

Masoretic & Dead Sea Scroll Hebrew Aleph Bet (and Ancient Hebrew Al Bet)

Page 1 – Aleph Through Chet

<u>Letter Name (Ancient Hebrew Letter Name)</u>	<u>Masoretic Hebrew (Sound)</u>	<u>Dead Sea Scrolls Hebrew</u>	<u>Ancient Hebrew Pictograph</u>	<u>Ancient Hebrew Pictograph Info</u>
Aleph (Al)	א (Takes on sound of vowel marking, if any)			Picture: Ox Head Meaning: Leader, Chief, Strength
Bet (Bet) Vet	ב (B) ב (V)			Picture: Tent Floorplan Meaning: Family, House, Inside
Gimel (Gam)	ג (G)			Picture: Foot Meaning: Gather, Walk, Carry
Dalet (Dal)	ד (D)			Picture: Door Meaning: Movement, Hang, Enter
Heh (Heh)	ה (H or takes on sound of vowel marking)			Picture: Man With Arms Raised Meaning: Look, Reveal, Sigh
Waw (Waw) (in modern Hebrew, this is called "Vav" and they say "V" instead)	ו (W or takes on sound of vowel marking)			Picture: Peg Meaning: Add, Secure, Hook
Zayin (Zan)	ז (Z)			Picture: Mattock Meaning: Harvest, Cut, Food
Chet (Chets)	ח (Kh) Note: The sound is like "Kh" but it is usually written as "Ch".			Picture: Tent Wall Meaning: Divide, Half, Outside

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Page 2 – Tet Through Lamed

<u>Letter Name (Ancient Hebrew Letter Name)</u>	<u>Masoretic Hebrew (Sound)</u>	<u>Dead Sea Scrolls Hebrew</u>	<u>Ancient Hebrew Pictograph</u>	<u>Ancient Hebrew Pictograph Info</u>
Tet (Tet)	ט (T)			Picture: Clay Basket Meaning: Contain, Mud, Surround
<p>Note: Most say the above letter has a “T” sound. However, Jeff Benner of the Ancient Hebrew Research Center believes it’s possible this was “Th” in Ancient Hebrew; but since he doesn’t have a lot of evidence, he also leaves this as “T” in his chart as well (although years ago, he actually did have “Th” in his chart). I used to say this as “Th” based on his belief. However, I have switched back to saying the letter as “Tet” and as “T” instead of “Thet” and “Th”. I decided if he doesn’t have enough evidence to put “Th” in his chart anymore, then I should probably just say “T” myself to promote unity, avoid causing confusion, and avoid looking uneducated to others. However, there is that slight possibility that maybe “Tet” was really “Thet” and had a “Th” sound in Ancient Hebrew. We just don’t know for sure.</p>				
Yud/Yod (Yad)	י (Y or takes on sound of vowel marking)			Picture: Hand Note: “Hand” does not just include what we call the “Hand” in English, but can include the arm and wrist also. Anatomy in other languages may not be equivalent to anatomy in English. Meaning: Work, Throw, Worship
Kaf (Kaf) Final Kaf Khaf Final Khaf	כ (K) ך (K) כּ (Kh) ךּ (Kh)	 		Picture: Palm Meaning: Bend, Allow, Tame
Lamed (Lam)	ל (L)			Picture: Shepherd Staff Meaning: Teach, Yoke, Toward

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Page 3 – Mem Through Ghah

<u>Letter Name (Ancient Hebrew Letter Name)</u>	<u>Masoretic Hebrew (Sound)</u>	<u>Dead Sea Scrolls Hebrew</u>	<u>Ancient Hebrew Pictograph</u>	<u>Ancient Hebrew Pictograph Info</u>
Mem (Mah) Final Mem	<p>מ (M)</p> <p>ם (M)</p>			<p>Picture: Water</p> <p>Meaning: Chaos, Blood, Mighty</p>
Nun (Nun) Final Nun	<p>נ (N)</p> <p>ן (N)</p>			<p>Picture: Seed Sprout</p> <p>Meaning: Son, Heir, Continue</p>
Samekh (Samekh)	<p>ס (S)</p>			<p>Picture: Thorn</p> <p>Meaning: Grab, Hate, Protect</p>
Not In Modern Hebrew (Ghah)	Doesn't Exist (Gh)	Can't Be Found		<p>Picture: Rope</p> <p>Meaning: Twist, Dark, Wicked</p>

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Page 4 – Ayin Through Quf

<u>Letter Name</u> <u>(Ancient Hebrew</u> <u>Letter Name)</u>	<u>Masoretic</u> <u>Hebrew (Sound)</u>	<u>Dead Sea</u> <u>Scrolls Hebrew</u>	<u>Ancient Hebrew</u> <u>Pictograph</u>	<u>Ancient Hebrew</u> <u>Pictograph Info</u>
Ayin (Ayin)	ע (silent or takes on sound of vowel marking)			Picture: Eye Meaning: Watch, Know, Shade
Peh (Peh) Final Peh Feh Final Feh	פ (P) ף (P) פ (Ph / F) ף (Ph / F)	  Note: Some final Peh/Feh seems to look almost identical to non-final Peh/Feh, so I'm not sure there is a difference in the dead sea scrolls.		Picture: Mouth Meaning: Open, Blow, Scatter, Edge
Tsade (Tsad) Final Tsade	צ (Ts) ץ (Ts)	 		Picture: Side of A Man Meaning: Wait, Chase, Snare, Hunt
Quf (Quf)	ק (Q)	  Note: Two pictures shown due to variety in how it's written to ensure you can tell what a Quf is.		Picture: Sun at the Horizon Meaning: Circle, Time, Condense

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Page 5 – Resh Through Tav

<u>Letter Name (Ancient Hebrew Letter Name)</u>	<u>Masoretic Hebrew (Sound)</u>	<u>Dead Sea Scrolls Hebrew</u>	<u>Ancient Hebrew Pictograph</u>	<u>Ancient Hebrew Pictograph Info</u>
Resh (Rosh)	ר (R)			Picture: Head of A Man Meaning: First, Top, Beginning
Sin (Shin)	ש (S)			
<p>Note: Some people believe the letter “Sin” originated from “Samekh”, that “Samekh” was known as “Sin” in ancient times, and that the modern letter “Sin” split off from “Samekh”, but I’m unsure about that view and believe the ancient letter “Shin” could have simply had two sounds, “Sh” and “S”. So I consider “Shin” as the ancient Hebrew letter for “Sin” also. A letter doesn’t need a separate “name” to have two “sounds” (e.g. the English letter “C” can sound like “K” in “<u>cat</u>” or like “S” in “<u>plac</u>e, but it is only called by one name – which name we say as “<u>Sea</u>”). This is similar to how the letter Bet is one letter but could have had a “B” or “V” sound in ancient times.</p>				
<p>Note: Sin and Shin look close enough in the Dead Sea Scrolls to be considered the same letter in the Dead Sea Scrolls. Some people would think this means there should only be one sound, “Sh”, in Hebrew. However, there is nothing to prevent a letter from having two sounds (like how the English letter “G” can sound like a “J” in “Gentle” or a harder “G” in “Gray”. We shouldn’t consider it a surprise if a single Hebrew letter carried multiple sounds in some cases in ancient times.</p>				Picture: Teeth Meaning: Sharp, Press, Eat, Two
Shin (Shin)	ש (Sh)			
Tav (Taw)	ת (T)			Picture: Crossed Poles/Sticks Meaning: Mark, Sign, Signature