

# Yehoshua and the Standalone Aleph Tav's in Deu 3:21 and Jdg 2:7

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## Introduction

I would like to make some comments about the observations made by [Nehemia Gordon](#) on the [Truth2U](#) “Pearls of the Torah” podcast for the parasha called [Devarim](#) (Deu 1:1 – 3:22). Specifically I’m referring to the very end of the podcast which is found in the audio at the markers between 1:12:00 - 1:15:39 (listeners comments for this podcast can be found [here](#)).

He makes some fascinating points about the scribes and how obsessive they were about writing the Torah and how they would put all kinds of footnotes on the side of the scroll for things that thought were out of the ordinary. They did this because they were passionate about their work and because this was the word of God so they didn’t dare change the text.

## The spelling of Joshua (Yehoshua)

This portion of the podcast was specifically about one verse, Deuteronomy 3:21 (Heb. Devarim 3:21), and the uniqueness of how Joshua <sup>A</sup> (the successor to Moses) is spelled in the Hebrew. I did some quick checking and according to my e-sword the spelling of Joshua has the Strong’s number H3091 associated with it and that it occurs 218 times. Nehemia points out that in Deuteronomy 3:21 it is spelled slightly different and that this slight difference only occurs one other time in the TaNaCh <sup>B</sup> specifically at Judges 2:7.

This table depicts the two ways Joshua is spelled and there frequency.

Comments	Occurrences	Transliterated Hebrew letters	Gematria	Joshua in Hebrew
Normal spelling of Joshua	216	Yood hey vav sheen ayin	391	יְהוֹשֻׁעַ
Joshua with the extra <b>vav</b>	2	Yood hey vav sheen <b>vav</b> ayin	397	יְהוֹשׁוּעַ

<sup>A</sup> Yehoshua would be a better transliteration, but since I’m using the King James bible for the English translation I will use Joshua.

<sup>B</sup> TaNaCh is an acronym for the Hebrew bible / old Testament, <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tanakh>

That in and of itself didn't seem all that fascinating but provoked me to dig deeper. Before Nehemia started talking about Deu 3:2 I was already aware that this verse was special because it contained something I have diligently kept track namely "standalone Aleph Tav's". On my website, [www.MyHebrewBible.com](http://www.MyHebrewBible.com), I keep track of these standalone Aleph Tavs and I do so because I believe they are associated with the Messiah. One of the things I like to do with these special Aleph Tavs is to find out where specifically in the English translation of the verse they occur and see if they connect to (point to) the Messiah.<sup>c</sup>

By my count, there are 632 of them in 611 verses (this is because some have two in the same verse). For example in the book of Deuteronomy there are 38 occurrences and in Judges there are 19. I mentioned Judges, because that was the one other place that had this other oddball spelling, and so I wondered if that verse also contained a standalone Aleph Tav. Sure enough it was. Cool! This was my motivation for writing this article.

Below is a table that shows the two verses, first in the King James and then in Hebrew (WLC).

### Verse Comparison in English and Hebrew

**Deu 3:21**KJV <sup>21</sup> And I commanded **Joshua** at that time, saying, Thine eyes have seen **Aleph Tav** all that the LORD your God hath done unto these two kings: so shall the LORD do unto all the kingdoms whither thou passest.

כא

וְאֶת־יְהוֹשׁוּעַ צִוִּיתִי בְּעֵת הַהוּא לֵאמֹר עֵינֶיךָ הָרְאִיתָ אֶת־כָּל־אֲשֶׁר עָשָׂה יְהוָה  
אֲלֵהֶיכֶם לְשָׁנֵי הַמְּלָכִים הָאֵלֶּה כִּנְיַעַשָׂה יְהוָה לְכָל־הַמְּמַלְכוֹת אֲשֶׁר אָתָּה  
עָבַר שָׁמָּה

**Jdg 2:7** KJV <sup>7</sup> And the people served the LORD all the days of **Joshua**, and all the days of the elders that outlived **Joshua**, who had seen **Aleph Tav** all the great works of the LORD, that he did for Israel.

