SAMPLE ONLY - Copyright 2025 - Defender Publishing and Messiah of Israel Ministries - NO PREPRODUCTION ALLOWED

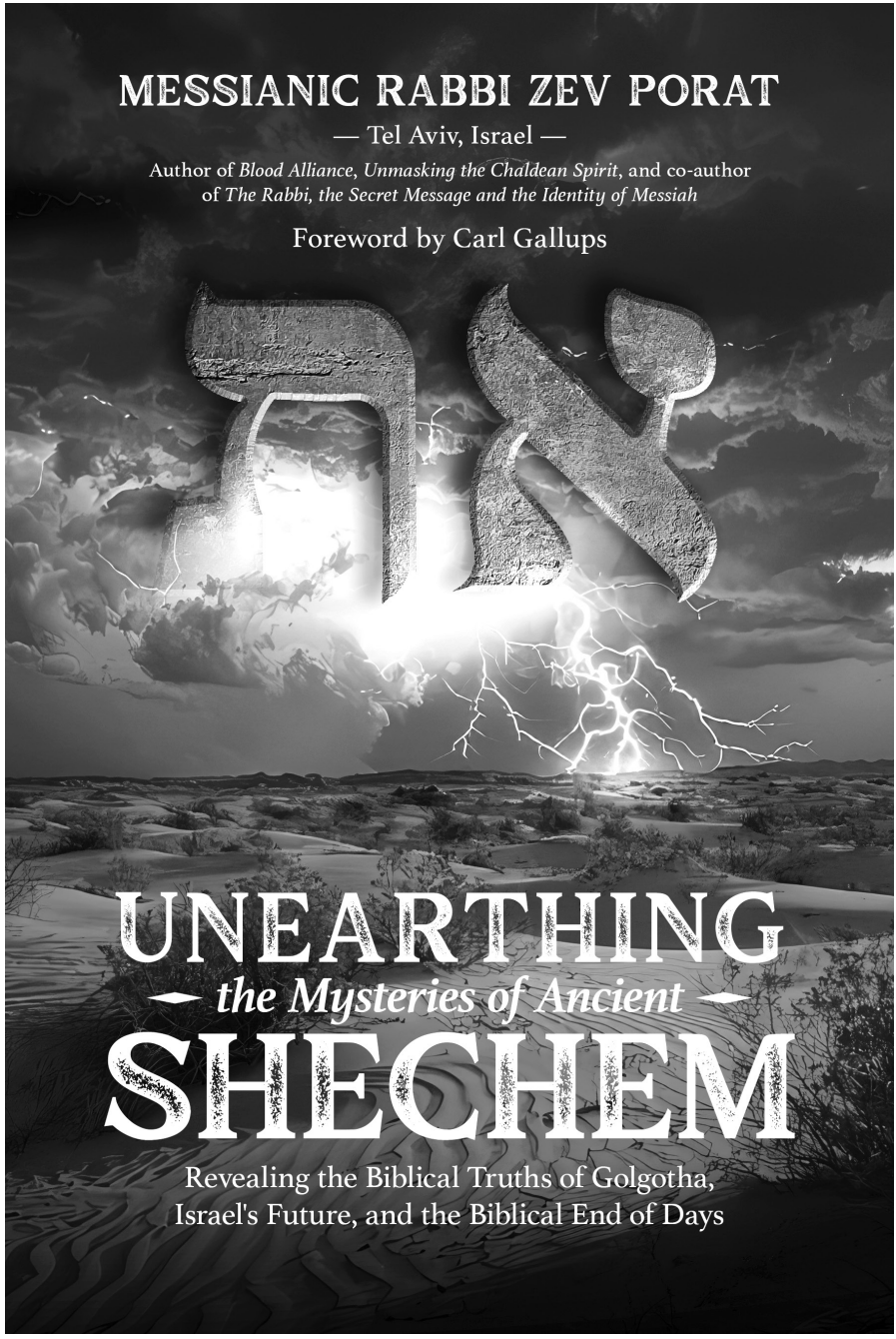
UNEARTHING
the Mysteries of Ancient
SHECHEM

Books by Messianic Rabbi Zev Porat
Defender Publishing

Blood Alliance

Unmasking the Chaldean Spirit

The Rabbi, the Secret Message, and the Identity of Messiah
(co-authored with Carl Gallups)



DEFENDER
CRANE, MO

Unearthing the Mysteries of Ancient Shechem:
Revealing the Hidden Truths of Golgotha, Israel's Future, and the Biblical End of Days

Messianic Rabbi Zev Porat

Defender Publishing, Crane, MO 65633

© 2026 Defender Publishing

All Rights Reserved. Published 2026.

Printed in the United States of America.

ISBN: 3: 9781948014977

A CIP catalog record of this book is available from the Library of Congress.

Cover design: Jeffrey Mardis.
Interior design: Katherine Lloyd.
Editor: Angie Peters

Unless otherwise indicated, all Scripture quotations are from The ESV® Bible

(The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Hebrew translations of the English New Testament that are taken from the Greek New Testament are derived from the Delitzsch Hebrew New Testament.[1]

I make known the end from the beginning, from ancient times, what is still to come.

Remember the former things, those of long ago; I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me. I make known the end from the beginning, from ancient times, what is still to come. I say: My purpose will stand, and I will do all that I please.… I am bringing my righteousness near, it is not far away; and my salvation will not be delayed. I will grant salvation to Zion, my splendor to Israel. (Isaiah 46:9–10, 13; NIV)

SAMPLE ONLY - Copyright 2025 - Defender Publishing and Messiah of Israel Ministries - NO PREPRODUCTION ALLOWED

CONTENTS

Foreword xi

Part One

YAHWEH'S SECRET THINGS

1 The Message Within the Names 3
2 Hidden Treasures 5
3 The Revealing 8
4 The Name 11
5 The Golgotha Codes 14
6 First and Last 16
7 Mere Coincidence? 19
8 The King's Wrath 22
9 Shouting Rocks 24
10 The Apple of His Eye 27

Part Two

SHECHEM'S SECRET

11 Shechem's Significance 33
12 Abraham in Shechem 35
13 Important Characters of Shechem 39
14 My Journey to Shechem 42
15 What's in a Name? 45
16 Everlasting Dominion 48
17 Light in the Darkness 51
18 The Joshua Connection 54
19 Can This Really Be? 57

20 Shechem's Golgotha 59
21 For the Cynics and Naysayers 63

Part Three
THE MESSAGE

22 His Face 67
23 His Back 72
24 The Serpent in the Wilderness 76
25 A Nighttime Conference 79
26 He Became Our Sin 81
27 The Mystery Set Forth in Christ 84
28 The Criminals 86

Part Four
YAHWEH COMES BACK TO SHECHEM

29 The Outcast 93
30 The First to Hear It 96
31 The Evidence Builds 99
32 Sychar's Paleo-Golgotha 101

Part Five
WHO ARE THEY?

33 The 144,000 107
34 The Sons of Israel 110
35 The Israel of God 113
36 The Seal 115
37 The One New Man 120
38 It Has Always Been So 122
39 The Sign of the Cross 126
40 Rounding Out the Edges 130
41 Grafted Into the Olive Tree 133
42 The Mystery of the Unique List 135
43 The Message Within the Names 138

Part Six
THE RELEVANCY

44 Sanctification 145
45 A Matter of Choosing 148
46 The Difference 150

Part Seven
MY TESTIMONY

47 Beginnings 155
48 The Night of Reckoning 160
49 The Supernatural Week 163
50 The Birth of a Ministry 165

About the Author 167
Endnotes 169

FOREWORD

Messianic Rabbi Zev Porat is divinely blessed! I say that because he consistently receives what I call "amazing downloads from God's throne."

Zev's knowledge of God's Word and His love of preaching and teaching the things Yahweh/Yeshua has revealed to him are uncanny. This book is certainly no exception to that pattern. In fact, this is perhaps the first time several mysteries he has unearthed have been exposed anywhere—by anyone. You'll be mesmerized by much of what you'll read and discover within these pages.

I've been blessed to be affiliated with Rabbi Zev and his Messiah of Israel Ministries for well over a decade. Together, we've written a best-selling book—*The Rabbi, the Secret Message, and the Identity of Messiah* (Defender Publishing, 2018). We also frequently appear on media interviews, participate in Bible and prophecy conferences, and teach and preach at large assemblies of God's people within various congregational settings.

Also, the two of us regularly exchange ideas and revelations we've uncovered in our independent scholastic research of God's Word. Each of us is often surprised to find out what the other has uncovered in the Scriptures, as revealed by the Holy Spirit. Iron really does sharpen iron!

In fact, several of my own books include excerpts, or even entire chapters, that Rabbi Zev graciously provided. I've been honored to make similar contributions to some of his work as well. As a matter of fact, even in certain portions of this volume, Zev mentions a few of those collaborative efforts that led us to gems of discovery.

In the following pages, Zev will relate some of his intriguing and undoubtedly supernatural background. So, I won't do that here. But the

bottom line is this: Because of his unique legacy and command of the Hebrew language and the Word of God as a whole, your understanding of the Scriptures will be tremendously enhanced as you pore over these pages. Not only that, but what you learn as you read might compel you to stop every now and then to simply *worship* Yeshua!

Several of the supernatural manifestations Zev will share with you through stunning illustrations are, without exaggeration, simply awe-inspiring! This is one book you won't regret spending the time to read. I know what I'm talking about, because when he asked me to write the foreword, I first read the entire manuscript. I was bowled over by what I learned, and by how much it further sharpened my understanding of Yahweh's plan of the ages.

You will be, too. You can count on it!

Carl Gallups

Part One

YAHWEH'S SECRET THINGS

I will give you the treasures of darkness,[2] riches stored in secret places, so that you may know that I am the Lord, the God of Israel, who summons you by name. (Isaiah 45:3, NIV)

SAMPLE ONLY - Copyright 2025 - Defender Publishing and Messiah of Israel Ministries - NO PREPRODUCTION ALLOWED

— 1 —

THE MESSAGE WITHIN THE NAMES

I was born and raised in the most Orthodox community in the world, Bnai Brak.

