

The Foundation Stone

Isaiah 28 v 16

John 1 v 1 – 3

- There is a belief among Jewish theologians that when God created the universe, he first laid a Foundation Stone.
- Although this Foundation Stone cannot be seen, it is upon this Foundation Stone that all things have been created.
- That is very interesting because John in his gospel says in John 1 v 3 that "All things were created through Him and nothing came into existence without Him."
- In this sermon let us unpack some of the things the apostle John has to say about Jesus and creation and specifically let's look at it through the lens of the Hebrew language.

- As Christians we understand the Foundation Stone to be Jesus. We can look closer at the words and letters in Hebrew and see what they teach us in regards to Jesus as our savior and Jesus as being the Foundation Stone of the universe.
- In Hebrew the word for letter is ot. It is the same word for "sign" or "wonder" or "miracle". (Slide 1)
- Based on this kind of teaching; another Jewish belief states that in the Hebrew language there are huge amounts of truths and hidden secrets which can be decoded and which can teach us about the deeper truths of God.
- Jewish Rabbis go on to say that the Hebrew language was taught to Adam by God together with all the numerical values of the letters and other secrets. This was passed down until it was used in one case where Joseph interpreted Pharaoh's dream.
- The next slide shows us the letters of the Hebrew alphabet together with the numerical values of each letter. (Slide 2)

- Based on research it is known that the Hebrew language was spoken in the time of the New Testament. It was spoken for at least four hundred years after the birth of Jesus.
- Although Greek is overwhelmingly the language in which the New Testament is written. If Hebrew was still in use as a spoken language; it is fair to ask: in what language would a Jewish Rabbi speak to another Jew in?
- In John's revelation; Jesus appears to John and says to him in Revelation 22 v 13 "I am the Alpha and Omega." But, what if He did not?
- What if Jesus spoke to John in Hebrew?
- Jesus would have said to John: I am the Aleph and the Tav.
- In Hebrew; unlike English and Greek; the letters Aleph (Slide 3) and Tav (Slide 4) form a word. The word they form is "Word" (Slide 5)
- And just like in English; the Hebrew word for "Word" can mean scripture. (Slide 6)

- In essence; Jesus is saying to the apostle John: I am the scriptures; the word of God. That reads very well with another things Jesus says.
- Let us look at some of the other places in the bible where the word "Aleph Tav" shows up.
- Now it is very clear in John 1 v 1 that John is saying: "In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God." And that would be the Hebrew word Aleph Tav.
- And we can clearly see that another place Aleph Tav shows up is in Genesis 1 v 1.
- It shows up as an ot or sometimes spelt et. It is used as punctuation and therefore we do not translate it.
- Genesis 1 v 1 starts as: "In the beginning..." And in Hebrew "Bereisheet bara Elohim et"
- Rabbis clearly state the et must be translated as "Aleph Tav"

- Another Jewish tradition states that when God created the universe, He spoke in pure Hebrew and He spoke all the letters of the Hebrew language. Therefore they maintain that the “et” must be spelt Aleph Tav.
- If we translated the et; then Genesis 1 v 1 would state something like: "In the beginning...word" which is very similar to John 1 v 1 which states: "In the beginning was the word" (Slide 7)
- Together with verse three in John 1 which states "all things were made through him" and seems to relate to the Hebrew belief of the Foundation Stone; it looks a lot like the apostle John was interpreting Genesis 1 for us when he wrote his gospel.
- It looks a lot like John is saying that Jesus is the Word of God and Jesus is the Foundation Stone of creation.
- Let us look deeper into this word Aleph Tav.
- When we take the Hebrew letter “Mem”; we see that it has a numerical value of 40. (Slide 8)

