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The Mystery of the Waw

We read just before the forming of Adam and Eve...

Genesis 2:4

These are the **generations** (*toldot* - תולדות) of the heavens and the earth when they were created, in the day that the Lord (YHWH) God (*Elohim*) made the earth and the heavens.

In the English, this verse is quickly read, and then we move on to the forming of Adam and Eve. However, in the Hebrew, the word “generation” is spelled with the modern Hebrew *vav* or in ancient Hebrew, the *waw*. For the remainder of this teaching, we will simply refer to this Hebrew letter as the *waw* but keep in mind that you might often hear this letter pronounced as the *vav* from other sources.

This is the first occurrence of the word “generation” in the Scriptures. After the fall of Adam and Eve, this word is not spelled with a “*waw*” any longer (i.e., as תולדות). The “*waw*” is missing, yet it is still the same Hebrew word for “generation”.

We don’t see a “*waw*” for “generation” in Genesis 5:1, 6:9, 7:1, 9:12 or any other instance going forward in the Scriptures. The “*waw*” continues to be missing. That is, until we arrive to Ruth 4:18.

Ruth 4:18

Now these are the generations (*toldot* - תולדות) of Perez: Perez fathered Hezron,

So, the Hebrew word for “generations” before the fall, introducing Adam and Eve, contained a “*waw*.” After the fall, the “*waw*” is missing, until we arrive to the “generations” of Perez. With Perez, the “*waw*” is restored back to its proper place.

There are the only two places in the Scripture where the missing “*waw*” can be found.

So some questions should come to mind.

- What did Adam, before the fall, have to do with the inclusion of the “*waw*?”
- Why did the “generations” of man lose the “*waw*” after the fall?
- Why is the missing “*waw*” found in the generation of Perez?

To fully appreciate the possible meaning of the missing “*waw*,” we may wish to better understand the Hebrew letter, the “*waw*.”

THE “WAW”

The *Waw* as Man

The “*waw*” is the 22nd letter of the Hebrew alphabet. Through tradition, it is also said to have the numerical value of six. In this way, tradition often points to the “*waw*” as a representation of man. Man was created on the 6th day. Many believe that there will be 6,000 years of man, before the millennial reign of Messiah Yeshua, and the beast mentioned in Revelation is stated to be the number of man with three sixes (Revelation 13:18).

The first instance of a “*waw*” in the Scriptures is in the 6th word, Genesis 1:1.

The “*waw*” occurs in the 6th word between Heaven and Earth in Genesis 1:1. Remember that, because it is important.

The pictograph for the “*waw*” looks like a tent peg. Remember this as well.

The heavens are metaphorically related to a tent in the prophets. For example:

Isaiah 40:22

It is he who sits above the circle of the earth, and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers; who stretches out the heavens like a curtain, and spreads them like a tent to dwell in;

The “*waw*” is the tent peg that connects Heaven and Earth. The “*waw*” literally means “hook” as in to “hook” something together. We see the same idea with the “hooks” of silver that holds down the curtain that encloses the tabernacle. In Exodus 27:9-10, it is the Hebrew letter “*waw*” that is used to represent those hooks.

Do you see it? If the “*waw*” points to being a tent peg, connecting together Heaven and Earth, and man is also directly related to the “*waw*,” then we see why the “*waw*” is present in the Hebrew word for Adam just prior to him being formed.

Adam was, before the fall, the connective “hook” between Heaven and Earth. Adam had a direct relationship with the Creator of the Universe in the Heavens...but, he lost it in sin, and consequently, the “*waw*” in generations of man was lost as well. The “*waw*” connecting Heaven and Earth through Adam.

Adam was the connective piece between YHWH and Earth. Adam, or man, was the centerpiece of creation.

The center of the Torah is said to be Leviticus 11:42. In Leviticus 11:42, ancient manuscripts use an oversized “*waw*,” perhaps appropriately, in the Hebrew word for belly, the center of a man.

So, after the fall, the “*waw*” was removed from the generation of Adam.

We are all of Adam, descending from Adam.

So, why then, does the generation of Perez once again include the “*waw*” in the Hebrew word for “generation”?

The name “Perez” (פֶּרֶץ) means “breach” (from *paratz*, meaning “to break through”).

God was going to “break through” the families of mankind in order to restore His creation back to its original intent.

The Restored “*waw*” is a picture of Messiah Yeshua who was to, and did, descend from the “generations” of the line of Perez.

The genealogy of the descendants of Perez indicated that the promised abolition of death through the work of his descendant the Messiah was drawing near.

Just as the original “*waw*” was lost through the first Adam and his sin, so the “*waw*” is restored in the obedience of the “Second Adam,” Messiah Yeshua.

1 Corinthians 15:45

Thus it is written, “The “first man Adam” became a living being”; the last Adam (Yeshua) became a life-giving spirit.

In this way, Yeshua acts as the “hook” or “tent peg” joining the tent of Heaven back with Earth, becoming the mediator between God and man.

1 Timothy 2:5

For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus (Messiah Yeshua)

Through this, Yeshua will restore all things, including man.

There is another way that the “*waw*” connects to Messiah Yeshua.

Consider pausing this teaching and reading Numbers 25.

In Numbers 25, we see Phineas, who is the grandson of Aaron the priest, was very passionate about removing wickedness from Israel. In his zeal, using a spear, he killed a man that was fornicating with a Moabite woman. Because of this YHWH removed the plague and Israel avoided destruction.

In some ways, we can see how this is a type of Yeshua...

Numbers 25:13

...because he was jealous for his God and made atonement for the people of Israel.

In the previous verse, verse 12, we see something interesting with the “*waw*” found in the word for shalom. In ancient manuscripts, the “*waw*” is written with a break, meaning, the “*waw*” is literally broken into two pieces.

Numbers 25:12

Therefore say, ‘Behold, I give to him my covenant of **peace** (Here, the Hebrew word *shalom*

contains a broken “waw”)

According to scribal law, all letters are to be well-formed. Letters cannot touch. Letters cannot be malformed, broken or illegible. The fact that this “waw” is intentionally broken in two is more than highly irregular.

So, what is going on?

Having related our Messiah to the “waw” earlier in the teaching, it may make sense to do that again here.

The broken “waw” in the Hebrew word *shalom*, meaning peace, would relate to our Messiah being broken, and through that, brought us peace.

Consider Isaiah 53:5:

Isaiah 53:5

But he was pierced for our transgressions;
he was crushed for our iniquities;
upon him was the chastisement that **brought us peace** (shalom),
and with his **wounds we are healed**.

In hidden form, ancient rabbis speculate and teach that the “waw” represents the number of man, and the broken “waw” represents a man that is broken, found in a verse pertaining to a “covenant of peace.”

We hope that you found this teaching and insight as fascinating as we have.

We pray that this teaching has blessed you, and remember, continue to test everything.

Shalom

We pray you have been blessed by this teaching. Remember, continue to test everything. Shalom! For more on this and other teachings, please visit us at www.testeverything.net

Shalom, and may Yahweh bless you in walking in the whole Word of God.

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