This book will be quite unlike any other you've read. You'll be the ultimate judge of that claim, of course. But even before you reach the end, I believe you will agree.

The revelations you'll discover within these pages come straight from the Word of God and are supported by linguistic facts and well-known distinctions of the Hebrew language. They are also proven by topographical observations in the satellite-mapped terrain of Israel, as well as by various historical and archaeological proofs surrounding the plain text of the biblical narrative.

A few of these insights have long ago been uncovered, but to this day are seldom taught among God's people. Still others are *just now* being exposed through our latest communication and information technological wonders. I'm honored to be your guide in this biblical excursion, as together we unearth several astounding secrets of God.

Who I Am

Briefly, I am from an ultra-Orthodox rabbinical Hebrew family in Israel. That's also why I was born and raised in the most Orthodox Jewish community in the world, Bnai Brak. At a young age, I had several years of

unique educational and ministerial opportunities when I accompanied my father, a renowned rabbi, on his extended ministry travels in the United States. Because of my upbringing, I speak, read, and write in Hebrew as my first language. However, I'm also gifted to be able to speak fluent English.

Several decades ago, I was born again in *Yeshua HaMashiach*. When that happened, my Orthodox family disowned me. So did many of my friends and business associates. On top of that, as soon as my faith in Yeshua was made apparent, my family disinherited me. But Yeshua had not disowned or disinherited me—and, after all these years, I know He never will!

I am the founder of Messiah of Israel Ministries,[3] which, over several decades, has become a globally recognized ministry with a gigantic heart for reaching the Jewish people in the land of Israel and leading them to a personal relationship with their long-awaited Messiah—Yeshua. Our ministry is unlimited in that we reach Jews and non-Jews around the world, all for the glory of Yahweh.

If you've read my previous books, you probably recall several details concerning the story of my life and my surrender to *Yeshua HaMashiach* as my Lord, King, and Savior. (If you aren't familiar with that account, I urge you to read it in part seven of this book, "My Testimony").

Obviously, it's up to you whether you read that account. It's certainly not necessary for you to do so in order to enjoy this book. But I have provided it so that when you see the incredible unveilings in the next pages, you'll be much less likely to shake your head and mumble, "Who is this guy? What's his story?"

In the meantime, as we begin our journey together, let me say, *toda rabah*, a Hebrew phrase that translates to, "Thank you, so very much!" I truly am grateful you are joining me on this excursion.

Now…it begins.

2

HIDDEN TREASURES

Those kinds of stunning discoveries are meant to unfold some of the deepest and most wondrous mysteries of all.

Upon examining the *surface text* of God's Word, we often discover eternal truths that carry with them eye-opening revelations that frequently have immediate and divine application to our personal journey. After all, that's why the Holy Spirit of Yahweh gave us His Word in the first place.

Those surface-level truths of His Word are indeed waiting to be discovered and applied—and they always have been. But they're only found if we diligently search for them as we sincerely seek Yahweh's heart and His characteristic desire to reveal Himself to us.

Of course, the Bible's surface text alone is inexhaustibly deep. We could spend a lifetime exploring it, yet continually find fresh words of inspiration, encouragement, conviction, or knowledge. The Word of God even *instructs* us to dig into its pages with that goal in mind:

> Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth. (2 Timothy 2:15)

Concealed to Be Revealed

However, most intriguing to many of us are the times when we discover *intentionally hidden* riches of Yahweh's Holy knowledge. Sometimes these prove to be truths we had not even imagined existed. Those instances are specific matters our Creator sets before us so we might search them out as He whispers to our hearts the clues of how they can be found.

Those kinds of stunning discoveries are intended to disclose some of the most wondrous mysteries of all. And they *always* connect directly to the surface text of His Word. Not only does this experience profoundly renew our awe of the Scriptures, but it also reminds us that the Creator Himself is working directly *with* us, and *in* us, and that He loves us and wants us to know Him more intimately than ever. Within the pages that follow, we'll focus on several such mystery-laden scriptural gems.

> From now on I will tell you of **new things,** of **hidden things unknown to you.** They are created now, and not long ago; **you have not heard of them before today**. So you cannot say, "Yes, I knew of them." (Isaiah 48:6–7, NIV; emphasis added)

The Hunt

Let's compare this truth to an earthly example. Let's say a father plans to surprise his beloved children with special gifts—perhaps gifts they never imagined exist. But the father first hides the items and then encourages his children to search for them, like in a scavenger hunt.

The father plans the pursuit of the hidden treasures to train his children to be diligent and overcome difficulties as they try to find what their dad desires for them to discover. When the children finally locate the gifts, they squeal with delight as their awe of and love for their father grows ever deeper.

The Word of God assures us that our Heavenly Father, Creator, and Savior has done something similar for us. He does it so our love for Him and His Word continues to surge within the depths of our souls.

> **The secret things belong to the Lord** our God, but **the things that are revealed belong to us** and to **our children** forever, that we may do all the words of this law. (Deuteronomy 29:29, emphasis added)[4]

When we unearth those "hidden" treasures and begin to understand their valuable relevance to our own identity in Him, our lives become much richer—despite the amount of time we spend exploring. Similarly, throughout the pages of this book, we'll search for and uncover several of those types of treasures.

3

THE REVEALING

What happened next revealed what was truly hidden.

Over the next several chapters, I will present three well-known examples of the "hidden" things I've been hinting about. Sometimes these marvelous disclosures are found within the deeper surface text of God's Word itself. But other times they are discovered in the geographical terrain of Israel—unarguably biblical ground zero.[5]

At still other times, buried mysteries are unveiled within specific *letter images* formed supernaturally from the Paleo-Hebrew alphabet, the most ancient form of the Hebrew letters.[6] This was the language used to write the original text of the Old Testament, from Genesis to Malachi. And believe it or not, there are times when those earliest Hebrew letter shapes reveal a literal biblical picture of one of the most renowned events in the entire story of humanity! You'll soon see some of them for yourself.

The three examples of these kinds of revelations I'll outline in the next several chapters are becoming increasingly recognized among a number of God's people, especially in the midst of our biblically prophetic times. This is largely being accomplished through the advent of technology that powers the daily information and communication services of our world. That technological ability is in fact a biblically predicted phenomenon; one that has come to pass only in our lifetime.

The Scroll of Esther

Our first example comes from the surface text of the book of Esther, one of the Jewish people's most beloved books in the Tanakh (Old Testament). The name of the book, in Hebrew, is *Megillat Esther* (the scroll of Esther). However, it is commonly called the *Megillah* (pronounced "Meh-GEEL-ah"). That word is often translated in English as "the scroll"; however, it also carries the nuanced meaning found in the phrase, "What is hidden will be revealed."[7]

Of course, in the book of Esther, the link to "what is hidden will be revealed" obviously has something to do with the King of Persia's right-hand official, an infamous man named Haman. If you've read that account, you will remember that Haman became filled with a demonic spirit and devised a secret plan to kill all the Jewish people throughout the Persian Empire.

What Haman didn't know was that the relatively new queen of Persia was a Jewish woman whose Hebrew name was *Hadassah*. Her name had been changed to the Persian "Esther." After Esther uncovered Haman's plot (the book of Esther lays out the details), she arranged for her husband, the king, along with Haman, to join her at a royal dinner party. Haman, in his arrogance and pride, assumed the king and queen wished to honor him. Instead, he was in for a divinely ordained surprise—and not a good one.

What happened next revealed what was "truly hidden": Haman had already arranged to hang a prominent Jewish man named Mordecai on the gallows he had ordered to be built for that very occasion. Unbeknownst to Haman, Mordecai was Esther's cousin who had adopted her when she was orphaned as a small child.

Esther revealed to the king that Haman was planning to destroy "her people" in his raging hatred for the Jewish population. With this previously unknown information, the king also became enraged. He subsequently ordered Haman to be hanged on his own gallows. So, the formerly "hidden" information was quickly and starkly revealed, prompting Haman's demise.

An intriguing detail often mentioned about the book of Esther is that nowhere within its text is the literal and sacred Name of Yahweh mentioned. However, many astute students of the Word understand that the *essence* of His Name and presence are in fact there. That unspoken theme runs throughout the narrative.

There is a great deal of speculation among Jewish and Christian scholars alike concerning the presence of God's Name in Esther. One of the most predominant lines of thinking is that the book of Esther highlights the queen's courage and indicates the depth of her trust in God's seemingly hidden presence. Those scholars attest that *He is with us*—even if we can't directly identify His presence. That view is certainly a powerful and biblically plausible possibility. In fact, if we search carefully, knowing something about the Hebrew language, then we discover the truth: His name literally *is* there, in the text!

How can this be? Shouldn't it have been impossible for people *not* to see Yahweh's Name during all these centuries?

In the next chapter, we'll find the answer.

– 4 –

THE NAME

This phenomenon has always been a part of God's plan for His Word.

