

The Hebrew Aleph-bet



The Consonants

All The Consonants

א ב ג ד ה ו ז ח ט י כ,ך

Kaf Yud Tet Chet Zayin Vav Hey Dalet Gimel Bet Aleph

ל,מ,ם,נ,ן ס ע פ,ף

Pey Ayin Samech Nun Mem Lamed

צ,ץ ק ר ש ת

Tav Shin Resh Quph Tsade

The 22 Hebrew Consonants

ח ז ו ה ד ג ב א

Chet Zayin Vav Hey Dalet Gimel Beyt Aleph

ע ס נ מ ל כ י ט

Ayin Samech Nun Mem Lamed Kaph Yud Tet

ת ש ר ק צ פ

Tav Shin Resh Ouph Tsade Pey

The 5 Final Consonants

צ פ נ מ ד

Tsade Pey Nun Mem Kaph

These are also know as the Sofit Letters

Aleph

- Number
- Gematria
- Pronounced
- Literal Meaning
- Symbolic Meaning
- Appearances

- Pictures

א

1

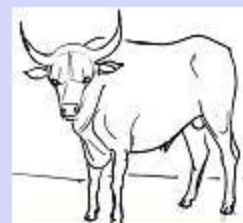
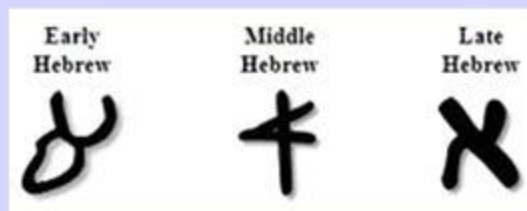
1

silent or ah

Ox, Bull

Power, Authority, Strength

Aleph



Bet ב

- Number
- Gematria
- Pronounced
- Literal Meaning
- Symbolic Meaning
- Appearances

- Pictures

ב

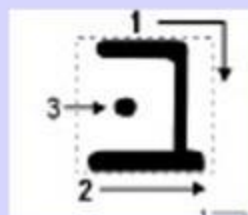
2

2

boy, vine (*no dot*)

Tent, House

Family, In, For, By



Gimel

- Number
- Gematria
- Pronounced
- Literal Meaning
- Symbolic Meaning
- Appearances

- Pictures

ג

3

3

got

Foot, Walk

Lift up, Pride, Camel



Dalet

ד

Dalet

- Number
- Gematria
- Pronounced
- Literal Meaning
- Symbolic Meaning
- Appearances

4

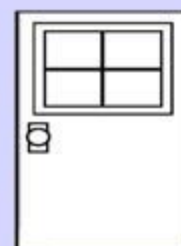
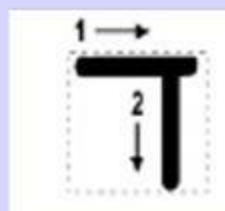
4

dog

Door

Door, Pathway, Entrance

- Pictures



Hey

- Number
- Gematria
- Pronounced
- Literal Meaning
- Symbolic Meaning
- Appearances

- Pictures

ה

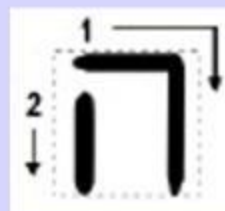
5

5

hay

Lo, Behold

Look, Reveal, Breath



Vav

- Number
- Gematria
- Pronounced
- Literal Meaning
- Symbolic Meaning
- Appearances

- Pictures

ו

6

6

very, up

Nail, Peg (and)

Add, Secure, Hook

Vav



Zayin

- Number
- Gematria
- Pronounced
- Literal Meaning
- Symbolic Meaning
- Appearances

- Pictures

ז

7

7

zebra

Weapon, Hoe, Plow

Cut, Food, Nourish



Chet

ח

Chet

- Number
- Gematria
- Pronounced
- Literal Meaning
- Symbolic Meaning
- Appearances

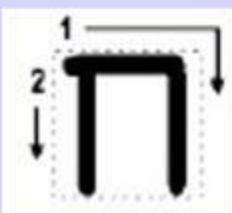
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8

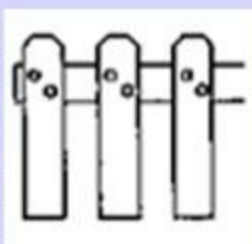
ch (as in bach)

