

## Hebrew Alphabet Studies:

“samech” means: “to uphold” or “prop”

(\*Strong's Exhaustive Concordance #5564

Strong's uses a 'c' for the samech)

**ד** is the number 60 “S” or “C” (in English)

Notice that verse 116 & 117 in **Psalm 119** (in the portion of 8 verses that begin with a samech), contain the phrase '**UPHOLD ME...**'

“Grandfather” (sab or sav) in Hebrew is spelled **ב ד ב**

The word picture in **ב ד ב** is that the grandfather 'upholds' **ד** the 'home' **ב**.

'book,' 'census,' or 'numbering' (sawfar or cipher) is spelled **כ פ ר**

Ancient Hebrew scholars believed that the **22 letters of the Hebrew aleph-beit** (alphabet) held within them the mysteries of the universe and corresponded to the 22 sacred writings in the Tanack:

In a Hebrew Bible (*Tanack*), there are **22 books**

**5 books of The Law (Torah)**

**Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy**

**12 books of The Writings**

**Joshua, Judges/Ruth, Samuel, Kings, Chronicles, Ezra/Nehemiah, Esther, Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon**

**5 books of The Prophets**

**Isaiah, Jeremiah/Lamentations, Ezekiel, Daniel, The Twelve\***

\*Minor Prophets: *Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi.*

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1st **West Bank** war (in 1100 BC)

when the **Shin (sh)** or **Samech (s)** made a difference

In Judges 13, two of the tribes of Israel fought each other — Gad (on the east bank of the Jordan River) with **Ephraim** (on the west bank). The Gadites were winning — but were having a hard time discerning which fleeing men were **Ephraimites**. They came up with a test. The **Ephraimites**, though they spoke Hebrew, had a dialect where they pronounced the Hebrew letter **Shin** like a **Samech**, so that they could not do otherwise, even to save their lives. By this, the **Ephraimites** were discovered. If the Gadites took a man that they suspected to be an **Ephraimite**, but he denied it, they made him say **Shibboleth**;\* and if he said **Sibboleth** instead, he was known to be an **Ephraimite**, and was slain immediately.

Map of the West Bank



### More about the tribe of Ephraim\*

A few hundred years later, when Israel was a divided Kingdom, the **10 northern tribes** were often at war with the 2 southern tribes (Judah & Benjamin—the House of David & the House of Saul). The **northern tribes** were called '**Ephraim**' because their leader, who had broken away from King Solomon's reign, was an **Ephraimite**. (They were also called '**Israel**' when the southern tribes were called '**Judah**.) The northern tribes were overtaken by the Assyrians and dispersed into captivity all over the world 144 years before the southern tribes fell to the Babylonians under King Nebuchadnezzar for 70 years—so the land could enjoy it's sabbaths.

Although the southern tribes were taken into captivity, they were not sent to distant nations like the **northern tribes**, so Jews today are mostly Judahites or Benjamites from the southern tribes. Northern tribes are called the 'Lost Tribes' of Israel. Mormons claim they settled in the Americas & elsewhere. Israeli 'Identity' folks claim they settled in northern Europe.

**2500 years later:** One of the interesting things about the story in Judges 12 is that using an 'sh' instead of an 's' was a distinguishing trait of **another** group of people (**the Castilians**) in AD 1400, during the Spanish Inquisition. The Castilian Queen Isabella financed Cristobal Colon (Columbus) in the year 1492. Cristobal told her he intended to find **gold** across the ocean & use it to recapture Israel & **rebuild the Temple in Jerusalem**. Queen Isabel's priest had advised that it would be a fitting offering of gratitude for their deliverance from the Moors. The sail date was set for 8/3/1492 but Cristobal insisted on having his crew onboard a day earlier, **August 2nd, 1492**—the day all Jews were expelled from Spain or killed.



It was also the most dreaded date on the Hebrew calendar—the **9th of Av, 1492**. **Solomon's Temple** was destroyed by the Babylonians on the **9th of Av in 423 BC**. **Herod's Temple** was destroyed by the Romans on the **9th of Av in AD 69**. Jews were expelled (for 400 yrs) from Palestine on the **9th of Av in 1290**.

\***Ephraim** was referred to as a **unicorn** in the blessing of Moses (Dt. 33:17). In Hosea 4:17, it says 'let **Ephraim** alone, he has turned to idols.' **Ephraim** ("doubly fruitful"—the tribe with the anointing of prosperity) is missing in the 144,000 of Rev. 7. Ephraim may be the tribe **cut off**.

There are several places in the Masoretic **Hebrew Text** where **letters are transcribed extra SMALL**. For instance, 4 Hebrew letters that are **extra small** in Esther 9:7-10 (where the 10 sons of Haman were named— & later hung) together form the number combination that signifies the year 5707. The Hebrew year 5707 was our 1946—the year when 10 Nazi war criminals were hung. [www.jewishmediaresources.com/article/338/](http://www.jewishmediaresources.com/article/338/)

There are also places in the Masoretic **Hebrew Text** where **letters are transcribed extra LARGE**. → **ס**-SAMECH **Ecclesiastes 12:13** begins with an **extra large SAMECH**. Here it is in Hebrew with the Strong's Concordance numbers & a pronunciation (with literal translation) & then the King James Version translation. Start here

120: האדם: 3605 כל 2088 זה 3588 כי 8104 שמור 4687 מצותיו 853 ואת 3372 ירא 430 האלהים 853 את 8085 נשמע 3605 הכל 1697 דבר 5490 וך **ס**

(mankind) adam (all) cole (for) kee (commands) mitzvah (keep) ayth (fear) yarae (the God) ha-Elohim (which) ayth (hear) shawma (all) cole (word) dabar (Concluding) **Sofo**  
**KJV translation: "Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: fear God & keep His commandments: for this is the whole duty of man."**

Writers of the Hebrew scriptures marked some divisions of text with a **pe** (to open) or a **samech** (to close).

**26 Samechs stand alone in the book of Genesis ס**

It's interesting that God's Hebrew name (the Holy Tetragrammaton) **YHVH יהוה** adds up to **26** (10+5+6+5)

The rest of the Torah also has pe & samech letters inserted into the text in various odd places. It would make a fascinating study to see **where** & discover **why** they are there.

**The Aaronic (High Priest) Blessing (Numbers 6:24-26)** contains samechs as dividers. Here it is in Hebrew:

*"The Lord bless thee & keep thee  
 The Lord make His face shine upon thee &  
 be gracious unto thee  
 The Lord lift up His countenance upon  
 thee & give thee peace."*

**ס** 8104: וישמרך 3068 יהוה 1288 יברוך Num 6:24

**ס** 2603: ויתנדך 413 אליך 6440 פניו 3068 יהוה 215 יאר Num 6:25

7965: לך שלום: 7760 וישם 413 אליך 6440 פניו 3068 יהוה 5375 ישא Num 6:26