SAMPLE ONLY - Copyright 2025 - Defender Publishing and Messiah of Israel Ministries - NO PREPRODUCTION ALLOWED

"Yahweh" (pronounced "Yah-way")[8] is the most-often used name for God in the entire Old Testament, appearing almost seven thousand times. Its meaning is defined by Yahweh Himself in Exodus 34:5–7:

> And the Lord descended in a cloud, stood with him there, and proclaimed His name, the Lord. Then the Lord passed in front of Moses and called out: "The Lord, the Lord God, is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in loving devotion and faithfulness, maintaining loving devotion to a thousand generations forgiving iniquity, transgression, and sin.
>
> "Yet He will by no means leave the guilty unpunished;
>
> "He will visit the iniquity of the fathers on their children and grandchildren to the third and fourth generations." (BSB)

In Hebrew, Yahweh is spelled *Yud-heh-waw-heh*, reading from right to left as Hebrew is written:

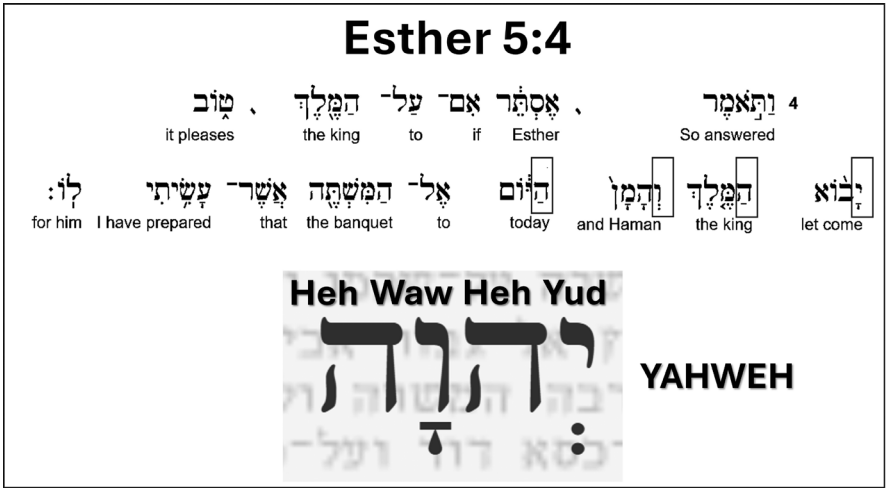
This spelling of Yahweh's name is indeed found in Esther 5:4, a very prominent place.[9] It is hidden there in plain sight, but only if one knows the most frequently used Hebrew name for God (Yahweh) and looks diligently for it in the often-employed Hebrew writing style of *acrostic* formatting. No fewer than fifteen chapters in the Old Testament feature acrostic scripting, so this is not an uncommon phenomenon.[10]

The Decree

Let's now examine the words in which "Yahweh" is encoded in the Hebrew text of Esther.

> And Esther said, "If it please the king, **let the king and Haman come today** to a feast that I have prepared for the king." (Esther 5:4, emphasis added)

In the Hebrew style of writing, that boldfaced text reads: "Let come the King and Haman today." In the next illustration, you can see God's Name for yourself. Reading right to left, the first letter of each of the four Hebrew words spells Yahweh: *yud, heh, waw, heh*. What a *treasure-find!*



Those words aren't found in some accidental or coincidental place, either. The banquet/meeting (to which the four words apply) would

prove to be the setting for the moment of truth that illustrated just how evil Haman's heart had become and what he was plotting to do. There, at that gathering, the mighty judgment of Yahweh Himself would fall upon Haman. In the phrase spoken by Esther, "Let the king and Haman come today," we find the acrostic Name of Yahweh, proving He is always working in the lives of His faithful servants for the good of His people and His plans for the ages. That's the central point of the book of Esther, the *Megillah: What is hidden will be revealed*.

It's also fascinating to consider that the Persian name "Esther" is derived from the Hebrew word *hester,* which means "hiddenness."[11] Not only was Esther's identity as a Jewish woman largely *hidden* from the masses, but in due time she would also become the one whom Yahweh would use to *reveal* Haman's vile plan and thwart his plot. Very literally, what had been hidden *would* be revealed!

This fascinating and vital part of *what was hidden* has now been unveiled. That phenomenon had always been a part of God's plan for His Word. It had been there in the surface text all along, in plain sight, especially for those with "eyes to see."

> He gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to the discerning.
> He reveals deep and hidden things. (Daniel 2:21–22, NIV)

As we travel further into our exploration, I pray it will be a great blessing of uncanny discoveries that will strengthen your relationship with your creator *Yeshua HaMashiach.* But there's still another example that we must investigate. Not only is it a treasure trove of magnificence, but it is a truth we will come back to several times, unfurling additional long-hidden revelations of *ancient Shechem.*

5

THE GOLGOTHA CODES

From the origin of the Paleo-Hebrew alphabet, each of its twenty-two letters has an attached meaning or ideogram.

We find yet another fascinating illustration of God's secret messages, treasures, and divine confirmations of His Word in the iconic *aleph-tav* Golgotha images. The *aleph* is the first letter of the Hebrew alphabet and the *tav* is the last.

Pastor Carl Gallups, my ministry partner and very good friend since 2014, is the author of the bestselling books *The Yeshua Protocol*, *Eyes to See*, and *Golgotha's Groaning,* along with many others.[12] He has joined me in researching the depths of the phenomenon we'll only lightly explore here. It is a divine marvel found from the first verse of Genesis to the last verses of Revelation.[13]

The imagery Carl has uncovered is proven to have been divinely encoded in the Word of God. There are simply too many images for them to be a mere coincidence, especially considering that the images are exactly where they logically should be found.

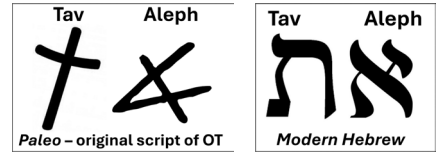
Following are a few examples of what I'm talking about.[14] These have obviously been concealed within the Word of God from the beginning, but they are just now being unveiled and transmitted around the world. To make certain you fully understand what you will be looking at, let me first lay a bit of groundwork.

The Golgotha Connection

People who don't speak, read, or write Hebrew most likely wouldn't know anything about what I am getting ready to disclose. The fact is the Hebrew language possesses an important grammar pointer that's called an "accusative-case grammar marker." The accusative case is primarily used for direct objects, the recipients of the verbs' actions. In English, the pronoun case (objective case) corresponds to the accusative-case grammar marker that is found in almost fifty other languages of the world.[15]

In Hebrew, the accusative grammar marker is a singular Hebrew word placed throughout the text of the Old Testament more than eleven thousand times. That means, on average, we find ten or eleven of these markers on every page of the Tanakh.

The *marker* is a word (one not spoken or written in English translations of the Hebrew) pointing the verb of a sentence to the object of that verb. That word is usually represented in English as the *et* or *eth* (pronounced "et" in Hebrew). The *et* is made up of only two Hebrew letters, the *aleph* and the *tav*.



From the earliest days of the Paleo-Hebrew alphabet usage, each of the twenty-two letters in that alphabet also had an attached meaning, or ideogram. In 2013, *Haaretz*, one of Israel's premier internationally circulated news publications, featured an article titled, "In the Beginning: The Origins of the Hebrew Alphabet." Following is what that piece disclosed about the letter "meanings" of the ancient (as well as the Modern) Hebrew:

> Four elements distinguish the Hebrew alphabet from others…. **Third**, the names of **the Hebrew letters have meanings** [ideas] in the Hebrew language. That doesn't actually matter when writing or reading, but it is nice to know.[16] (Emphasis added)

Armed with the preceding information, in the next chapter we'll plunge even deeper into cracking the supernatural Golgotha codes.

6

FIRST AND LAST

The images are also present in the Hebrew translation of the New Testament.

SAMPLE ONLY - Copyright 2025 - Defender Publishing and Messiah of Israel Ministries - NO PREPRODUCTION ALLOWED

With the truth of the Hebrew letter meanings proven, let's examine the meanings of the *aleph* and the *tav*. We'll look at them individually as well as examine their fuller meaning when they're used together as the single Hebrew word *et.*

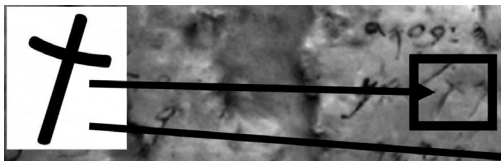
Aleph and Tav

The *aleph* (in its ideographic format) means the "first" and the "most powerful one." Therefore, since ancient times, that letter has been associated with the identity of God Himself. He is indeed the "First" and the "Most Powerful One." And the *tav,* the last of the twenty-two Hebrew letters, means the "covenant" or the "sign/marker."

Together, the two letters ideographically convey the message: "The Almighty *God* is the One Who makes *covenant* with us and gives us the actual *sign* of that covenant."

The "sign" of the covenant is the *tav*. And the ancient *tav* is in the distinctive shape of a crucifixion cross! Following is an image of one of the oldest archaeological examples of the Paleo *tav*. It is plainly shown as the image of a crucifixion cross.[17] As Pastor Carl Gallups has often noted in his writings and teachings on this subject, "The Paleo-*tav* even looks

like a crucifixion cross that is under a load, as though a person might be impaled upon it."[18]


[19]

Even though the *et* is often used as a grammar marker, it undeniably describes Yahweh/Yeshua. In the Old Testament Yahweh describes Himself as the "first and the last," and in the New Testament Yeshua does the same.[20]

Iconic Golgotha Image

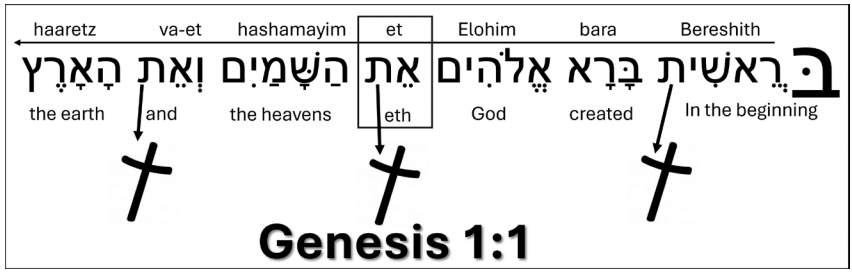
With these facts in mind, consider two prominent verses in the Old Testament that display a mind-blowing image when the *aleph-tav* is found in those verses accompanied by two other Paleo-*tavs*.

The First Aleph-Tav

The first Golgotha image is found in Genesis 1:1:

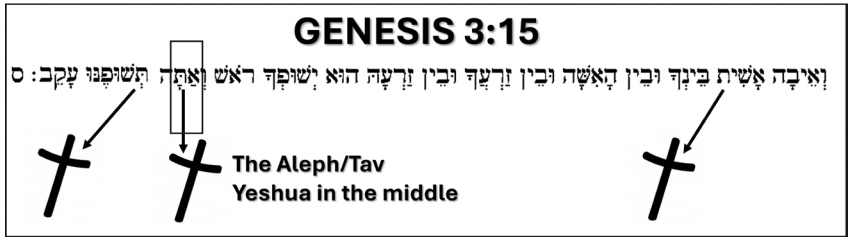
> In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.

