

כ KOOF BET

Let us go deeper with this letter כ KOOF.....As we know, this is the letter of Holiness. In the temple, when it was around, containers that were marked with the letter כ, whatever was in them were consecrated. Koof (כ) was used to label sacred objects because this letter traditionally symbolizes קדוש ..kadosh... 'holiness'. Isaiah 6:3 states “*And one cried unto another, and said, Holy, holy, holy, is Jehovah of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory.*” Isaiah is saying that the angels in heaven praise G-d saying, ‘Kadosh, kadosh, kadosh is יהוה’. Of all the letters of the aleph-bet, in the Jewish mindset, this letter כ symbolizes holiness.

Our G-d is holy and He desires holiness on behalf of His people saying, “*You shall be holy, for I am holy*”...Leviticus 19:26. Holiness is much different than righteousness (represented by the letter צ that we just studied)?

Some believers have mistaken holiness and righteousness as the same, or that personal holiness is somehow the result of righteous living. Not true. Righteousness must be established on the foundation of holiness, and hence, when G-d makes a person **holy**, then you act **righteous**.

As we have learned before, to be holy is to be ‘set aside for a special purpose of one thing or another’.

An interesting fact dealing with the gematria of this letter. If we look closely at this letter כ we see the letter כ (Kaf) over the letter ו (vov)...the כ = 20 and the ו = 6 totaling the number ‘26’ and that equals the number of G-d’s name

ו = 10, ה = 5, ו = 6, ה = 5...totaling ‘26’, making this letter holy. To break this down further, since the ו vav represents ‘man’, and the כ kaf represents ‘palm’ of the hand...G-ds presence and His Name dwell with His creation....man. and it’s a Holy relationship. Not bad right?

An interesting note, using the letter koof in Aramaic, we see in Lu 18:25 “*For it is easier for a camel to enter in through a needle's eye, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of G-d.*” This letter koop, spelled קופא means ‘eye of a needle’. So, it might be possible that ישוע may have implied that the ‘holiness’ of a camel has a better chance to enter into the kingdom of G-d than a man full of riches..food for thought...

Let's look at some words.....

קֶדֶם – ke-dem...means 'east'. In the 2nd chapter of **בְּרֵאשִׁית** B'resheet, Genesis 2:8 we *read* ***“And Jehovah God planted a garden eastward, in Eden; and there he put the man whom he had formed.”***

Another word for east is **מִזְרַח** – miz-rach and has to do with 'the sun rises' **אוֹר** – 'or'- means light and is a derivative of **קֶדֶם** – ke-dem. That's where we get our word 'orient' from orientating...(putting the light on something)..Let me get orientated to my surroundings...meaning put the light on so I can re-adjust myself...

קֹדֶשׁ – ko-desh – root is HOLINESS. This is a word that describes a holy thing, holiness, and sacredness. The word indicates something consecrated and set aside for sacred use only; it was not to be put into common use, for if it was, it became profaned and common, not holy.

You build from the root, adding a letter here and there to the root, changing the meaning, but the root of HOLINESS is still there. An example is the word **קָדוֹשׁ** – ka-dosh means HOLY... **קִדְּשׁוּ** – ki-dush is the word for ...sanctify....The word for marriage, because it is HOLY is **קִדְּשִׁין** – ki-dushin. This is when the groom is sanctifying the bride...she is separating herself from all other men and becomes HOLY to him.

Another word is **קָדִישׁ** – ka-dish which means 'mourner's prayer' a prayer said at the grave site of a loved one who died. **קוֹל** – kol means 'voice'.

For a still small voice, the Hebrew words are **בַּת קוֹל** – bat kol. Bat in Hebrew is a daughter with a gentle small voice.

Then we have the word **קוֹץ** – kotz and the meaning is 'thorn or flourish' The small tip on the serif of some of the letters of Hebrew . The saying is **קוֹצוֹ שֶׁל יוֹד** kot-zo shel yood and the meaning is “the smallest tip of the serif of the smallest letter” of the Hebrew Aleph-Bet. It's not just an expression..

When you hear this saying, it really falls on the entire reason for the existence of the Jewish people, with their book written in the same way...from way back when till this present day.

Look how many versions we have of our English Bibles. In Hebrew there is no such thing. It cannot be possible to have but only one version of the Torah. If there were no restrictions, one little jot or title could be misplaced or not placed at all, and it would change the entire meaning of G-ds' Word. This has to do with the

tradition of the scribes. This is the integrity of the Word of G-d. It is unchangeable. This is the קול – kol (voice) of G-d.

