

Modern	Ancient Symbol	Some Meanings	Modern	Ancient Symbol	Some Meanings
alef		Ox, power, strength leader, first	lamed		Control, speak, authority
bet		House, tent	mem		Water, mighty, blood
gimmel		Camel, carry, lift up	nun		Continue, activity, life
dalet		Door, pathway, enter	samech		Prop, turn, twist slowly
hay		Behold, to reveal	ayin		Eye, see, perceive, reveal
vav		Nail, peg, to secure	pay		Mouth, to speak, a word
zayin(zion)		Cut off	tsadee		Fish hook, catch, desire, need
chet		Fence, divided, to reveal	kof		Back of the head, behind, last, least
tet		Snake, Surround	resh		A man, the highest, a person, a head
yod		Hand, make, my	shin		Teeth, consume, destroy
kaf		Palm, open	tav		Covenant, cross, to seal, sign



Ancient Hebrew Reveals Information In Scripture

Jesus in the Hebrew Alef Bet

Hebrew is truly a Holy language, providing much more information in Hebrew Scripture than common English Scripture translations provide. To better understand what is being said in the Hebrew Scriptures, it is helpful to understand the way ancient Hebrew was written and the ancient Hebrew characters such as those used by King David, those used in parts of the Dead Sea Scrolls, and in some Samaritan Scripture today.

Modern Hebrew characters are different from ancient Hebrew. Modern Hebrew is easier to write and came about during the Babylonian exile when Jews started to use the squared-off form of letters similar to those prevalent throughout the Babylonian empire.

However, in ancient Hebrew, as in Chinese and ancient Egyptian, the characters are pictures that indicate the character's meaning. Words are formed by combining the pictures and their meanings, so knowing the associated ancient picture for a character can reveal some amazing information when interpreting Hebrew Scriptures.

Here we present some ancient meanings of several Hebrew words used in Scripture and provide a summary chart of modern and ancient Hebrew characters and their meanings. There is debate among scholars as to the present form of the Hebrew letters and their original meanings.

Notice that Hebrew is read right to left.

Jesus' Sacrifice in Word "Torah"

The Hebrew word **תורה** is translated as "Torah" in the English language and refers to the first five books written by Moses. The following shows ancient pictures for these Hebrew characters that clarify the meaning of "Torah":

-  = (tav) meaning "cross"
-  = (vav) meaning "nail"
-  = (resh) meaning "the highest" (or "a man")
-  = (hay) meaning "to reveal"

Taking these characters and their meanings together, we see that the word for Torah means "[To] a cross [is] nail[ed] the highest, it is revealed [in the Torah]".

"Son" is significant to several Hebrew words

The Hebrew word "bar" **בן** means "a son". The following shows ancient pictures for these Hebrew characters:

-  = (bet) meaning "house"
-  = (resh) meaning "man"

Literally this means that the son is "the man of (or from) the house".

The Word is the door of the Son

The Hebrew word meaning "Word" **דבר** is pronounced "devar". This word contains the word for "Son" (**בן**), adding the letter Dalet.

-  = (dalet) means "door"

Adding the meaning for dalet to the meaning for "Son" literally means that the Word is the door of the Son.

Create is the Son's strength

The Hebrew word meaning "create" **ברא** is pronounced "bara". This word contains the word for "son" (**בן**), adding the letter Alef.

-  = (alef) meaning "strength".

This Hebrew word for "create" says that to create is the Son's strength.

Hebrew people who reveal the Son

The word for "Hebrew" (the people of God) comes from the word "ahvar" (**עבר**) which means to cross over (as in "cross over" the Red Sea, the Jordon River or death to life?). This word contains the word for "Son", (**בן**) adding the letter Ayin.

-  = (ayin) meaning "reveal"

Literally, this means that the Hebrew people are the ones who reveal the Son.

Covenant: the cross of My Son

Adding two letters to the Hebrew word for "son" (**בן**) makes the word for "covenant" (breet or **ברית**). By adding the letter Yod (**י**) to the end of a word, the Hebrew equivalent of "my" is formed. When we add yod (**י**) to son (**בן**), we get "my son". The letter tav is then added, which means a cross. The characters added to "Son" (**בן**) are:

-  = (yod) meaning "my"
-  = (tav) meaning "cross"

Literally, this says the covenant is the "cross of My Son."

Hebrew: the language of Scripture

Adding an ayin (**ע**) onto the word for covenant (above) gives the word for the Hebrew language (eevreet or **עברית**)

-  = (ayin) meaning "reveal"

This says that the purpose of the Hebrew language is to "reveal the covenant" (which is "the cross of My Son").

The blood of the Passover Lamb

When Jesus said He is the alpha and omega, the beginning and the end (e.g. in Revelation 22:13), He also spelled a Hebrew word, if you consider the first and last letters (beginning and end) of the Hebrew alphabet, as follows:

Alef (**א**) is the first letter of the Hebrew alphabet
Tav (**ת**) is the final letter of the Hebrew alphabet
Vav (**ו**) is the letter that means "and".

The ancient Hebrew letters are as follows:

 : (alef **א**) the first letter

 = (vav **ו**) "and"

 = (tav **ת**) the last letter

This word,  in ancient Hebrew (or **את** in modern Hebrew), pronounced "Oht" means "the sign" or "the seal". This is the word used for the blood of the lamb placed on the door post on Passover (Exodus 12:7). Examining the Hebrew letters more closely, we get:

 = (alef **א**) meaning "leader"

 = (vav **ו**) meaning "nail"

 = (tav **ת**) meaning "cross"

The blood placed on the doorpost on Passover signifies "the Leader nail[ed] [to the] cross".

These are just some of the many fascinating interpretations of Hebrew that enrich one's understanding of Scripture. A summary of Hebrew characters, their ancient pictures and meanings follows. For more information, see the following references:

Seekins, Frank T., "Hebrew Word Pictures", 1994

Seekins, Frank T., "The Gospel in Ancient Hebrew", 1996

Church, J.R. and Stearman, Gary, "The Mystery of the Menorah and the Hebrew Alphabet", 1993

Rabbi Michael L. Munk, "The Wisdom in the Hebrew Alphabet", 1983, 1998

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