There are only three *tavs* in that verse, and the middle one is embedded in the *aleph-tav* combo, forming the word *et*. The combination of the three *tavs* displays a striking representation of Golgotha! In that image, Yahweh/Yeshua is on the middle cross, represented by the *Aleph/Tav*, the *Alpha* and *Omega*, the Beginning and the End, the Lamb slain from the beginning (Revelation 1 and 13).



In the Garden

The second Golgotha image is from Genesis 3:15, where we read that in the Garden of Eden, Yahweh is telling Satan[21] of his coming demise. Yahweh announces that the serpent's destruction will come via a male child born through the womb of a woman. We now know the woman was Mary (the human who represents the nation of Israel!) and the male child was Yeshua (Revelation 12). But now, look at what marvelous treasure we find in that verse as well.



There it is again; there are only three *tavs* in that entire verse. It's just like in Genesis 1:1, displaying three crosses (*tavs),* with the middle one located under the *aleph-tav (et).*

These images aren't anomalies or coincidences. There are many more like them throughout the Old Testament, and each aligns with the image found in the first verse of the Bible. Each features the uncanny picture of Golgotha's three crosses with Yeshua—*the First and the Last, the Aleph and the Tav*—in the middle.

The Hidden Being Revealed

As with the acrostic identification of Yahweh in the book of Esther, now we're discovering that an iconic image of Golgotha is located within the Paleo-Hebrew letters themselves. They are consistently found in the passages of the Old Testament that speak of the coming Crucifixion and Resurrection of God's Salvation for humanity: Yeshua on Golgotha's cross.

The images are also present in the Hebrew translation of the New Testament Greek within the passages that speak of the fulfillment of the Golgotha prophecies of the Tanakh. This phenomenon proves to be yet another human impossibility.

7

MERE COINCIDENCE?

Even more astounding is that the Apostle Paul used those twelve words.

Occasionally, someone will challenge me concerning the Genesis 1:1 Golgotha images made by the three Paleo *tavs* and the *aleph-tav* by saying, "That's just a coincidence," or, "You're making a big deal out of nothing!"

I then demonstrate that those same images are consistently found throughout the Old and New Testaments and are located in the passages speaking *specifically of Golgotha*. That usually stuns my critics. But then I drop the real clincher, the one I believe Yahweh divinely inserted into His Word to deal with such objections.

Going all the way back to Genesis 1:1, not only do we see the *tav* evidence of the Golgotha event, but the very first words of that sentence, "In the beginning," hold their own secret. Their unimaginable depths are laid out in Carl Gallups' *Eyes to See,* but here's a quick review of the divine watermark that proves the Golgotha image is no coincidence or imagined phenomenon.

Divinely Placed Proof

The first three English words of Genesis 1:1 ("In the beginning") are wrapped up in the Hebrew word *bereshith,* which is spelled with six

Hebrew letters. When we examine those letters closely, it becomes apparent that twelve other valid and whole Hebrew words are located within those six letters.

Further, the twelve Hebrew words inside *bereshith* are not made from some type of letter scramble. They are formed within that word in a symmetrical and consecutive pattern. Each word is also found in several other places within the Hebrew Scriptures, proving their validity as words:

1. *Bereshith*: "In the beginning" (Genesis1:1)
2. *Brit:* "The covenant or promise" (Genesis 6:18)
3. *Beit:* "The house" (Genesis 12:1)
4. *Bar:* "The (special/unique) Son" (Psalm 2)
5. *Bara:* "Created" (Genesis 1:1)
6. *Barash:* "Presides" (Exodus 24:17)
7. *Rosh:* "The head" (Genesis 49:26)
8. *Ashuyah:* "The pillar/foundation" (Genesis 50:15)
9. *Esh:* "Fire (of sacrifice)" (Genesis 22:6)
10. *Shot:* "Appointed" (Genesis 4:25)
11. *Shy:* "Gift" (Psalm 68:29)
12. *Ahsheet:* "I will cause/put" (Genesis 3:15)

When those words are put together in order, they relay a distinct message: the amplified account of God's predetermined purpose for Golgotha. In this way, the supernaturally encoded Golgotha imagery of Genesis 1:1 is irrefutably verified in the similarly coded *first word* of that verse.

Even more astounding is that the Apostle Paul used those twelve words, or their Hebrew synonyms, in Colossians 1:15–20. That passage relays the gist of the declaration found in the words of *bereshith*. Following is Paul's rendition of the *bereshith* message. I have boldfaced the words that match the hidden message of *bereshith* in Genesis 1:1.[22]

> **He is the image** of the invisible God, the **firstborn** of all creation. For **by him all things were created**, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things **were created through him** and for him.

> And he is before all things, and **in him all things hold together**. And **he is the head** of the body, the [congregation of believers]. **He is the beginning**, the **firstborn** from the dead, that in everything he might be **preeminent**. For in him all the **fullness of God** was pleased to dwell, and through him **to reconcile to himself all things**, whether on earth or in heaven, **making peace by** the **blood of his cross**. (Colossians 1:15–20, emphasis added)

There it is…*the proof!* The concealed, but now revealed, images of Golgotha in Genesis 1:1 and throughout God's Word are not coincidental, especially as they make many of their appearances in the surface texts that point directly to Golgotha.[23]

Next, knowing what we now understand about the Paleo-Golgotha images, we'll make another astonishing connection between the Golgotha "codes" as they relate to what we uncovered in the book of Esther a few chapters back.

— 8 —

THE KING'S WRATH

Once again, Yahweh has kept His promise of uncovering hidden mysteries before the eyes of His children!

Because of what we've learned in the previous two chapters, we now understand the very real nature of the supernatural encoding of the vast array of Golgotha images within the Scriptures. With that in mind, let's go back and look at something else in the scroll of Esther. If you're not already familiar with this next hidden treasure, you're in for yet another treat!

As we saw, after Haman's plot was finally uncovered, the king ordered him to be hung on his own gallows:

> So they hanged Haman on the gallows that he had prepared for Mordecai. Then was the king's wrath pacified. (Esther 7:10, KJV)

Along with the New Testament revelations of Yeshua's sacrifice on Golgotha, we also discover that Satan thought *he* was the one who had arranged for Yeshua to die on that cross (1 Corinthians 2:8). We know for a fact that Satan entered Judas to betray Yeshua in an act that would send Him to the cross. Yeshua Himself declared this (see John 13:27 and Luke 22:3).

However, in reality, it was through Golgotha that Yahweh, the *True King* of the universe, unleashed His wrath upon Satan, commencing His promised demise of the serpent's stolen garden kingdom (Genesis 3:15).

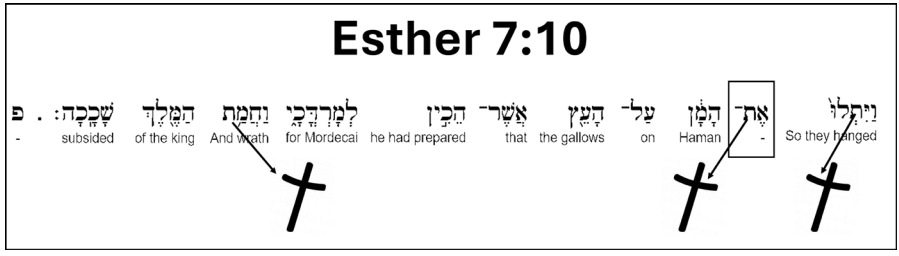
So, in a very real spiritual sense, at Golgotha, Satan was hanged on *his*

own gallows as well! Yeshua's sacrifice was truly the beginning of the end for Satan. Now he knows his time is short, and that knowledge fills him with rage (Revelation 12:12).

In the grander scheme of the message that Golgotha was Yahweh's/Yeshua's victory, Haman is a "type"—a representation—of Satan. There can be little doubt that he certainly was under Satan's direction!

The king of Persia, in this instance, also serves as a type of King Yahweh, and Esther herself is a female type of Yeshua. Esther went before the king to intercede between the king and her people—just as Yeshua did with us![24] (1 Timothy 2:5).

As we examine Esther 7:10 again, digging much deeper into its original Paleo-Hebrew words and letters, we make yet another mind-boggling discovery: The iconic imagery of Golgotha is in that verse as well. And the image is sending—to the *last-days* generations—the once-hidden but now-revealed message declaring that everything in God's Word points to Golgotha!



The likeness is there. There are precisely three *tavs* in that verse, and they form the reflection of Golgotha, with the middle cross being the *aleph/tav*—Yeshua!

Once again, Yahweh has kept His promise of uncovering hidden mysteries before the eyes of His children—especially for those who have eyes to see, ears to hear, and a heart to connect to the deepest message of His Word.

The Apostle Paul verified this:

> But we impart **a secret and hidden wisdom** of God, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. (1 Corinthians 2:7, emphasis added)

In the next two chapters, we'll unveil the third and final illustration of this undoubtably divine truth.

SAMPLE ONLY - Copyright 2025 - Defender Publishing and
Messiah of Israel Ministries - NO PREPRODUCTION ALLOWED

9

SHOUTING ROCKS

Jerusalem...the city where
I have chosen to put my name.
—1 Kings 11:36

When Yeshua rode into Jerusalem on the back of a donkey at the beginning of His last Passover, and just a few days before He delivered Himself to Golgotha's cross, He was entering the epicenter of Yahweh's designated ground zero. It was there where Yeshua proclaimed something that must have sounded odd to those who were challenging Him.

The Pharisees were enraged by the huge throng of people who had stormed the East Gate of Jerusalem to meet Yeshua and His entourage as they entered. More than that, they were livid that the people were praising Him and calling Him "the King who comes in the name of the Lord." They went straight to Yeshua and ordered Him to tell His disciples and the crowd to immediately cease calling Him by those names—adoration reserved only for the "true" Messiah.

