

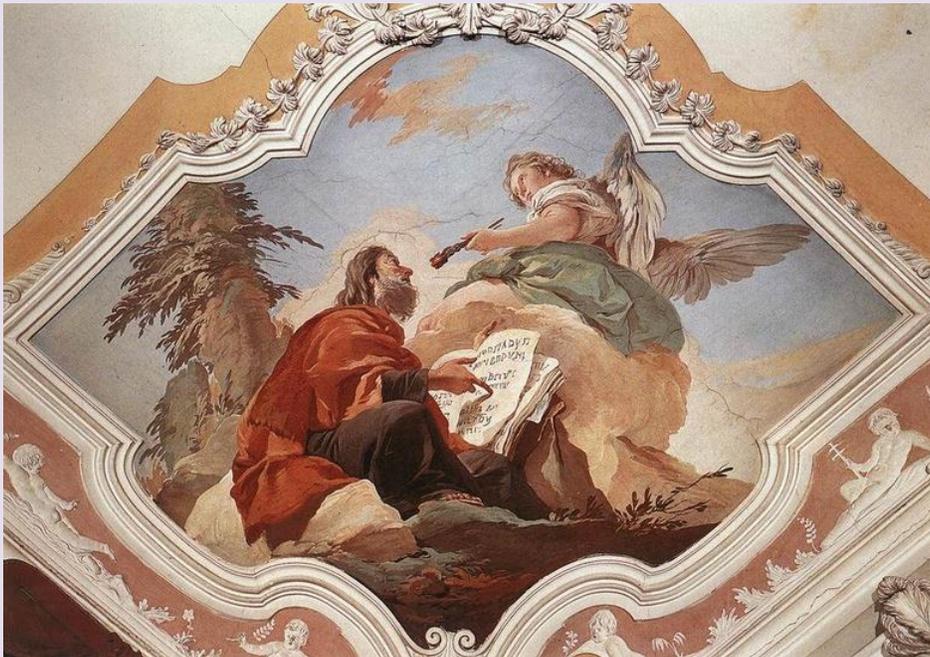
HIS HAND IS STILL UPRAISED

INTRODUCTION

Isaiah was a prophet of the LORD. He spoke accurately and in great detail concerning future events concerning the Messiah, Judah, Ephraim, and all the countries of his day both near and far. Isaiah had a vision of the LORD high and lifted up. But the fulfillment of his predictions seals his authenticity.

How did Isaiah see so clearly? How did the LORD inspire him? We demonstrate in this paper that Isaiah meditated on the meaning of Hebrew letters in words in the Torah and combined that with his knowledge of the spiritual meaning of numbers to reach conclusions and utter prophecies with authority concerning the plan of God through the ages. **Isaiah believed the entire future of the world was already written before it happened. He believed God wrote it in Hebrew in the Torah of Moses.** He meditated upon God's word and the Spirit of God spoke to him as he meditated on God's word.

Having Isaiah's prophecies and the spiritual meaning of numbers we can look at the Hebrew words Isaiah meditated upon and deduce how Isaiah was inspired. Let us approach the study of the meaning of Hebrew letters and their numerical values with the same awe of Isaiah, appreciating they contain within them the deep mysteries of the God of the Universe.



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To the Law and the Testimony!

If they do not speak according to this word they have no light of dawn!

¹ Giovanni Battista Tiepolo – painting in oil – the angel is touching the lips of Isaiah with burning coals he carries in tongs

THE EXILE OF EPHRAIM

Isaiah made a bold prediction of the decline and fall of the tribe of Ephraim and its eventual exile to Assyria. His words came on the footsteps of the alliance between Ephraim and Aram to attack Judah.

In Isaiah's first burden regarding Ephraim (chapter 7 and 8) he makes the following predictions:

- Within 65 years Ephraim will be too shattered to be a people (7:8) * note: 65 means 'apostasy'
- The King of Assyria will destroy both Aram and Ephraim (7:16)
- Ephraim will be no longer cultivated, she will be a wasteland full of briars and thorns (7:24)
- The King of Assyria will win his mighty victories because 'God is with him' (8:8)

Between the first burden and the second burden regarding Ephraim Isaiah inserts the prediction of the glorious Messiah who will be born in Judah and sit on David's throne and establish justice and righteousness forever (chapter 9:6-7).

