

# **A Pure Language**

A beginner's guide to the  
Hebrew Aleph-Beit

**By Lemuel ben Emunah**

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Good use permitted.  
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This publication is not to be sold.

May the Name of YHWH be glorified.

Shalom.

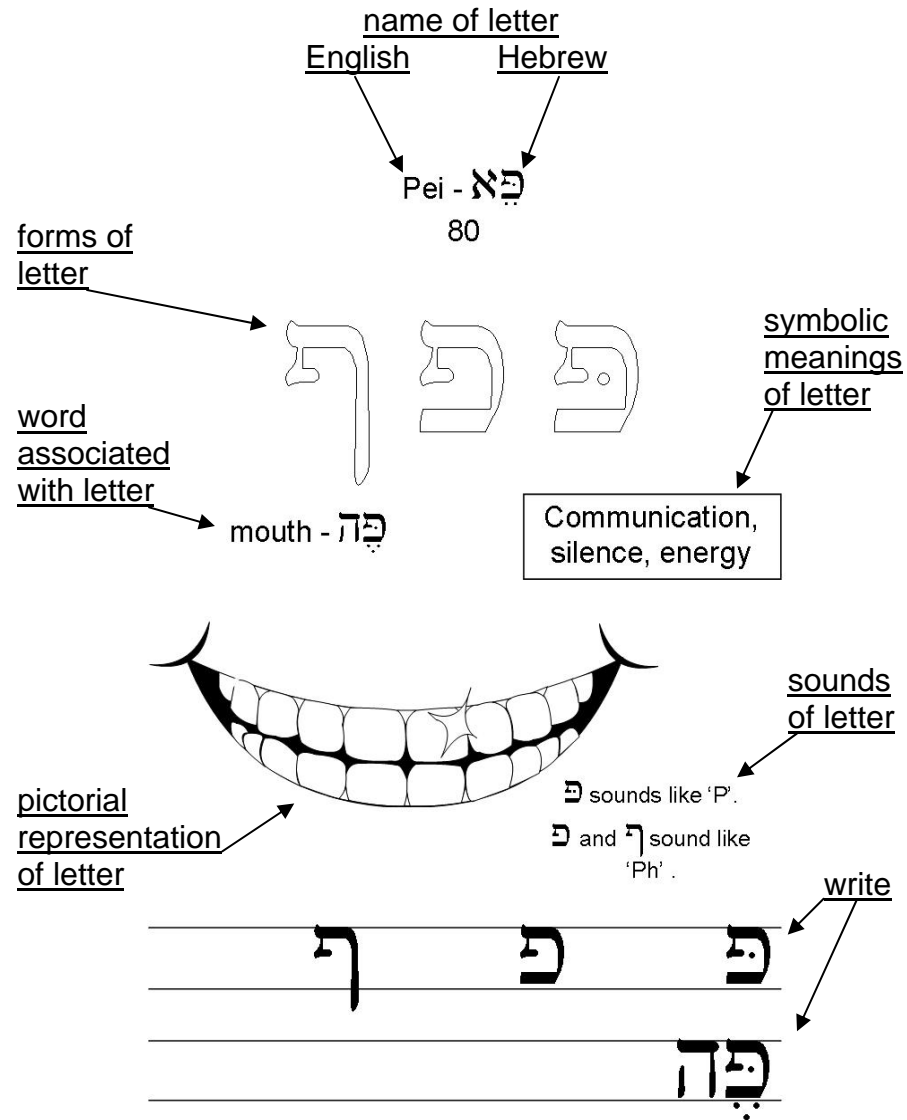
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Tz'phanyah [Zephaniah] 3:9

For then will I turn to the people of a pure language,  
that they may all call upon the name of YHWH, to  
serve him with one consent.



# How to use this book



## **Name of letter: Hebrew-English**

There are some letters that have different ways of saying the name of the letter. For example: Yod or Yud, Bet or Beit. There is at least one letter that has its name and pronunciation discussed quite often; the letter Vav a.k.a. Waw. This booklet is not going to discuss the different positions taken on the pronunciation of Vav (or Waw). If you feel led to say Vav that's great, if you feel led to say Waw that's great too.

## **Forms of letter**

There are five letters that have two different ways to write them. The second form of the letter is known as a sofeet or final form. The final form of the letter, as its name suggests, comes at the end of a word. The final form of the letter is usually an elongated version of the main form of the letter. Example: the main form of the letter Pei is: פ. The final form is: ף. Mem is the only exception; its final form is a closed version of the main form (מ, ם).