Notice Yeshua's response, highlighted in the boldfaced words:

> As [Yeshua] was drawing near—already on the way down the Mount of Olives—the whole multitude of his disciples began to rejoice and praise God with a loud voice for all the mighty works that they had seen, saying, "Blessed is the King who comes in the

> name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!" And some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, "**Teacher, rebuke your disciples**." He answered, "**I tell you, if these were silent, the very stones would cry out.**" (Luke 19:37–40, emphasis added)

For interesting confirmation of what we've been exploring thus far, have a look at what Google AI Overview says about this passage.[25] The AI statement also confirms what I've said from the outset of our spiritual archaeological adventure. For the time being, anyway, it seems that even AI "knows" much of the truth of this subject. Imagine that!

Google AI Overview

> The phrase "the rocks will cry out" comes from Luke 19:40, where Jesus says, "I tell you, if these were silent, the very stones would cry out." **This means** that even if people **don't praise** or acknowledge God's glory, **creation itself, including inanimate objects like rocks, will make it known** through **some form** of **expression**.[26] (emphasis added)

Even the latest AI technology got this correct. It accomplished this after scouring through every available source in the world (almost at the speed of light) concerning God's practice of uncovering mysteries to humanity in various ways. Through that info gathering, the AI admits the truth: this "uncovering" can even occur in the literal rocks, valleys, and mountains of Israel.

Ground Zero

Following is the declaration of Yahweh's perspective of Israel's location as His designated ground zero.

> Thus says the Lord GOD: This is **Jerusalem. I have set** her **in the center of the nations**, with countries all around her." (Ezekiel 5:5, emphasis added)

And here is what Yahweh says about His Holy Name being placed there:

> David my servant may always have a lamp before me in **Jerusalem**, **the city where I have chosen to put my name.** (1 Kings 11:36, emphasis added)

We know, of course, that God "put" His "Name" in Jerusalem in many ways. After all, Jerusalem is where Yahweh decreed His Temple would be built in order to magnify His Name. It was also the place of Golgotha itself, as well as the site of the Resurrection of *Yeshua HaMashiach*—each designed to bring His Name the utmost eternal glory.

But the issue of the day when Yeshua was entering the city was this: He didn't mention the Temple or the Temple Mount as the objects that might "cry out." He didn't even mention Golgotha or the Resurrection, because neither event had happened yet. His words were, "the rocks will cry out" His Name if His disciples refused to do it. He was hinting that there was *already* a supernaturally placed identification of His Name "in the rocks." So, exactly what might Yeshua have been talking about?

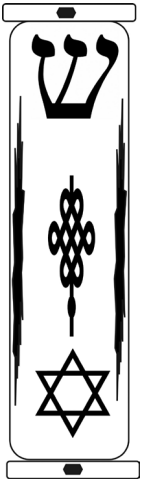
10

THE APPLE OF HIS EYE

For thus said the LORD of hosts, after his glory sent me to the nations who plundered you, for he who touches you touches the apple of his eye.
—Zechariah 2:8

SAMPLE ONLY - Copyright 2025 - Defender Publishing and Messiah of Israel Ministries - NO PREPRODUCTION ALLOWED

One of the most prolifically displayed names of God in a single Hebrew letter is *shin* (pronounced "sheen" or "seen," depending on the vowel marker). That one letter carries the ideographic meaning of "God Almighty."

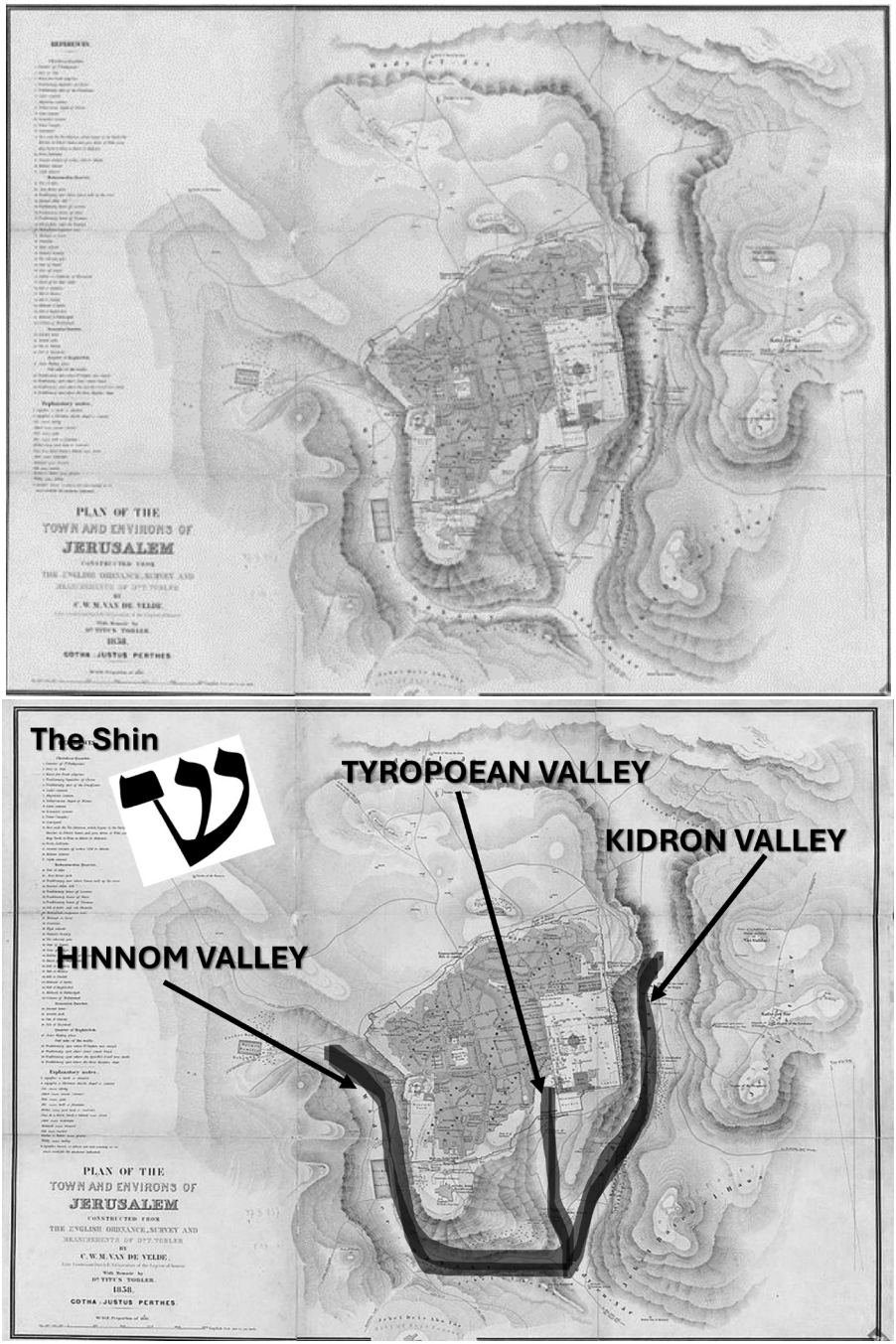


In Hebrew, the phrase for "God Almighty," *El Shaddai*, (pronounced "el shad-dye"), is emblazoned on almost every Hebrew *mezuzah* in the world through the letter *shin*. The *mezuzah* is an elongated box that contains Deuteronomy 6:4: "Hear O Israel! The LORD our God, the LORD is One!"

You might wonder what the *mezuzah* and *El Shaddai* have to do with Yeshua proclaiming that the rocks would cry out.

Here's the answer: Jerusalem, which God views as the center of the earth, is embraced by three prominent valleys—the Kidron, the Tyropoeon, and the Hinnom. Each is named in the Bible. When viewed from directly above—something the ancient Israelites were incapable of doing—the main valleys form the perfect shape of the letter *shin.* It's as though God took His finger and carved the

image in the gorges and rocks before humanity even drew its first breath in the Garden of Eden. His declaration is that He alone is the Creator and God Almighty—the One who surrounds Israel. Most specifically, He encircles Jerusalem—the center of the earth and the eternal ground zero.



From the beginning, the rocks and crevices of Jerusalem that make up the Kidron, Tyropoeon, and Hinnom valleys have literally displayed the Name of God, which is also the Name of *Yeshua HaMashiach.* He alone is the Creator of the Universe. He alone is the Word that became flesh and dwelt among us. He alone is One with the Father of the Universe…the Almighty. *His Name* alone compels the rocks to cry out!

Yeshua Is Creator

> But in these last days he has spoken to us **by his Son**, whom he appointed heir of all things, and t**hrough whom also he made the universe.** (Hebrews 1:2, NIV, emphasis added)

> For **by him all things were created**, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—**all things were created through him** and for him. (Colossians 1:16, emphasis added)

Yeshua Is Yahweh

> In the beginning **was the Word**, and the Word **was with God**, and the **Word was God.** He was in the beginning with God. **All things were made through him**, and without him was not anything made that was made. (John 1:1–3, emphasis added)

> Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you so long, and you still **do not know me, Philip**? Whoever has **seen me has seen the Father**. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'?" (John 14:9, emphasis added)

> **I and the Father are one**. (John 10:30, emphasis added)

Throughout the preceding pages, we laid the archaeological and contextual foundations for each of the revelations we'll uncover within the remaining pages. In providing those three prominent examples, I wanted to assure you of how all this works and prepare you for the unique, multilayered discoveries right around the corner.

Part Two

SHECHEM'S SECRET

I will give you the treasures of darkness, riches stored in secret places, so that you may know that I am the Lord, the God of Israel, who summons you by name.[27]

—Isaiah 45:3, NIV

— 11 —

SHECHEM'S SIGNIFICANCE

Shechem is mentioned more than six dozen times in God's Word.

SAMPLE ONLY - Copyright 2025 - Defender Publishing and Messiah of Israel Ministries - NO PREPRODUCTION ALLOWED

If you happen to be unfamiliar with the importance of the ancient city of Shechem, then this review will be especially helpful. The exploration of the city's location and history, as well as its surrounding geographical features, will eventually explode into one shocking disclosure after another.