Fence, Wall

Separate, Outside, Private



- Pictures



Tet

- Number
- Gematria
- Pronounced
- Literal Meaning
- Symbolic Meaning
- Appearances

- Pictures

ט

9

9

test

Snake, Basket

Surround, Contain

Tet



Early
Hebrew



Middle
Hebrew



Late
Hebrew



Yod

- Number
- Gematria
- Pronounced
- Literal Meaning
- Symbolic Meaning
- Appearances

- Pictures

י

10

10

you

Arm and Closed Hand

Work, Throw, Deed, Make



Kaf כ כּ

- Number
- Gematria
- Pronounced
- Literal Meaning
- Symbolic Meaning
- Appearances

- Pictures

כ

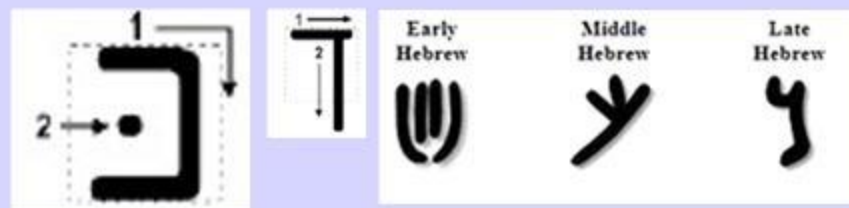
11

20

kit, bach (*no dot*)

Open Palm

To Open, Cover, Allow, Tame



Lamed

- Number
- Gematria
- Pronounced
- Literal Meaning
- Symbolic Meaning
- Appearances

- Pictures

ל

12

30

Low

Shepherd, Staff

Control, Teach, Bind, Tongue



Mem מ

- Number
- Gematria
- Pronounced
- Literal Meaning
- Symbolic Meaning
- Appearances

- Pictures

מ

13

40

mike

Water, Blood

Chaos, Liquid, Massive



Nun נ

- Number
- Gematria
- Pronounced
- Literal Meaning
- Symbolic Meaning
- Appearances

- Pictures

נ

14

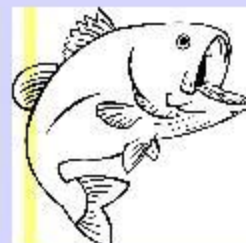
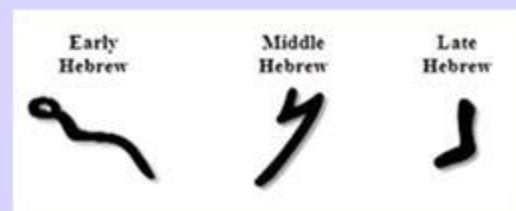
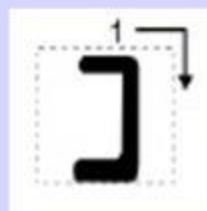
50

noon

Fish

Seed, Life, Activity, Heir

ן Nun



Samekh

- Number
- Gematria
- Pronounced
- Literal Meaning
- Symbolic Meaning
- Appearances

- Pictures

ס

15

60

sam

Thorn, Prop

Support, Grab, Protect



Ayin

- Number
- Gematria
- Pronounced
- Literal Meaning
- Symbolic Meaning
- Appearances

ע

16

70

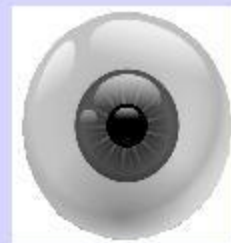
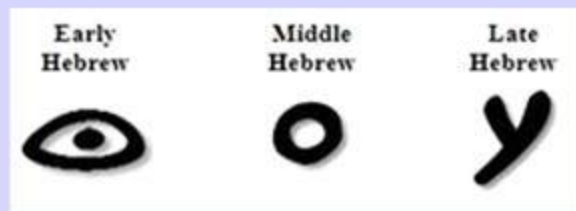
silent or ah

Eye

Watch, Experience, Know

Ayin

- Pictures



Pey פ

- Number
- Gematria
- Pronounced
- Literal Meaning
- Symbolic Meaning
- Appearances

- Pictures

פ

17

80

pet or **phone** (*sofit*)

