

May 2024





Worshipful Master Message

Brethren,

I would like to begin this message with a special thanks to all the Past Masters who regularly attend our meetings and who are always willing to step in to fill roles so that our lodge can open. As Masons, there is regular conversation about how to increase our numbers with new members. I am less concerned about acquiring new members than I am about retaining current members. The principal officers have revived lost traditions this year in hopes of increasing interest among the members. We intended that the meetings would be more than just mundane business meetings, and I think we have done well in creating an experience as opposed to just a “meeting”.

All that being said, the business side of the fraternity is mandatory in keeping a roof over our heads, literally. At our last stated communication, the lodge voted for just that, a new roof. For years, the roof has needed replacement and has been neglected. This year, the lodge chose to invest in the future of our building by donating the funds to the GMTA for the much-needed roof replacement. I am proud of my Brothers who were in attendance to cast their votes. I am also proud of the members of the GMTA for finding a contractor to do the work and for the GMTA’s future management of this project. I understand that a roof is not the most attractive use of major funds, but without it, the building would be open to increasing damage, and we chose to secure the future of our temple and Masonry in Golden.

Fraternally,
Bro. Benjamin Miller
Worshipful Master 2024
Golden City Lodge #1



From Desk of the Secretary

Brethren,
I still have a bunch of dues cards in my possession.

If you are having issues paying your dues, please, please, please, give me a call or send me an email so we can arrange a payment plan or another option.

WB Ryan Puckett
secretary@goldencitylodge1.org
720-212-1751



“Pizza and Pool” every 1st and 3rd Wednesdays!



POOL & PIZZA

**FIRST AND THIRD
WEDNESDAY
6:00P - 8:00P**

GOLDEN CITY LODGE
400 10TH ST
GOLDEN, CO

ARITHMETIC

$$\begin{array}{r} 1876 \\ +6781 \\ \hline 8657 \end{array}$$

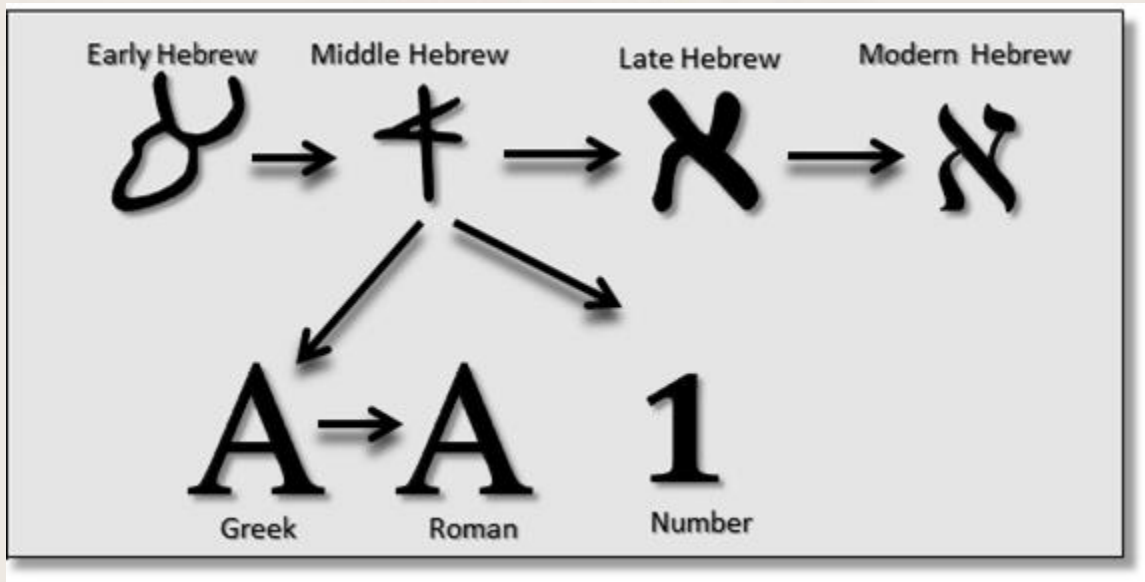
$$\begin{array}{r} 1426 \\ -712 \\ \hline 714 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 1624 \\ \times 2 \\ \hline 3248 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 3133 \\ \hline 11 \end{array}$$

GEOMETRY

Masonic Education



Hebrew letters are symbols. Each letter has a shape, numeric value (called gematria), and meaning. In the allegory of creation recorded in the Hebrew bible, some say these symbolic letters were used in the creation of all things. It is said that God formed heaven and earth with 10 utterances. These 10 utterances were formulated symbolic letter combinations that set to motion all of creation.