In the meantime, please hang in there as we briefly recount the biblical history of that prophetic location.[28]

Shechem's History in a Nutshell

Shechem is mentioned more than six dozen times in God's Word; it appears in passages from Genesis through the New Testament book of Acts. Shechem and its surrounding area are also known in the New Testament as Sychar (John 4:5). Stephen, the first martyred deacon of the early congregation of believers, affirms Sychar's/Shechem's importance in a speech in Acts 7:16.[29]

Shechem is also where Yeshua met the woman at Jacob's well, as recorded in John 4:1–42. There, at the well, the two discussed the aspects of true worship, the place of worship, and the "living water" Yeshua offers. This is an important piece of the puzzle! We'll come back to it later.

Nablus

Today, Shechem is known as Nablus, located in the West Bank.[30] It's part of the non-Hebrew sectors within Israel. The majority of Nablus' populace is Muslim, with very small Christian and Samaritan populations. Nablus is located about thirty miles north of Jerusalem and about thirty miles northeast of Tel Aviv as well as about thirty miles south of Lake Galilee, placing it almost *right in the middle* of the returned nation of Israel. Remember that as we move along.[31]

In ancient biblical times, Shechem was on the main north-south route that connected the northern and southern parts of Israel. At that time, it was in Samaria, in the territory of the tribe of Ephraim.[32]

As you might surmise, this city and its surrounding region were a focal point of Yahweh's activity and fellowship with His people. Certainly, there must be something especially sacred about this place! If we were engaging in *spiritual archaeology* in that biblically rich region, we might expect to find several *treasures of darkness* attached to it. As a matter of fact, that's exactly what we'll discover.

In the following pages, we'll unearth a number of those "secrets," first taking a look at several levels of Shechem's early significance.

12

ABRAHAM IN SHECHEM

There, in Shechem, at the oak of Moreh,
God Himself literally appeared to Abraham.

Shechem was the key location for several historic turning points, especially among the Hebrew people. Those events started with Abraham, the father of Israel who, more importantly, is also biblically declared to be the father of all those who believe in Yeshua as Lord and Savior, both Jews and Gentiles (see Romans 4:16 and Galatians 3:6–9, 29). We'll explore that in later chapters.

The first recorded covenant between Yahweh and Abraham is described in Genesis 12:1–3, a passage that sets us on the path where Yahweh had previously instructed Abraham's father (Terah) to leave Ur of the Chaldeans and take his family (including Abraham) to the land of Canaan (Genesis 11:27–32). Terah's family eventually settled in Haran (modern-day southeast Turkey). At the personal calling of Yahweh, Abraham and his family left Haran and arrived in the land Yahweh had ordained for them (around 1875 BC): Shechem of Caanan.

Shechem was where Yahweh reaffirmed His covenant with Abraham that had originally been made at Haran. However, the defining event of that reaffirmation took place at the oak of Moreh (Genesis 12:1–7) *in Shechem*. That's where God said to Abraham, "To your offspring I will give this land."[33]

From False Light to True Light

It's interesting to note that the word "Ur" (the place Abraham's family left to migrate to Caanan) is a Chaldean word that means "light." Ironically, the ancient Chaldean civilization was particularly evil—as *spiritually dark* as it could be. Satan operated among the people practically unfettered, masquerading as an angel of light there. Witchcraft, sorcery, indescribable sexual perversion, vile idolatry, and all other manner of horrific pagan practices were rampant throughout the land. That is why Yahweh called Abraham's family out of that mess. He eventually took them to Caanan, directly to Shechem, to begin infusing the true light of Heaven's glory into Abraham. That glory would be the vision of the Coming One!

On top of all that, throughout history, the Chaldean and Babylonian empires would eventually entwine themselves into one nation. That unholy merger would result in a Babylonian king of Chaldean heritage: Nebuchadnezzar. This would be the one who would bring the remnants of the once-celebrated nation of Israel to its downfall. The book of Daniel, along with several other major and minor prophets of the Old Testament, records that event.

Yahweh's initial covenant with Abraham had assured him that from his seed a mighty nation would arise. Yahweh also promised that this covenant nation would be a blessing for not only his offspring but also for the entire world (Genesis 12, 15, 22). Of course, we now know that through Israel came the salvation of repentant humankind via Yeshua and Golgotha's cross and the empty tomb. To this day, Satan is enraged by the divine trap he stepped into. That trap was ultimately set at ground zero (Jerusalem)…at Golgotha and the garden tomb. Satan's demise would be wrought only thirty miles due south of Shechem.

Cryptic Message Unveiled

In a veiled but now revealed treasure from Yahweh's divine storehouse, we see that His covenant promise to Abraham also contains an iconic image. In a passage comprised of two verses, we find three *tavs* (crosses), with the *aleph-tav* (Yeshua) in the middle cross—a picture of Golgotha

within God's promise to Abraham. The covenant was given in Haran as Abraham set out, and then he went straight to Shechem.

> I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and **in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed**. So Abram went, as the LORD had told him, and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran. (Genesis 12:3–4, emphasis added)

In the highlighted words above, we find the veiled promise of Golgotha: "In you all the families of the earth will be blessed." See the endnote 34 for several scholarly attestations that this line of Genesis 12:3 speaks of the promise of Yeshua's sacrifice on the cross.[34]

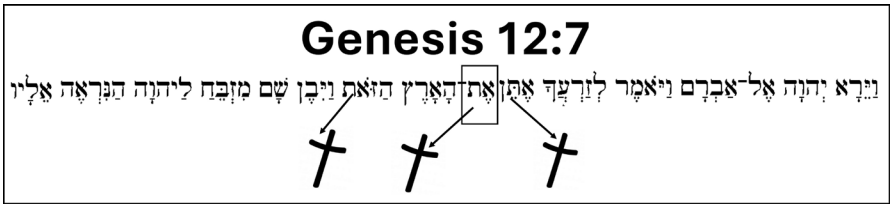
Here is that same Golgotha image. It emerges from the Paleo-Hebrew, revealed in those two verses and Yahweh's promise to Abraham concerning Golgotha. Of course, the *aleph-tav* displays the middle cross.

Yahweh Appears to Abraham

When Abraham (known as "Abram" before God changed his name; see Genesis 17:5) finally arrived in Shechem, he built an altar to honor Yahweh's divine promise and declare his faith in that covenant. There, at the oak of Moreh, God literally appeared to Abraham. It's also where we find the first theophany in the Scriptures. It happened in the place where Golgotha was being foreshadowed yet was still veiled in mystery.

> **Then the Lord appeared** to Abram and said, "To your offspring I will give this land." So he **built there an altar** to the LORD, **who had appeared to him**. (Genesis 12:7, emphasis added)

In that same verse is the image that the Paleo-Hebrew produces, as Yahweh appears to Abraham in the flesh.



Here again we find only three *tavs* in that verse. An *aleph-tav* locates the middle cross. As a matter of fact, each of the three *tavs* makes its appearance under an *aleph-tav* configuration. Here is yet another surprising Golgotha image brought forth from the land of Shechem.[35]

What we are uncovering in the Word of God and seeing with our own eyes proclaims the supernatural touch of the Creator of the universe!

SAMPLE ONLY - Copyright 2025 - Defender Publishing and Messiah of Israel Ministries - NO PREPRODUCTION ALLOWED

- 13 -

IMPORTANT CHARACTERS OF SHECHEM

Later, Shechem became the site of Joshua's gathering of the tribes and his final counsel.

A rather pointed understanding of Abraham's presence in Shechem is expressed in the following excerpt from an *Apologetic's Press* online article:

> This encounter between Abraham and Shechem resonates as deeply as the moment **when a groom carries his bride across the threshold**,[36] marking the beginning of a new and transformative chapter. Standing on the fertile plain **between two mountains**, God assured Abraham, "**To your seed I will give this land**," turning a vision into a concrete reality. This moment inaugurated the enduring relationship between Abraham's family and the land of Canaan, setting **the stage for Shechem** to be **remembered as a place of covenant, redemption, and divine promise**.[37] (emphasis added)

The boldfaced words of that quote will soon be illuminated through several more stunning hidden treasures regarding Shechem. We'll uncover those gems in the coming chapters.

There Were Others

Abraham wasn't the only biblical character who became known as an integral part of Shechem's unfolding history. It would also be where **Jacob**'s daughter **Dinah** was sexually defiled by the son of Hamor, the Hivite prince of Shechem. Hamor had also named his son "Shechem" after the city. Jacob was one of Abraham's grandsons through Issac. A massive slaughter took place in Shechem over this sordid affair (see Genesis 34).

Joseph (one of Jacob's sons, and Abraham's great-grandson), just before his brothers betrayed him and sold him into slavery to the Egyptians, went throughout the land of Shechem looking for those brothers. He finally found them nearby in Dothan. From there, the beginning of the four-hundred-year saga of the infamous Egyptian captivity would commence.

Just before the previously enslaved Israelites (in Egypt) entered the Promised Land, **Moses** spoke of Shechem and the mountains of blessings and curses, Gerizim and Ebal, as he was preparing the Hebrews of the Exodus to finally enter the land under the leadership of Joshua (see Deuteronomy 11, 27).

Joshua, after the death of Moses and the forty years of wilderness wandering by the children of Israel, led the Israelites into the Promised Land. They eventually wound up in Shechem, as Moses had instructed. It was there, on Mount Ebal, where Joshua built an altar to Yahweh.[38] The remains of that altar are still there today, and it is a popular tourist site.[39]

Joshua 8 recounts the Moses-decreed ceremony led by Joshua that was eventually held by all the people of the Exodus who had gathered between and on Mount Gerizim and Mount Ebal. It was Joshua who dutifully buried Joseph's bones in Shechem (Joshua 24:32). Later, Shechem became the site of Joshua's gathering of the tribes and his final counsel. Shechem also played a role in the establishment of the Northern Kingdom of Israel under Jeroboam, occurring after the death of King Solomon.