ז

וַיַּעֲבָדוּ הָעָם אֶת־יְהוָה כָּל־יְמֵי יְהוֹשֻׁעַ וְכָל־יְמֵי הַזְּקֵנִים אֲשֶׁר הָאָרִיכוּ יָמִים  
אַחֲרָי יְהוֹשׁוּעַ אֲשֶׁר רָאוּ אֶת־כָּל־מַעֲשֵׂה יְהוָה הַגְּדוֹל אֲשֶׁר עָשָׂה לְיִשְׂרָאֵל

<sup>c</sup> For more on this see these blog entries <http://johnmarsing.wordpress.com/2012/09/12/standalone-aleph-tav-whats-all-the-fuss/> and <http://johnmarsing.wordpress.com/2012/09/09/eight-standalone-aleph-tavs-in-1-kings-chapter-8/>

Note that I modified<sup>D</sup> the verses to emphasis my point.

1. I added where the Aleph Tav would be in the English translation and I also colored it red.
2. Also in the English I bolded the name Joshua for both English translations. In Judges 2:7, Joshua is spelled both ways, the first spelling is the more common way and I indicate that by underlining it.
3. For the standalone Aleph Tav in the Hebrew verses, I colored them red to easily point them out.
4. For the extra vav added to Joshua, I also colored it in red to easily point them out as well.

## Gematria

I don't usually get into the Gematria, but just for fun and completeness, I decided to investigate it. I noticed that the gematria for the unique spelling of Joshua is **397** (see [Hebrew Aleph Bet Chart](#)) and, keeping with the theme of the Aleph Tav, I noticed that it's **4** short of the gematria value for Aleph Tav which is **401**.

What's my point? I'm not sure I have a point, I just want to do the work so that someone else might "run with it". The gematria for 4 is the fourth letter of the Hebrew Aleph Bet called Dalet and it means the door. Four also symbolizes creative works, earthly

Here is some interesting information I got from the online [Gematria Database](#) that the reader might find interesting. Note that this list is an abridged list from the Gematria Database.

ויהושע	<a href="#">H3091</a> Yehowshuwa` / Joshua	<a href="#">Exo 24:13</a>
יהושוע	<a href="#">H3091</a> Yehowshuwa` / Joshua	<a href="#">Deu 3:21</a>
וישועה	<a href="#">H3444</a> yeshuw`ah / salvation	<a href="#">Psa 118:15</a>
וישועה	<a href="#">H3444</a> yeshuw`ah / salvation	<a href="#">Psa 118:15</a>

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<sup>D</sup> I want to be clear that when I say I have "modified" the Hebrew bible, I'm not adding or subtracting letters or words, I'm simply adding color to point out where exactly the things I'm talking about exist in the text and further I'm not suggesting that these colors exist in the actual Torah scrolls.

# Appendix

## Hebrew Aleph Bet Chart

The Hebrew alphabet is called [Aleph Bet](#). Below is a chart that I have on my website which gives a lot of information about the Aleph Bet

Name	Alef	Bet *	Gimel	Dalet	Hey	Vav	Zayin	Chet	Tet	Yood	Caf	Lamed	Mem	Noon	Samek	Ayin	Pey *	Tzadik	Koof	Reysh	Sheen *	Tav
Gematria	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	20	30	40	50	60	70	80	90	100	200	300	400
Hebrew	א	ב	ג	ד	ה	ו	ז	ח	ט	י	כ	ל	מ	נ	ס	ע	פ	צ	ק	ר	ש	ת
Sofit										ך			ם	ן		ף	ץ					
Order	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Paleo	𐤀	𐤁	𐤂	𐤃	𐤄	𐤅	𐤆	𐤇	𐤈	𐤉	𐤊	𐤋	𐤌	𐤍	𐤎	𐤏	𐤐	𐤑	𐤒	𐤓	𐤔	𐤕
English	a	b,v	g	d	h	v	z	ch	t	y	c, k	l	m	n	s	i	p, ph	ts	k	r	s, sh	th
Literal Meaning	Ox	House, Tent	Camel	Door	Window, Fence	Nail	Sword	Fence, Hedge	Snake, to Twist	Closed hand	Arm, open hand	Staff, cattle goad	Water	Fish (moving)	a Prop	Eye	Mouth	Fish hook	Back of head	Head	Teeth	Sign, Cross
Symbolic Meaning	strength, leadership, first	household, in	pride, lift up, giver	pathway, enter	"the", to reveal	and, add, secure, hook	cut, to cut off	private, to separate	to surround	dead, work, to make	to cover, allow, strength	prod, go toward, tongue	massive, overpower, chaos	activity, life	support, turn	see, know, experience	speak, open, word	harvest, desire	behind, last, least	person, head, highest	consume, destroy	covenant, seal
<b>Note Prefix Bet: in, from; Hey: the; Vav: and; Caf: as, like; Mem: from; Sheen: that. * Can have a dagesh.</b>																						