The shapes of the letters are what you see with your eyes, the black form on white paper. This shape is also called the body of the letter. The letters are said to be so powerful that even if the individual has no idea as to their meaning, sound etc.; the letters are still able to transmit light into the subconscious. In Rabbi Aryeh Kaplan's translation of the Sefer Yetzirah, Kaplan comments that, "If one wishes to influence anything in the physical universe, he must make use of the physical shape of the letters. If this involves a meditative technique, one would contemplate the appropriate letter or letters, as if they were written in a book." The technique Kaplan describes involves closing one's eyes and allowing the shape of the letter fill the entire

view of the mind's eye, while eliminating all other thoughts. In Rabbi Laibal Wolf's book "Practical Kabbalah", Rabbi Wolf includes examples of simple meditations that assist with the meditative practice mentioned by Rabbi Kaplan.

The gematria for each letter is noted on the chart in relation to the corresponding letter. The gematria may be used for counting as in 1,2,3...ect. Gematria also gives numeric value to words by adding the value of individual letters in the word to reach a sum total. With the gematria of words it is possible to find relationships between words based on their numeric value.[Slide 2]

The first letter of the Hebrew Aleph-Beit is the letter Alef (א). The shape of the letter Alef, according to the Alter Rebbe, "[Alef is] a dot above, a dot below and a line between." The dot on top of the letter Alef represents God who is above all intellect or comprehension. The dot on the bottom represents the individual who understands how small they are compared to God. The line between the top and bottom dots represents The Teaching. The Teaching that starts at a high place and comes down to those individuals ready to receive knowledge from above. This knowledge separates what is above from what is below. But the line between also connects the two dots. The quest for the knowledge of God can seem contradictory; in one sense, we acknowledge God is beyond us, in another sense the very admission of that knowledge is said to bring us closer to, and connect us with God.

Another interpretation on the shape of the Alef comes from the Bahir. The Bahir says that the Hebrew letter Yud sitting at the top right of the Alef represents the upper right part of the human brain. The letter Yud on the bottom left is said to represent the left leg of a man. The line between is what connects those two parts.

If we look further at the shape of the letter Alef and the 3 parts that compose the letter's form, we can see the two dots and a line separating them. The two dots represent the letter Yud, each with a gematria of 10. The line separating the dots is the letter Vav. The Vav has a gematria of 6. When we calculate and combine the gematria of the three letters composing the shape of the Alef, we arrive at a total of 26 (10+10+6). This value of 26 eludes to God when we consider the gematria of the Tetragrammaton. The Tetragrammaton, or the ineffable name, is composed of four letters; the YUD HEI VAV HEI (יהוה). When the gematria of the Tetragrammaton are combined they equal 26, same as the total parts of the Alef.

The numeric value or, gematria for the letter Alef, is 1. One, in this sense, is singular, individual and unique. The Hebrew word for the number 1 begins with the Alef and is the word ECHAD (אחד). Alef reminds us of the individual nature of God. This idea of God's individual nature, or uniqueness, is presented in Deuteronomy 6:4, "The LORD our God, The LORD is one (ECHAD)". Alef also begins the first of God's 70 mysterious names, ELOHIM (אלהים). The first name of God, ELOHIM, given in the bible can be found in Genesis 1:1, "In the beginning created ELOHIM". The

name of ELOHIM beginning with the Alef points to Alef's connection with God and the act of creating. According to The Sefer Yetzirah, the Alef is a silent consonant and represents a simple breath of air. Before any word is spoken, there is a breath of air that precedes it. Thus Alef, is said to give life to all the letters that follow the breath of the Alef. Again, eluding to God, when we remember that God, or ELOHIM, is said to have spoke all of creation into existence.

The letter combination of ALEF LAMED PEH has many recorded meanings. We have considered the shape of the symbol of Alef, we have observed the gematria or, numeric computation of the Alef symbol. We are further able to understand the meaning associated with the ALEF LAMED PEH when we look deeper into its usage in the ancient text.

The words we will investigate are all spelled ALEF LAMED PEH, which is also the spelling for the name of the symbolic letter we are examining. The difference in meaning is based on the pronunciation of the individual word. These differences in meaning peel back layers of potential understanding about this symbolic letter. I will use a longstanding and widely available reference to glean some meaning. The Strong's Hebrew concordance is likely familiar to anyone who enjoys looking deeper into biblical language. First published in 1890, it has been a mainstay companion of serious biblical inquiry for over 130 years. If you are unfamiliar with the concordance and are interested in looking through it, there is one for free online at www.biblehub.com.