40

More

So much more is recorded in the Word of God regarding the lengthy saga that took place in and around Shechem. You can find those accounts in Genesis 12, 33–37; Joshua 17–24; Judges 8–9, 21; 1 Chronicles 6–7; 2 Chronicles 10; Jeremiah 41; and Hosea 6:9. Shechem is also mentioned in several of the Psalms.

As we see, a good deal of abject apostasy, rape, murder, bloody warfare, deceit, betrayal, theft, and horrendous treachery took place throughout Shechem's storied history. The good, the bad, and the downright vile were ongoing in that valley nestled in and around the mountains of blessings and curses. Life in Shechem presented a picture of daily human life in "Satan's world."[41] All of its people and various other links to them shed light on the amazing insights, treasures, and hidden mysteries associated with that ancient city.

14

MY JOURNEY TO SHECHEM

The message of Yeshua is unlimited throughout time and throughout the entire Bible.

Almost every time we read the Scriptures, they unlock divine unveilings and nuances directly relating to our understanding of the mind of Yahweh. Practically every session we spend in a heartfelt search for deeper insights becomes an adventure. I call these explorations "spiritual archaeology."

Let me give an example. You'll remember from an earlier chapter that the Hebrew word for "scroll" is *megillah*, and its nuanced Hebrew meaning is "what is hidden will be revealed." Once we know that one seemingly insignificant piece of information, we can unlock other mysteries hidden within God's Word. Following is another illustration of this truth.

The Megillah

Hebrews 10:7 speaks of Yeshua Himself being the subject of the "scroll of the book." Without digging deeper into the meaning of that claim, casual readers might shrug their shoulders and assume it is a reference to writings about Yeshua in the New Testament—simply because the book of Hebrews is in the New Testament and Yeshua's ministry is recorded there.

However, we now know that "the scroll" can also refer to the entire Word of God—both the Old and New Testaments. Or, as it is sometimes

used in Hebrew slang, according to Merriam-Webster Online, we might say *megillah* means "the whole ball of wax" or a "whole volume."[42]

With this in mind, have a look at Hebrews 10:7—a verse that slightly paraphrases Psalm 40:

> Then I said, "Here I am—it is written about me in the scroll—I have come to do your will, my God." (Hebrews 10:7, NIV)

> Then I said, "Behold, I have come; in the scroll of the book it is written of me: I delight to do your will, O my God; your law is within my heart." (Psalm 40:7–8)

Here's what several Bible scholars say concerning the relationship of Psalm 40 with Hebrews 10:

Benson Commentary—Psalm 40:7:

> **If these be considered as the words of a servant**…they may be accommodated to David. But **they much more literally and truly belong to Christ**…as **this phrase** is explained in divers places of Scripture, and particularly **Hebrews 10:5**, where this place is **expressly applied to Christ**.[43] (emphasis added)

Pulpit Commentary—Psalm 40:8:

> Consciously or unconsciously, David speaks **as the type of Christ** (see Hebrews 10:5–7).[44] (emphasis added)

Jamieson-Fausset-*Brown Bible Commentary—Hebrews 10:7:*

> This is the **written contract of Messiah**, whereby He engaged to be our surety. So complete is the inspiration of all that is written, so great the authority of the Psalms, that **what David says is really what Christ then and there said**.[45] (emphasis added)

Obviously, Yeshua is the subject not only of the New Testament, but of *the entire Bible.* As far as the biblical message is concerned, Yeshua is the "whole ball of wax"!

Yeshua didn't say it was written of Him only when He was here in the flesh. No. The message of Yeshua is *unlimited* throughout time and throughout the Bible. As we saw in earlier chapters concerning the Golgotha images, the messages are unfolded before us, beginning with the first word of Genesis 1:1 and continuing to the last chapter of Revelation.

When we see things repeated in the Bible in this manner, it's almost always a huge clue that there's a divine mystery to be uncovered. The Hebrew word *Shechem* is the same.

15

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

After more research, I began to focus on the two mountains that are the most prominent features of the valley city of Shechem.

When I was a child growing up as an Orthodox Jew in Israel, immersed in reading the Hebrew Scriptures, I noticed certain repeated words and passages. Sadly, I often skipped over them like they were stones on a path that simply had to be academically circumnavigated around. At the time, the words held no particular interest to me, especially regarding my daily life. They were simply facts to be memorized. If I had only known then what I know now!

I have since learned that when we see words, phrases, or people repeated throughout the Word of God, it often points to a divine mystery just waiting to be uncovered. This would be especially true if that repeated word, phrase, or person were connected to the ultimate fulfillment of Messiah Yeshua at Golgotha.

The mysterious repetition of "Shechem" proved to be one such word in several incredible ways. Every time I saw it in the pages of Scripture, I would think, "That's certainly a familiar word. I've heard it in synagogue since I was a boy." I remember thinking it was just the name of a place in ancient Israel…or was there something more to it?

In English, the word "Shechem" holds no particularly important meaning. However, in Hebrew, its etymology shines a light on its deeper significance.

Etymology

The ancient origin of the word means "shoulders," "on the shoulder" or "between the shoulders." It can also mean "to shoulder something," as in the sense of carrying a heavy load upon one's back. It can even mean "around the neck"—as a place of carrying burdens.[46] No one had taught me anything of genuine importance about those meanings, so I continued to take a "so what?" attitude concerning the matter. Boy, was I wrong!

The Hidden Becomes Visible

It wasn't until after I personally met Yeshua as Messiah that Scripture began opening to me like lilies blossoming in springtime. I now had the Holy Spirit (*Ruach Kodesh*) in me—and He was leading me into marvelous truths (John 16:13–15).

Suddenly, I discovered the word "Shechem" with a refreshed understanding. I learned that sometimes it was merely the name of the central City of Refuge, sometimes it was the name of a person, and at other times it had a shade of meaning that offered a clue to its truest meaning.

After more research, I began to focus on the two mountains that are the most prominent features of the valley city of Shechem. I noticed that they really do look like two gigantic shoulders! It seemed that my research was becoming more interesting, but what did it mean regarding the Abrahamic Covenant made there at the oak of Moreh and the one made near Joshua's altar at Mount Ebal—or perhaps even to Yeshua Himself? I was still a bit confused about certain elements of the matter.

My curiosity then became acutely piqued. It appeared that I was dealing with a genuine mystery. What was Shechem's deeper significance? What wasn't I understanding about it? I couldn't get these thoughts out of my mind.

Its ultimate revelations were similar to the mystery of the Golgotha images concerning the three crosses—*tavs*—and the *aleph-tav* of Genesis 1:1 and Genesis 3:15. They had been encoded in those passages since the words were first written; yet, for ages, biblical scholars had missed them.

But then, when Carl Gallups and I began to *see* the clear pictures of Golgotha displayed in the ancient Hebrew alphabet, the language in which Genesis was first written, that's when we *knew* there was a hidden meaning within those two verses. And now we know those same Golgotha images and their distinctively placed messages run through the *entire* Word of God!

That's like how the Shechem conundrum began stirring in my spirit. I began to see "shoulders" in numerous places in the Scriptures. I saw them in both the Old and New Testaments. And I saw them with a new and awakening awareness.

For example, look at the following powerful passage from Isaiah, one of the most familiar passages in that entire book:

> For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and **the government** will be **on his shoulder [*shechem*]**. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of **the increase of his government** and of peace **there will be no end**, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from **this time forth and forevermore**. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this. (Isaiah 9:6–7, emphasis added)

When I took another look at that verse, I saw the word "Shechem" right there, in the Hebrew, translated as "shoulder." I knew I was on to something that seemed to be revealing itself right before my eyes…and heart.

16

EVERLASTING DOMINION

That unveiling began radiating increasingly brighter in my soul. I was finally understanding it.

SAMPLE ONLY - Copyright 2025 - Defender Publishing and Messiah of Israel Ministries - NO PREPRODUCTION ALLOWED

Next, I saw the word "government" in that same Isaiah 9 passage. That English word is translated from the Hebrew word *misrah* and can mean significantly more than an earthly governmental system. It can also be translated to "dominion, reign, and rule."[47]

However, when we add to "dominion" the word "forevermore," as in Isaiah 9, we get an infinitely more powerful understanding, because "forever" (Hebrew: *olam)* means "eternity, everlasting, and perpetually"![48]

In other words, Yeshua's reign is *without end*. Isaiah was not prophesying about a mere reign over the Roman Empire of His day, over a bloc of several nations, or even over Israel itself. It was about *universal* dominion and a *forever* reign. Yeshua is, after all, the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. He is the King of eternity (*Melech ha Olam*)!

But here's the real clincher: This eternal reign would be bought and paid for by Heaven's divine decree. Yeshua would bear the punishment that brings us peace…it was to be laid directly upon Him. Between His shoulders. On His shoulders. On His back, and upon His neck. And every bit of that would literally come to pass at Golgotha. That's what these two verses of Isaiah were declaring, and the declaration begins by emphasizing the Hebrew word "Shechem"!

Further, in the words about Yeshua's everlasting dominion, we find

the Paleo image of Golgotha, because Golgotha was the price He paid for that dominion. Within all the following words are only three *tav* crosses. And the middle *tav* is the *aleph-tav:*

> Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. (Isaiah 9:7)

Compound Prophecy

I also grew to understand that the prophecy of this "government" or "dominion" that belongs to Yeshua wasn't limited to His Second Coming and millennial reign; it also applies *right now.* This is what scholars call a *compound prophecy:* a prediction that indicates multiple levels of fulfillment. Other compound prophecies are found throughout the Old and New Testaments.[49]

Even today, during Satan's brief stolen possession of the earthly domain, all things must still come through Yeshua. His dominion is eternal; it always has been. His reclaimed total sovereignty over the earth was purchased back—*redeemed*—at Golgotha and from His empty tomb.

