



ח = 8



Actual size

Warm Greetings in the Giver of Life,

Welcome to 2008!

As we enter the year 2008, we feel led to focus on a very special letter of the Hebrew Alphabet, the letter **CHET** ח. *Chet* is pronounced with a guttural sound at the beginning, not the "ch" as in children, but rather an "h" sound with a gurgle in the throat. *Chet* is the eighth letter of the *L'Shone HaKodesh*, the Holy Tongue, and like all twenty-two of the Hebrew letters, it has a numerical value. The value of ח is 8.

Each letter of the Hebrew Alef-Bet (alphabet) is a picture telling a story, a name displaying truth and a number full of significance. The letter ח contains multiple messages for us as we embark upon the adventure of another year. We will begin with Psalm 119, an acrostic poem of twenty-two stanzas, each representing a Hebrew letter. Each stanza has eight verses. Each verse begins with the same Hebrew letter. The section for ח is Psalm 119:57-64:

*You are my portion, O LORD; I have said that I would keep Your words.
I entreated Your favor with my whole heart; be merciful to me according to Your word.
I thought about my ways, and turned my feet to Your testimonies
I made haste, and did not delay to keep Your commandments.
The cords of the wicked have bound me, but I have not forgotten Your law.
At midnight I will rise to give thanks to You, because of Your righteous judgments.
I am a companion of all who fear You, and of those who keep Your precepts.
The earth, O LORD, is full of Your mercy; teach me Your statutes.*

Key words or phrases to contemplate in these verses include: my portion, Your favor, whole heart, merciful, commandments, midnight, and companion. Psalm 119:57-64 encourages us to make God our #1 priority, and to be desperate for His grace (favor) and His mercy in this midnight hour of history, as we seek to keep His Word and walk in fellowship with others who are like-minded.

Chet: a fence

In **Hebrew Word Pictures** by Dr. Frank T. Seekins, the picture of a fence can be seen in the ancient symbol used for the letter ח. The pictograph of a fence symbolizes 1) to separate or cut off from and 2) to protect. The *Chet* verses of Psalm 119 testify of the protection that is given to us by God's Word and His favor. This reminded us of a verse we often quote found in Psalms 5:12, "For You, O Lord, will bless the righteous; with favor You will surround him as with a shield." May each of our Jewish Jewels partners experience this "fence of favor" in 2008—favor with God **and** men, just as Yeshua had (Luke 2:52)!

The word "companion" in verse 63, is "*chaver*," חֵבֵר; the word picture for *chaver* is "the bosom person." This *chet* word exhorts us to choose our friends carefully. Fences protect, but they also separate. The Word of God is very clear that believers must separate from ungodly companions. "He who walks with wise men will be wise, but the companion of fools will be destroyed." (Proverbs 13:20) Rabbi Saul's words in 1 Corinthians 5:11 contain an even more powerful prohibition: "But now I have written to you not to keep company with anyone named a brother, who is sexually immoral,

or covetous, or an idolater, or a reviler, or a drunkard, or an extortioner—not even to eat with such a person.” Choose your companions wisely in 2008, and teach your children to do the same. Let God’s Word be a fence to keep the good in, and the bad out!

Chet: a Chuppah

If we look at the shape of the letter ח, we see a *huppah*, or Jewish wedding canopy, חופה. *Huppah* actually begins with the letter *chet*, but the “c” is often left out when it is written in English so that the word is not pronounced like the “ch” in chicken. The epitome of godly companions in the eyes of God is a loving husband and wife (male and female). Marriage is severely under attack today. Will 2008 see more states recognize same sex unions as a valid definition of marriage?

Right before Thanksgiving we recieved an email from the American Family Association, “Gays challenge traditional marriage supporters: put up or shut up.” It appears that a homosexual group (HRC) has called for a boycott of Wal-Mart, shopping at Target instead, since Wal-Mart refuses to offer “domestic benefits” to homosexual partners. Target does offer these “marriage” benefits. Whatever happened to “holy” matrimony? Even among believers, even among heads of ministries, divorce is commonplace. And yet, marriage, begun under the banner (*chuppah*) of God’s Love, is to continue until death as a threefold cord: the husband, the wife, and God (Ecclesiastes 4:12). We like what David Mulligan said in **Not One Jot... a Christian Meditation on the Hebrew Alphabet**: “Every Christian home is a hupah, every Godly Church is a hupah, the very sky is a hupah, covering the bride of Christ, waiting for the promised wedding feast. Every holy marriage is a loving parable of the mystery of redemption and eternal fulfillment (Ephesians 5:22-33).”