## **Word associated with letter**

Each letter in the Hebrew alefbet has meaning. The basic meaning of the letter is usually closely related to the name of the letter. In this work some of the basic meanings differ from those that are commonly taught. I chose words that were the same or very similar to the name of the letter and, as often as possible, used Scripture to determine the meaning.

## Symbolic meanings of letter

Besides the simple meaning of the letter there are symbolic meanings that are related in some fashion to the simple meaning. The meanings chosen are meant to give the student an idea of what's out there and give the student incentive to further study.

## Pictorial representation of letter

A picture or drawing that illustrates the simple meaning of the letter.

## Sounds of letter

Shows the different forms of the letter and the sounds they make. There are six letters where the sound changes with the placing or taking away of a dot called a dagesh. With the dagesh the letter has a hard sound, if you remove the dagesh the sound is softened. (Example: פּ = p, פ = ph.) Basically you add an "h" to soften the sound. Beit is the exception to the rule; בּ = b, ב = v.

## Write

A place to start practicing your Hebrew penmanship.

This work is meant for all ages and can be used with little or no knowledge of the Hebrew language. May YHWH bless your study.

# נקודות

[Vowel points]

אָ and אַ sound like the a in 'Father'

אֲ and אִ sound like the a in 'Father'

אֵ and אִי sound like the ai in 'Aisle'

אֶ and אִי sound like the e in 'Met'

אֵי sounds like the ei in 'Eight'

אִי sounds like the i in 'Pin' or 'Machine'

אִי sounds like the i in 'Machine'

אִ and אִ sound like the o in 'Note'

אִ sounds like the oy in 'Boy'

אִ and אִ sound like the u in 'Lute'

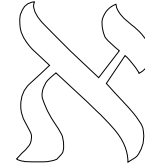
אִ A half vowel that sounds like uh, usually transliterated as an apostrophe. Sometimes it is a syllable divider, in which case it is not said.

(Note: אִ is silent.)



Aleph- אָלֶף  
1

ox, thousand - אָלֶף



first, strength,  
beginning,  
creative force

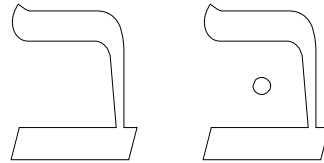
א is silent.

א

אָלֶף

Beit - בֵּית

2



Temple, house, - בֵּית  
home, family

duality, blessing,  
containment and  
division



ב sounds like 'B'.

ב sounds like 'V'

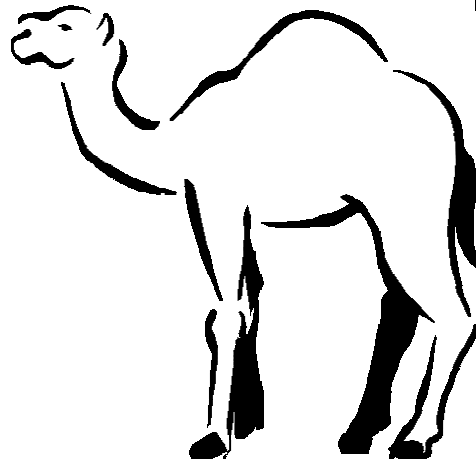
ב  
בֵּית

Gimel - גִּמְלָה  
3



camel - גִּמְלָה

kindness, abundance,  
fruitfulness, affliction



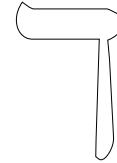
ג sounds like 'G'.

ג

גִּמְלָה

Dalet - דָּלֶת

4

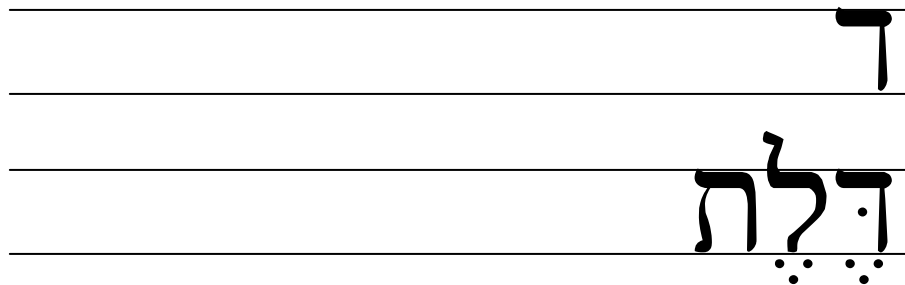


door, gate - דָּלֶת



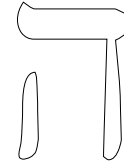
change, earth,  
trust, servant

ד sounds like 'D'.