- And 40 we know means trial or testing. As in the flood lasting for forty days and nights; the Israelites wandering 40 years in the wilderness; Goliath taunting the Israelites for forty days etc.
- If we insert Mem into Aleph Tav and make the word Aleph Mem Tav (Slide 9) - which is the Hebrew word for truth. (Slide 10)
- That is also interesting because Jesus did say that I am the way; the TRUTH and the life". (John 14 v 6) By the way the Hebrew word for truth is pronounced "Emet" (Slide 11)
- Taking it like this, it seems to indicate that truth is the word of God that has been tested or tried. Just like Isaiah 28 states that the foundation stone is a "tested" or "tried" stone.
- Jesus did say of the devil that the "truth" was not found within him. (John 8 v 44) Certainly the devil can speak the word of God; but does the devil practice the word of God.
- We can't let ourselves off that easy; we have to ask ourselves if we are just speaking God's Word or do we practice it. Otherwise, the truth is not found within us either.

- Before we get into the Hebrew words and letters for Foundation stone; let's look at the Hebrew word for stone.
- The word is spelt Aleph Bet Nun. (Slide 12)
- If we break the word up and take the first two letters, we get another word Aleph Bet; which means father. (Slide 13)
- And if we take the last two letters of the word we get another word Bet Nun; which means son. (Slide 14)
- It is very striking to note in the gospel stories Jesus says: (1 John 2 v 23) whoever denies the Son does not have the Father either; he who acknowledges the Son has the Father also.
- And in research it is very easy to find examples in Jewish theology where a stone is a symbol of the Messiah. It does look like a deeper truth of God hidden in the Hebrew language.
- And we know from the Greek that when Jesus told Peter that: "Upon this rock I will build my church." (Matthew 16 v 18) He told Peter you are "petros" in Greek; which means stone or pebble.

- That can be because by proclaiming Jesus as the Messiah; Peter now has the Father and the Son and therefore is like a stone.
- If we look again at the word Foundation Stone in Hebrew; it reads as the Even haShetiya
- It can be pointed out that the word translated as Foundation in the Hebrew word Foundation Stone is not the word Foundation. (Slide 15)
- That word consists of two different words:
- Firstly it consists of two letters: “Shin” and “Tav” (Slide 16)
- The letters Shin and Tav give us the word: “Seth” which means “appointed”.
- The second word consists of the letters: “Yod” and “Hey” (Slide 17)
- This is the only Old Testament name for God used in the New Testament and it is important to point out that it is also used by the apostle John (Rev 19 v 1 – 6) (Slide 18)

- In effect the term Foundation Stone is literally translated as the stone appointed by God. (Slide 19)
- From the teaching of the words: Aleph Tav; Aleph Bet Nun; Aleph Mem Tav and Even haShetiya we get the following questions:
 - Are we appointed by God and how do we know?
 - Aleph Tav – Do we have or know the word of God? How many Christian today don't know their bible? Or cannot witness? Or cannot tell if they are being presented with bad/false doctrine?
 - Aleph Bet Nun – How many Christians have the fullness of the God's word? How much 'cherry picking' is going on with God's word today? How many Christians are following only if pleases them and only when it is easy?
 - Aleph Mem Tav – Is the word of God in us tried and tested? (Isaiah 28 v 16) If Jesus was the tried/tested Foundation Stone; are we also? Will we stick to our faith through times of trail? If Jesus was tested, won't we also be? The servant is not greater than his master. (John 15 v 20)

















- The final part of Isaiah 28 v 16 says that whoever trusts on this Foundation Stone will not “make haste”; “make hasty decisions” or “wont’ panic”.
- There is no catch here; there are no hidden secrets in the original Hebrew. It is as simple as it says. Whoever trusts in God with not panic. Will not be blown around by the blasts of life.
- We may not be perfect; but as we draw closer to God and trust Him; we will find a life of peace and stability even in the worst times that life can throw at us.
- Matthew 21 v 42 – 44 states: v42 Jesus said to them, "Did you never read in the Scriptures, 'The stone which the builders rejected, this became the chief Corner Stone. This came about from the Lord, and it is marvellous in our eyes. v43 Therefore I say to you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people, producing the fruit of it. v44 And he who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; but on whomever it falls, it will scatter him like dust.'"...

















