

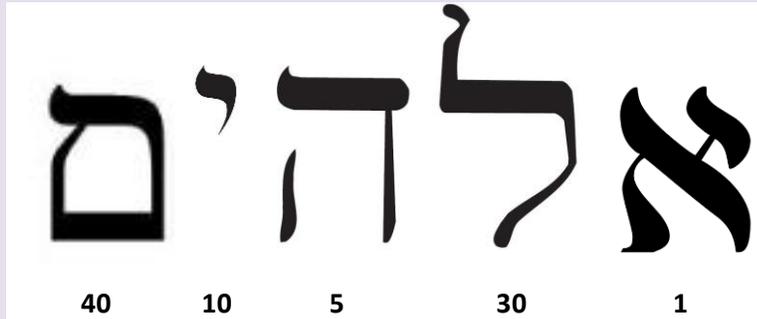
ELOHIM (GOD)

INTRODUCTION

This paper will look at the divine name 'ELOHIM' (GOD). We will extract the meaning of the name by the composition of the Hebrew letters. Each Hebrew letter has a meaning¹; for example: Aleph has the meaning 'Ox' or 'Sacrificial Ox'. Each Hebrew letter also stands for a number. Aleph is 1 in the Hebrew counting system. All numbers have spiritual meanings in the Bible². When we read a name of God in Scripture the letter pictures and numerical values provide layers of detail and depth into its meaning. Through understanding the meaning we may worship his holy name in spirit and truth.

ELOHIM (GOD)

The *first* Hebrew word for God in Scripture is Elohim: "In the beginning God [Elohim] made the heavens and the earth" (Genesis 1:1)



Reading the meanings of the Hebrew letters (right to left) they say in the form of a picture story:

SACRIFICIAL OX ~ TRAIL OF BLOOD ~ GRACE ~ HAND OF GOD ~ SPIRITUAL STRUGGLE

Breaking down the message:

SACRIFICIAL OX ~ TRAIL OF BLOOD

The total of the spiritual numbers is **31** '*Family*' [31=30+1]. So, the blood of the sacrificial ox yields a 'Family'. How does one obtain membership into this family? What sort of family is it?

SACRIFICIAL OX ~ TRAIL OF BLOOD ~ GRACE

The family of God spoken of in the name Elohim is the '*Family of Grace*'. The members of this family show forth the virtue of Grace and exist in perpetual Grace and debt to God. Grace, which means unmerited favor is the hallmark of God's family. What else do we learn about God's family?

¹ The meaning of Hebrew letters is presented in depth on Page 22.0 Hebrew on our website.

² The spiritual meaning of Bible numbers is explained in our Number Maps available on the home page of the website.

SACRIFICIAL OX ~ TRAIL OF BLOOD ~ GRACE ~ HAND OF GOD

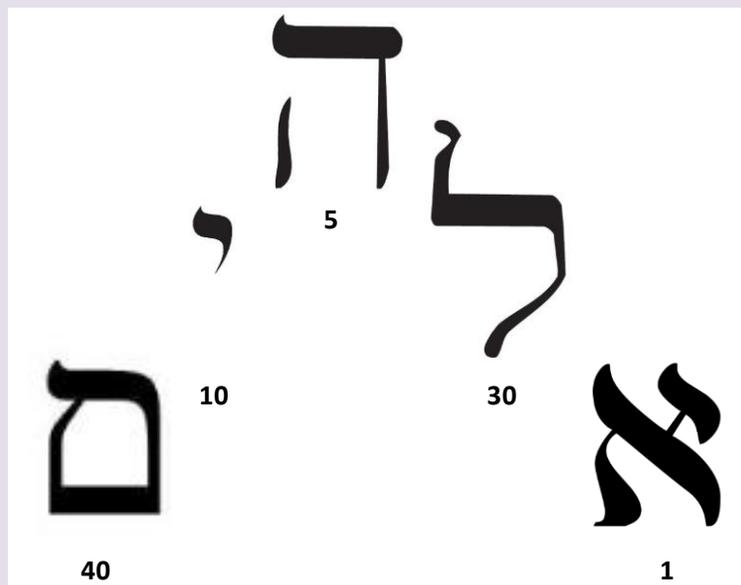
Members of the family of God have authority and power. This is what 'Hand of God' means. What do the members of the family of God have authority and power over?

SACRIFICIAL OX ~ TRAIL OF BLOOD ~ GRACE ~ HAND OF GOD ~ SPIRITUAL STRUGGLE

The members of the family of God have authority in the spiritual struggle of good and evil.