Hey - הַי

5



Behold! - הִי



creation, divinity,  
free choice, mercy

הַ sounds like 'H'.

ה

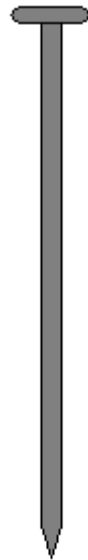
הַי

Vav - וּ  
6



hook, nail, peg - וּ

continuity, union,  
physical perfection



וּ sounds like 'V'.

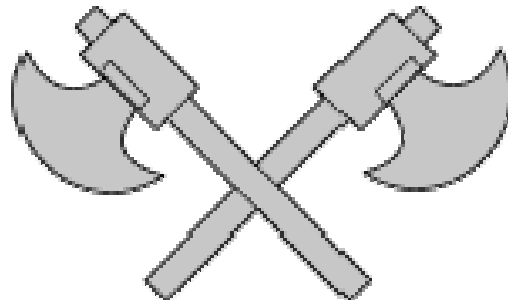


Zayin - זײַן  
7



spiritual perfection,  
sustenance, war,  
Shabbat, constancy

weapon - זײַן

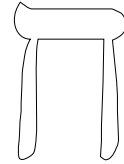


ז sounds like 'Z'.



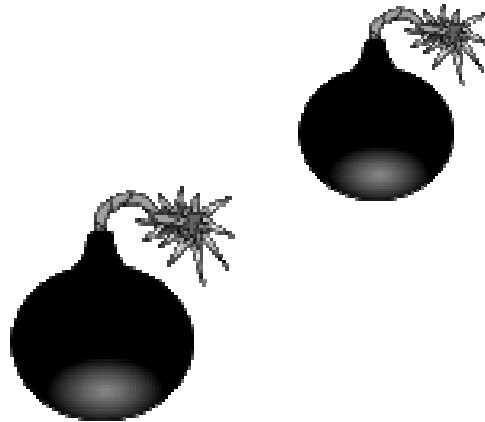
# Chet - חֵת

8



fear, terror - חַת

newness, grace,  
life, sin, barrier,  
inner room



ח sounds like  
the 'Ch' in Bach.

ח

חת



Tet - טֵּית

9



טֵּית

surround, snake, shield

good, humility  
strength, repentance



ט sounds like 'T'.

ט

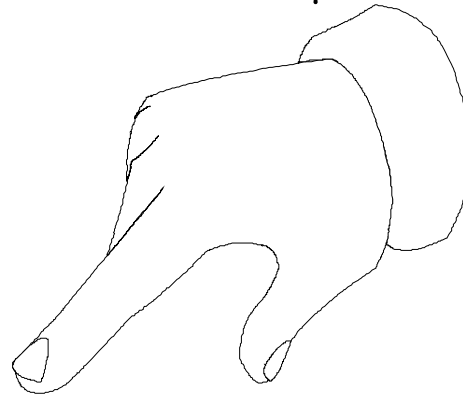
טֵּית

Yod - יוּד

10

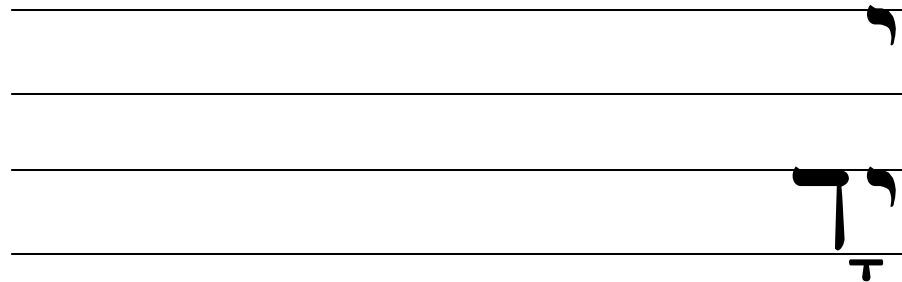


hand - יָד



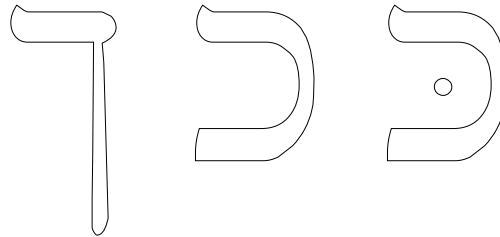
the spiritual realm,  
power, humility,  
Torah

י sounds like 'Y'.