Chet: New Beginings

Since the numerical value of the letter *Chet* is 8, and since the #8 is the biblical number for new beginnings, ח is the letter of new beginnings. 2008 should also be a year of new beginnings for YOU. We first see a new beginning in the Bible when Noah and his family—8 of them—leave the ark to begin life anew. This new beginning was only possible because in the midst of a wicked and perverse generation, Noah had found grace (favor) חן, *chen*, with God (Genesis 6:8). The principle is the same today. Yeshua is our “Ark.” In Him, we are saved. In Him, we have a new beginning, a new birth. We are new creations: “*Therefore, if anyone is in Messiah, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new*” (2 Corinthians 5:17). We live in days similar to Noah’s days. “*But as the days of Noah were, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. For as in the days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and did not know until the flood came and took them all away, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be.*” (Matthew 24:37-39) Make sure you are in the Ark—now—saved through the waters of the *mikveh* or baptism (the answer of a good conscience toward God), just as Noah and his family were saved through the waters of the flood (1 Peter 3:20-21). Yeshua, the Ark of our Salvation, is the One who makes all things new (Revelation 21:5)!

Chet: Yeshua and His Resurrection

Just as Noah and the Ark are a type of death and resurrection, ח—8 also speaks to us of Yeshua and His resurrection from the dead. Yeshua the Messiah was born in Bethlehem, a little village mentioned 8 times in the New Covenant. He was circumcised, according to the Law of Moses, on the 8th day of his life. At this time, He was also officially given His name: Yeshua. “*And when eight days were completed for the circumcision of the Child, His name was called Yeshua, the name given by the angel before He was conceived in the womb.*” (Luke 2:21)

The name Yeshua (Jesus in English) has a numerical equivalent. When we moved to Plantation, Florida in 1985, we lived at 888 Azalea Court. We remember how excited one of our friends was when he saw our new address. He explained to us that 888 is the number of Yeshua’s name.

According to **The Bible Wheel Book**, the connection between the number 8 and the Name of Yeshua is one of the greatest alphanumeric identities linking the Greek and Hebrew languages to each other and the central doctrine of our faith.

Jesus The Salvation of our God

Ιησους = 888 = יְשׁוּעַת אֱלֹהֵינוּ

Iesous Yeshuat Eloheinu

*When a number is
doubled or tripled,
it carries the same
meaning but intensifies
the truth.*

How appropriate that Psalm 8 begins and ends with the following: "O Lord, our Lord, how excellent is Your name in all the earth!"

The resurrection of Yeshua from the dead occurred on Sunday, simultaneously the First Day and the 8th Day of the week. Just as in the musical octave where the cycle begins again on the eighth note, which then becomes the first note, so it is with the days of the week. Thus the letter **ח** reminds us of the resurrection as a new beginning. Because Yeshua lives, we, too, have life—eternally. *"But now Messiah is risen from the dead, and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since by man came death, by Man also came the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Messiah all shall be made alive."* (1 Corinthians 15:20-22)

Chet: Covenant

The first mention of the number 8 in the Holy Scriptures is found in Genesis 17:12 and is connected with circumcision and covenant: *"He who is eight days old among you shall be circumcised, every male child in your generations, he who is born in your house or bought with money from any foreigner who is not your descendant."* The *mitzvah* (commandment) of *brit milah* (ritual circumcision) is the oldest continually practiced ritual in the world! We have two sons who experienced this covenantal ritual which has been observed for almost 4,000 years, going back to the time of Abraham. *Brit* (pronounced B'reet) is the Hebrew word for covenant. *Milah* (pronounced Mee-LAH) means "to cut." Covenants used to be sealed with blood, hence the "cut." The shedding of blood is obvious with the Abrahamic Covenant, but not so obvious with the Mosaic Covenant at Sinai. Yet we read in Exodus 24:8, *"And Moses took the blood, sprinkled it on the people, and said, 'This is the blood of the covenant which the Lord has made with you according to all these words'."* Even more obscure is the ancient Hebrew ritual of the marriage covenant in which, in lieu of wedding rings, a cut was made on the finger, blood drawn, and hot ashes applied, so that a scar would remain around the finger. Seeking to divorce your covenant partner? Cutting off the finger was the way out of covenant!

God is speaking to us about covenant in 2008. What is He saying? First, He is saying that He is a God who keeps covenant. (See Deuteronomy 7:9.) Next, covenant is a solemn agreement or contract, a holy oath or bond (Genesis 15:18; 17:2, 7). When the Lord made a covenant with Abraham, He entered into a special relationship with him and his descendants for all time. The rite of circumcision would be the sign of this covenant. In some way, this covenant was a foreshadowing of another to come, spoken of in Colossians 2:11-12, *"In Him [Yeshua] you were also circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the sins of the flesh, by the circumcision of Messiah, buried with Him in baptism [mikveh], in which you also were raised with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead."* This is the **New** Covenant, the *B'rit Hadasha*, spoken of in Jeremiah chapter 31. Yeshua is the Mediator of this New Covenant, sealed in His own blood, a covenant established on better promises than the Mosaic covenant. This is the year to explore those **BETTER PROMISES**, and **TAKE HOLD OF THEM** to the Glory of God!

