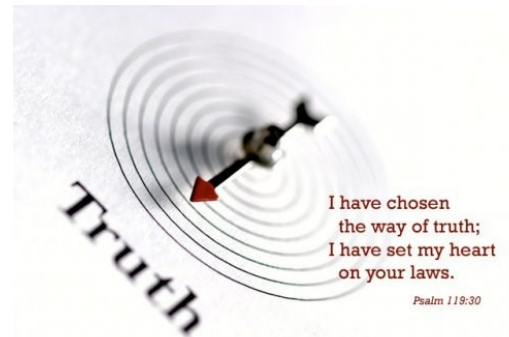


# Psalms 119 & the Hebrew Aleph Bet - Part 18



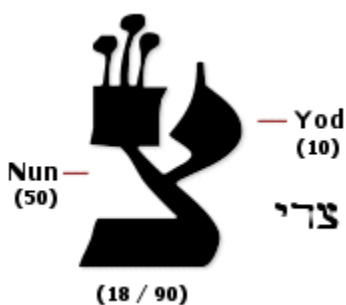
The eighteenth letter of the Hebrew alphabet is called “*Tsade*” or “*Tzaddi*” (pronounced “**tsah-dee**”) and has the sound of “ts” as in “*nuts*.” *Tzaddi* has the numeric value of 90. In modern Hebrew, the letter *Tzaddi* can appear in three forms:

Book Print	Manual Print	Cursive

## Writing the Letter: ***TZADDI***

	Note that the second stroke descends from the right and meets the first stroke about halfway.
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**Note:** In the past, *Tzaddi* sometimes was transliterated using “z” (producing spellings such as “Zion”) and in some academic work you might see it transliterated as an “s” with a dot underneath it. It is commonly transliterated as “tz” (as in *mitzvah*) among American Jews.



The letter *Tzaddi* (or *Tsade*), in pictograph, looks something like a man on his side (representing need), whereas the classical Hebrew script (*Ketav Ashurit*) is constructed of a (bent) *Nun* with an ascending *Yod*. (See the picture on the left.)

Hebrew speakers may also call this letter *Tzaddik* (“righteous person”), though this pronunciation probably originated from fast recitation of the Aleph-Bet (i.e., “*Tzade, Qoph*” -> “*tsadiq*”).

*“The wicked man flees though no one pursues, but the righteous are as bold as a lion,”* Proverbs 28:1.

*“And I will betroth thee unto Me for ever; yea, I will betroth thee unto Me in Righteousness, and in Judgment, and in Lovingkindness, and in Mercies. I will even betroth thee unto Me in Faithfulness: and thou shalt know Yahweh,”* Hosea 2:19-20.

## Spiritual Meaning of the Tzaddi

Tzaddi = TS and 90 and means “STRONGHOLD”, “FISHER”, “THE WAY” and “RIGHTEOUS SERVANT”



The Name of  
Yahweh is a Strong  
Tower! The  
righteous runneth  
into it and is safe,”  
Proverbs 18:10.

TZADDI is almost the same as the word for “A RIGHTEOUS MAN” – TZADDIK. TZADDI is ancient Hebrew for “Fish Hook” This shows that is God’s Righteousness that hooks us. Also, since we are called to be Fishers of men, we need to remember that Righteousness is the hook – vitally important in catching fish. We can’t compromise from the RIGHTEOUS PATH to win souls and better influence people for God. Such compromises don’t work!

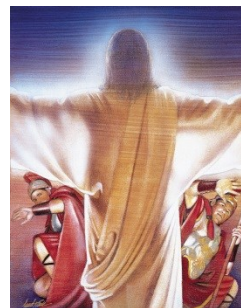
Tzadi (צַדִּי) got its name from the shape of a “fishing hook”, which is related to the root tzod (צַד), meaning “to fish, catch, capture.” This has both positive and negative sides to it. First, *Yahweh* lovingly woos and “catches” us for Salvation. But for all who reject Him, the next fishing picture is sobering:

Jeremiah 16:16-18 “Behold, I will send for many fishers, saith *Yahweh*, and they shall fish them; and after will I send for many hunters, and they shall hunt them from every mountain, and from every hill, and out of the holes of the rocks. For Mine Eyes are upon all their ways: they are not hid from My Face, neither is their iniquity hid from Mine Eyes... I will recompense their iniquity and their sin double; because they have defiled My land...”



