

A Lesson from the Letter Chof ©

By Dr. Akiva Gamliel Belk

Limood

Bereisheit [Genesis] 23.1 -20

Our Devri Torah is in the loving Memory of Mr. Yochanan Bond and Mr. Stephen Reynolds may they rest in peace.

Gen. 23:2

וַתָּמַת שָׂרָה בְּקָרְנִית אַרְבַּע
 הוּא חֶבְרוֹן בְּאֶרֶץ כְּנָעַן וַיָּבֵא
 אֲבָרְתָם לְסַפֵּד לְשָׂרָה וְלִבְתָּתָהּ:

Shalom Dear Ones, please notice the 13th Word of Passuk Bet. The 13th Word is the last Word.

Notice the Word **וְלִבְתָּתָהּ**, Vih Lee Bih Choh Tawh, meaning *and to weep for her*. Please notice the

4th Letter is reduced in size. Here the normal **כ** Chof is not so normal. The normal **כ** Chof is reduced in size. Our Sages Teach that the Letter **כ** Chof is reduced to teach us to reduce our mourning. Our Sages also Teach that the reduced Chof in **וְלִבְתָּתָהּ**, Vih Lee Bih Choh Tawh should actually be read,

וּלְבִתָּהּ, Voo Lih Bee Tawh, meaning daughter. When combined as part of the last three Letters of 23.2

the meaning is **לְסַפֵּד לְשָׂרָה וְלִבְתָּתָהּ**, *to eulogize Sarah and her [virgin] daughter,*; who also died on

that day, for the Sages derive from [Bereisheit 24.1 that the **בְּכָל**, Bah Cohl, meaning ‘in all’ as in Hashem

Blessed Avraham in all must include a son, Yitzchok and a daughter.] Rabbi Meir Zlotowitz and Rabbi Nosson Scherman, The Artscroll Tanach Series - Bereishis Vol. I(a) (Brooklyn, New York: Mesorah Publications, Ltd. 3rd Impression, 1989), p 866

Why a virgin daughter? The Gematria of **וּלְבִתָּהּ**, Voo Lih Bee Tawh, meaning, and a daughter too is 443.

The Gematria of **בְּתוּלָה**, Bih Too Lawh, meaning virgin is 443.

Voo Lih Bee Tawh, meaning, and a daughter too

443 = 5ת 400ב 2ל 30ו 6

Bih Too Lawh, meaning virgin

443 = ה5 ל30 ו16 ת400 ב2

When we consider the Letter כ Chof we are aware that there is the normal כ Chof and the final ך Chof. The final ך Chof is only used at the conclusion of a word. The final ך Chof stands tall and proud. When the final ך Chof is at the conclusion of a word it often means 'your'. The final ך Chof represents the Gematria 500.

Gen. 12:1

וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה אֶל־אַבְרָם לְךָ־לֵךְ
מֵאֶרֶץ־עֵבֶר וּמִמּוֹלַדְתְּךָ וּמִבֵּית
אָבִיךָ אֶל־הָאָרֶץ אֲשֶׁר אֲרָאָךְ:

The normal כ Chof is at the beginning of a word or in the middle of a word. The normal כ Chof when at the beginning of a word is often a connector that means 'like'. The normal כ Chof represents the Gematria 20.

Gen. 1:26

וַיֹּאמֶר אֱלֹהִים נַעֲשֶׂה אָדָם
בְּצַלְמֵנוּ כְּדְמוּתֵנוּ וְיִרְדּוּ בְדִגְתַּי
תְּיָם וּבְעוֹף הַשָּׁמַיִם וּבַבְּהֵמָה
וּבְכָל־הָאָרֶץ וּבְכָל־הַרְמֹשׁ הַרְמֹשׁ
עַל־הָאָרֶץ:

Deut. 2:33

וַיִּתְּנֵהוּ יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵינוּ לְפָנֵינוּ

וַיִּךְ אֶתְּךָ אֶת־בְּנוֹ [בְּנִיּוֹ]

וַאֲת־כָּל־עַמּוֹ:

Some Teach that the Letter Chof maybe enlarged in Devarim 2.33. The Letter Chof if enlarged would represent great emphasis on 'and we struck him, i.e. Sichon.' , http://www.sofer.co.uk/html/large_letters.html.

The Letter כ Chof when Represented as Miluy equals 100 and as Miluy Godal equals 820. Why? The final Letter is the Letter פ Pay which can have a Gematria of 80 or of 800. The Letter כ Chof is spelled כף that is with the Letter כ Chof and the Final Letter פ Pay.

Miluy
100 = כ20 פ80

Miluy Godal
820 = כ20 פ800

Rabbie Michael Munk, author of The Wisdom in the Hebrew Alphabet, Teaches that 'The name כף means bent [from כָּפוּף] for the [Letter] derives its name from its bent shape.' I.e. the bent shape of a spoon, the bent palm of the hand, the bent sole of the foot and the bent palm branch. Rabbi Michael Munk The Wisdom In The Hebrew Alphabet Mesorah Publications, Brooklyn, N.Y. 1990), p. 135

Mystically our Sages Teach that the Letter כ Chof is Representative of כֹּהֵן, Cheh Tehr, meaning crown.

We know that among women that Sarah was the crown. The Gematria of וְלִבְכֹתָהּ, Vih Lee Bih Choh

Tawh, meaning *and to weep for her*, is 463. The Gematria of הַבָּנוֹת, Ha Baw Noht, meaning 'the

daughters' is 463. This seems like a paradox. How could Sarah who has only one virgin daughter who dies on the same day as her mother weep for her. Ha Torah Says, 'I Will Bless her [Sarah] and she [Sarah] will be [a mother] of to nations', Bereisheit 17.16. The daughters of the Nations weeping over Sarah is Prophetic. Who does not mourn the loss of Sarah, the greatest jewel of the Keter, Crown? When Sarah died it was like the Chof of וְלִבְכֹתָהּ, Vih Lee Bih Choh Tawh, meaning 'and to weep for her', was

removed. The greatest of Jewish women came first and now she is gone. The mother of Yitzchok is gone. The wife of Avraham is gone. The mother of nations is gone. Why was Sarah the greatest of jewels taken first? It is to limit our mourning. One should not exceed the mourning of Avraham for his wife, Sarah. When we mourn the loss of our mother Sarah we are reminded not mourn excessively. When we mourn the loss of others we are reminded not to mourn excessively.

Vih Lee Bih Choh Tawh, meaning 'and to weep for her'

463 = ו6 ל30 ב2 כ20 ת400 ט5 =

Ha Baw Noht, meaning ‘the daughters’

463 = ת400 ך16 ן50 ך2 ה5

The Letter ך Chof is quite unique in Ha Torah. Out of the twenty-two Letters of Hebrew only five are Final Letters. Of the five Final Letters only two are connecting Letters, the ך Chof and the ם Mem. The ך Chof and the ם Mem can both change the beginning and conclusion of a Word.

It is possible that the Letter ך Chof is the only Letter in Ha Torah with meanings in the beginning middle and conclusion and with reduced size and with enlarged size.

May Hashem Bless each oif us in our time of mourning in our time of sadness. May we limit our time of grief. May we limit our mourning.

Blessings Health, Prosperity, Kindness and Peace,

Dr. Akiva Gamliel