

## Positioning For Success

*“The sons of Issachar who had understanding of the **TIMES**, to know what Israel ought to do,”*

**(1 Chronicles 12:32)**

“Times” =  
“Aleph Tav”

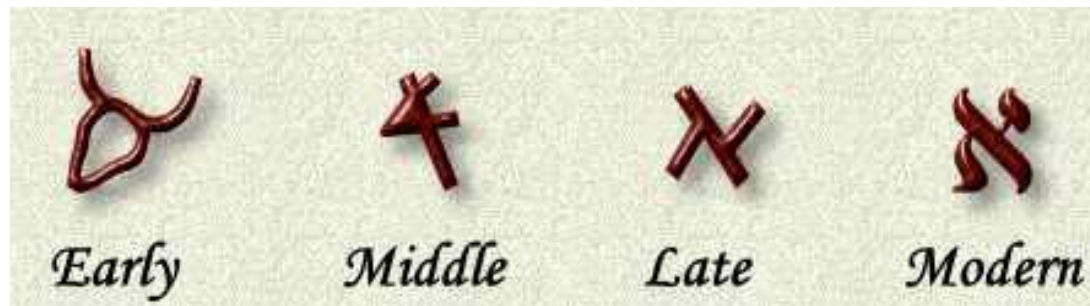


# Understanding of the “times”

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- Aleph = Ox, leader, first position in all things.
- When “aleph” is spelled out in Hebrew, it means, the voice of the chief shepherd.



# Tav: “Here Is My Mark”

- Considered a sign or symbol of the covenant.
- *“Put a ‘mark’ (tav) on the foreheads of the men who sigh and cry over all the abominations that are done within it.” (Ezekiel 9:4)*

Early  
Hebrew



Middle  
Hebrew



Late  
Hebrew



Modern  
Hebrew



## From Soup To Nuts (Aleph to Tav)

- Same as Alpha and Omega, from a to z, from first to last, from beginning to end.
- It means fullness, nothing missing.
- In some ways, it's like adding an exclamation point! Or **BOLD** text. It's meant to communicate a special meaning to the words that follow.
- Genesis 1:1 consists of 7 Hebrew words, with the middle one being "et"
- Literally, In the beginning, Elohiym created "eth" (the Aleph Tav) preceding the creation of the heavens and the earth.





## Hand of God

- In Genesis 25:28, we find that both Jacob and Esau have aleph-tav symbols in front of their names in the beginning of their life together.
- The LAST time we see the aleph-tav symbol used in front of Esau's name is in Genesis 27:1 when Isaac asks Esau to hunt some savory meat so that he can bless him.
- Even though Esau's name is used another 78 times in the Torah the aleph-tav symbol continues to be only in front of Jacob's name and NOT Esau's - because the covenant blessing of the birthright was removed from him because he had earlier in life, despised it.



## **Where you see “et”, God’s invisible hand is there.**

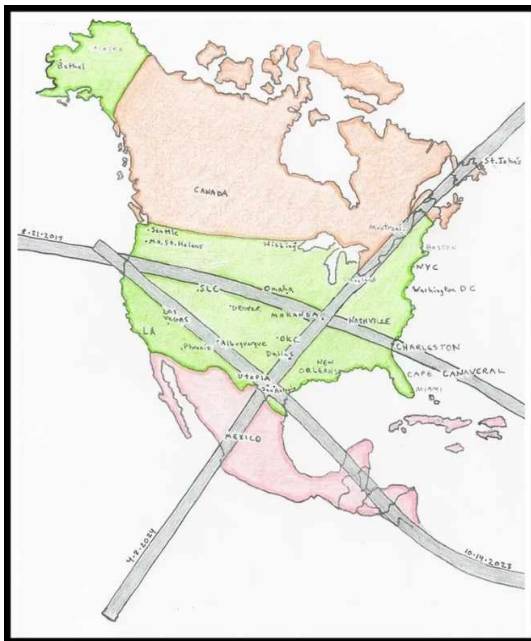
- Ruth's name is used 12 times in the book of Ruth.
- The first 10 times there is no aleph-tav symbol in front of her name.
- After she is redeemed by Boaz the next two times her name is used, an aleph-tav symbol appears in front of her name each time.
- The aleph-tav symbol shows a divine connection of covenant relationship with YaHoVeH.



