

The Aleph Tav in Numbers 25:8

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It's my understanding that there are 611 stand alone "Aleph Tav's" in the TaNaCh ("Old Testament) and it is my belief that these special combination of letters are representative of Y'shua the Messiah. The Aleph is the first letter in the Aleph Bet and the Tav is the last letter. This word is not translated in any English bible and therefore is "hidden" in the Hebrew. An exhaustive study to prove my case is beyond the scope of this article so assume that you are familiar with the basic teaching and that this word comes up in some very powerful places that point to the Messiah.

For the purposes of full disclosure, I am a Torah observant and Y'shua believing Two House Messianic.

Now onto the purpose of this article which is that I believe I have found an insightful understanding and interpretation of the Aleph Tav found in Numbers 25:8, for context I will start off with the first seven verses...

Num 25:1-7 KJV And Israel abode in Shittim, and the people began to commit whoredom with the daughters of Moab. ² And they called the people unto the sacrifices of their gods: and the people did eat, and bowed down to their gods. ³ And Israel joined himself unto Baalpeor: and the anger of YHVH was kindled against Israel. ⁴ And YHVH said unto Moses, Take all the heads of the people, and hang them up before YHVH against the sun, that the fierce anger of YHVH may be turned away from Israel. ⁵ And Moses said unto the judges of Israel, Slay ye every one his men that were joined unto Baalpeor. ⁶ And, behold, one of the children of Israel came and brought unto his brethren a Midianitish woman in the sight of Moses, and in the sight of all the congregation of the children of Israel, who *were weeping before* the door of the tabernacle of the congregation. ⁷ And when Phinehas, the son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron the priest, saw *it*, he rose up from among the congregation, and took a javelin in his hand;

This portion of the Torah is right after the story of Balaam and Balak. Balak feared Israel and wanted the "prophet" Balaam to curse them, but ended up blessing them much to the displeasure of Balak. Later on in the Torah (Numbers 31) Balaam is shown to be an enemy of Israel by counseling with Balak to try another tact and infiltrate the camp of Israel with Midianite woman causing them to sacrifice to their gods which caused YHVH to be angry with Israel. So next comes verse eight which as the Aleph Tav which is between the word both and the words man of Israel (the words "of them through" isn't really in the Hebrew, but is implied).

⁸ And he went after the man of Israel into the tent, and thrust both **Aleph Tav** *of them through*, the man of Israel, and the woman through her belly. So the plague was stayed from the children of Israel.

Except for the (fancy word alert) [hapax legomena](#) for the Hebrew word qobah which is translated as belly (Strong's H6897), I didn't really see any significance for this occurrence of the Aleph Tav. We at [TYoAZ](#) follow a [triennial](#) study which stopped at Numbers 25:9, so I just left it there. Later on in the week I revisited our parasha and went beyond this verse as I guess I wanted to read up on Phinehas, see the following verses...

Num 25:9-13 KJV ⁹ And those that died in the plague were twenty and four thousand. ¹⁰ And YHVH spake unto Moses, saying, ¹¹ Phinehas, the son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron the priest, hath turned my wrath away from the children of Israel, while he was zealous for my sake among them, that I consumed not the children of Israel in my jealousy. ¹² Wherefore say, Behold, I give unto him my covenant of peace: ¹³ And he shall have it, and his seed after him, *even* the covenant of an everlasting priesthood; because he was zealous for his Elohim, and made an atonement for the children of Israel.

My question after reading verses 13 was what was the actual atonement that stopped the wrath of El i.e. the plague? It became obvious to me that the act of killing the two people in verse eight was a bold move and YHVH took it as a righteous sacrifice that stopped the plague. With this new insight I decided to look over the Aleph Tav specifically its location. Here a screen shot of the verse in Hebrew using [e-sword](#) and the Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia (BHS) bible. FYI, I boxed the Aleph Tav in red and removed the [diacritical](#) marks (that's my second fancy word)

Num 25:8 וַיָּבֹא אַחֵר אִישׁ־יִשְׂרָאֵל אֶל־הַקָּבֶה וַיִּדְקֹר
אֶת־שְׁנֵיהֶם אֶת אִישׁ יִשְׂרָאֵל וְאֶת־הָאִשָּׁה
אֶל־קַבְּתָהּ וַתַּעֲצֹר הַמִּנְפֶה מֵעַל בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל:

My Analysis

The actions of Phinehas are a type and shadow of what will happen to Y'shua who will later be pierced on the cross and will be our atonement. This is so because the Aleph Tav i.e. Y'shua is next to the "man of Israel" who is sinful by committing a whoredom (not only with a woman, but worse with an alien and foreign god). With Phinehas's physical action of piercing "the man of Israel" he also symbolically pierced Y'shua therefore both of them get pierced. The word translated both is significant because the stand alone Aleph Tav is actually between that word "shen-ah'-yim" (translated both in English) and "Ish Yisrael" (translated man of Israel in English).

YHVH rewards Phinehas the Covenant of Peace for making atonement for Israel.

In Num 25:1-7, the act of whoredom causing "the anger of YHVH to be kindled against Israel" and the blatant act of one defiant man of Israel ended up causing the death of a whopping 24,000 people. I contend that this is symbolic of The day of the LORD which is the final judgment day. Could it be that during this most awesome earth changing event we will only be able to survive from the wrath of Elohim by "suing for peace" because of the covering / atonement of Y'shua which is symbolized by Phinehas's acquisition of the Covenant of Peace?