hiding Place** and **My Shield**: **I hope** in Thy Word.”

Keyword	Strong's #	Hebrew Word	Meaning
<i>Vain thoughts</i>	H5588	sê'êph	<i>divided</i> (in mind), that is, (concretely) a <i>skeptic</i> : - thought.
Art my Hiding Place	H5643	sêther	a <i>cover</i> , covering, covert, disguise, hiding place, privily, protection, secret (place)
My Shield	H4043	mâgên	a <i>shield</i> (the small one or <i>buckler</i>); figuratively a <i>protector</i> ; also the scaly <i>hide</i> of the crocodile: armed, buckler, defense.
I hope	H3176	yâchal	to <i>wait</i> ; <i>be patient</i> , <i>hope</i> : - (cause to, have, make to) hope, be pained, stay, tarry, trust, wait

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

I find closed off minds odious and skepticism is something which I hate. But I love Your Torah. You are my Covering, my Hiding Place, my Secret Place of the Most High. You are my Protector and Shield. You help me to be “thick-skinned”, having a “hide” like a crocodile, so that I will not be easily harmed or offended. I wait patiently, trusting You to fulfill all that You have promised in Your Word.

Cross References:

Psalms 3:3, Psalms 84:11; Psalms 94:11; Psalms 32:7, Psalms 91:1-2; Psalms 130:5-6; Isaiah 32:2; Isaiah 55:7; Jeremiah 4:14; Mark 7:21; 2 Corinthians 10:5

Keyword Study: Psalms 119:115-116 (words starting with *Samech* are highlighted)

“**Depart** from me, **ye evildoers**: for I will keep the Commandments of my God. **Uphold** me according unto Thy Word, that I may live: and let me not **be ashamed** of **my hope**.”

Keyword	Strong's #	Hebrew Word	Meaning
Depart	H5493	sûr	to <i>turn off</i> (literally or figuratively): depart, eschew, leave undone, be past, pluck away, put (away, down), remove (to and fro), revolt, be sour, take (away, off), turn (aside, away, in), withdraw, be without
Ye evildoers	H7489	râ'a'	to <i>spoil, good for nothing, bad</i> , show self friendly [by mistake], do harm, (do) hurt, (behave self, deal) ill, do mischief, punish, still vex, wicked (doer)
Uphold	H5564	sâmak	to <i>prop</i> , to <i>lean upon</i> or <i>take hold of</i> , bear up, establish, (up-) hold, lean, stand fast, stay (self), sustain
Be ashamed	H954	bûsh	to <i>be ashamed</i> ; to <i>be disappointed</i> , or <i>delayed</i> : - (be, make, bring to, cause, put to, with, a-) shame (-d), be (put to) confounded (confusion), become dry, delay, be long
My Hope	H7664	śêber	<i>expectation</i> : - hope (from the root meaning: “from what I have watched and waited for”)

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

Remove yourselves from my life, you who show yourselves friendly to me, but are really good for nothing, looking to do me harm. I choose to be hedged about within the blessing of Yahweh's Torah. Establish me and sustain me as You've Promised in Your Word. Then I will Live. Let me not be brought to confusion and thereby become disappointed in my expectation - missing out on what I have for so long watched and waited.

Cross References:

Psalms 6:8, Psalms 26:5, Psalms 26:9, Psalms 139:19; Matthew 7:23, Matthew 25:41; 1 Corinthians 15:33; Joshua 24:15; Psalms 37:17, Psalms 37:24, Psalms 41:12, Psalms 63:8, Psalms 94:18; Isaiah 41:10, Isaiah 42:1; Psalms 25:2; Isaiah 45:17; Romans 5:5, Romans 9:32, Romans 10:11; 1 Peter 2:6

Keyword Study: Psalms 119:117-118 (words starting with *Samech* are highlighted)

“**Hold Thou me up**, **and I shall be safe**: and I will have respect unto Thy Statutes **continually**. **Thou hast trodden down** all **them that err** from Thy Statutes: for their deceit is falsehood.”

Keyword	Strong's #	Hebrew Word	Meaning
Hold Thou me up	H5582	sâ'ad	to <i>support</i> , comfort, establish, hold up, refresh self, strengthen, be upholden.
And I shall be safe	H3467	yâsha'	to <i>be open, wide or free</i> , that is, (by implication) to <i>be safe</i> ; causatively to <i>free or succor</i> : - X at all, avenging, defend, deliver (-er), help, preserve, rescue, be safe, bring (having) salvation, save (-iour), get victory
Continually	H8548	tâmîyd	to <i>stretch; continuance, constant (constantly)</i> ; elliptically the <i>regular</i> (daily) sacrifice: - always, continual (employment, -ly), daily, ([n-]) ever (-more), perpetual
Thou hast trodden down	H5541	sâlâh	to <i>hang up, weigh, contemn</i> : - tread down (under foot), value
them that err	H7686	shâgâh	to <i>stray (mislead), to transgress</i> ; (through the idea of intoxication) to <i>reel, be enraptured</i> : - (cause to) go astray, deceive, err, be ravished

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

Father, please support, comfort establish and strengthen me so that I will get the victory and be safe. Then I will rejoice to focus upon Your Statutes for evermore as part of my daily Sacrifice unto You. You weigh in the balances of Judgment and condemn all who have drunk the wine of Babylon and deceive others to do the same. Such deceptive ones are not rooted in Truth.