The letter itself is formed from a bent Nun and a Vav. The Nun represents a humble and faithful servant (the crowned Vav) that is bent in submission. The Yod represents a hand lifted to heaven, or the Spirit of God. The *tzaddik* - the righteous person -- is therefore revealed in the letter form as a faithful servant with his arms raised to *Yahweh* in humble praise and submission. As such, some of the sages have said that the letter Tsade represents the *tzaddikim* (righteous ones) that are the *yesod* (foundation) of the earth: *When the storm passes through, the wicked are swept away, but the righteous are an everlasting foundation. (Prov 10:25)*

THE LORD IS MY ROCK AND MY FORTRESS AND MY DELIVERER,  
MY GOD, IN WHOM I TAKE REFUGE, MY SHIELD, AND THE  
**STRONGHOLD** HORN OF MY SALVATION, MY...  
STUDENT MINISTRY



Tzaddi is a perfect letter to describe *Yahshua*, the Messiah! He was the One and Only TRULY RIGHTEOUS MAN Who ever

“Behold the days come, saith *Yahweh*, that I will raise unto David a RIGHTEOUS BRANCH, and a King shall reign and prosper... and this is the Name whereby He shall be called: YHWH our RIGHTEOUSNESS,”  
Jeremiah 23:5-6



Abraham, father of the Righteous, became a father to the Promised Son (Isaac) when his wife, Sarah, was 90 years old (Genesis 17:17). 90 is a symbol of Righteousness by Faith. “For it is written, that Abraham had two sons, the one by a bondmaid, the other by a freewoman. But he who was of the bondwoman was born after the flesh; but he of the freewoman was by promise. Which things are an allegory...” Galatians

## Hebrew Words Beginning with *Tzaddi*:

Hebrew Word	Pronunciation	Meaning
צדיקים	Tzaddik	(tsad-DEEK / tsad-dee-KEEM) n. Pious one(s); adj. just; righteous. A righteous woman is called <i>tzadeket</i> .
צעד	Tza'ar	Pain; sorrow; suffering. The troubles of my heart ( <i>tzorot levavi</i> ) are enlarged: O bring Thou me out of my distresses. (Psalm 25:17)
צדה גדולל	Tzarah Gedolah	(tsah-rah ge-doh-LAH) n. Great Tribulation (as opposed to general tribulation, or <i>tzarot</i> that comes from living in godly witness to an evil world). The Great Tribulation is a future 7-year period of time when God will finish His discipline of Israel and finalize His judgment of the unbelieving world. This is referred to as Yom Adonai -- the "Day of the Lord" (Isaiah 2:12; 13:6,9; Joel 1:15, 2:1,11,31, 3:14; 1 Thess. 5:2) or the Time of Jacob's trouble (Jeremiah 30:7; Daniel 12:1; Zephaniah 1:15). Daniel's 70th week is yet to take place (Dan. 9:24-27) which awaits prophetic fulfillment as Yom Teruah, the Day of the shofar blast that calls followers of Yahshua to appear before the Mashiach.
צלב	Tzelav (cross)	(TSE-lahv) n. Cross; execution "stake." The Hebrew verb for "crucify" is <i>tzalav</i> (צלב) which is nearly identical to the word for "cross" (צלב). The Greek word for "cross" is <i>stauros</i> . "The cross of Messiah" (ὁ σταυρὸς τοῦ Χριστοῦ) is rendered as <i>tzelav ha-Mashiach</i> (הַמְּשִׁיחַ צֶלֶב) in some Hebrew translations. Crucifixion is called <i>tzelivah</i> (הַצְּלִיבָה).  Most scholars say that Greek word <i>stauros</i> (σταυρός) referred to a common form of execution "perfected" by the ancient Romans that was described by Josephus as he wrote of how the Roman general Titus crucified the Jewish rebels... Apparently there were different "shapes" of the cross, from crux simplex ( ), crux immissa (+), crux commissa (T), or even stakes shaped as an X or Y.

## *Tzaddi*: The Principle of the Menorah



Each series of seven letters in the Hebrew *alephbeit* shows another layer of meaning in to the seven-branched candlestick or menorah. Before considering the letter *tzaddi*, which stands at the center of our third and last series of Hebrew letters, it is necessary to introduce the amazing principle of the *menorah*.