In Isaiah's second burden Isaiah details all the sins of Ephraim that are the cause of her judgment and exile from the land. In the second burden Isaiah describes the four sins of Ephraim and uses the expression '**Yet for all this, His anger is not turned away, His hand is still upraised**' three times.

The four sins of Ephraim (chapter 9 and 10):

- *Arrogance and Pride* – not accepting that calamity comes from the hand of the LORD (9:9-10)
- *Rebellion* – will not return humbly to the LORD who punishes them (9:13)
- *Wickedness* – spreading like a grass fire that to great be put out (9:18)
- *Injustice and Oppression* – making widows a prey and robbing the fatherless (10:2)

Isaiah then turns to the King of Assyria and predicts his eventual downfall with these words: "**Woe to the Assyrian, the rod of my anger! In whose hands is the club of my wrath!**" (10:5). The King of Assyria falls because of the pride of his heart: "**Does the ax raise itself above him who swings it?**" (10:15)

We will look at each of the four sins of Ephraim and the punishment that goes with each sin. We will show how **Isaiah understood the sins and the punishments from studying the Hebrew letters** in the word 'Ephraim' and combining those letters with the spiritual meaning of numbers. **Numbers and letters are not a code – they require the inspiration of the Holy Spirit to fully illuminate.**

The spiritual meaning of numbers in the Bible is provided on our website: biblenumbersforlife.com. We are delighted to see Isaiah recognized and understood the same meaning of numbers when he interpreted their meanings as they pertained to the destiny of Ephraim as we display on the website!

God speaks in words and God speaks in number. Isaiah understood this and was so bold as to make predictions based on the numbers and the letters in the Hebrew name 'Ephraim' inscribed by Moses.

THE HEBREW NAME 'EPHRAIM'

According to the Hebrew spelling (read from right to left) here is the name 'Ephraim':



Here are the meanings of the letters in order:

One (Aleph) – Prays (Pey) – Head (Rosh) – Authority / Hand (Yod) – Spiritual Struggle (40)

It brings to mind Joseph his father who **prayed** (Pray) to his **head** (God) when he was thrown **alone** (one) into the pit by his brothers, who **struggled** (Spiritual Struggle) over **authority** (Yod) in the family.

The word 'Ephraim' in Hebrew means '**twice fruitful**'. Scripture says Joseph gave his second son that name, not just because he was the second son born to him, but "**because God made me forget all my trouble in my father's household**" (Gen. 41:52). Ephraim was born during the seven years of abundance. Ephraim's mother was Asenath, daughter of Potiphera, the priest of the pagan god 'On'.

The sum of the gematria values of the Hebrew letters in the name 'Ephraim' is **331**. The meaning of **331** is "**The LORD is my strength**". After coming out of Egypt, Ephraim had faith. But it did not last.

Ephraim is associated with **fruitfulness** (twice fruitful) and **material abundance** (seven years of plenty). Ephraim and Manasseh were blessed with fertile soil in their inheritances in the Promised Land.