Chet: Life!

Finally, **ח** as a letter symbolizes LIFE. Have you ever seen a silver or gold pendant that looks like **ח**? This is a very popular style with both traditional Jews and Christians since **חַי** is the Hebrew word

"chai" which means "life" (actually the shortened form of חַיִּים chaim [life]). Wearing a חַי on one's neck may be based on a verse from the Bible that speaks about the commandments of the Lord: *"My son, let them not depart from your eyes—Keep sound wisdom and discretion; so they will be life [חַיִּים] to your soul and grace [חַי] to your neck"* (Proverbs 3:21-22).

When a Jewish person sees the letter ח, the first thing that comes to their mind is usually life. In the Torah, life is connected with blood (Leviticus 17:11). As early as Exodus, we see the blood of innocent lambs being applied to the lintel and doorposts of Hebrew homes bringing life. (Note the shape ח as the blood was applied to the doors!) Years later, Yeshua the Messiah said that He was the Way, the Truth, and the Life (John 14:6). All people, Jews and non-Jews alike, enter into "abundant life" by applying the blood of His sacrifice to their hearts by faith.

Is Yeshua **a part** of your life, one facet of it, or—is Yeshua **your life**? How do you relate to the verse in Acts 17:28 that says, *"For in Him we live and move and have our being..."*? This must be settled in 2008 so that our Father can give you life in abundance in Messiah!

A Revelation at Petra

Following our October Mercy Mission, we went to Eilat and Petra for the first time. On July 7, 2007, Petra was named one of the new Seven Wonders of the World. It is indeed! A massive complex of pinkish stone chiseled by hand, before the time of Yeshua, most probably around the first century B.C. Petra is breathtaking! Our guide frequently pointed out niches of various sizes which had been carefully carved out of the rock to hold idols, especially idols of the water god, Dushara, the main god of the Nabataean people. The Lord showed us that when we say someone has "found their niche," or "carved out a niche for themselves," they have actually found their "idol" or their "god."

Have you found your niche in life? May our niche be God Himself, His House, His Word, His Plan for each of our lives in 2008. May we be able to echo the words of the psalmist of Psalm 84 whose soul longs for the courts of the Lord, and has found his niche (nest) in the altars of the House of God, going from strength to strength, *"For a day in Your courts is better than a thousand. I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of wickedness"* (Psalm 84:10).

Let's go up an octave in 2008—to a higher level in the Lord!

L'Chaim B'Yeshua—To life in Yeshua's Name,

Heidi & Jamie

Jewish Jewels Television Airtime Schedule - January 2008

LOCAL TV STATIONS

STATE:	CITY:	STATIONS:	AIRTIME:
AK	North Pole	KJNP TV 4	TUE 6:00 PM
CA	Sonora	PUBLIC ACCESS 8	MON 8:30 PM
FL	Tampa/St. Pete.	WCLF TV22	SUN 2:30 PM
FL	Orlando/Cocoa	WLCB TV 45	SUN 1:30 PM
FL	Miami/Ft. Laud.	WHFT TV 45	THU 11:30 AM
FL	West Palm Beach	WFGC TV 61	SAT 10:30 PM
IL	Peoria	FAITH ALIVE CH 20	FRI 6:00 PM
NJ/NY	NJ/New York	WMBC TV 63	SUN 4:00 PM
OH	Columbus	WSFJ TV 51	SUN 3:30 PM
OR	Portland	K26GJ TV 26	SUN 12:00 PM
OR	Salem	K21GX TV 21	SUN 12:00 PM
PA	Philadelphia	WFMZ TV 69	SUN 9:30 AM
SC	Greenville	WGGS TV 16	FRI 10:30 AM

SATELLITE NETWORKS

SKY ANGEL

Angel Two - SUN 2:30 PM (EST) [Ch. 9702]
GTN - SUN 3:30 PM (EST) [Ch. 9707]

DirecTV

World Harvest TV (WHT) - SUN 3:00 PM (EST) [Ch. 321]

God TV - The GOD Channel

WED 4:30 AM (GMT) & 6:30 AM (Jerusalem)

Australian Christian Channel (ACC)

THU 8:00 AM (AEST)

Galaxy 16

World Harvest TV (WHT) - SUN 5:00 PM (EST) [Ch. 121]

Satellite Receiver

WHT- Galaxy 16- Transpondent 15 - SUN 3:00 PM (EST)



INTERNATIONAL Philippines - Shalom TV THU 6:00 PM

INTERNET www.jewishjewels.org www.acctv.com.au