The golden *menorah*, described in Exodus 25:31-40 was a lamp fueled from a reservoir or oil in its base. The central branch supported three branches on either side, each culminating in a decorative cup supporting a flame. The purpose of the menorah was to provide light in the Holy Place of the Tabernacle, and later in the Temple. God, has ordained the *menorah* as the object that best illustrates His Design for presenting the Light of Truth, because His "...Word is a Lamp unto my feet and a light for my path."

(Psalm 119:105).

The principle of the menorah is portrayed in numerous ways, such as in the Hebrew alphabet, as we will soon see. It is also revealed in the first verse of Scripture, Genesis 1:1 – a verse which contains only seven Hebrew letters (one for each branch of the menorah).

Genesis 1:1 and the Menorah Message:

הָאָרֶץ

וְאֵת

חַשְׁמַיִם

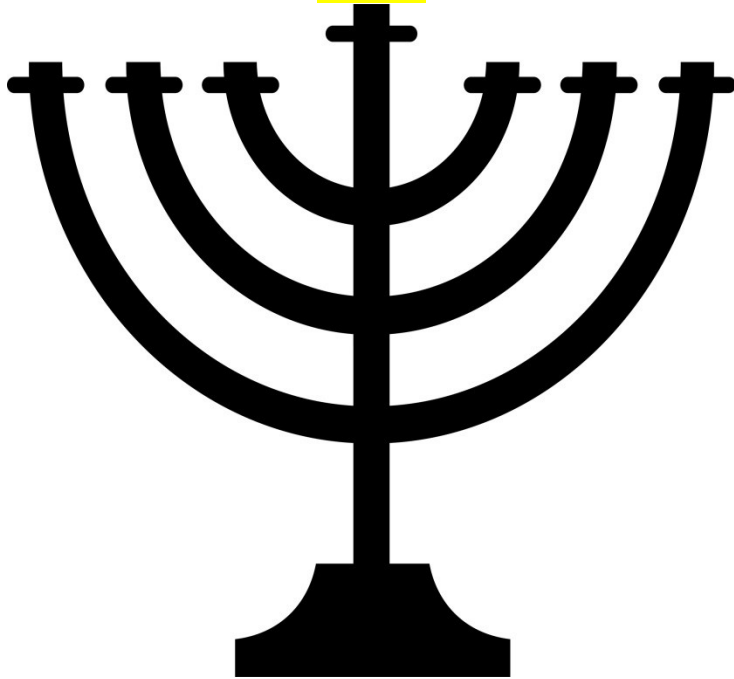
אֵת

אֲכַחֵם

בְּרָא

בְּרֵאשִׁית

The first sentence in the Bible:



English translation of Genesis 1:1 - “In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.”

Direct your attention to the middle branch of the menorah. This branch is the Messiah’s Branch – the *Shamash*. He is the Vine and we are the branches. *Yahshua* is the Center Stalk, the Source.

Notice the word which stands above the Center Stalk, or Shamash of the menorah. It is Aleph Tav (the first and last letters of the Hebrew alphabet). In the book of Revelation, *Yahshua* is called the alpha and omega. These are the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet, corresponding to the aleph and tav of Hebrew.

Here, in the very first verse of the Bible, stands *Yahshua*, the *Alpha* and *Omega* – or *Aleph* and *Tav*, as the focal point of the Creation. John may have had this in mind, when he wrote of *Yahshua*:

“Through Him all things were made, without Him nothing was made that has been made. In Him was Life, and that Life was the Light of men.” John 1:3-4

Could the picture be more perfect? In the menorah, we see creation as radiating out from *Yahshua* the Creator, the “Light of men” – and the Light of the World (John 8:12).

But what does all this have to do with Hebrew alphabet, specifically, the letter *tzaddi*? The Hebrew alphabet itself is constructed according to the divine Pattern and Message of the *Menorah*. The Hebrew alphabet consists of three sets of seven letters each (plus the last letter, *tav*, which stands alone for reasons we will discuss later). Each series of letters is arranged according to the principle of the *Menorah* with the center letter of each series embodying the heart of that series’ message – and pointing directly to Messiah.

Our first series of letters introduced the story of the Gospel. The letter at the center, from which the other six letters radiate is the *dalet* (the “door”). *Yahshua* is “the Door” through Whom man comes to *Yahweh*. The Message that *Yahshua* is the Door through Whom we come to *Yahweh* is the heart of the Gospel, and the central Message of the first seven letters of the Hebrew alphabet.