Mouth

Speak, Meaning, Scatter

Fey ף



Tzade ז

- Number
- Gematria
- Pronounced
- Literal Meaning
- Symbolic Meaning
- Appearances

- Pictures

ז

ז Tzade

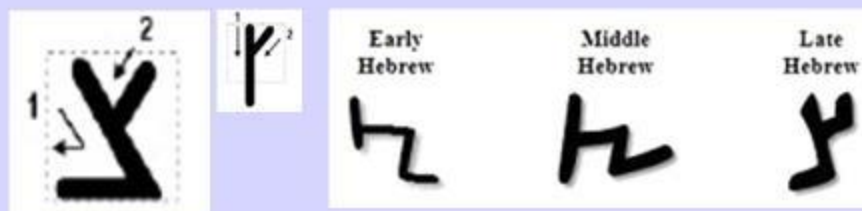
18

90

netz, or nets (*sofit*)

Fish Hook

Journey, Desire, Need



Qof or Kuf

- Number
- Gematria
- Pronounced
- Literal Meaning
- Symbolic Meaning
- Appearances

- Pictures



19

100

Queen, or Kit

Sun on Horizon

Back of Head, Behind



Reysh

- Number
- Gematria
- Pronounced
- Literal Meaning
- Symbolic Meaning
- Appearances

- Pictures

ר

20

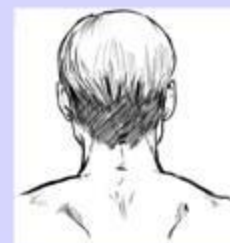
200

rain

Head of a Man

Authority, First, Foremost

Reysh



Shin

- Number
- Gematria
- Pronounced
- Literal Meaning
- Symbolic Meaning
- Appearances

- Pictures



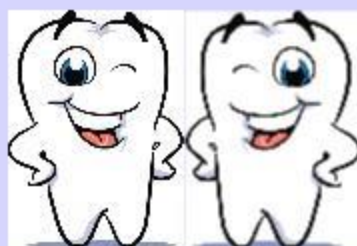
21

300

shem, sam (*sofit*)

Two Front Teeth

Consume, Destroy, Sharp



Tav

ת, ט

Tav

- Number
- Gematria
- Pronounced
- Literal Meaning
- Symbolic Meaning
- Appearances

22

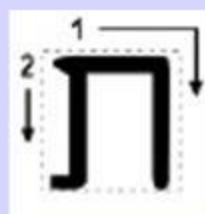
400

tall or test

Sign

Cross, Mark, Covenant

- Pictures



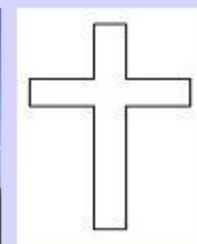
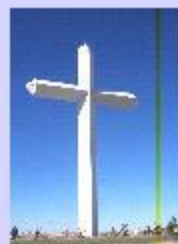
Early Hebrew



Middle Hebrew



Late Hebrew



The Ancient Hebrew Alphabet

By Jeff A. Benner

Ⲁ + Ⲃ Ⲅ Ⲇ Ⲉ Ⲋ Ⲍ Ⲏ ⲏ ⲑ ⲓ ⲕ ⲗ ⲙ ⲛ ⲝ ⲟ ⲡ ⲣ ⲥ ⲧ ⲩ ⲫ ⲭ

ⲧ ⲩ ⲫ ⲭ

Dalet, Gimel, Beyt, Aleph

ⲧ ⲩ ⲫ ⲭ

Ⲙ Ⲛ Ⲝ Ⲟ

Zayin, Hhet, Vav, Hey

Ⲙ Ⲛ Ⲝ Ⲟ

Ⲡ ⲡ Ⲣ ⲣ

Lamed, Kaph, Yud, Tet

Ⲡ ⲡ Ⲣ ⲣ

Ⲥ ⲥ ⲧ Ⲩ

Ayin, Samekh, Nun, Mem

Ⲥ ⲥ ⲧ Ⲩ

Ⲫ ⲫ Ⲭ ⲭ

Resh, Quph, Tsade, Pey

Ⲫ ⲫ Ⲭ ⲭ

+ Ⲃ

Tav, Shin

+ Ⲃ

Ⲁ

Ghayin

Ⲁ

ד ✓ ט א

Dalet, Gimel, Beyt, Aleph

ד ✓ ט א

Beyt

Early Hebrew

Middle Hebrew

Late Hebrew

Modern Hebrew

Pictograph: Floorplan of a Tent

Meanings: Family, House, In

Sound: B, Bh (v)

