

HEBREW: STRUGGLE OF FAITH (40) – Letter ‘Mem’

MEM

The thirteenth Hebrew letter ‘**Mem**’ is pictured at right:

In Hebrew the character **Mem** is used to represent the number 40.

The spiritual meaning of the number **40** is ‘**Trial of Faith**’.

The rabbis picture **Mem** as ‘**Water**’.

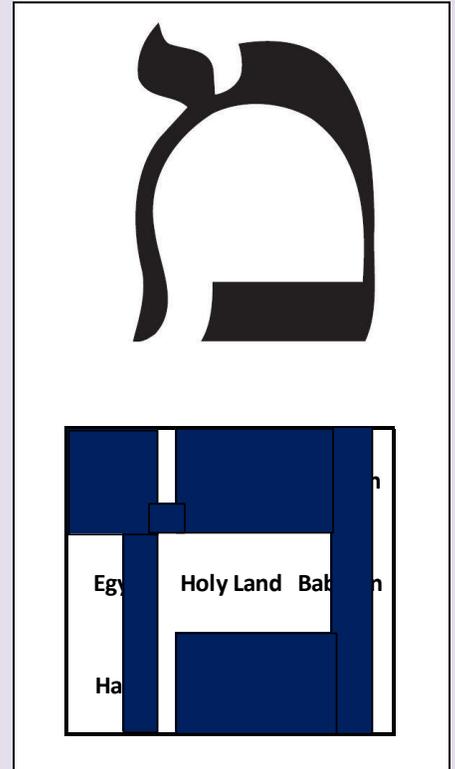
The Christian picture is ‘**Struggle of Faith**’ or ‘**Waves of Sea**’ and has an association with nations, peoples, and tongues. The picture is of a ‘**Double-minded Man**’ who ‘**Doubts**’ under testing (James 1:6-7).

This odd looking character is a combination of a **Vav**, which is a picture of ‘Man’, joined at the head to **Kaf**, which means ‘Mouth of Confession’ or ‘Preacher’. So, the scene is a man who may speak a good confession of God, but whose actions are unrighteous, like the man who has turned his back on God.

It can also picture the conflict of a Preacher who makes a good confession or testimony of God, but who is resisted by men, who try to shut his mouth! Oh! How many men of God have experienced the wrath of unbelievers for telling the holy truth!

The 40th Book of the Bible is the Gospel of Matthew, the account of the blessed Savior, full of Grace and Truth, walking in the power of the Holy Spirit. In spite of miracles, in spite of wisdom greater than Solomon, unbelieving religious men resisted him, denied him, and finally, pronounced the death penalty over him.

The shape of the letter **Mem** is similar to the shape of the letter **Tav**, which pictures a tomb. The struggle pictured in the letter **Mem** is a life and death struggle, an intense spiritual battle. And so it is not surprising to see Jesus tested for **40** days in the wilderness and the Israelites wandering in the desert for **40** years, during which a whole generation of doubting people were laid to rest.



When **Mem** is the last letter in a Hebrew word, it appears with no gap at the bottom, completely shut up. This is spiritual defeat: the unrighteous man stands tall and closes the mouth of confession.

ANALYSIS OF MEM – IN GOD’S TRUTH SQUARE (See Appendix)

The words on the stones of the Truth-Square for the letter **Mem**:

The stone that is uncovered:

HOLY LAND (Holy Life: Holy One)

The conflict pictured in the Hebrew letter **Mem** is engaged by the Holy Man, the man who follows God. The spiritual battle is over his Holy Life: the Devil says ‘**command these stones to turn to bread**’. The goal is to make the saint believe God is your servant.

The Devil says ‘**worship me, and I will give you a kingdom in the world.**’ The believer must trust God’s promise of a kingdom in the world to come. And above all, a believer must worship God alone.

The spiritual life is a holy life, it is a life dedicated to serving God and obeying his commands. It is not self-serving; it is the way of love and self-sacrifice. The spiritual battle is to move the believer off the holy path of following (not leading) God.

The spiritual numbers on the stones in the Truth-Square for **Mem**:

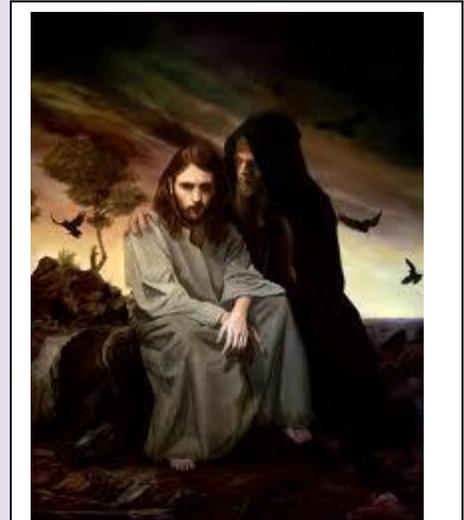
The sum of the spiritual number of the uncovered stone: **5**

The spiritual number 5 means ‘Life’ and ‘Grace’.

The place of favor in God’s eyes is for the believer to walk the holy path, to keep his commandments. For the Christian, we are called to give up worldliness and the fleshly life and worship God.

The sum of the spiritual numbers of the covered stones: **40** (!!)

For a Christian to stay on the holy path of trusting God and bathing in his Grace; he must overcome the world, the flesh, and the devil in the battle for control of his soul.



APPENDIX – GOD’S TRUTH SQUARE

The Truth-Square is a set of blocks or stones arranged in a 3 x 3 square. The spiritual **number 3** means ‘**God**’ and ‘**Truth**’. The number 9 = 3 x 3 means **God’s (3) Truth (3): ‘Judgment’ (9)**. The LORD is “*Judge of all the Earth*” (Gen. 18:25).

In the **Truth-Square** we see the **four corners of the Earth**, each one in the direction it belongs relative to the Holy Land: **Europe** is North; **Americas** are West, **Africa** is South, and **Asia** is East. (Note: The North side of the 3-square is not a corner, that is why the North must appear in the North-East quadrant of the 3-square). The four corners of the Earth also correspond to the fathers of all peoples. Japheth is the father of Europeans. Noah is the spiritual father of Americas.

<p>NOAH (Americas)</p> <p>3</p>	<p>BLESSING</p> <p>2</p>	<p>JAPHETH (Europe)</p> <p>1</p>
<p>EGYPT (Slavery)</p> <p>6</p>	<p>HOLY LAND (Israel)</p> <p>5</p>	<p>BABYLON (City of Cain)</p> <p>4</p>
<p>HAM (Africa)</p> <p>9</p>	<p>CURSE</p> <p>8</p>	<p>SHEM (Asia)</p> <p>7</p>

The **Holy Land (5)** also stands for **Israel** the people God called to dwell there and it stands for **Messiah** who was born there and will rule there. God put a **Blessing (2)** and a **Curse (8)** before **Israel**. To the east is **Babylon (4)**, which also signifies **Kingdom** or **World Rule**. To the west is **Egypt (6)**, which is the land of **Slavery** and **Bondage**. **Shem (7)** can also mean **Name**, and **Ham (9)** can also mean **Burnt**.

Each stone in the Truth-Square also signifies a number: 1 to 9. Of course, numbers have their own spiritual meanings. For more information on that, please see the Number Maps on our site.