## Sidebar: the Battle Hymn of the Republic

I'm always looking for connections in the Torah to the Puritans, Pilgrims and the American founding fathers as many of them believed they were Israel (an idea I'm sympathetic to as I embrace their Judeo-Christian view). With that said I find it interesting that the [Battle Hymn of the Republic](#) starts off with "Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord." What's interesting is what that if they accepted, as I do, that the standalone Aleph Tav is symbolic of the Messiah, they could have interpreted these two verses to be the inspiration of this hymn i.e. "Thine eyes have seen the glory of Aleph Tav".

Please not, I have zero evidence of this it's just me speculating and having fun with words.

## Other related points I could write about in the future

For the most part, the emphasis of this article was to show textually some unique and noteworthy insights (at least I think they are). Obviously in the previous pages I “leak out” what my views <sup>E</sup> are so as to give the reader a sense of what motivates me, but regardless of my beliefs and biases that I bring to the table, the textual facts are just that factual and hard to deny.

With that said it would be interesting to explore what the religious significance of these textual facts might mean. Here is a list of things that I thought of....

- Make the connection that Joshua is believed to be like Y’shua, not just in their names being very similar in spelling and meaning<sup>F G</sup>, but show that Joshua accomplished what Moses could not. Moses gave us the Torah but Y’shua fulfilled i.e. He “filled it full”<sup>H</sup>. As my friend Yoseph would say, “Moshe gave us the Torah but it took a man named Joshua (Y’shua) to enable us to enter the promised land.”
- What is the allegorical significance of adding an extra vav to Joshua’s name?
  - If you put the Hebrew letter vav in the middle of Aleph Tav, you get the Hebrew word **oth** and it means **sign**.<sup>I</sup> The meaning of vav is a nail and the Aleph Tav was nailed to the cross.
- A question about uniqueness. In the 216 other occurrences of Joshua which is spelled the normal more frequent way, is there any Standalone Aleph Tav’s to be found in those verses? If so where?
  - It seems to me that if there weren’t any other occurrences that would pretty amazing.

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<sup>E</sup> I’m a “Torah observant, Y’shua believing, two house one covenant” believer. For more details see <http://www.myhebrewbible.com/Home/AboutMyReligion>

<sup>F</sup> According to Strong’s the meaning for Joshua (#H3091) is “Jehovah-saved”, WordStudy says it means “the Lord delivers”. With regard to the meaning of Jesus (I prefer to transliterate it as Y’shua), Strong’s says (#G2424) “Of Hebrew origin (H3091); Jesus (that is Jehoshua), the name of our Lord...”

<sup>G</sup> There are a lot of people (for the most part I’m not one of them) who get very passionate about the meaning of the name and how to spell it and pronounce it etc.. I just want to point this out and that this topic is beyond the scope of this article.

<sup>H</sup> It’s definitely my faith and belief that Y’shua (Jesus) definitely did not replace the Torah as most of Christianity would claim.

<sup>I</sup> Strong’s concordance has 79 occurrences of H226 with different translations; 60 times as **sign**, 14 times as **token**, twice as **miracles**, twice as **ensign**, and once as **mark**. Note that the transliteration “Oth” would be pronounced “oat” not “oath”.

See Word-Study-H226-oth-Token-Sign, article #???