Cross References: Psalms 17:5, Psalms 71:6, Psalms 73:23, Psalms 139:10; Isaiah 41:13; John 10:28-29; Romans 14:4; 1 Peter 1:5; Jude 1:24; Isaiah 25:10, Isaiah 63:3; Malachi 4:3; Luke 21:24; Revelation 14:20; Psalms 78:36-37, Psalms 78:57; Isaiah 44:20; Ephesians 4:22, Ephesians 5:6; 2 Thessalonians 2:9-11; 2 Timothy 3:13; 1 John 2:21; Revelation 18:23

Keyword Study: Psalms 119:119-120 (words starting with *Samech* are highlighted)

“**Thou putttest away** all **the wicked** of the earth **like dross**: therefore I love Thy Testimonies. **My flesh trembleth** for fear of Thee; and **I am afraid of Thy Judgments.**”

Keyword	Strong's #	Hebrew Word	Meaning
Thou putttest away	H7673	shâbath	to <i>repose, desist</i> , (make to) cease, celebrate, cause (make) to fail, keep (sabbath), suffer to be lacking, leave, put away (down), (make to) rest, rid, still, take away
The wicked	H7563	râshâ'	<i>wrong</i> ; concretely an (actively) <i>bad</i> person: - + condemned, guilty, ungodly, wicked (man), that did wrong.
My flesh	H1320	bâsâr	<i>flesh</i> (from its <i>freshness</i>); <i>body, person</i> ; the <i>pudenda</i> of a man: body, [fat, lean] flesh [-ed], kin, nakedness, self, skin.
I am afraid	H3372	yârê'	to <i>fear</i> ; morally to <i>Revelation ere</i> ; to <i>frighten</i> : - affright, be (make) afraid, dread (-ful), (put in) fear (-ful, -fully, -ing). (be had in) Revelation erence (-end), X see, terrible (act, -ness, thing)
Of Thy Judgments	H4941	mishpât	a <i>verdict</i> (favorable or unfavorable) pronounced Judicially, especially a <i>sentence</i> or formal decree (human or (particularly) divine <i>law</i> , penalty; <i>justice</i> , including a particular <i>right</i> , or <i>privilege</i> , ceremony, charge, to be Judged, Judgment, ordinance

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

You Righteously rid the earth of those who are actively doing wrong. You cause the earth to celebrate and to rest by causing the unrepentant wicked to be removed, as waste disposal. Seeing Your great Strength, in that you can bring the World into this ultimate Sabbath, I love Your Testimonies! My being trembles in Reverent Fear of You, which is the beginning of wisdom. In fact, it is because I fear You, that I am inspired to put away the sinful flesh, by Your indwelling Power. I Reverence You and fear Your coming Justice. And I hold in Reverence Your divine Law, ceremonies, and ordinances, counting them a privilege.

Cross References:

Jeremiah 6:30; Ezekiel 22:18-22; Malachi 3:2-3; Matthew 3:12, Matthew 7:23; Matthew 13:40-42, Matthew 13:49-50; Leviticus 10:1-3; 1 Samuel 6:20; 2 Samuel 6:8-9; 1 Chronicles 24:16-17, 1 Chronicles 24:30; 2 Chronicles 34:21, 2 Chronicles 34:27; Isaiah 66:2; Daniel 10:8-11; Habakkuk 3:16; Philippians 2:12; Hebrews 12:21, Hebrews 12:28-29; Revelation 1:17-18

Psalm 119:113-120 Reveals the *Samech*

Message:

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

I find closed off minds odious and skepticism is something which I hate. But I love Your Torah. You are my Covering, my Hiding Place, my Secret Place of the Most High. You are my Protector and Shield. You help me to be "thick-skinned", having a "hide" like a crocodile, so that I will not be easily harmed or offended. I wait patiently, trusting You to fulfill all that You have promised in Your Word.

Remove yourselves from my life, you who show yourselves friendly to me, but are really good for nothing, looking to do me harm. I choose to be hedged about within the blessing of *Yahweh's Torah*. Establish me and sustain me as You've Promised in Your Word. Then I will Live. Let me not be brought to confusion and thereby become disappointed in my expectation - missing out on what I have for so long watched and waited.

Father, please support, comfort establish and strengthen me so that I will get the victory and be safe. Then I will rejoice to focus upon Your Statutes for evermore as part of my daily Sacrifice unto You. You weigh in the balances of Judgment and condemn all who have drunk the wine of Babylon and deceive others to do the same. Such deceptive ones are not rooted in Truth.

You Righteously rid the earth of those who are actively doing wrong. You cause the earth to celebrate and to rest by causing the unrepentant wicked to be removed, as waste disposal. Seeing Your great Strength, in that you can bring the World into this ultimate Sabbath, I love Your Testimonies! My being trembles in Reverent Fear of You, which is the beginning of wisdom. In fact, it is because I fear You, that I am inspired to put away the sinful flesh, by Your indwelling Power. I Reverence You and fear Your coming Justice. And I hold in Reverence Your divine Law, ceremonies, and ordinances, counting them a privilege.

Personal Application:

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

Samech represents a PROP, strongly supporting and upholding a tree to enable it to weather storms safely. This reveals how Messiah supports and upholds me, strengthening me to endure the “Storms” of trial.

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

Samech holds a warning as well as a promise. *Yahweh* upholds, protects and encircles us. While we are opened to Him, relishing this Blessing, He reveals Himself to us with ever deepening insight and experience. But if we close ourselves off to Him, rejecting His Presence and Encirclement, His Truth is lost from our sight, becoming concealed from us. Graphically demonstrating this, *Samech* spelled backwards is *kamas* – “concealed” “stored away” (out of view) – this is the opposite of our experience in *Samech*.