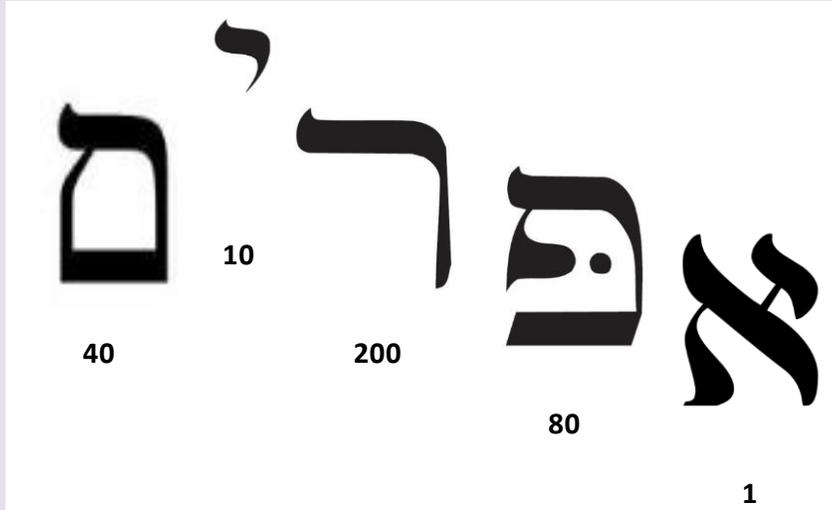
Ephraim is also associated with **pagan worship**. Ephraim was raised in Egypt (outside of any godly family influence) by a pagan mother - even worse, the daughter of a pagan priest. This was fulfilled in the tribe of Ephraim when it worshipped the **golden calf** in Samaria.

The tribe Ephraim is also associated with **struggling for authority** with his brothers. Ephraim led the rebellion against the Tribe of Judah in the division of the Northern and Southern Kingdoms. Ephraim complained that Solomon's taxes were too great. In truth, Ephraim had a **rebellious spirit** and did not wish to serve under the authority of a King from another tribe.

Concerning the prophetic meaning of Ephraim in the Bible we have published two papers which are available on the Prophecy page of our website: '[The Ephraim of God](#)' (A Type of the United States) and '[The Exile of Ephraim](#)' (The Fall of America). We supply abundant evidence to support our arguments.

JUDGMENT OF EPHRAIM

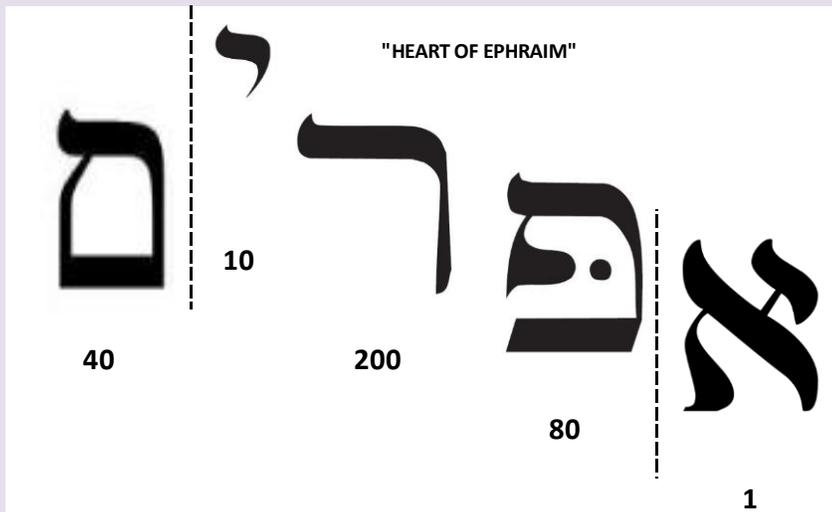
Isaiah uses the phrase ‘Yet for all this, His anger is not turned away, His hand is still upraised’. This is the key to unlocking the prophetic mystery. The diagram below shows the **hand (Yod)** upraised:



The first sin of Ephraim is **pride and arrogance**:

“All the people will know it- Ephraim and the inhabitants of Samaria – who say with **pride and arrogance of heart** ‘the bricks have fallen down... we will rebuild with dressed stone’” (9:9-10)

The diagram below shows the **heart of Ephraim** is **pride and arrogance**:



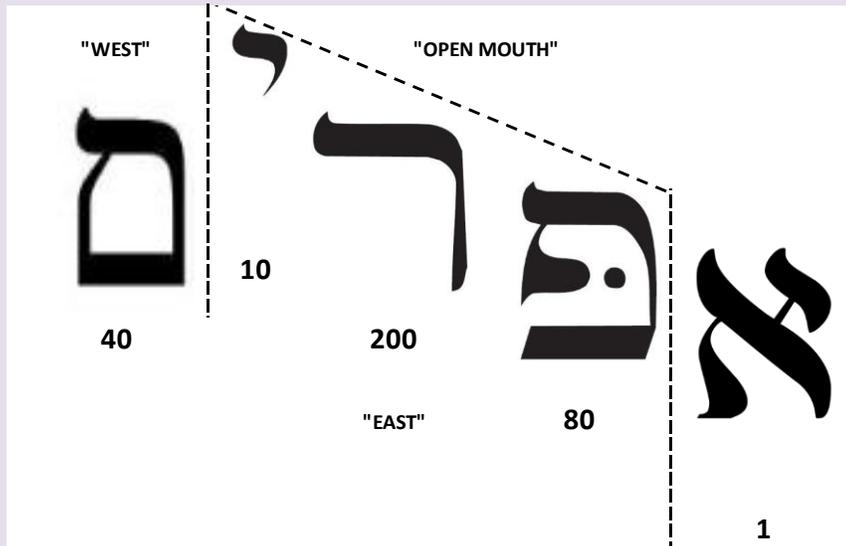
The spiritual number **290** (80+200+10) means “**Testimony**” (10) of the “**Holy One**” (29) [290 = 10 x 29]!

Ephraim is indeed very full of himself! He testifies that ‘**I am the holy one**’! Self-righteous!

The judgment of the sin of **Pride and Arrogance**:

“But the LORD has strengthened Rezin’s foes... and has spurred their enemies on. Arameans from the east and Philistines from the west have devoured Israel with open mouth.” (9:11-12)

The diagram shows **Ephraim is divided** into east and west, exactly where Yod faces:



The spiritual number 290 which stands for **Aram** can be interpreted as **“Weakness”** (5) of the **“Worldly Life”** (58) [290 = 5 x 58]. The capital of Aram was Damascus, which was the mercantile trading center for the whole Fertile Crescent, linking Israel to Tyre, to the Hittite Empire, and to Assyria.

The spiritual number 41, which stands for the **Philistines**, means **“Man’s Rules”** (41). The Philistines were brutes who despised God. They would not honor God’s Law. They lived by whatever was right in their own eyes. They were famous for excessive drinking, partying, and contests of strength.

Ephraim made an alliance with Aram to attack Judah. This was the great distress that produced the judgment of God upon Ephraim which Isaiah pronounced. Aram was the historic enemy of the people of God. Ephraim displayed its spiritual and moral decay by its willingness to enter into alliance with the known enemy Aram. What Ephraim did not suspect, but which God revealed through Isaiah, was that their ‘ally’ Aram would become their nemesis and devour them.

The **aggressive assertive nature of the Philistines** ensured no other nation could become their ally on an equal basis. But when the **Aramean love for material things and money** weakened the moral condition of Ephraim the Philistines were ready to take advantage and attack along the frontier.

More details on Aram and the Philistines and how they corrupted Ephraim are provided in our paper ‘Exile of Ephraim’ on the Prophecy page of our website.

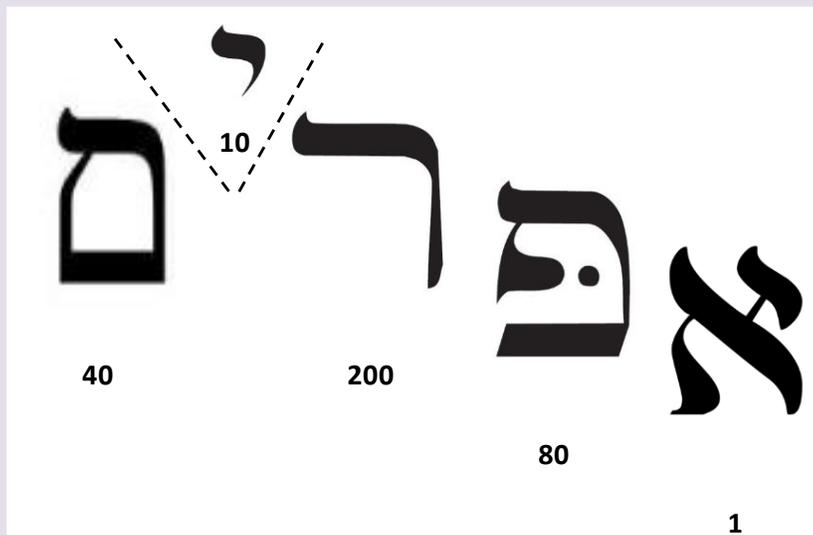
The second sin of Ephraim was “Rebellion”: (chapter 9 verses 12-17)