ALEF LAMED PEH

Strong's #502 ALEF LAMED PEH is pronounced aw-lof' and it means learn, teach and teaches. This pronunciation of the ALEF LAMED PEH is used 4 times in the Hebrew text.

Strong's #503 ALEF LAMED PEH is pronounced aw-laf' and means to bring forth. Pronounced this way ALEF LAMED PEH means bring forth thousands and is used once in the Hebrew text.

Strong's #504 ALEF LAMED PEH is pronounced eh-lef' meaning heard and oxen. This pronunciation eludes to Strength. Oxen were yoked together in pairs and would plow the fields. Consider the phrase "strong as an ox", it came from somewhere. This pronunciation is found eight times in the Hebrew text.

Strong's #505 ALEF LAMED PEH pronounced eh-lef' means a thousand and is used 505 times in the Hebrew text. The Alef has a numeric value of 1. The word for a thousand is spelled ALEF LAMED PEH (אלף), (ELEF), this eludes to the concept of singularity within plurality. The idea that a thousand can be One and conversely, One can be a thousand.

When we investigate Strong's #504, we might get a glimpse of how all the different pronunciations, spelled identically relate to each other in their meaning. Some of the earliest Semitic alphabets were pictorial in form. Many say the Alef came about through an Egyptian hieroglyph of an ox head. There are a few examples of this type of Ancient Semitic alphabet

found carved into stone. They can be found in Serabit El-Khadim in the Sinai Peninsula. They were first documented by William Flinders Petrie in 1904. The Alef is the form of an ox head in the carvings. Inscriptions that Petrie found on the Sinai Peninsula represented an intermediate stage (not later than 1500 BCE) of written communication between Egyptian hieroglyphics and the Semitic alphabet. More recently, an archeologist and epigrapher, Douglas Petrovich of Wilfrid Laurier University in Waterloo, Canada, believes Hebrew speakers, seeking a way to communicate in writing with other Egyptian Jews, simplified the pharaohs' complex hieroglyphic writing system into 22 alphabetic letters. According to Petrovich, "There is a connection between ancient Egyptian texts [hieroglyphics] and preserved alphabets,". Scholars have generally assumed for more than 150 years that the oldest alphabetic script known could belong to any of several Semitic languages. Given the understanding that the modern Hebrew Alef may have originated with an ox head hieroglyph, it would appear to make sense as to why the ALEF LAMED PEH would be defined as oxen (see Strong's #504).

<https://maozisrael.org/report/2019/09/oldest-alphabet-identified-as-hebrew/>

As was mentioned before, oxen were yoked in pairs. Often one ox was older and more experienced, the other ox was younger and less experienced. When the older was yoked with the younger, the older more experienced became the teacher and the younger, less experienced, would learn from that teacher. This understanding helps clarify the definition given in Strong's #502, defined as, "learn, teach, and teaches". Consider the use of ALEPH LAMED PEH in Job 35:11 where it reads, "Who teaches us more than the beasts of the field". In Job 33:33 we hear, "listen to me; keep silent and I will teach you wisdom".

Strong's #503 means, "bring forth thousands". When the oxen pull the plow, the ground is worked and made ready for seed. Ultimately this brings forth thousands of plants. These thousands of plants nourish thousands of people. Essentially giving life to those who reap the work of the oxen. We are able to see this in Proverbs 14:4, "abundant crops come by the strength of the ox"

Aryeh Kaplan translates Sefer Yetzirah 1:9 as:

"Ten Sefirot of Nothingness:

One is the Breath of the living God, Blessed and benedicted is the name of the Life of Worlds. The voice of breath and speech. And this is in the Holy Breath."

Kaplan elaborates on this idea in his Commentary on the Bahir:

The Alef represents the Sefirah of Keter. Keter is the first of the Sefirot representing the Breath of the Living God. Alef is the first letter of the Alef-Beit representing that same Breath that breathes life into all worlds and all letters. Keter means crown. The first Sefirah on the Tree of Life is called a Crown. The first Sefirah is a crown because a crown sits above the head. The crown therefore represents those things beyond the mind's abilities of comprehension. Keter is

totally hidden, and only serves to receive from God, holding the Light back so it does not overwhelm creation. Even Keter-Crown, must receive existence from the Infinite Being, which is infinitely higher than the crown of Keter. Even though Keter-Crown is the very highest element of creation, it is infinitely lower than the Infinite Being.”

