

Dispelling A Myth About Transliteration Of Names

In the Bible codes, we need to transliterate names of people and places into Hebrew using Hebrew letters. We spell the name with Hebrew letters, so that when pronounced, it **sounds** the same as when pronounced in English. While a straightforward process, it does mean that often there are often multiple spelling possibilities for a given name.

In order to successfully transliterate a name for codes searches, a codes researcher needs to learn the Hebrew letters, since it must be done manually given the multiple spelling possibilities for some names. Anyone new to the codes and Hebrew ought to be able to learn the Hebrew letters in 1 week by memorizing them using home-made flash cards.

Easy and straightforward, right? It is, as long as you don't fall for the terrible advice given recently by Moshe Shak in an article on Mel Gibson, who is trying to fool new codes researchers with a tribal-based myth. It is bad advice that will greatly hinder your ability to do codes research and find good results.

THE MYTH:

There is a degree of difference in holiness among the 22 Hebrew letters, and certain letters being more holy, are to be used only to spell the names of Jewish people (so said Moshe Shak in a recent article). Specifically, the bad advice from Jewish mysticism says that the letters: **chet, tav, and shin** are not to be used for traif or goyim or non-Jewish people. Instead, this tribal-based teaching says you must use instead: **kaf, tet, and samech** respectively. They allow the more holy letters to be used for someone who has Jewishness anywhere, going back 10 or 20 generations.

The Bad Codes Advice Which Hinders Codes Research	
They say use these...	...and not use these letters if not Jewish
use samech, ס	and not shin, שׁ
use tet, ט	and not tav, טׂ
use kaf, כּ	and not chet, ח

Who has promoted this terrible advice?

One person is **Moshe Aharon Shak** in his recent article on *Mel Gibson and The Passion of Christ* movie. I should mention that many Jewish codes researchers see the above as terrible advice and they ignore it. My purpose in this article is to show you why Moshe Shak is giving terrible advice from a technical, logical, and Bible basis. If anyone falls prey to this bad advice, they will greatly hinder their own ability to find names in the Bible codes. As a Christian, it is easier for me to dispel this notion, since I don't risk being ostracized as a Jewish person might be

who spoke out on the subject.

As an aside, Moshe Aharon Shak is a talented codes researcher and a friend. My showing the evidence against this advice of certain letters only being able to be used in spelling the names of Jewish people, should not be considered in any way anti-Jewish. I wish all Jewish people to be observant, and if they want to follow that bad advice on the letters, then OK. Just don't teach it to non-Jews who can plainly see that this arose in the post-biblical era, since the Bible itself uses ALL the letters for names throughout the Tanakh.

Setting the record straight:

I intend to show that in many ways Moshe Aharon Shak and others are wrong for giving this advice from both a logical viewpoint, and also using substantive Bible evidence. Yes, the Most High God has weighed in on the matter via the Bible (Torah and Tanakh in Hebrew). I will show you that it is extremely common in the Bible for God to use chet, and tav, and shin for non-Jewish people's names. Why do I say God is using these letters? Because orthodox Jews believe that God dictated the Torah to Moses letter-by-letter and Moses merely wrote them down. Among Jews, the Torah is therefore accorded higher status than the rest of the Tanakh. **If God dictated the Torah letter-by-letter, and He used the so-called prohibited letters for non-Jewish names, then God Himself has approved the use of all letters in the Hebrew alphabet for all names.** This paper will clearly show God's usage of all Hebrew letters in spelling non-Jewish names.

First the Logical Argument:

The following table shows all 22 letters of the Hebrew alphabet, the five sofit or end letters, and the English letter equivalents. I've also added the letter distributions in the Torah for each letter (Torah has 304,805 letters). The letters "aleph and ayin" are stops, but referred to in the table below as vowels.

Hebrew Letters and Letter Distribution in the Torah							
letter	name	English equivalent	# in Torah and %	letter	name	English equivalent	# in Torah and %
א	aleph	vowel	27059, 8.9%	ל	lamed	l	21570, 7.1%
ב	bet	b & v	16345, 5.4%	מ ך	mem	m	25090, 8.2%
ג	gimel	g	2109, 0.7%	נ ן	nun	n	14126, 4.6%
ד	dalet	d	7032, 2.3%	ס	samech	s	1833, 0.6%
ה	hey	h	28056, 9.2%	ע	ayin	vowel	11250, 3.7%
ו	vav	v & vowel	30513, 10.9%	פ ף	pey, fey	p & f	4805, 1.6%
ז	zayin	z	2198, 0.7%	צ ץ	tzadik	tz or ts	3962, 1.3%
ח	chet	kh	7189, 2.4%	ק	quf	q or k	4695, 1.5%
ט	tet	t	1804, 0.6%	ר	resh	r	18125, 5.9%
י	yud	y & vowel	31531, 10.3%	ש	shin, sin	sh or s	15595, 5.1%
כ ך	kaf, haf	kh & k	11968, 3.9%	ת	tav	t	17950, 5.9%