- This teaches us three very clear things:
- Jesus is the stone appointed by God (Psalm 118 v 22) who was rejected by the builders – a reference to the Jewish faith. Since Jesus quotes the Old Testament; He is connecting himself to the Foundation Stone spoken about by the prophets
- That God takes away his gifts, spirit and power from people who are not worthy.
- God may humble us as in verse 44; but God will destroy his ermines (“Grind him to powder” in the Old King James)
- Daniel 2 v 34 – 35 says: v34 “Until a stone that was cut out without human hands and it struck the statue on its feet of iron and clay and crushed them. v35 "Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver and the gold were crushed all at the same time and became like chaff from the summer threshing floors; and the wind carried them away so that not a trace of them was found. But the stone that struck the statue became a great mountain and filled the whole earth.













- One day that great mountain will fill the earth and it will be the Kingdom of God. Until then we have a chance to repent and teach others to repent and believe upon the Foundation Stone that is Jesus.
- 1 Peter 2 v 4 – 6: And coming to Him as to a living stone which has been rejected by men, but is choice and precious in the sight of God, v5 you also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. v6 For this is contained in Scripture: "Behold, I lay a stone in Zion, a chosen and precious cornerstone, and the one who trusts in him will never be put to shame."

Delivered: 2015/05/31

The Hebrew word for “letter” is *ot*, which can also mean “sign” or “wonder.” Each letter of the Hebrew Aleph-Bet may contain signs that point to the truths of scripture. According to some Rabbinical teachings, the Lord himself taught the alphabet (along with the numerical values of the letters) to Adam. Adam then taught his sons and so on. This happened until it was taught to Jacob at the School of Shem in Salem. (Salem became Jerusalem) Jacob taught the secrets of the Hebrew Alphabet to Joseph. This is how Joseph was able to interpret dreams.

8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1
							
Chet	Zayin	Vav	Hey	Dalet	Gimmel	Bet	Aleph
							

70	60	50	40	30	20	10	9
							
Ayin	Samekh	Nun	Mem	Lamed	Kaf	Yod	Tet
							

400	300	200	100	90	80
					
Tav	Shin	Resh	Qof	Tsade	Pey
					

 *Aleph*

"Aleph" (pronounced "ah-lef").
Aleph has no sound of its own, but usually has a
vowel associated with it.

ת *Tav*

“Tav,”
which has the sound of “t” as in “*t*all.”

א ת

Aleph Tav

אֵת

Aleph Tav

Means: WORD as in scripture

Bereisheet bara Elohim et

Genesis 1: In the Beginning ...(et...Word)