The association of the letter Alef and the Crown is interesting because, there are those that say the crown of kings began as a representation of the horns of an ox, or bull. The ox was a symbol of strength and kingship among gods and men.

The supreme Canaanite deity was named El, spelled ALEF LAMED. The most frequent epithet in relation to El was, “the great bull”. As “King of the gods”, El was considered the supreme god of the Canaanite pantheon and later, for a time, the name of the God of Israel. The word El in the Hebrew bible, Strong’s #410 is used as “God” and occurs 204 times. In Isaiah 46:9 it reads:

- “ remember the former things of old;
for I am EL, and there is no other;
I am God, and there is none like me,”

The word El is ingrained in many of the Hebrew names of God:

- El (God)
- EL ohim (God, gods, angels and illuminated ones)
- EL Shaddai (Almighty God)
- El yion (Most High God)

El is also found in the name of the Archangels:

- MichaEL (Who is like God/El)
- RaphaEL (God/El Heals)
- GabriEL (God/El is my strength)
- UriEL (God/El is my Light)

El even sits in the name of Isra’EL.

Anu, one of the oldest of Mesopotamian sky gods and once supreme deity of the Babylonian pantheon, was frequently represented wearing a headdress adorned with horns of an ox. In fact, many of the Babylonian gods were depicted with horns atop their head as crowns. Anu was thought to be the ultimate source of authority. Anu was said to be the one “who contained the whole universe.” The Sumerian counterpart of Anu, was Ahn. Though it appears that Ahn was rarely worshiped, he is said to have sired two of the most powerful gods in the Sumerian pantheon, Enlil and Enki. Ahn was regarded primarily as a Great Ancestor. This Sumerian god Ahn appears to have originally been depicted as a bull.

In ancient Egypt, the goddess Hathor was said to have been the original goddess that all other gods were derived from. She was often represented with the head of a cow. Other times, Hathor was depicted simply as a cow.

The Alef, is One. The Alef is unity within plurality. The Alef reminds us that the idea of multiplicity is a myth. The gematria of the ALEF LAMED PEH, which spells Alef, the first letter, is 111. One...one...one. Remember you are one, we are one, God is One. The Alef reminds us that we are students yoked to a Great Teacher. When we follow this teacher, using the shape of the Alef, we will bring forth thousands. We will produce nourishing corn. The Alef is strength, and the crown of the Great Eastern King. Alef is a wonder, or peleh. Spelled PEH LAMED ALEF, also with a gematria of 111. When we look around us. When we take in all of the wonder we are able to perceive; this is a reminder of the Alef. In Psalm 77:11 it reads, "I will remember your wonders [or peleh]". When we meditate on the symbolic letter of the Alef we are also reflecting on the wonders of the creator. The breath the began creation. The breath that continues creation. The breath of One.

From the Emerald Tablet of Hermes:

True, without falsehood, certain and most true, that which is above is as that which is below, and that which below is as that which is above, for the performance of the miracles of the One Thing. And as all things are from One, by meditation of One, so all things have their birth from this One Thing by adaptation.

-Bro. Benjamin Miller

Contacts

303-279-9902	To contact Golden City Lodge #1 AF&AM, Mt Zion Chapter #133 OES, Friendship Court #7 Amaranth, Bethel #43 Job's Daughters, Columbine Assembly #96 Rainbow for Girls
303-961-6455 (Lee Miller) 303-466-8521 (Randy Penn)	For York Rite Bodies at Golden: Golden Chapter #5 RAM, Jefferson Council #24 R&SM, Jefferson Highlands Commandery #30
303-861-4261	Denver Consistory
866-289-6797	Scottish Rite Child Language Disorders Foundation
303-455-3570	El Jebel Shriners
800-237-5055	Shriners Hospital / Burn Center
303-756-9489	Rober Russell Eastern Star Masonic Center and Village
860-402-4372 (Jason Evarts) 720-786-3929 (David Barnes)	Chapter Advisor Golden DeMolay Chapter Scribe Golden DeMolay

Youth Groups

Brethren, these groups are “Masonic” Youth Groups, and as such have the requirement that Master Masons are present. Please support the future of Masonry by making time to attend their meetings.