Aleph

Early Hebrew

Middle Hebrew

Late Hebrew

Modern Hebrew

Pictograph: Ox Head

Meanings: Power, Authority, Strength

Sound: ah, eh

Dalet

Early Hebrew

Middle Hebrew

Late Hebrew

Modern Hebrew

Pictograph: Door

Meanings: Move, Hang, Entrance

Sound: D

Gimel

Early Hebrew

Middle Hebrew

Late Hebrew

Modern Hebrew

Pictograph: Foot

Meanings: Gather, Walk

Sound: G

א ז י כ

Hhet, Zayin, Vav, Hey

א ז י כ

Vav

Early
Hebrew

Middle
Hebrew

Late
Hebrew

Modern
Hebrew

Ancient Name: Waw

Pictograph: Peg

Meanings: Add, Secure, Hook

Sound: W, ow, uw

Hey

Early
Hebrew

Middle
Hebrew

Late
Hebrew

Modern
Hebrew

Pictograph: Man with arms raised

Meanings: Look, Reveal, Breath

Sound: H, eh

Hhet

Early
Hebrew

Middle
Hebrew

Late
Hebrew

Modern
Hebrew

Ancient Name: Hhets? Chet

Pictograph: Wall

Meanings: Outside, Divide Half

Sound: Hh

Zayin

Early
Hebrew

Middle
Hebrew

Late
Hebrew

Modern
Hebrew

Ancient Name: Zayin?, Zan?

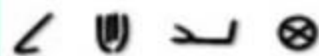
Pictograph: Mattock / Hoe / Plow

Meanings: Food, Cut, Nourish

Sound: Z



Lamed, Kaph, Yud, Tet



Yud

Early Hebrew



Middle Hebrew



Late Hebrew



Modern Hebrew



Ancient Name: Yad

Pictograph: Arm and closed hand

Meanings: Work, Throw, Make, Praise

Sound: Y, iy

Tet

Early Hebrew



Middle Hebrew



Late Hebrew



Modern Hebrew



Ancient Name: Thet?

Pictograph: Basket

Meanings: Surround, Contain, Mud

Sound: Th

Lamed

Early Hebrew



Middle Hebrew



Late Hebrew



Modern Hebrew



Ancient Name: Lam?

Pictograph: Shepherd Staff

Meanings: Teach, Yoke, Bind, Toward

Sound: L

Kaph

Early Hebrew



Middle Hebrew



Late Hebrew



Modern Hebrew



Ancient Name: Kaph

Pictograph: Open Palm

Meanings: Bend, Open, Allow, Tame

Sound: K (stop), Kh (spirant)



Ayin, Samekh, Nun, Mem



Nun

Early Hebrew



Middle Hebrew



Late Hebrew



Modern Hebrew



Ancient Name: Nun

Pictograph: Sprouting Seed

Meanings: Continue, Heir, Son

Sound: N

Mem

Early Hebrew



Middle Hebrew



Late Hebrew



Modern Hebrew



Ancient Name: Mem?, Mayim?, Mah?

Pictograph: Water

Meanings: Chaos, Mighty, Blood

Sound: M

Ayin

Early Hebrew



Middle Hebrew



Late Hebrew



Modern Hebrew



Ancient Name: ayin

Pictograph: Eye

Meanings: Watch, Know, Shade

Sound: Silent

Samehh

Early Hebrew



Middle Hebrew



Late Hebrew



Modern Hebrew



Ancient Name: Sin?

Pictograph: Thorn

Meanings: Grab, Hate, Protect

Sound: S

𐤀 𐤁 𐤂 𐤃

Resh, Quph, Tsade, Pey

𐤀 𐤁 𐤂 𐤃

Tsade



Ancient Name: Tsad?, Tsade?