Look at the above table and compare tet (0.6%) with tav (5.9%) and you'll understand why following the terrible advice of using tet instead of tav for the “t” would almost ensure that your name would NOT be found in the codes. Similarly, shin (5.1%) and samech (0.6%) have the same problem of the so-called approved samech versus the non-approved shin would ensure that you would have trouble finding any name with a “sh” or “s”. The chet (2.4%) and kaf (3.9%) don't have a lopsided relationship, but using the whole alphabet would enable you to use both. The vast majority of Bible codes researchers use the entire alphabet all the time for transliteration of names. Don't fall for the bad advice.

From A Logical Viewpoint:

Using the above table, the logical reasons for using the entire Hebrew alphabet for transliteration of names is not only apparent, it is so lopsided that it sort of slaps you alongside the head.

Let God Be The Judge

Does the Bible (Torah and Tanakh) itself show that God Himself uses the so-called prohibited letters of chet, shin and tav for non-Jewish names? Yes, and in fact I will show you in the following portion just a sampling of the great quantities of non-Jewish names using these three letters.

First, exactly what did Moshe Shak claim in his article: *Mel Gibson – Saint or Sinner?* The following is an extract from page 5 of Moshe's article.

1- Can Bet Chet be used as a transliteration for Bach? Answer: Theoretically yes.

Transliteration means “to sound the same.” The sound is the same. I do not believe that we have enough experience to outright rule out this transliteration. Theoretically, Bach may be a Jew without anyone knowing it. We know of many such cases that a Jewish identity was identified only many years later. By Jewish law, a Jew is someone that had a Jewish mother. This process may go back ten or twenty generations.

2- Why is it most likely not proper to use it for Bach? Answer:

- a. Typically, all non-Hebrew words/names when being transliterated are written with a Tet and not a Taf; a Chaf and not a Chet, etc. This is especially true for given names. (Editor: rules followed by some orthodox Jews only, many/most codes researchers use the entire alphabet all the time).
- b. I am not really sure that the “greatest artist” can be the “greatest musician” of a group of people. It is especially awkward in my opinion to apply that to “of G-d”.
- c. In developing this specific ELS term, the term may be read in numerous ways. I have seen at least seven different ways of interpreting this term by which a conversation is being carried out by the codes, spelling out that Mel Gibson is NOT a Bach. In fact, the codes are asking the question: Is he a Bach and they answer it: No!

Notice how Moshe says that Bach (Yohann Sebastian) can theoretically be spelled “bet chet”, but then goes on to present the bad advice of relying on a bad tribal-based teaching that “bet

chet” would only be true in his mind if somewhere in Bach's previous 10 to 20 generations his family was Jewish. Moshe's other points are also trivial and not true. In fact, at least one good reading of the 64-letter term I initially did, shows Mel Gibson in a positive light. However, instead of acknowledging that we may have competing assertions, Moshe descended into an attack on Mel Gibson's character that is shallow and filled with anger. His long term has non-standard aspects and has been falsified in a separate paper. However, in this article, the purpose is to just show how bad Moshe's analysis is on whether we can use chet, shin and tav for non-Jewish names. The fact is that the Most High God uses those letters for non-Jewish names as we shall clearly see.

Yehudi or Yehudim is the basis for the word Jew. In the Bible, it wasn't used until after the nation of Israel split into two countries following the death of king Solomon. The Northern 10 tribes formed the new nation of Israel, and the Southern tribes (largely Judah, Levi, and Benjamin) formed the nation of Judah. Actually, one sees the term “Yehudi” (Jew) only in later texts in the Tanakh like Zechariah 8:23, Esther 2 & 3. Of course the plural “Yehudim” (Jews) is used in Jeremiah and earliest in 2 Kings 18:26 “Yehudit” as the Jewish language. As you can see, the term “Jewish” is a late kingdom word, while when Israel was a single nation they were called Israel. Technically, Jews are descendants of that Southern kingdom after Israel split off as the 10 Northern tribes and called themselves Israel. When Moshe Shak proposes the rule of only using chet, shin and tav for transliterating the names of people who are Jewish, that is what he is referring to. Obviously anyone living before Judah was born as the son of Jacob, are not Jews. Abraham was not Jewish, the Bible refers to him as a Hebrew. Isaac was not Jewish, and neither was Jacob.