See the diagram of the first seven letters on the *Menorah*, shown on the following page:

The First Set of Seven Letters:



The first seven Hebrew letters portray the GOSPEL:

א	<i>Aleph</i> – In <i>Yah's</i> Image
ב	<i>Beit</i> – <i>Yah's</i> Word, Tabernacling 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 or series of letters, portrays the believer's walk in growth and service. At the center of this series, we find the letter *kaf*, which means the "palm" of the hand. As discussed in our 11<sup>th</sup> study, the "palm" is the Hebrew symbol for all work and service. From this letter radiate the six letters, comprising the Message dealing with maturity, good works, and service to *Yah* and man.

The Second Set of Seven Letters:



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

In the final series of letters, we find *Yah's* Promises and Encouragements as well as Warnings. *Tzaddi* is the center letter. From *tzaddi* radiate both the Promises awaiting the person who hungers and thirsts after RIGHTEOUSNESS, as well as the warnings which accompany unrighteous living. *Tzaddi* is an exceedingly important letter, because its name (*tzaddi*) is the root of the word (*tzaddik*), which means “righteousness” or “righteous man”. It is fitting that *tzaddi* should follow *ayin* rather than precede it since “the eyes of *Yahweh* are on the righteous,” (1 Peter 3:12).

The Third Set of Seven Letters:



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

ס	<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 (Living Word)
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!

### [Seeking Righteousness](#)

Though *tzaddi* צ is the root of the word meaning “righteous”, *tzaddi* itself comes from a root “*tzod*” meaning, “to hunt”. This shows that righteousness is something that we should seek after. *Yahshua* encouraged this when He said, “Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled,” (Matthew 5:6). Seeking worldly pleasures (even pleasures which do not break the *Torah*) and gain cannot be the practice or focus of the true believer, because, although the pleasures and gain may not in themselves be evil, the pursuit of them leads to ruin and destruction.

*“But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and raiment let us be therewith content. But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition. For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows. But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness,”* 1 Timothy 6:6-11.

When we pursue something, or seek after it, it is our life-focus – our center Branch in our life Menorah experience. Our central focus is to be on Righteousness. *Yahshua* promised, “*But seek ye first the Kingdom of God, and His Righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you,*” Matthew 6:33.

There are many rewards for having this godly focus and pursuit (pursuing Righteousness). Along with having our needs met, when we are in righteousness, we will receive *Yahweh’s* Protection. The Bible says that when the final Storm has swept by, the wicked will be gone, but the righteous will stand firm, forever. “*The fear of the wicked, it shall come upon him: but the desire of the righteous shall be granted. As the whirlwind passeth, so is the wicked no more: but the righteous is an everlasting foundation,*” Proverbs 10:24-25.

If we will seek God’s Kingdom and Righteousness above all else, we will be the righteous ones who are still standing after the storm has passed. This protection extends even beyond this life to the Day in which each person must stand before God in Judgment. But, for those who foolishly choose to pursue the world instead of Righteousness, David wrote, “*Therefore the wicked will not stand in the Judgment, nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous,*” Psalm 1:5.

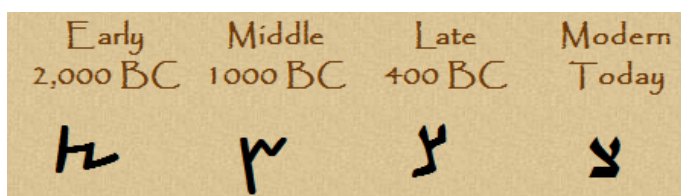
These Truths are graphically illustrated by the two forms which make up the *tzaddi* letter.

The standard form of this letter suggests a man kneeling with his hands uplifted to Heaven: ז

But, when the *tzaddi* appears at the end of a word, it portrays a man standing tall with his arms upraised: ם

The Hebrew sages teach that the *tzaddi* represents the humility of the made-righteous person in this world. And its final form represents our great Reward in the World-to-Come.

### **Tzaddi in Paleo Hebrew:**



The The three Ancient pictograph possibilities for this letter are ז, ז, and ז. The word *tzaddi* is related to the idea of a stronghold, which is often built on the side of a mountain. The pictograph is a picture of a trail as leading up to a destination or stronghold. Most ancient Semitic alphabets used pictographs which

closely resemble ז, indicating that this was most likely the original form of the letter.