“Yet for all this, his anger is not turned away, **his hand is still upraised.**”

“But **the people have not returned to him that struck them**, nor have they sought the Almighty. So the Lord will **cut off from Israel both head and tail**, both **palm branch and reed** in a single day; the **elders and prominent men** are the head, the **prophets who teach lies** are the tail.”

“Therefore, the Lord will take **no pleasure in the young men, nor will he pity the fatherless and widows**, for everyone is ungodly and wicked, every mouth speaks vileness.”

The diagram below shows Ephraim resisting **the hand of God**, signified by the **Yod**, which strikes them but is not able to humble them:

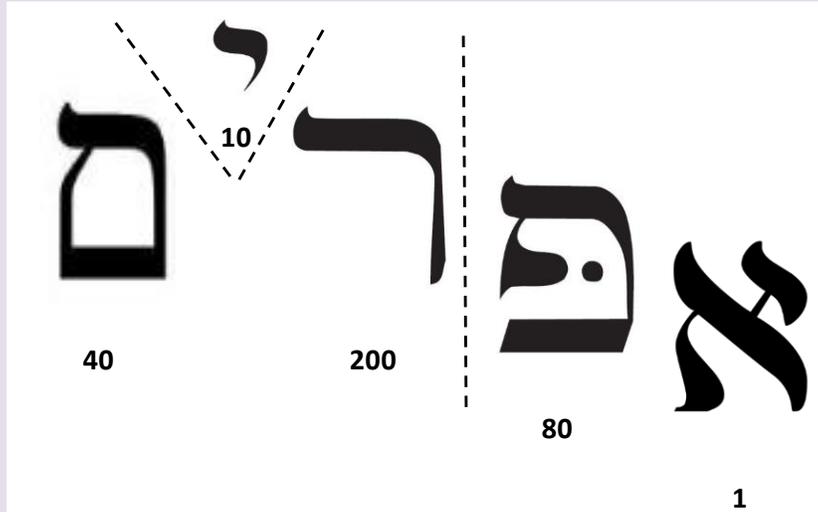


The spiritual numbers support what the picture is saying. The spiritual number 321 means “**Evil replaces Good**” [321 = 40 + 200 + 80 + 1]. In the 321st chapter of the Bible (2 Kings 8) the wicked Hazael of Aram murdered the sickly king (Ben-Hadad) by smothering him with a wet blanket in his bed. In the same chapter wicked Jehoram replaced saintly Jehoshaphat as king of Judah. Jehoram walked in the ways of the kings of Israel. During Jehoram’s reign the Edomites rebelled and Jehoram had no power to resist them. We could also put it this way: ‘**Everything goes from bad to worse**’.

Ephraim did not return to Jehovah when he brought calamity. Ephraim would not humble herself to even seek the LORD to investigate what sin she had committed that would bring the judgment of God.

Ephraim misunderstands fatherhood. The father is there to discipline. The father is also there to protect. Ephraim rejects the authority (**Yod**) of God as father. Therefore God removes his protection.

