The Letter Waw

* Some of the info is from *'Ancient Hebrew Lexicon of the Bible'* by ***Jeff A Benner.***

AlefTav #24
Theme: The letter *Waw*
Lesson 1: Explanation

Summary
Name: *Waw*
Pronunciation: *w,o,u* as in ***W*** as in *walk,* ***O*** as in *Oak,* ***Uu*** as in *Tune.*
Picture: Picture of a tent peg
Meaning: Peg, hook, nail, to add or secure
Numerical Value: 9 / 6 in Modern Hebrew

The **sixth letter** of the Ancient Hebrew Alphabet is ***Waw***, and its name sounds similar in Modern Hebrew - ***Vav***.

The picture looks like the English letter ***Y*** but actually resembles a **tent peg.**

Y

Waw

Tent pegs were made of wood and may have been **Y-shaped to prevent the rope from slipping off.**
Waw is used as a **consonant** with a ***w-sound*** and as a **vowel** as an ***ow*** or ***uw*** sound.
In Modern Hebrew it has a *v-sound* as in *vest.*

As the pictograph indicates, this letter represents a **peg, hook or nail,** which are used **for securing something.** The meaning of the letter is to **add or secure.**

This letter is frequently used as **a prefix to words to mean '*and*'** in the sense of adding things together.

AlefTav #25
Theme: The letter *Waw*
Lesson 2: Different forms of the letter *Waw*

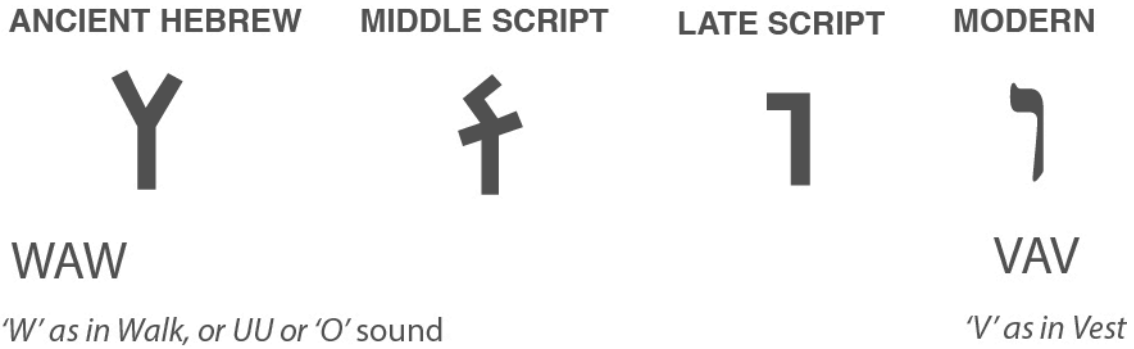
Words that begin with the letter *waw* is **very rare,** in the ancient Hebrew language there are only 3 words that begin with this letter.

One of them is the **name** of the letter ***Waw***.

The word *Waw* is written with two *waw's* in a row, like this:

This word means *Peg or Hook.*

Below you can see the development of the letter *Waw.*



The *middle Semetic form* was adopted by the Greeks and the Romans to become the letter ***F***, but was dropped from the Greek alphabet later. The *late Semetic form* of the letter became the **number 9** Not 6.

AlefTav #26
Theme: The letter *Waw*
Lesson 3: The numerical value of *Waw*

What I am about to tell you, I've only discovered recently myself.

In the previous lesson you've learned that the *Middle Semetic* form of the letter *Waw* became the **number 9** and not 6.

It is know among Hebrew scholars that *Waw,* especially in Modern Hebrew, represents the letter six.

When I learned about the development of the letter *Waw*, and discovered that it developed into 9 not 6, I had to find out more! So I contacted Jeff Benner to ask him a couple of questions.

He said through his studies he has found that in Ancient times **the order of the letters varied.** In one of his videos he shows an example of an ancient *abecedary* (inscription of the alphabet) and it gives ***tet*** as the **sixth** letter and ***waw*** as the **ninth** letter. There are other abcedaries that gives *waw* as the 5th letter.
The **shapes** of the letters in the *Middle Script* (Paleo Hebrew) also suggest that ***tet*** is the origin of 6 and **waw the origin of 9.**

When you look at the pictures and meanings of these two letters, **waw** and **tet,** and if you take into account the symbolism of the correlating number, it makes more sense to me if they are switched.

So in the future I am going to switch them on the table – but I'll make a note of it so you can remember that in Modern Hebrew it has a different numerical value. If you make use of Biblical Hebrew *Gamatria*, just keep this in mind when you do your own studies.

We will then carry on to study the meaning of the **number 9** and why I think it is associated with this letter.

The number 9:

The **number 9** is not mentioned a lot in the Scriptures and there are some different opinions as to what it may symbolizes.

I have found that 9 refers to **Finality of judgment** (good or bad) and **completion of a certain task or calling –** think of the 9 months of pregnancy.

The Messiah breathed out His last breath in the **ninth hour of the day**, (Matthew 27v45, Mark 15v35) and said

John 19v30 *"When Yahusha had received the sour wine, He said, **It is finished**! And He bowed His head and gave up His spirit."*

The picture of the letter *Waw* looks like a **nail** - When Messiah was nailed to the cross, He finished what He was sent to do!

He **secured** the covenant and **added** us to the house of Yisrael.

You know that **3** symbolize **covenant**!
3 x 3 = 9
It shows that when you walk in the **fullness of the covenant**, it is the **finality of your judgment** and the **product of divine completeness.**

There are **9 Fruits of the Spirit** and **9 Gifts of the Spirit** - we should aspire to walk in the **fullness of the Spirit** and bare these fruits.

Hope you enjoyed the study on the letter **Waw**!
Shalom