Kaph - כָּף

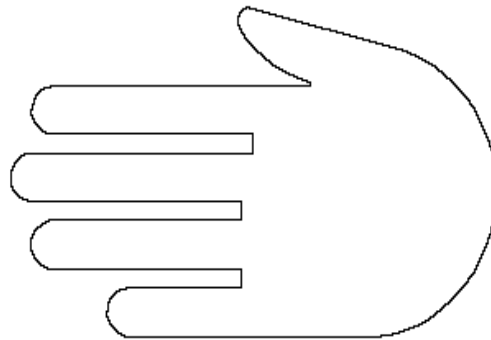
20



כָּף

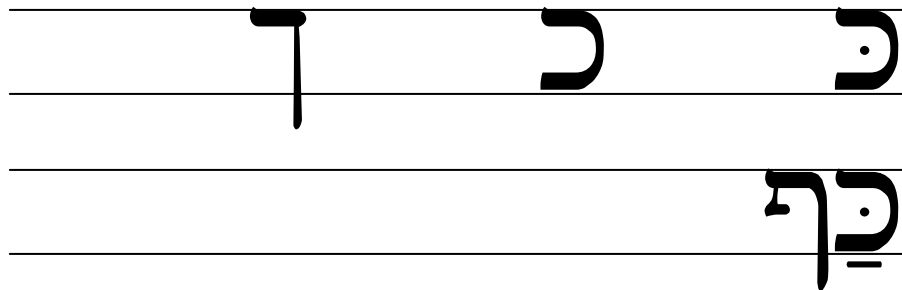
palm, sole of foot, bent

crown, like,  
possession,  
accomplishment



כּ sounds like 'K'.

כָּ and כֵּ sound like the  
'Ch' in Bach.



Lamed - לָמֶד

30



לָמֶד

to be taught, learn

King, heart,  
purpose, change,  
tongue, speech

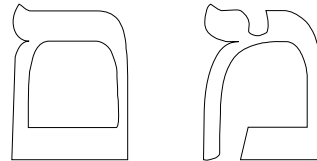


ל sounds like 'L'.



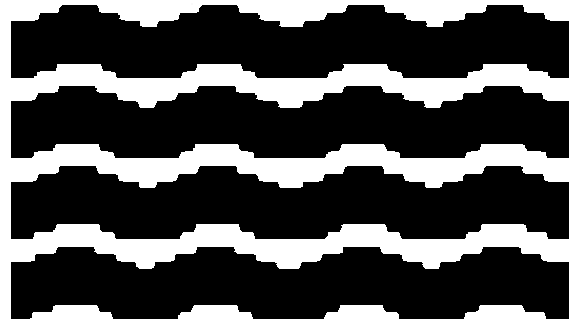
Mem - מֶם

40

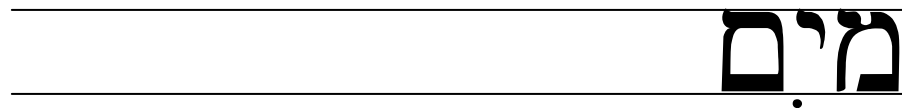


waters - מַיִם

maturing, chaos,  
the revealed and  
the hidden

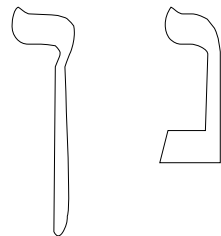


מֶ and מ sound like 'M'.