The diagram below illustrates the judgment of God for the **sin of rebellion** in Ephraim:



The spiritual number **240** means “**Holy Things Lost**” [240 = 40 + 200]. This represents the ‘tail’ of Ephraim or the ‘**Prophets Who Teach Lies**’. In the diagram Ephraim has turned away from God, with her ‘head’, indicated by the Aleph (1) since Ephraim believes in her mind she is number one, furthest away from the **Yod**, representing the authority of God. In this very offensive posture, **Ephraim has positioned her tail right in the face of God!** Ephraim is likened to a heifer in Scripture, therefore in this posture when the tail wags God smells nothing good! The population follows the priests in verbalizing that which is abhorrent to God: “**the vileness every mouth speaks**”. Therefore God cuts off the false teachers from Ephraim. Historically **the men of Ephraim lost all respect for their spiritual teachers.**

The spiritual number **91** means “**Wicked Judged**” [91 = 10 + 80 + 1]. The **leading men**, represented by the Aleph (1), and the **elders**, represented by the Pey (80), have their **authority**, represented by Yod (10), **taken away**, represented by the separation of the Yod from the Aleph and Pey.

We see the deteriorated condition of Ephraim even before the judgment of God strikes. In a godly nation **the elders ought to be praying** (Hebrew letter ‘Pey’ signifies prayer) and setting the spiritual atmosphere for the nation. However, in the diagram what we see is the **elders falling in line behind the king**, the foremost leader of the nation, indicated by the Aleph (1). This is the wrong way around. The king of the nation ought to be respecting the elders and consulting them for their godly guidance before leading the nation. Not in Ephraim! No fear of God in Ephraim! No respect for elders in Ephraim! How can a man who rejects authority be a leader and demand from the people submission to his authority? It is impossible. And so, **the people of Ephraim despise their leaders and elders as much as the king despises the council of the elders of his people.** There is never a blessing from rejecting the authority of God, which is where the whole problem began. The prophets of Ephraim taught lies and led the nation away from sincere and pure devotion to Jehovah.

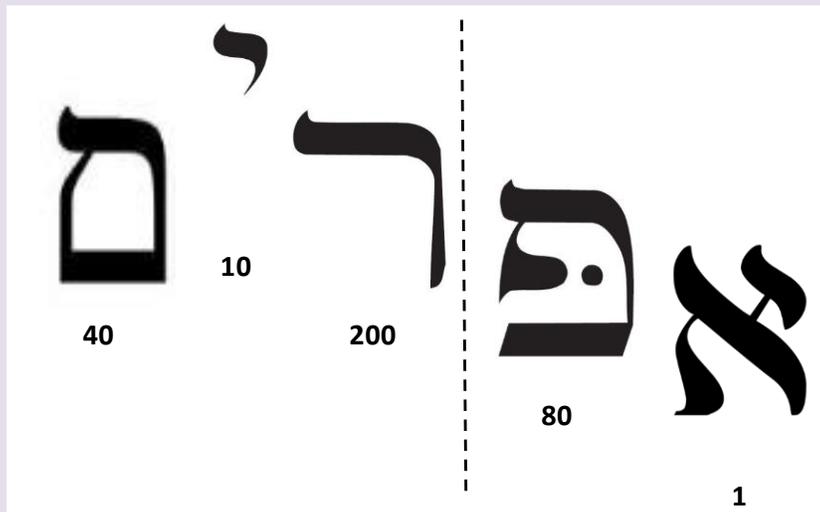
The third sin of Ephraim was **Wickedness**: (chapter 9 verses 17-21)

“Yet for all this, his anger is not turned away, **his hand is still upraised**”

“**Surely wickedness burns like a fire**; it consumes briars and thorns, it sets the forest thickets ablaze so that it rolls upward in a column of smoke.”

“By the wrath of the LORD Almighty **the land will be scorched** and the **people will be fuel** for the fire; **no one will spare his brother.**”

The diagram below illustrates how wickedness and fire burn up Ephraim:



The spiritual number **250** means ‘**Devouring Fire**’ [250 = 40 + 10 + 200]. The number **40** means ‘**Spiritual Struggle**’. The Hebrew letter ‘**Mem**’ (40) looks like a **field with a thorn** sticking out. There is no spiritual water there because the people resist God. Without water the field turns to weeds that inflict painful wounds on the passers-by: briars and thorns. God, by his authority ‘**Yod**’, sets this field of wicked rebels ablaze! The Hebrew letter ‘**Yod**’ looks like a **match or a torch**. The result is the smoke of this burning blaze rises in a column of black smoke and covers the land with darkness. Notice how the Hebrew letter ‘**Rosh**’ looks like a **column with a canopy covering the earth!**