Pictograph: Trail

Meanings: Journey, Chase, Hunt

Sound: Ts

Pey



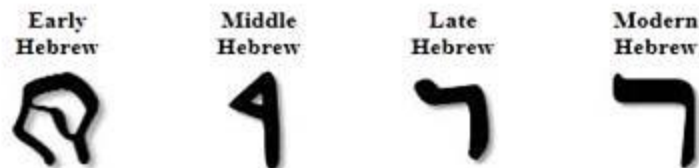
Ancient Name: Pey

Pictograph: Mouth

Meanings: Open, Blow, Scatter, Edge

Sound: P (stop), Ph (f) (spirant)

Resh



Ancient Name: Resh, Rosh?

Pictograph: Head of a man

Meanings: Head, first, top, beginning

Sound: R

Quph



Ancient Name: Quph

Pictograph: Sun at the horizon

Meanings: Circle, Revolution, Condense, Time

Sound: Q

Tav, Shin

+ ∞

+ ∞

Tav

Early Hebrew



Middle Hebrew



Late Hebrew



Modern Hebrew



Ancient Name: Tav

Pictograph: Crossed Sticks

Meanings: Mark, Sign, Signal, Monument

Sound: T

Shin

Early Hebrew



Middle Hebrew



Late Hebrew



Modern Hebrew



Ancient Name: Shin

Pictograph: Two front teeth

Meanings: Sharp, Press, Eat, Two


Sound: Sh



Ghayin



History & Reconstruction

While this letter existed in ancient Semitic languages and some modern Semitic languages, it no longer exists in the modern Hebrew. Instead it has been absorbed into the letter ש (ayin). While the **evidence exists** showing that this is in fact a separate letter, there is very little evidence for reconstructing its original pictograph. The Ugarit and Arabic languages wrote this letter the same as the ayin but with an additional line or dot. The closest candidate for this letter is the , a twisted rope, which is found in some ancient Semitic inscriptions.

In the Arabic language this letter is called the *ghayin* and is probably related to the Hebrew word *ghah* meaning "twisted."

Because the Greek language transliterates this letter with a *gamma* ("g" sound) we know that this letter originally had a type of "g" sound, possibly a "ng" as in the word "ring."

Ghayin

Early Hebrew



Middle Hebrew



Late Hebrew



Modern Hebrew



Ancient Name: ghah?, ghayin?

Pictograph: Rope of twisted fibers

Meanings: Twisted, Dark, Wicked

Sound: g, gh or ng

The Vowels

Vowel Symbols

AH



as in say “ah”

EH



eh as in “egg”

EE



ee as in “see”

OH



oh as in “so”

UU







u as in “blue”

“Ah” or “Aha”, I get it . . .

AH

as in say “ah”

			
Patach a (short)	Qamets a (long)	Chateph Patach a (short)	Qamets Hey ah (long)

Practice Readings Pronounced “a” as in aqua

Two syllables:

						
sha'ar	sha-lach	rab-bat (*)	ma'al	da'at	ba'al	'a-chat

Three syllables:

					
va-ya-shav	ha'a-chat	bara'av	ha'a-dam	han-na'ar	va-ya'as

Four syllables:

			
hatsa-la-chat	batsara-tah	ha'a-da-mah	hara-cha-mah

“Eh?”, What did you day . . .

EH

eh as in “egg”



Practice Readings

sound: “e” as in they

Two syllables:

'e-nah	che-ma	'e-met	'e-nash	'e-lah	he-va	'e-mar
che-sed	me-'al	'e-led	ye-tse	he-chel	me-'ets	ha-shem

Three syllables:

ye-'akhal	le-chatser	he-ha-shav	le-le-khet	vaye-fel	me-'e-rets
'e-ded-dem	le-'a-yef	he-'arel	'e-ka-ved	she-sha-mem	'e-qa-desh

“Eek”, It’s a mouse . . .