Nun - נון

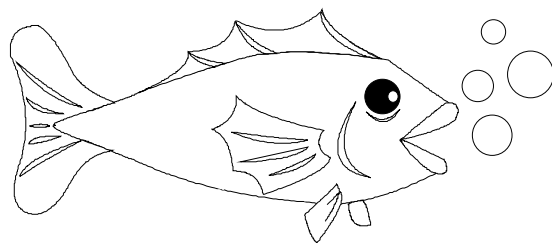
50



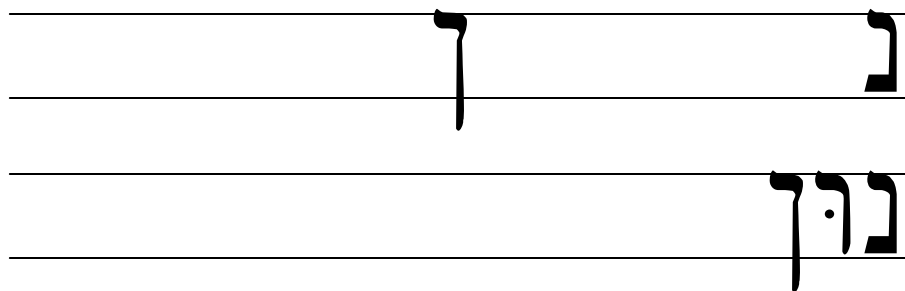
נון

propagate, increase,  
fish

endurance, soul,  
faithfulness,  
constancy

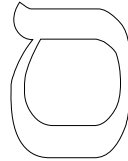


נ and ן sound like 'N'.



Samech - סָמֵךְ

60



Rest, support - סָמַךְ

protection,  
memory,  
completeness

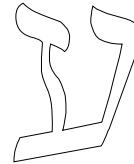


ס sounds like 'S'.

ס

סָמַךְ

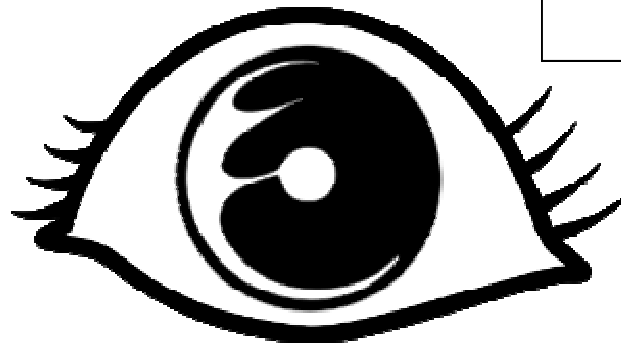
Ayin - ע.יך  
70



ע.יך

Eye, spring, fountain

Sight,  
understanding,  
mirror, light,  
spirituality



ע is silent.

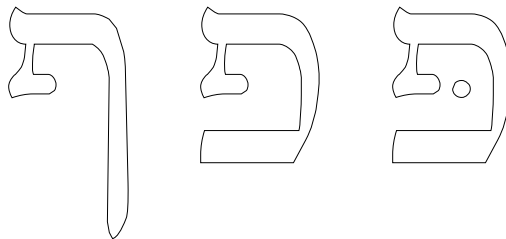
ע

ע.יך



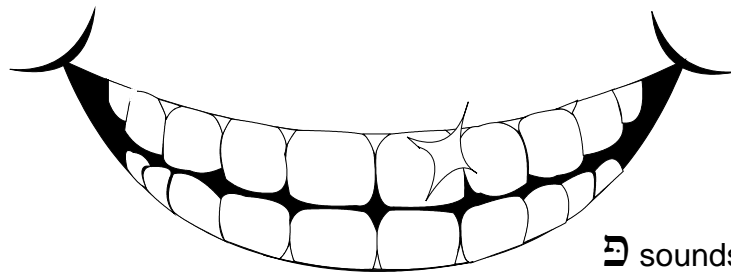
פּאָ - Pei

80



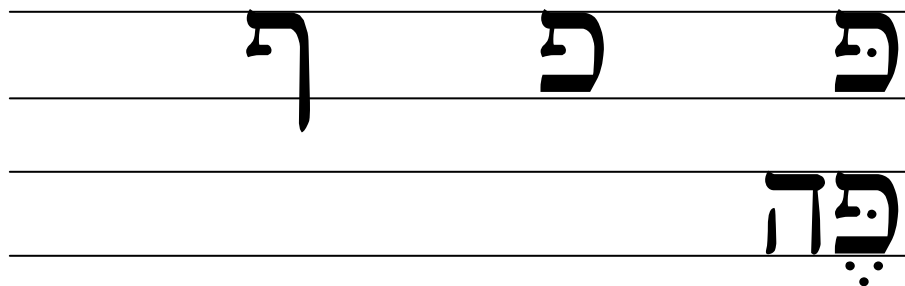
פה - mouth

Communication,  
silence, energy



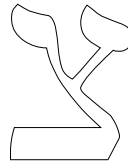
פּ sounds like 'P'.

