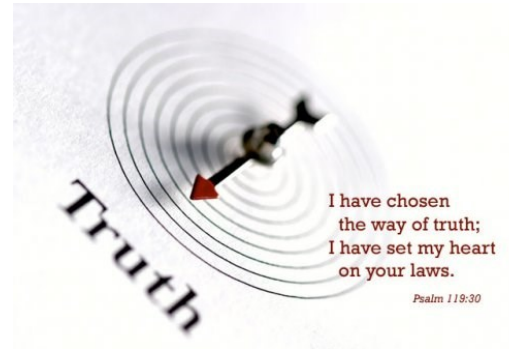


# Psalms 119 & the Hebrew

## 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*.



והקרבת את־הפֶּה לפני אֵהָל  
 מוֹעֵד וְסָמַךְ אֶהָרֶן וּבָנָיו אֶת־יָדֵיהֶם  
 עַל־רֹאשׁ הַפֶּה:

“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

## 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.

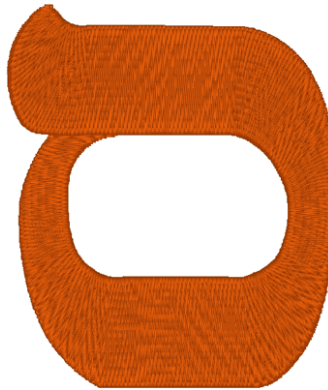


*Samech* shows us a picture of a PROP, strongly supporting and upholding a tree to enable it to weather storms safely. This reveals how Messiah supports and upholds us, strengthening us to endure the “Storms” of trial.

“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 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:

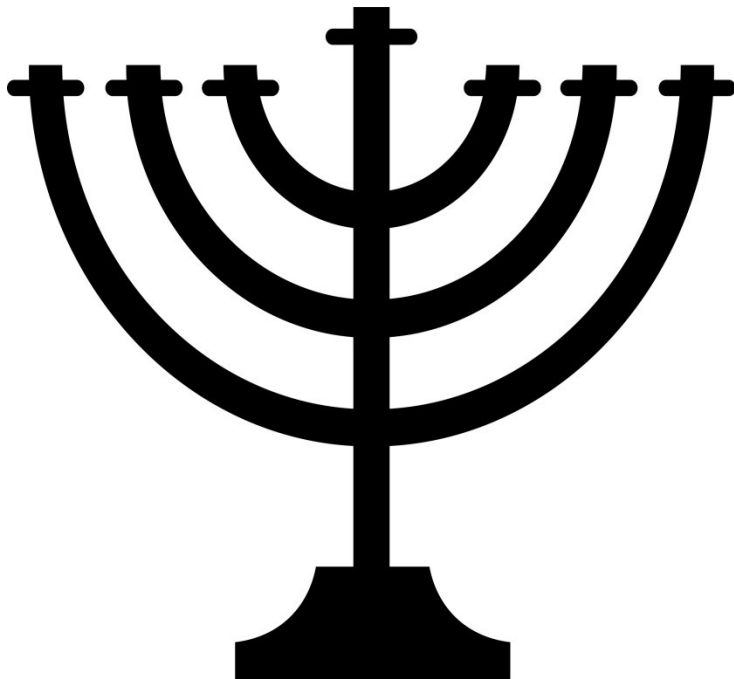


א	<i>Aleph –</i>
ב	<i>Beit –</i>
ג	<i>Gimel –</i>
ד	<i>Dalet –</i>
ה	<i>Hey –</i>
ו	<i>Vav –</i>
ז	<i>Zayin –</i>

The Second Set of Seven Letters:

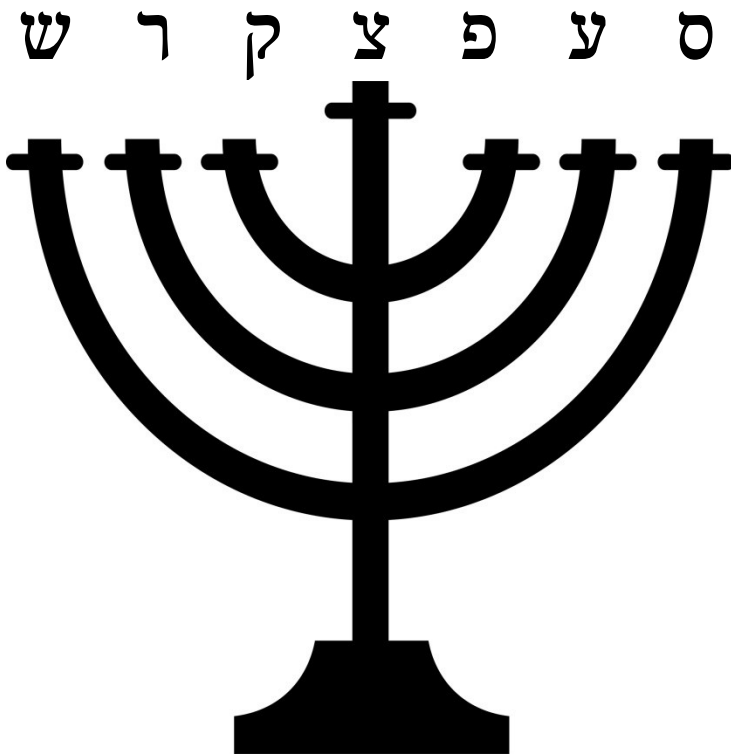
ח ט י כ ל מ נ

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



ח	<i>Chet –</i>
ט	<i>Tet –</i>
י	<i>Yod –</i>
כ	<i>Kaf –</i>
ל	<i>Lamed –</i>
מ	<i>Mem –</i>
נ	<i>Nun –</i>

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> –
ע	<i>Ayin</i> –
פ	<i>Peh</i> –
צ	<i>Tzaddi</i> –
ק	<i>Kof</i> –
ר	<i>Resh</i> –
ש	<i>Shin</i> –

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 lm 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, וַיִּשְׁמְרֶךָ  
(*Yevhārēkh-khā Adhōnāy veyishmerēkhā ...*)

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

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

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

יְשַׁלַּח יְהוָה פָּנָיו אֵלֶיךָ, וְיָשֵׁם לְךָ שְׁלוֹם

("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

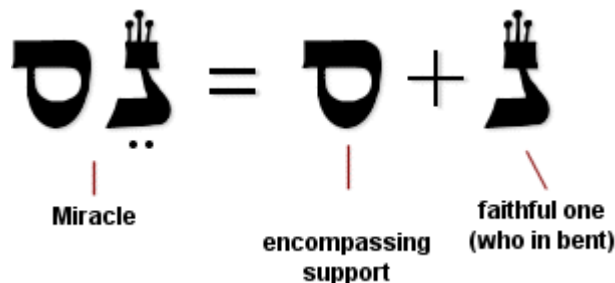
### The Gematria of *Samech*

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-הַכַּפוּפִּים:

*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 *Samech* is enlarged:

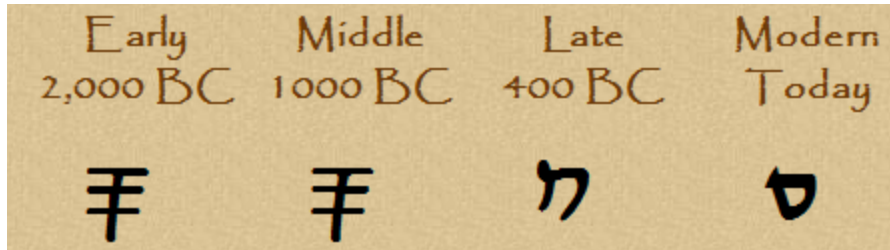
סוּף דְבַר הַפֶּלֶא נִשְׁמַע אֶת-הָאֱלֹהִים  
יֵרָא וְאֶת-מִצְוֹתָיו שְׂמֹר כִּי-זֶה כָּל-הָאָדָם:


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

**Psalms Im 119:113-120 Shows the Samech:**

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

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

### Cross References:

## 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			
Ye evildoers			
Uphold			
Be ashamed			
My Hope			

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

### Cross References:



## 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			
And I shall be safe			
Continually			
Thou hast trodden down			
them that err			

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

### Cross References:

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

“**Thou putteth 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 putteth away			
The wicked			
My flesh			
I am afraid			
Of Thy Judgments			

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

**Cross References:**

## 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.)

### Personal Application:

1. What was the most personally meaningful message of the *Samech* that you found in this study?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. What insights about *Yahweh* did you gain?