EE

ee as in “see”

יְ

Chireq
i
(short)

יִ

Chireq Yod
i
(long)

Practice Readings

sound: “i” as in machine

Two syllables:

תִּקַּח

ti-qach

מִגָּן

mi-gan

נִסִּי

ni-si

קִצִּי

ki-tsi

מִמִּי

mi-mi

חִכִּי

chik-ki

מִיבֵּן

mib-bin

הִנֵּה

hi-neh

יִרֵב

yi-rev

תִּתֵּן

ti-ten

שִׁלַּח

shi-lach

יִחַד

yi-chad

כִּכָּר

kik-kar

מִיָּד

mi-yad

Three / more syllables:

צִיּוֹתַי

tsi-viti

חַמְּשָׁה

cha-mi-shah

אֵימָנָה

'ei-mi-nah

וַיִּצֵר

va-yitser

וַיִּפַּח

va-yip-pach

וַיִּתֵּן

va-yi-ten

חֲבַאתֶיהָ

cha-ve-ti-ha

מִמְּרֹם

mi-me-rem

מִרְאשֵׁית

me-re'shit

יִלְבֵּת

yi-la-vet

מִמּוֹת

mi-ma-vet

רִמֵּיתִי

ri-mi-ti

“Oh”, Yahweh is good to me . . .

OH

oh as in “so”

Cholem
o
(long)

Cholem Vav
o
(long)

T:
Chateph Qamets
o
(short)

T
Qamets Chatuph
o
(short)

Practice Readings sound: “o” as in yellow

Two syllables:

yo-tser

la-mo

yo-shev

yib-bol

ha-lo'

'o-yev

do-do

so-do

'o-ro

so-kho

yo-mo

'o-to

mo-to

ko-li

Three / more syllables:

ko ma-to

ba ha-mot

ho-so-vev

cho ra-vot

'a ma-lo

ham ma-or

ha ko-lot

mo tza-o

to de-kha

o de-kha

la-a-sot

mo-sha-vo

“Ew”, What’s in that stew . . .

UU

אוּ אוֹ

Qibbutz Shureq

וּ
(short)

וֹ
(long)

Practice Readings sound: “u” as in blue

Two syllables:

עֲזִי

‘u-zi

חֲשָׁם

chu-sham

עֲנוֹת

‘u-not

יֵלָד

yu-lad

יָקָם

yu-qam

לָקַח

lu-qach

וּבוֹ

u-vo

שׁוּבִי

shu-vi

יּוֹכַל

yu-khal

רוּחִי

ru-chi

הוּחַל

hu-chal

תּוּבַל

tu-val

וּמִן

u-min

כָּלָם

ku-lam

Three / more syllables:

מִמֶּנּוּ

mi-me-nu

כָּלָנוּ

ku-la-nu

וּשְׁמִי

u-shu-mi

אֱלֹהִים

‘e-lo-him

יְחִילוּ

ya-chi-lu

וּבָהוּ

va-vo-hu

יְשׁוּבוּ

ya-shu-vu

טָמָנוּ

ta-ma-nu

שֵׁאֲלוּ

sha-‘a-lu

יְבֹשׁוּ

ye-vo-shu

עָלֵנוּ

‘a-le-nu

יָקָמוּ

ya-qu-mu

u as in “blue”