פֿ and פה sound like  
'Ph'.

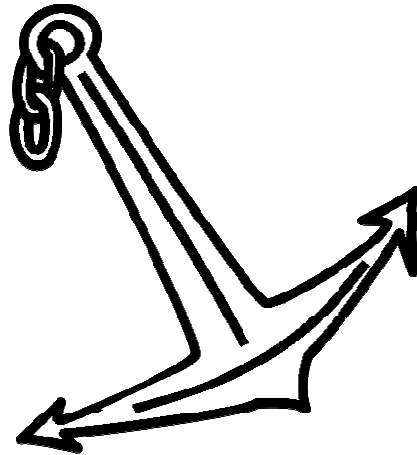


Tsadi - צַדִּי

90



fishhook, anchor - צַדִּי



righteousness,  
submission,  
preparation, goal

צ sounds like the 'Ts' in  
cats.



Qoph - קוף

100



קוף

ape, monkey,  
eye of a needle

set-apart, cycle,  
completion, offering,  
least, behind



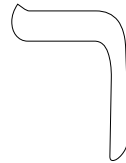
ק sounds like 'Q'.

ק

קוף

Reish - רֵישׁ

200



poverty - רֵישׁ

head, top - ראש

wickedness,  
false head,  
inherit, pauper

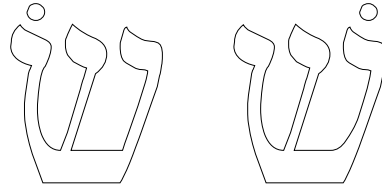


ר sound like 'R'.

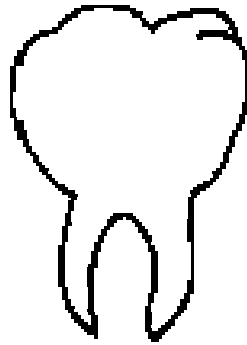
ר

רֵישׁ

Shin - שׁין  
300



tooth, ivory - שׂין



Shaddai, peace,  
falsehood, corruption,  
sharpen

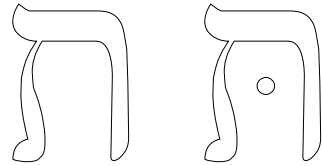
שׁ sounds like 'Sh'.

שׂ sounds like 'S'

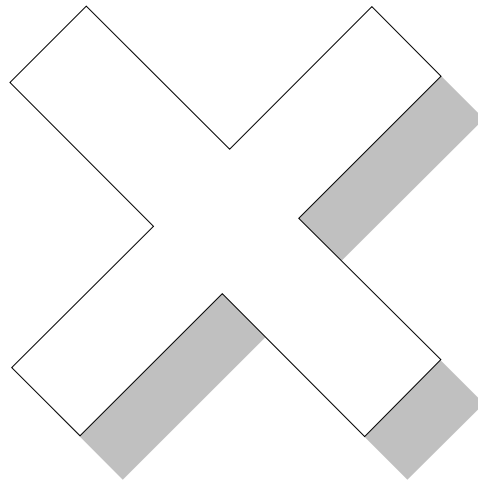
שׁ

שׂין

Tav - תָּ  
400

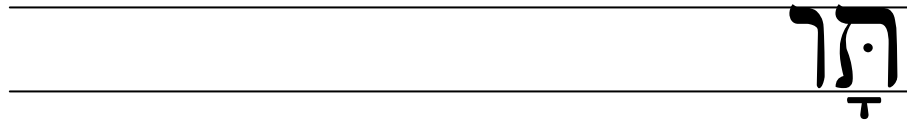
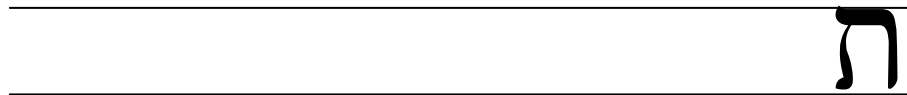


mark - תָּ



Truth, perfection,  
completion,  
precision

ת and ת sound like 'T'.





The author has researched the subject matter carefully, and while there is discussion and disagreement among researchers concerning the meanings of specific letters, we are presenting here what seem to us to be the most accurate conclusions.