## Genesis 1:14

Then God said, “Let there be lights in the firmament of the heavens to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs (*“ot”* = signal, omen, miraculous mark, warning) and seasons, (*“moed”* = feasts, appointed times) and for days and years;

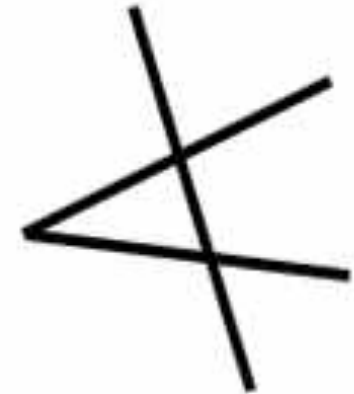
# Paleo Hebrew Form of Aleph Tav



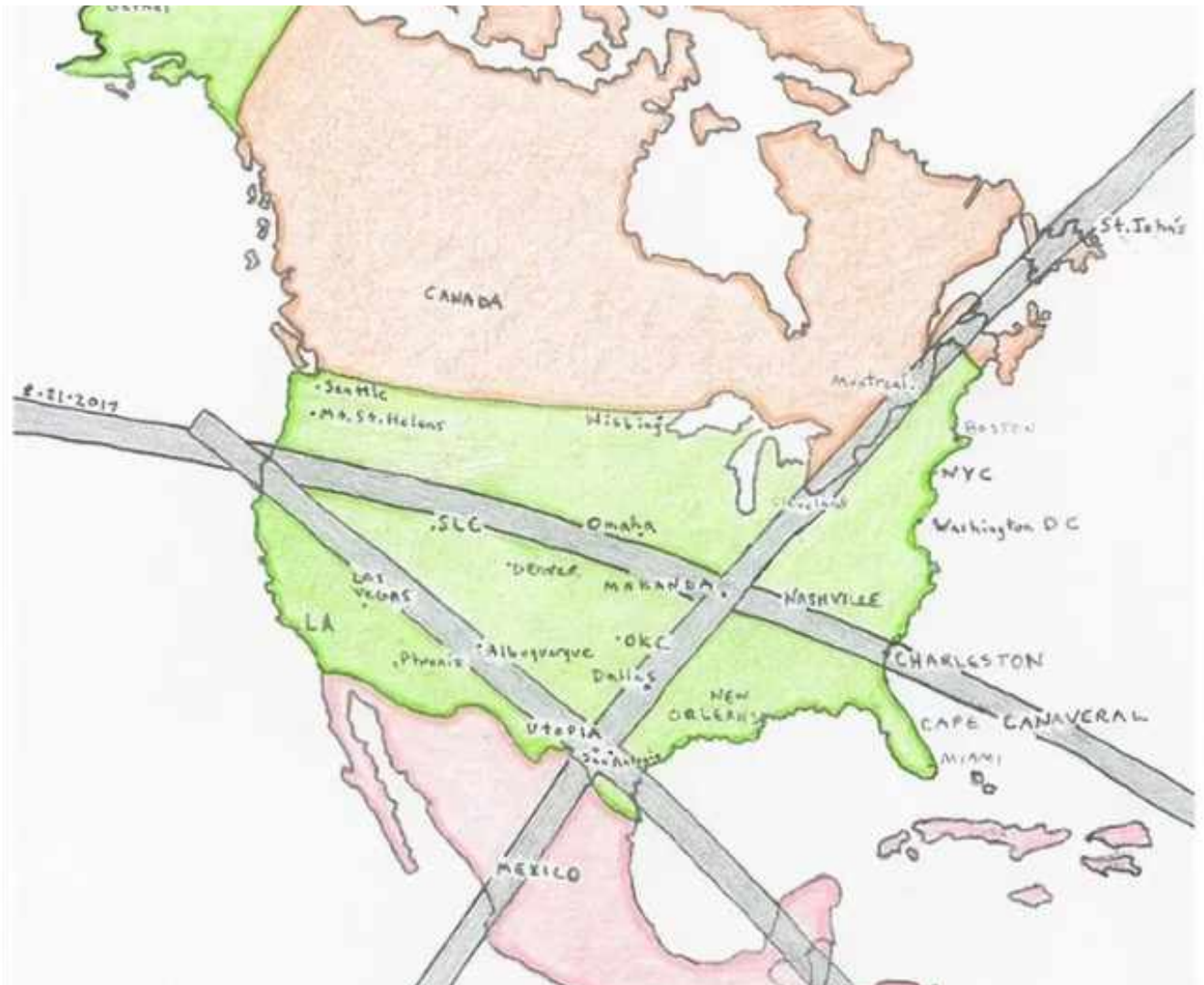
Paleo-Hebrew *Tav*



Paleo-Hebrew *Aleph*







## God is placing His “Mark” (Aleph + Tav) Across America

- It's a stamp of God's ownership + covenant
- Victory (NOT DOOM)
- No victory without a battle.
- Set your expectations for victory – NOT for retreat.