Everything taking place on the planet right now is under Yeshua's absolute sovereignty. The *position* of an everlasting dominion belongs only to Him. This is why the Apostle John reminds us, "He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world" (1 John 4:4).

Every prophecy, every decree of Heaven's throne, will unfurl at Yeshua's word and command. Satan has been defeated. He has many limitations placed upon him by *Yeshua HaMashiach*. Soon, the entire cosmos

will see Yeshua's eternal reign and dominion come to its ultimate fruition. At that time, everything that has breath will praise His Name!

Each of these biblical manifestations opened my first powerful insight into what God was doing within the biblical "picture" of Shechem. That unveiling began radiating increasingly brighter in my soul. I was finally understanding it!

At that point, I was beginning to see what Yahweh ultimately wanted to show me. At that moment, there was no turning back; there was still so much more to come.

17

LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS

Shechem is distinctly connected to the gospel message of Yahweh's offer of salvation to humanity.

SAMPLE ONLY - Copyright 2025 - Defender Publishing and Messiah of Israel Ministries - NO PREPRODUCTION ALLOWED

It was almost as if *Yahweh El Elyon* (the "LORD God Most High") was speaking directly to my soul, "Zev! The 'so what?' about Shechem is that *everything* that happened in that ancient city ultimately points to Golgotha and the *forever reign* of Yeshua. Keep digging! There's still more!"

The larger picture was taking shape in my mind and heart. I was *seeing* with my new *eyes to see.* The Lord began showing me pictures within the depths of my mind and soul. They were pictures about how everything from the sinfulness of humanity and our inability to properly honor God to Yeshua's faithfulness in going to the cross of salvation played out…in that one city alone—Shechem.

I saw how both the Hebrews and Gentiles throughout the ages had lived in that valley *together*, right in front of the "shoulders" of Yeshua. That's a picture of the "one new man" in Yeshua (Ephesians 2). Later, that picture would be preserved again when God, through Moses, brought the children of Israel out of the bondage of Egypt at the first Passover. Exodus 12:37–38 tells us there were more than a million Hebrews, plus uncountable throngs from the nations that came out with them. Again, here was the "one new man" under the blood of the Passover Lamb.

When the millions of God's "blood-bought" people finally entered the Promised Land under Joshua's leadership, where did they make a

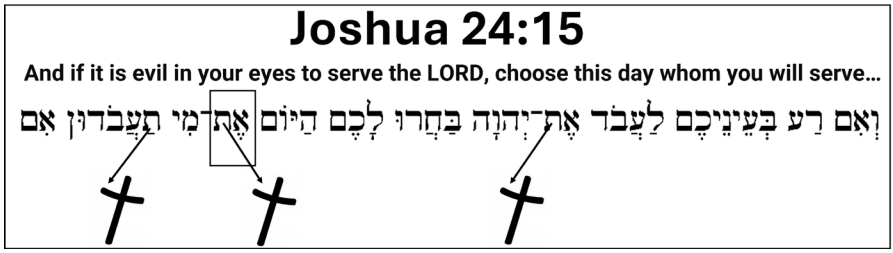
renewed covenant with Yahweh? In Shechem—between Mount Gerizim and Mount Ebal—where the covenant was first given to Abraham!

This is why Jews and Gentiles alike are called "children of Abraham" if they are under the blood of Yeshua, the Lamb of God, and are born again (Galatians 3:7, 29 and Matthew 3:9). I will address this subject in much more detail in a later chapter.

They left Egypt (a picture of believers coming out of sin and bondage to Satan; see John 8:34–36) to go to Shechem (the place of the Covenant), with Joshua as their leader. And it was Joshua who urged them to "choose this day whom you will serve"—*will it be blessings or curses?* Joshua advised the people of Israel to make that choice both as a nation and as individuals.

> **And if it is evil in your eyes to serve the Lord, choose this day whom you will serve,** whether the gods your fathers served in the region beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD. (Joshua 24:15, emphasis added)

As hard as it might be to imagine such a thing, another Paleo-Hebrew image is embedded in that famous verse of commitment and challenge as well. Now that we understand the entire "picture" of Shechem is truly about Yeshua, the image is even more impressive. Here is yet another image of Golgotha, mirroring Genesis 1:1 and 3:15, and appearing in Genesis 12. Three *tavs* are found in those highlighted words. And the middle one is the *aleph-tav.* Our choosing whether or not to serve the LORD is entirely wrapped up in whether or not we choose Yeshua!

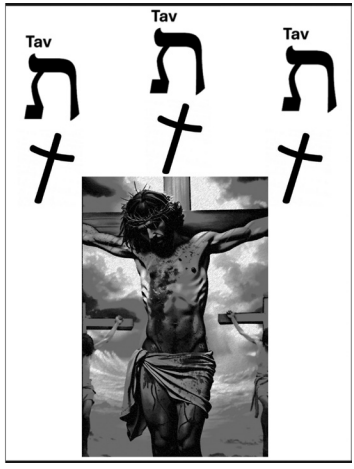


Another verse in the book of Joshua also points to Golgotha and Yeshua's eternal reign and dominion over a redeemed world:

> Throw away the foreign gods that are among you and yield your hearts to the LORD, the God of Israel. (Joshua 24:23, NIV)

There it is again: the image of the three Paleo Hebrew *tav*s, with the *aleph-tav* (Yeshua) in the middle. The only way we can "yield our hearts to Yahweh" is through *Yeshua HaMashiach* and what He did for us on Golgotha's cross.

At this point, we should have no doubt that Shechem is uniquely and distinctly connected to the gospel message of Yahweh's offer of salvation to humanity—in the person of *Yeshua HaMashiach* alone. Still, there is so much more revelation about Shechem's Golgotha message yet to come.



18

THE JOSHUA CONNECTION

Every bit of the collective meaning of the "shoulders" would culminate in Yeshua's coming in the flesh and laying down His life as the divine Golgotha sacrifice.

When Joshua issued the divine challenge of choosing God's blessings or curses, the "one new man" was finally standing in the heart of the Land of Promise *together*. With that spiritual confrontation of making a definitive choice, Joshua famously led the way with his own response, "But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD" (Joshua 24:15).

You probably already know the next tidbit I will share; it's key to understanding everything we've already seen. However, you might be surprised by how many believers don't know it. I believe it's because their denominations or churches don't teach much about the Hebrew language, if at all. In the study we've done thus far, you can see what a sad state of affairs that can cause.

What I want to mention here concerns the name "Joshua," which is the English translation of the Greek. But the name doesn't specifically transliterate into Greek because there are letters in Hebrew that don't exist in Greek.

That said, however, "'Joshua' and 'Yeshua' are the same name in Hebrew, but with slightly different spelling and pronunciation. 'Joshua' is a more direct transliteration of the Hebrew name *Yehoshua* (יהושוע),

which means 'Yahweh is salvation.' *Yeshua* (עושי) is a shortened form of Yehoshua, and it was the name used for Jesus in the first century."[50]

At Shechem

When the Israelites made their solemn vows before Yahweh, at the leading of Joshua, they were standing on the only place on earth that paints a Hebrew word picture of multilayered and metaphorical images of Yeshua, as well as of Golgotha's prophesied coming. Those images speak of an event that would not take place for more than a thousand years to come, when it would be fulfilled in Jerusalem, just thirty miles to the south of Shechem. In addition, a man whose Hebrew name was *Yeshua/Yehoshua* was leading them there! So, this means that this Yeshua/Joshua was the chosen one of Heaven who facilitated their entrance into the Promised Land—yet another spiritual picture of what *Yeshua HaMashiach* did at the long-awaited Golgotha event.

Enduring Word Commentary, Dr. David Guzik:

> The **Hebrew** name **Joshua translates as "Jesus"** in the **Greek** language of New Testament times. **Joshua is an enduring picture or type of Jesus**, leading God's people into the fulfillment of God's promises. Whatever Israel received in the Promised Land, they received through the hand of Joshua; whatever believers receive from God in the **new covenant** is received through **Jesus Christ, our Joshua.**[51] (emphasis added)

But now we know Golgotha *did* happen! And unknowingly to many nations, the calendars of the world faithfully mark the Golgotha event. Every time atheists date a check or any other document, or agree on a date for a meeting, they are attesting to the *Yeshua HaMashiach* event that indeed came to pass in Jerusalem, Yahweh's ground zero, the center of the nations, the place where He firmly established His Name: Golgotha.

Think about that. No official, internationally recognized dating methods mark any other earth-shattering religious event that centers around one specific and prophesied person who *was to come.* But there *is*

one that marks the Yeshua event. We still use it all over the planet (much to Satan's rage, I'm sure).

We also know the solidified promise of Golgotha started in a *valley pass* that lies between the "shoulders" of the Mount of Blessings (Gerizim) and the Mount of Curses (Ebal). Now we understand that the name of that place, Shechem, spiritually and visually fits its location in several ways.

There can be little doubt that when the ancients gave Shechem that name (most likely because Gerizim and Ebal look like two giant shoulders through which a huge valley runs east and west), they had no idea how significant those names would remain throughout history. Every bit of the collective meaning of the "shoulders" would culminate in Yeshua's coming in the flesh and laying down His life as the divine sacrifice.

Yeshua would hold the eternal dominion of all the blessings and all the condemnations between His shoulders, and upon His shoulders, and on His back. He alone would carry the burden. The entire picture of that event has always been connected to the divine *covenant of salvation* given to Abraham.

All of that, and so much more, happened between the shoulders of Yeshua as He sacrificed Himself on the cross. Its symbolic image—seen through the rocks, mountains, and valleys—still displays that message even in the geographical landscape!

If you think the previous disclosures are interesting, and maybe even a bit overwhelming, just wait. That *treasure/image*, etched into Shechem's terrain, is finally being made known, and only in our own time. It is happening through the Old and New Testaments and their prophecies of the explosive communications and information technology of the last days (see, for example, Daniel 12:4, Matthew 24:14, and Revelation 13).

SAMPLE ONLY - Copyright 2025 - Defender Publishing and Messiah of Israel Ministries - NO PREPRODUCTION ALLOWED