A simple application of this truth is whatsoever is against the spirit of Grace does not express the nature of God. For example, the members of the family of God have the authority and power to overcome the earthly nature. If a believer sees his brother has no food or clothing, the spirit of Grace compels him to offer assistance (James 2:15-16). Grace is unmerited favor, receiving nothing in return.

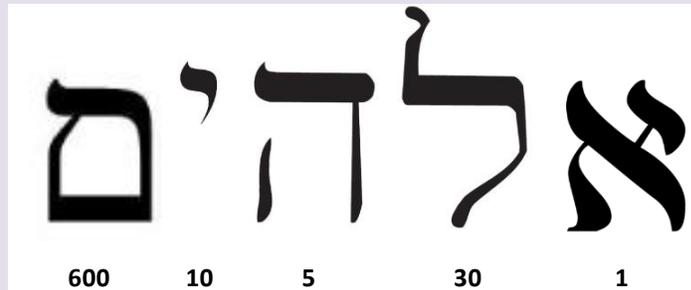
Here is the connection to the creation of the heavens and the earth. God made everything: he gave angels and men spirits and a place to dwell in peace and provision of all their needs. God is sufficient in himself: men and angels can offer nothing back he does not already have. Creation of the universe was an act of grace, coming out of a heart full of grace. This is the central essence and spirit of Elohim.



The letters of **Elohim** in a chiasm displays the centrality of Grace in the name **Elohim**. On the bottom row the sum of the numbers is **41** 'Man's Rules' (the selfish life): when Man is Ox [**Aleph**] we have spiritual defeat [**Sofit Mem**]. The sum of the row above it is **40** 'Spiritual Struggle' between 'Man's Rules' (**41**) below and 'Grace' (**5**) above. When the spirit of grace prevails the sum of the top two rows is **45** 'Preserved and Protected' and the sum of all rows is **86** 'Nations Worship'! When grace is defeated the sum of the bottom two rows is **81** 'Holy Angels': Satan's lie, you shall be like God! But you will not be like God, since God is Grace and there is no Grace in those four letters: only fighting over authority.

SOFIT INTERPRETATION

The last letter of ELOHIM is a **Sofit Mem**, i.e. it is a **Mem** in a different shape than the normal **Mem**³. As such, the **Sofit Mem** has a different value as seen below:



The story of the Hebrew letters also changes:

SACRIFICIAL OX ~ TRAIL OF BLOOD ~ GRACE ~ HAND OF GOD ~ ARMED FORCE

The spirit of Grace is central to God's being, but the **Sofit Mem** is telling us God is also the head of a mighty army. Jesus himself declared this:

“Think you that I cannot now pray to my Father, and he shall presently give me more than twelve legions of angels?” (Matt. 26:53)

A single angel slew an entire army in the days of Hezekiah:

“And it came to pass that night that the angel of the LORD went out, and smote in the camp of the Assyrians an hundred fourscore and five thousand: and when they arose early in the morning, behold, they were all dead corpses.” (1 Kings 19:35)

A Roman legion numbered between 4,000 and 5,000 troops and represented the dominant military force of its day. Twelve legions of angels would be a force of 48,000 to 60,000 angels: a mighty army to reckon with!

The lesson is this: it is within God's power to impose his will upon planet earth. But because of his spirit of Grace he prefers each man and woman and child to seek his kingdom, or divine authority in their life by faith. When a believer accepts Jesus as Savior, he follows in his Lord's footsteps: offering salvation to others by faith, not imposing it by force. The European Crusaders departed from the path of the lowly Jesus and conquered lands and peoples by military force in the name of Christ. European lands have been beset by conflicts ever since. Yes, Elohim will exercise his power in the last days and Jesus will return to earth in his second coming followed by a mighty army of angels. But until then, we do not take up the sword in Jesus' name.

³ For more information on Sofit letters, please see our paper on that topic on Page 22 HEBREW of our website.

The gematria of the name ELOHIM with the Sofit Mem is **646**. The number **646** is equal to **17 x 38**. The spiritual number **17** means 'Victory' and the spiritual number **38** means 'Lion'. So the number **646** means:

VICTORY (17) of the LION (38)

In case there is anyone out who believes there is something stronger than God, take a glance at the King of Beasts: the Lion. A male lion weighs 250 kilos (over 500 lbs). The fore part of the lion is so powerful it can break the back of a Zebra with one swipe of its paw. The claws of the lion are retractable, about 38 cm long (1.5 inches) and very sharp. The teeth of the lion are spaced so they can slip between the cervical vertebrae and sever the spinal cord with the first bite. A lion's roar can be heard 5 kilometers away and is so powerful it raises clouds of dust. The fury of a lion is not to be messed with.

Yes, a naked man could rouse an adult male lion to a fight. He would have more chance than a sinner shaking his fist at God.