# The Race is Not to the Swift...

Nor the battle to the strong,  
Nor bread to the wise,  
Nor riches to men of  
understanding,  
Nor favor to men of skill;  
But **time and chance** happen  
to them all.



# Time and Chance Happens

- The word translated “time” is “et” and is used in conjunction with the word object or subject that follows which is translated “chance happens”.
- The phrase Solomon used for... “time and chance happens” is an unfortunate and inaccurate translation.
- They are NOT random happenings, events or occurrences that happen by luck.
- In Hebrew it is written “eth pega qarah”. A simple translation of “eth” when connected with the subject that follows would be “a fit or proper time, an opportunity, a season”.





## What it Really Means

- “Pega” comes from the root word “paga” which means to make intercession or pray. (See Genesis 23:8 NIV)
- “Qarah” means a “happening, event or occurrence” and is often used in reference to God ordained or God blessed happenings. (Ruth 2:3, Gen 24:12)
- Taken together they mean perfectly timed happenings or opportunities that are divinely orchestrated. These may well be the result of prayer and intercession.
- For example, Abraham’s oldest and most trusted servant, Eliezer was sent on a mission to find a wife for Isaac in his home country.



## Positioning For Success

This has to do with things like timing (aleph tav), location, markets, the economy, world events, shortages and gluts.

In football, with 22 players on the field (11 each team), the ball doesn't go to the nicest player, the smartest or best looking player.

It goes to the best positioned player.



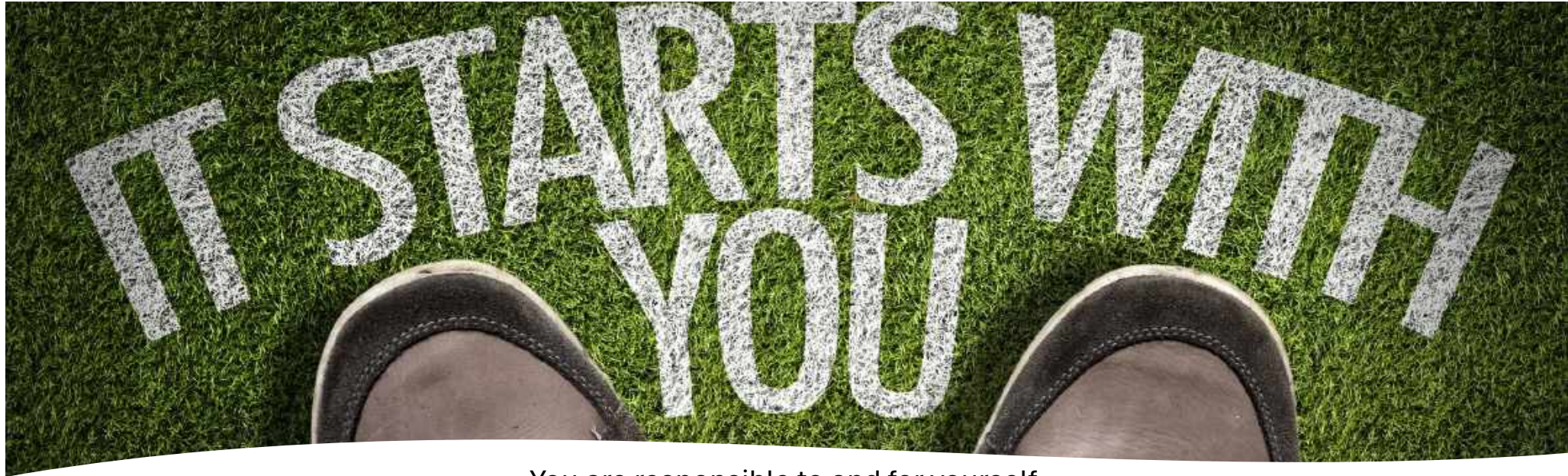
## Right Positioning Requires Having a Clear Goal

“Skate to where the puck is going, not where it has been.”