John 1 v 1: In the Beginning was the Word

מ *Mem*

“Mem” has the Value 40

אמת

Aleph Mem Tav

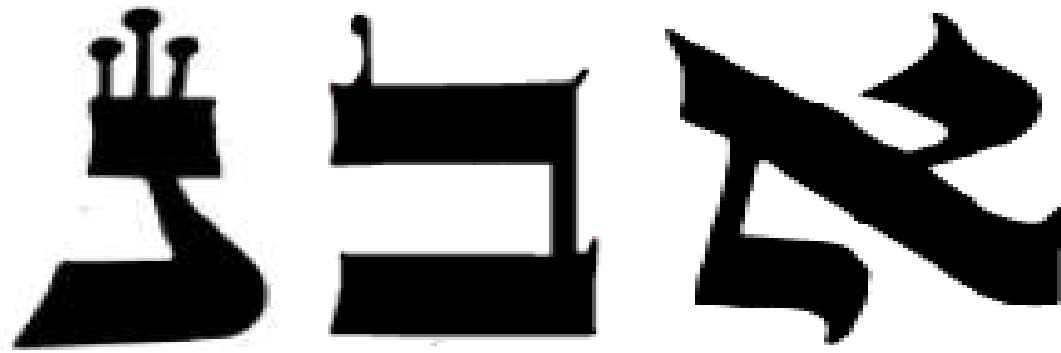
אמת

Aleph Mem Tav

Means: TRUTH

אמת

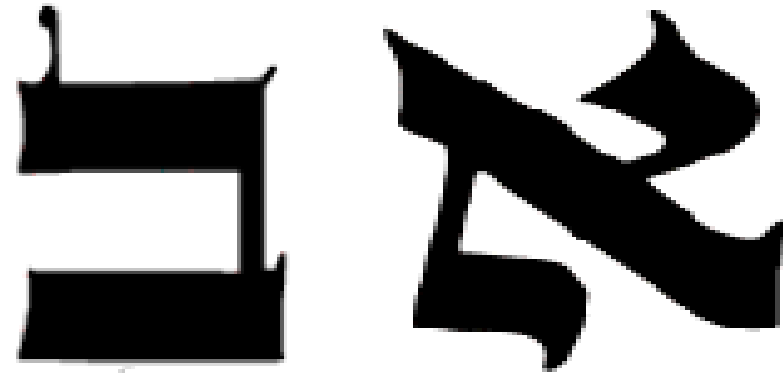
It is pronounced: 'EMET'



Aleph Bet Nun

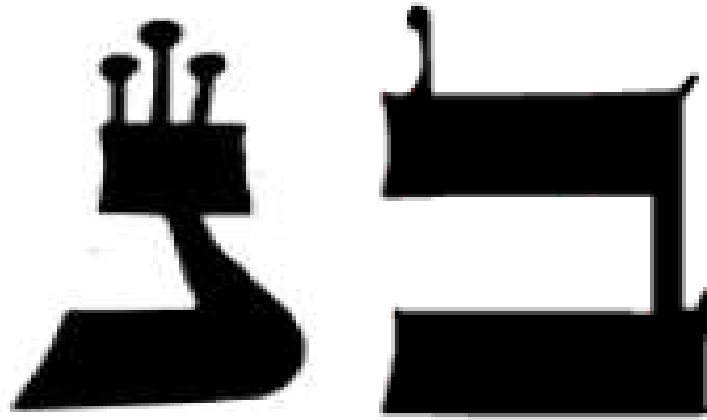
Means: Stone

Pronounced : Eben



Aleph Bet

Means: Father



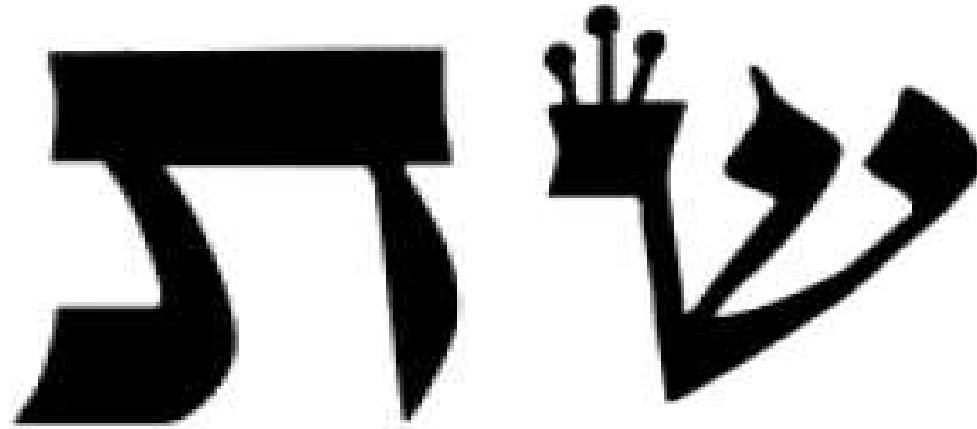
Bet Nun

Means: Son

אבן השתייה

Even HaShetiya

Foundation Stone



From Shin Tav - we get the word: Seth

Means: Appointed



From Yod Hey – we get the word Yah or Jah



The word Yah or Jah is

**The only Old Testament name for God
found in the New Testament**

אבן השתייה

**The Even HaShetiya or Foundation
Stone is the stone appointed by God**

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