Review

The Modern Hebrew Alphabet

ו

Vav

ה

Hey

ד

Dalet

ג

Gimel

ב

Beyt

א

Alef

ל

Lamed

כ

Kaf

י

Yod

ט

Tet

ח

Chet

ז

Zayin

צ

Tsade

פ

Pey

ע

Ayin

ס

Samekh

נ

Nun

מ

Mem

ת

Tav

ש

Shin

ר

Resh

ק


Qof

The Ancient Paleo-Hebrew Alphabet Letters


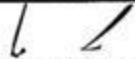









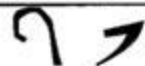





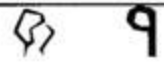




<p>6</p>  <p>Vav</p>  <p>Nail Secure Add/and</p>	<p>5</p>  <p>Hey</p>  <p>Behold Reveal Breath</p>	<p>4</p>  <p>Dalet</p>  <p>Door Move Entrance</p>	<p>3</p>  <p>Gimel</p>  <p>Foot Camel Pride</p>	<p>2</p>  <p>Beyt</p>  <p>House Family in</p>	<p>1</p>  <p>Alef</p>  <p>Ox Strength Leader</p>
<p>30</p>  <p>Lamed</p>  <p>Shepherd Staff/Teach To/from</p>	<p>20</p>  <p>Kaf</p>  <p>Palm To open Allow/tame</p>	<p>10</p>  <p>Yod</p>  <p>Arm/hand Work/deed Worship</p>	<p>9</p>  <p>Tet</p>  <p>Basket Snake Surround</p>	<p>8</p>  <p>Chet</p>  <p>Wall Fence Separation</p>	<p>7</p>  <p>Zayin</p>  <p>Plow Weapon Cut off</p>
<p>90</p>  <p>Tsade</p>  <p>Man on side Journey Desire/need</p>	<p>80</p>  <p>Pev</p>  <p>Mouth Speak Scatter</p>	<p>70</p>  <p>Ayin</p>  <p>Eye Watch Experience</p>	<p>60</p>  <p>Samekh</p>  <p>Thorn Support Protect</p>	<p>50</p>  <p>Nun</p>  <p>Seed Fish/life Continue</p>	<p>40</p>  <p>Mem</p>  <p>Water Chaos Blood</p>
	<p>400</p>  <p>Tav</p>  <p>Cross Mark/sign Covenant</p>	<p>300</p>  <p>Shin</p>  <p>Teeth Press/destroy Separate</p>	<p>200</p>  <p>Resh</p>  <p>Head Authority First</p>	<p>100</p>  <p>Qof</p>  <p>Sun Behind Time</p>	



The Ancient Semitic-Hebrew Alphabet Letters

Name of the Hebrew Letter	Ancient Semitic Picture-Character	Literal meaning of the Letter
Modern Hebrew Letter	Some symbolic meanings used in word pictures	Sound of Letter
1  ALEF א	 strength, leader, first	OX, BULL (vowel)
2  BET ב	 household, in, into, family	TENT, HOUSE b, v
3  GIMEL ג	 to lift up, pride, animal	CAMEL g
4  DALET ד	 pathway, to enter	DOOR d
5  HEY ה	 'the', to reveal	BEHOLD h
6  VAV ו	 'and', to add, to secure	NAIL, PEG v
7  ZAYIN ז	 cut, to cut off	WEAPON z
8  CHET ח	 private, to separate	FENCE, INNER ROOM ch
9  TET ט	 to surround	SNAKE, SURROUND t
10  YOOD י	 work, a deed, to make	HAND (CLOSED) y
11  KAF כ	 to cover, to open, allow	PALM (OPEN HAND) k, ch

The Ancient Semitic-Hebrew Alphabet Letters

	Name of the Hebrew Letter Modern Hebrew Letter	Ancient Semitic Picture-Character Some symbolic meanings used in word pictures	Literal meaning of the Letter Sound of Letter
12	 LAMED ל	 control, authority, the tongue	CATTLE GOAD l
13	 MEM מ	 liquid, massive, chaos	WATER m
14	 NOON נ	 activity, life	FISH (DARTING THROUGH THE WATER) n
15	 SAMECH ס	 support, twist slowly, turn	PROP s
16	 AYIN ע	 to see, know, experience	EYE '
17	 PEY פ	 to speak, a word, to open	MOUTH p
18	 TSADIK צ	 catch, desire, need	FISHHOOK ts
19	 KOOF ק	 behind, the last, the least	BACK OF THE HEAD q, k
20	 REYSH ר	 a person, the head, the highest	HEAD (OF A MAN) r
21	 SHEEN ש	 to consume, to destroy	TEETH s, sh
22	 TAV ת	 to seal, to covenant	SIGN t
















The Twenty-Two Hebrew Consonants

ח	ז	ו	ה	ד	ג	ב	א
Chet	Zayin	Vav	Hey	Dalet	Gimel	Beyt	Aleph
ע	ס	נ	מ	ל	כ	י	ט
Ayin	Samech	Nun	Mem	Lamed	Kaph	Yud	Tet
ת	ש	ר	ק	צ	פ		
Tav	Shin	Resh	Ouph	Tsade	Pey		

The Five Final Hebrew Consonants

ץ	ף	ן	ם	ך
Final Tsade	Final Pey	Final Nun	Final Mem	Final Kaph

The Hebrew Vowels

AH =					
EH =					
EE =					
OH =					
OO =					



Y'varekh'kha Yahweh v'yishmerekha

Ya'er Yahweh panav eleikha vichunekka

Yissa Yahweh panav eleikha v'yasem l'kha shalom

Yahweh blesses you, and keeps you;

• Yahweh makes His face shine upon you, and is gracious to you;

• Yahweh lifts up His countenance upon you, and makes you whole.