The concept of a trail leading up to a Stronghold, depicts the pathway of Seeking after Righteousness – which leads to our being Protected in the Stronghold of *Yahweh’s* Name, in the Day of Judgment.

Proverbs 18:10 “*The Name of Yahweh is a strong Tower: the righteous runneth into it, and is safe.*”



## Psalms 119:137-144 Shows the Tzaddi:

In Psalms 119:137-144, we find the *Tzaddi* section. In this part of Psalms 119, we see what it means to be pursue Righteousness, that we may be safe in the Tower of *Yah* on the Day of Judgment.

צ	18 TZADI
צַדִּיק אֱתָהּ יְהוָה וְיִשָּׁר מִשְׁפָּטָיִךְ: MISHPAT YHWH	137 You are righteous, Yahweh. Your <b>judgments</b> are upright.
צִוִּיתָ צֶדֶק עֲלֵיתִיךָ וְאַמּוֹנָה מְאֹד: EDAH	138 You have commanded your <b>statutes</b> in righteousness. They are fully trustworthy.
צַמְתֵּתוֹנֵי קִנְאָתִי כִּי־שָׁחוּ דְבָרֶיךָ צָרִי: DABAR	139 My zeal wears me out, because my enemies ignore your <b>words</b> .
צְרוּפָה אִמְרֹתֶיךָ מְאֹד וְעַבְדְּךָ אֲהַבָתָה: IMRAH	140 Your <b>promises</b> have been thoroughly tested, and your servant loves them.
צַעִיר אָנֹכִי וְנִבְזָה פִּקְדֹתֶיךָ לֹא שָׁכַחְתִּי: PIQUWD	141 I am small and despised. I don't forget your <b>precepts</b> .
צְדָקָתְךָ צֶדֶק לְעוֹלָם וְתוֹרָתְךָ אֱמֶת: TORAH	142 Your righteousness is an everlasting righteousness. Your <b>law</b> is truth.
צָרוּמְצוֹק מִצְאוּנֵי מִצְוֹתֶיךָ שִׁעֲשִׂיעִי: MITSVAH	143 Trouble and anguish have taken hold of me. Your <b>commandments</b> are my delight.
צֶדֶק עֲדֵיתִיךָ לְעוֹלָם הִבִּינֵנִי וְאַחֲזָה: EDUWTH	144 Your <b>testimonies</b> are righteous forever. Give me understanding, that I may live.



## Keyword Study: Psalms 119:137-138 (words starting with *Tzaddi* are highlighted)

“TZADDI. **Righteous** art Thou, **O LORD**, and **upright** are **Thy Judgments**. Thy Testimonies that **Thou hast commanded** **are righteous** and very **faithful**.”

Keyword	Strong's #	Hebrew Word	Meaning
Righteous			
O LORD			
upright			
Thy Judgments			
Thou hast commanded			
are Righteous			
Faithful			

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

### Cross References:

## Keyword Study: Psalms 119:139-140 (words starting with *Tzaddi* are highlighted)

“**My zeal** **hath consumed** me, because mine enemies have forgotten Thy Words. Thy Word is very **pure**: therefore thy servant loveth it.”

Keyword	Strong's #	Hebrew Word	Meaning
My zeal			
Hath consumed			
Pure			
Thy servant			

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

### Cross References:

## **Keyword Study: Psalms 119:141-142 (words starting with *Tzaddi* are highlighted)**

“I am **small** and **despised**: yet do not I **forget Thy Precepts**. **Thy Righteousness** is an everlasting righteousness, and **Thy Law** is the Truth.”

Keyword	Strong's #	Hebrew Word	Meaning
Small			
Despised			
Forget			
Thy Precepts			
Thy Righteousness			
Thy Law			

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

### **Cross References:**

## Keyword Study: Psalms 119:143-144 (words starting with *Tzaddi* are highlighted)

“**Trouble** and **anguish** have taken hold on me: yet Thy Commandments are **my delights**. The **righteousness** of Thy Testimonies is **everlasting**: **give me understanding**, and I shall **live**.”

Keyword	Strong's #	Hebrew Word	Meaning
Trouble			
Anguish			
My delights			
Righteousness			
Everlasting			
Give me understanding			
Live			

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

### Cross References:

## Psalm 119:137-144 Reveals the *Tzaddi*

### 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 *Tzaddi* that you found in this study?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. What insights about *Yahweh* did you gain?