Bethel #43 Job’s Daughters

- 2nd and 4th Mondays, 6:45pm
(Girls, 11-18 / Jobie-to-Bee 8-10)

Columbine Assembly #96

Rainbow for Girls

- 1st and 3rd Thursdays, 7pm
(Girls, 10-18 / Pledges 8-9)

Golden Chapter Order of DeMolay

- 1st and 3rd Tuesdays at 7pm
(Boys, 12-21 / Squires 9-11)

Youth Group Continued...

Upcoming Meeting & Activities (Rainbow)

May

2 **Rainbow “Fun” Meeting** (arrive at 6:30)

16 **Rainbow OV Practice Meeting upstairs** (arrive at 6:30 starts at 7:00)

Upcoming Meeting & Activities (Job’s)

May

13 **Job’s Meeting** (arrive at 6:00)

27 **Job’s Meeting** (arrive at 6:00)

Upcoming Meeting & Activities (DeMolay)

May

7 **DeMolay Meeting** (arrive at 6:30)

21 **DeMolay Meeting** (arrive at 6:30)

Calendar

Wednesday, May 1st

- Pizza, Pool, and Darts

Monday, May 6th

- Dinner at 6pm (Rainbow Serving)
- Presentation of Scholarship
- Regular Meeting at 7pm

Wednesday, May 15th

- Pizza, Pool, and Darts


Monday, May 20th

- Regular meeting at 7pm
 - MM Education Night

2024 Officer Line



Worshipful Master	Benjamin Miller 720.688.4163 sundula@gmail.com
Senior Warden	Nick Puma
Junior Warden	Aaron Combe
Treasurer	Richard Wenzel
Secretary	Ryan Puckett, 720.212.1751, rpucket310@gmail.com
Senior Deacon	Devon Campbell
Junior Deacon	Bill Ott
Senior Steward	Tom McKean
Junior Steward	David Buckingham
Chaplain	Mike Current
Marshal	Tom Zumalt
Tiler	Craig Petty



Director of the Work TBD

District Lecturer Michael Tims

Committees

Welfare

Benjamin Miller (Chairman)

Tom Zumalt, Devon Campbell

Finance

Aaron Combe (Chairman)

Richard Wenzell, Ryan Puckett

Grievance

Nick Puma (Chairman)

Aaron Combe, Bill Ott

Posting

Devon Campbell (Chairman)

Tom McKean, Andrew Smith

Memorials

Bill Ott (Chairman)

Tom Zumalt, Andrew Smith

Investments

Mike Current (Chairman)

Tom McKean, Rick Wenzel

Scholarship

Tom McKean (Chairman)

Andrew Smith, Mike Current

Technology

Benjamin Miller (Chairman)

Tom Zumalt, Ryan Puckett

Education

Benjamin Miller (Chairman)

Nick Puma, Aaron Combe

Happy Birthday!



Brother

Robert G. Beer

Brother

Gregory A. Campbell

Brother

Olen C. Crockett

Brother

Richard A. Eshe

Brother

Aaron T. Russell

Brother

Mason M. Sellars

Brother

Eric Stuart

Brother

Carl Thoutt Jr

Brother

Mitchell Trivanovich

Brother

Timothy Q. Zumalt

Living Past Masters



WB Merritt E. Smith

1967



WB Art Toney

1984



WB James Arbuckle

1980



WB Michael Mills

1984



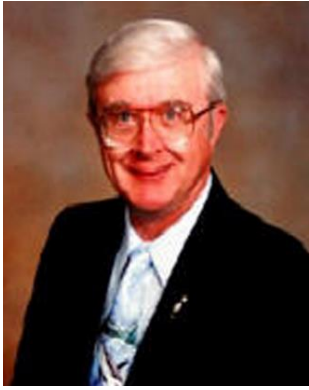
WB Timothy Johansson

1985



WB Craig Petty

1997



WB Byron Walker

2002



WB Richard Wenzel

2005, 2010



WB Steven Walker

2014



WB Kevin Alcox

2015



WB Ryan Puckett

2017



WB Tom Zumalt

2018



WB Wyatt Page

2020



WB Drew Albecht

2021



WB Tom McKean

2022



WB Andrew Smith

2023

Miscellaneous

Fees for Degrees is \$150

2024 Annual Dues and Per Capita

- \$228 – Regular Members
 - (\$125 + \$103)
- \$203 – 65+ years of age with 25+ years as a Master Mason
 - (\$100 + \$103)

Items for Sale

Contact the secretary to purchase. Especially for shirts to make sure we have in your size.

Golden Lodge T Shirt	\$20
Golden Lodge Polo Shirt	\$20
Golden Lodge Challenge Coin	\$10
Clear Text Key (must be master mason)	\$35