If a scribe took the authority to change a serif, another scribe could take the authority to change an actual letter. And there we go...a polluted Word of G-d. So this means that our Bibles are truly HOLY because we received it from a HOLY G-D. It's important to understand what the word HOLY really means. It's not what many people think. It means to be separate or set apart. G-d in His HOLINESS is separate from time, space, man, nature and character. He's also separate from all the other 'little "g" gods'. The G-d of the Bible is קודש – Kodesh HOLY in His very nature. HOLINESS is not merely an attribute of G-d but the Divine nature itself.

What does it mean for us to be holy?" In 1 Peter 1:13-16, Peter writes to believers, "Therefore, prepare your minds for action, keep sober in spirit, fix your hope completely on the grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ. As obedient children, do not be conformed to the former lusts which were yours in your ignorance, but like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves also in all your behavior; because it is written, 'You shall be holy, for I am holy.'" Peter is quoting from Leviticus 11:44 (***"For I am Jehovah your God: sanctify yourselves therefore, and be ye holy; for I am holy: neither shall ye defile yourselves with any manner of creeping thing that moveth upon the earth."***) and Leviticus 19:2. (***"Speak unto all the congregation of the children of Israel, and say unto them, Ye shall be holy; for I Jehovah your God am holy."***)

First, let's look at G-d's holiness. What does it mean that G-d is holy? Passages like 1 Samuel 2:2 (***"There is none holy as Jehovah; For there is none besides thee, Neither is there any rock like our God."***) and Isaiah 6:3 (***"And one cried unto another, and said, Holy, holy, holy, is Jehovah of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory."***) are just two of many examples of passages about G-d's holiness. Another way to say it is absolute perfection. G-d is unlike any other (let's look at Hosea 11:9), (***"I will not execute the fierceness of mine anger, I will not return to destroy Ephraim: for I am God, and not man; the Holy One in the midst of thee; and I will not come in wrath."***) and His holiness is the essence of that "otherness." His very being is completely absent of even a trace of sin (James 1:13; Hebrews 6:18). He is high above any other, and no one can compare to Him (Psalms 40:5). G-d's holiness pervades His entire being and shapes all His attributes. His love is a holy love, His mercy is holy mercy, and even His anger and wrath are holy anger and holy wrath. These concepts are difficult for humans to grasp, just as G-d is difficult for us to understand in His entirety.

Next, don't forget, we are studying the letter **ק** koof which represents Holiness....what does it mean for us to be holy? When God told Israel to be holy in Leviticus 11 and 19, He was instructing them to be distinct from the other nations by giving them specific regulations to govern their lives. Israel is G-d's chosen nation and G-d has set them apart from all other people groups. They are His special people, and consequently they were given standards that G-d wanted them to live by so the world would know they belonged to Him. When Peter repeats the Lord's words in 1 Peter 1:16, (*because it is written, Ye shall be holy; for I am holy.*) he is talking specifically to believers. As believers, we need to be "set apart" from the world unto the Lord. We need to be living by G-d's standards, not the world's. G-d isn't calling us to be perfect, but to be distinct from the world. First Peter 2:9 (*But ye are a elect race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession, that ye may show forth the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvellous light*) describes believers as "a holy nation." It is a fact! We are separated from the world; we need to live out that reality in our day-to-day lives, which Peter tells us how to do in 1 Peter 1:13-16. *1Pe 1:13 "Wherefore girding up the loins of your mind, be sober and set your hope perfectly on the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ; 1Pe 1:14 as children of obedience, not fashioning yourselves according to your former lusts in the time of your ignorance: 1Pe 1:15 but like as he who called you is holy, be ye yourselves also holy in all manner of living;"* and again...this scripture...1Pe 1:16 *"because it is written, Ye shall be holy; for I am holy."*

Finally, how can we become holy? Holiness only results from a right relationship with G-d by believing in **ישוע** Jesus Christ as Savior (accepting His gift of eternal life). If we have not placed our faith in G-d's Son alone to save us from our sins, then our pursuit of holiness is in vain. So, we must first make sure we are born-again believers (see John 3). If we truly are believers, then we recognize that our position in Christ automatically sets us apart from the world (1 Peter 2:9). After all, we have a relationship with the living G-d! Then we must daily live a set-apart life, not trying to "blend in" with the world, but instead living according to G-d's Word as we study the Bible and grow in it.

Enough now with this part of the study of the letter **ק** koof.

ASPIRE TO INSPIRE BEFORE YOU EXPIRE AND TAKE WHAT YOU NEED AND GIVE THE REST AWAY!!!!