## Where Does God Want to Position You To Maximize Your Impact in Times of Change?

- James 1:5 instructs us to ask God for wisdom, who gives generously to all without finding fault.
- The only condition is that we MUST believe and not doubt.
- Be alert, watchful, discerning (like sons of Issachar) who discerned the times and knew how to position themselves and others.
- Study and learn the cycle of events wherein lays a unique opportunity where you can provide a product or service to alleviate a problem, or accentuate or give access to an opportunity.
- The key is to recognize change or pending change and position yourself as a pivot point to direct others.





## Personal Responsibility

- You are responsible to and for yourself.
- If you choose not to be responsible for yourself, you will have great difficulty helping others.
- *“But let each one examine his own work, and then he will have rejoicing in himself alone, and not in another. For each one shall bear his own load.”* (Galatians 6:4-5)
- *“So then, each one of us shall give account of himself to God.”* (Romans 14:12)
- Be responsible for yourself by being aware and preparing for the coming changes. That will enable you to take advantage of a crisis rather than being disadvantaged by it.



## Biblical Admonitions

*“Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.”*  
(1 Peter 5:8)

*“For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. **Walk as children of light... finding out what is acceptable to the Lord...** Awake, you who sleep, Arise from the dead, And Christ will give you light. See then that you **walk circumspectly**, (precise, thorough, strictly adhering to a protocol, criteria, or set of standards) not as fools but as wise, **redeeming the time, because the days are evil.** Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is.”* (Ephesians 3:8-16)

# Did Biblical Heroes Have Goals?

- Abraham was given a life's goal (father of many nations)
- Joseph was given a life's goal and through ridicule, suffering and opposition, he reached it.
- Moses was given a life's goal to deliver the Israelites to the Promised Land;
- Saul was anointed as king of the Israelites and although Saul disobeyed God, David would not be would not harm the Lord's anointed. Saul's anointing indicated the sacredness of his life goal.
- David, the shepherd boy who became a great king of Israel, was given a life goal, which he fulfilled.
- Hannah had a life goal for her son, Samuel, who marched through the pages of Biblical history as a prophet, demonstrating his life's call.
- To these we can add so many more who were given life goals by God - Jonah, Samson, John the Baptist, Peter the fisherman - and finally, Jesus Christ, whose goal was our salvation.
- The abundance of goal-setters in history should be a guide and example to us all, and confirm the importance of life goals, especially those given by Almighty God.

## DID JESUS HAVE GOALS?

(In His own words)

I did not come to destroy men's lives<sup>1</sup> or the Law or the Prophets<sup>2</sup>, nor call the righteous to repentance<sup>3</sup>, nor bring peace to the earth<sup>4</sup>, nor judge the world<sup>5</sup>,

I came to bring a sword<sup>6</sup> and division<sup>7</sup> and to send fire on the earth<sup>8</sup>, and to destroy the works of the devil<sup>9</sup> and to fulfill the Law and the Prophets<sup>10</sup>.

I came to seek and to save that which was lost<sup>11</sup>, even the world<sup>12</sup>, calling sinners to repentance<sup>13</sup>, giving my life a ransom for many<sup>14</sup> that they might have life, and have it more abundantly.<sup>15</sup>

# As the world shifts, keep placing yourself in the space best suited for you.

- It will work like an algorithm, constantly making you better and better, and thus more valuable to the market.
- Evaluate your past experiences (good + bad, recent + distant) Write them down and study them. The negative ones can act as danger signals to avoid in the future and the good ones, can provide guidelines for you to repeat in the future.
- You can create under the hand and guidance of God any environment you are prepared to pay the price for.
- Improve your positioning by selecting good experiences to deliberately build upon and deleting the bad experiences other than the signals it provides for things to avoid.



# Success is a good thing

- We were given a sovereign charter in Genesis to subdue the earth and have dominion over it.
- So what does success look like for you?
- *"He shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that brings forth its fruit in its season, whose leaf also shall not wither; And **whatever he does shall prosper.**"* (Psalm 1:3)
- Greater success requires greater sacrifice and demands greater responsibility.
- Failure: Focus on lessons learned, not on the destructiveness of the failure.
- Take risks: They give you invaluable experience and it's the dwelling place of great opportunity.





## What is Your Life Goal?

This one thing *I do*, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, **I press toward the goal** for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.