While the fire is devouring the wicked of the earth, what is happening to the families who are left? The remaining two letters in Ephraim are Aleph and Pey, whose spiritual value is **81** (1 + 80). The number **81** is equal to: **50 ‘Purify’ + 31 ‘Family’**. The number **50** is equal to: 2 x 25, which can be translated ‘**Division**’ (2) of ‘**Forgiveness of Sins**’ (25) or it could be translated ‘**Show no mercy**’. By this logic Isaiah is inspired to say ‘**no one will spare his brother**’. In other words, as the wicked people in Ephraim, the **briars and thorns**, are destroying one another the violence spills over into the **holy families**, and they turn on one another and devour each other as well. Why **holy families**? The spiritual number **81** (1 + 80) means ‘**Angels**’. A brother should treat a brother with respect, as if he were an angel of God.

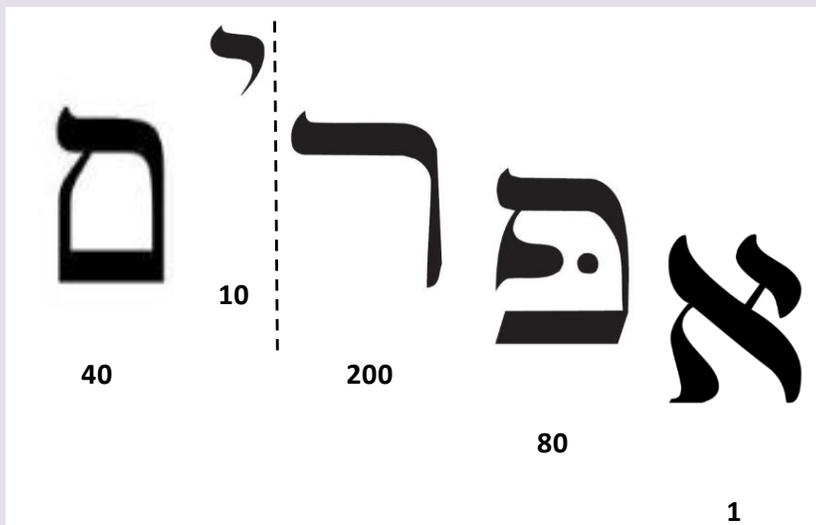
The fourth sin of Ephraim is **Injustice and Oppression** (chapter 9 verse 21 to chapter 10 verse 4)

“Yet for all this, his anger is not turned away, **his hand is still upraised.**”

“Woe to those who make **unjust laws**, to those who issue **oppressive decrees**, to deprive the poor of their rights and rob my oppressed people of justice, making **widows their prey** and **robbing the fatherless.**”

“What will you do on the day of reckoning, when **disaster comes to you from afar**? To whom will you run for help? Where will you **leave your riches**? Nothing will remain for you but to **cringe among the captives** or **fall among the slain.**”

The diagram below illustrates the sin of **Injustice and Oppression** in Ephraim:

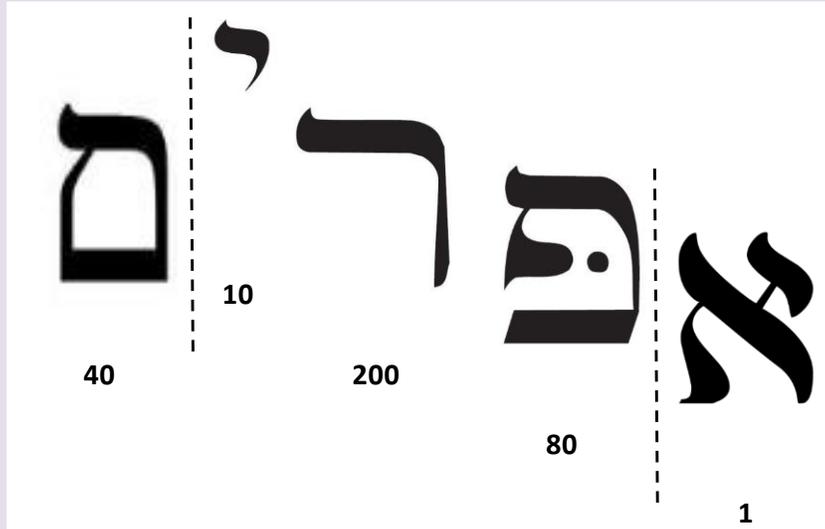


The spiritual number 281 means “**Justice Denied**” [281 = 1 + 80 + 200]. If we read the Hebrew letters starting from the right (as they would be read in Hebrew) they say:

He Who Is Alone (Aleph) – **Prays** (Pey) – {thrown to} **Lion’s Mouth** (Resh)

Who are **orphans and widows**? Are they not the least vulnerable members of society? Are they not alone – meaning they have **no family to help them**? And **who do they pray to**? Is it not the authority in the land, the king, represented by the **Yod**? But, as we see in the diagram, the **Yod is turned away**, facing the **Mem**, which signifies ‘spiritual struggle’. **The king is occupied** with other struggles, other priorities in the kingdom. And so the **ones who are alone** are **thrown into the mouth of the lion** (Resh) to be torn limb from limb and destroyed.

The punishment of Ephraim for the sin of Injustice and Oppression is displayed below:



The spiritual number 290 can be translated “**Day of Reckoning**”. The number 290 is equal to 2 x 145, which means: ‘**Division**’ (2) of ‘**Full of Compassion**’ (145). In other words, God will exercise **compassionate restraint no more**. The time for judgment has come.

The three groups of people who comprise the leadership of the country come under the judgment:

- **Yod**: The ultimate **authority** of the land, **the king**
- **Resh**: The powerful **lions** in the land – **the rich** ²
- **Pey**: The influential **elders** of the land – **the noblemen**

The rich and powerful devoured the widows and orphans. Now God will devour them! They will be like widows and orphans: **Alone (Aleph)** “**who will help you?**” and **Poor and Struggling** “**where will you leave your riches?**” (the riches of ancient Ephraim were the fields – the **Mem**).³

The remnant of Ephraim after the king, the rich, and the elders are devoured is represented by the **Aleph** and **Mem** in the diagram. These two letters have a combined numeric value **41** since Aleph has a value of **1** and Mem has a value of **40**. The number **41** can be written: **41** is equal to **23** plus **18**. Here is the inspiration of the prophet Isaiah who said “**nothing will be left for you**” (the remnant **Aleph** and **Mem**) “**except to cringe among the captives**” (the number **18** means ‘**Bondage**’ or ‘**Prison**’) “**or fall among the slain**” (the number **23** means ‘**Death**’)!

² Note the similarity in pronunciation between ‘Resh’ and ‘Rich’!

³ The author is a farmer. We understand why ‘struggle’ and ‘field’ have the same meaning! But God pronounced to Adam: ‘you will toil by the sweat of your brow but the fields will produce for you weeds and thorns’ (paraphrased).

EPILOGUE

Dear reader, you have come to the completion of our exposition on the prophecy of Isaiah concerning the decline, fall, and exile of Ephraim.

Is there any doubt in your mind that the prophecy of Isaiah came through the inspiration of God as he meditated on the Hebrew letters in the word 'Ephraim'?

Is there any doubt that Isaiah was a student of the knowledge of Bible numbers and used his understanding of their meanings to help him piece together his prophecy?

Is there any doubt that God had encrypted a message concerning the future of the tribe of Ephraim in the distant future from the day their forefather was born and named by his mother?

We pray these truths encourage your heart. God knows the end from the beginning so that all men will fear him.

We also hope you will renounce the sins of Ephraim in your own life so that you may follow the LORD and live in his blessing.

Selah