Given that Jews and Jewishness are a late kingdom word, then all my examples before the flood are obviously not Jewish. These include:

PRE-FLOOD non-Jewish people:

Eve, the wife of Adam was not Jewish. חַבֵּה Genesis 4:1

Hanokh, son of Cain, חֲנוֹךְ Genesis 4:17

Mekhuya'el, grandson of Cain, מְחוּיָאֵל Genesis 4:18

Metusha'el, great-grandson of Cain, מְתוּשָׁאֵל Genesis 4:18

Notice the use of tav, shin, and chet in the above non-Jewish names, and I deliberately used Cain and his descendants to show you people who weren't exactly on God's good side.

TRANS-FLOOD non-Jewish people:

Noah (No'akh) from whom all people on earth descended, נֹחַ Genesis 6:9

Shem, son of Noah, שֵׁם Genesis 10:1

Ham, son of Noah, חָם Genesis 10:1

Japheth (Yafet), son of Noah, יָפֶֿתֿ Genesis 10:1

Notice that all 4 males on the ark had the 3 letters used in their names. Noah and Ham with a chet, Shem with a shin, and Japheth with a tav. Since all people descended from these 4 men, then I guess all people on earth are Jews. This is an important point, if the people on the ark were all Jews, then all people on earth today are Jews. Note that Abraham and Israel descended through the line of Shem.

POST-FLOOD Descendants of Ham (non-Shem line):

Havila, חוילה Genesis 10:7

Savta, סבתה Genesis 10:7

Kush, כוש Genesis 10:6

Ashur who built Ninevah, אשור Genesis 10:11

Naftukhim from Mitzrayim, נפתחים Genesis 10:13

Note: I purposely used names from the line of Ham since they are not from the line of Shem from which Abraham and Israel descended. All 3 prohibited letters are used for non-Jewish people.

Sampling of other non-Jewish names:

Tidal, king of the Goyim fought the kings of Siddim, תדעל Genesis 14:9

Ishmael, son of Abraham, ישמעאל Genesis 16:11

Efron the Hittite son of Zokhar sold cave to Abraham, זחר Genesis 22:9

Hamor, Jacob bought land from him, a Hivvite of Canaan, חמור Genesis 33:19

Nevayot, son of Ismael, נביית Genesis 25:13

Mivsam, son of Ismael, מבשם Genesis 25:13

Massa, son of Ishmael, משא Genesis 25:14

Hadad, son of Ishmael, חדד Genesis 25:15

Nafish, son of Ishmael, נפש Genesis 25:15

Shekhem, son of Hamor the Hivvite, שכם Genesis 34:2

Note the use of the 3 letters chet, shin, and tav used in the above non-Jewish names.

Sample of non-Jewish people from the Exodus and later:

Jethro (Yitro), father-in-law of Moses, a Midianite, יתרו Exodus 18:5

Sikhon, king of the Emori, סיחן Numbers 21:21

Zevach, king of Midian, זבח Judges 8:5

Nakhash the Ammonite waged war against Israel, נחש first Samuel 11:1

Goliath (Golyat) of the Philistines fought David, גלית first Samuel 17:23

David dwelt with Akish, king of Gat of the Philistines, אכיש first Samuel 27:2

Haddad'ezer son of Rechoh, king of Zova warred with David, רחב second Samuel 8:3

To'i, king of Hamat, תעי second Samuel 8:9

Tiglat Pil'eser, king of Ashur, תגלת פלסר second Kings 16:7

Shalmaneser, king of Ashur, שלמנאסר second Kings 17:3

Sancheriv, king of Ashur, סנחרב second Kings 17:3

Tartan, sent by the king of Ashur, תרתן second Kings 18:17

Esar-Haddon, king in Ashur after Sancheriv, אסר חדן second Kings 19:37

Shar'etzer killed Sancheriv, שראצר second Kings 19:37

Note the consistent use of chet, shin and tav for non-Jewish names, which shows God Himself used the entire alphabet for names.

Sampling at time of Babylonian Captivity and Beyond:

Daryavesh (Darius), king of the Medes, דריוש Daniel 6:2

Belteshatzer, king of Babylon after Nebuchadnetzar, בלשאצר Daniel 8:1

Koresh (Cyrus), king of Paras (Persians), כורש Ezra 1:1

Archtachshasta, king of Paras (Persians), ארתחששתא Ezra 4:7

Tatenay, Babylonian governor in area of Israel, תתני Ezra 5:5

Achashverosh, king of Paras (Persians), אחשורוש Esther 3:11

Note: All 3 of the so-called prohibited letters are used in those who took Judah captive and ruled over them. Hmmm, do you suppose the kings of the Medes, Persians, and Babylon were all Jewish? Not a chance.

Haman's family names, certainly Haman's family cannot be Jewish?:

Zeresh, wife of Haman, זרש Esther 9:8-10 for all below

Aspata, son of Haman, אספתא

Porata, son of Haman, פורתא

Aridata, son of Haman, ארידתא

Parmashta, son of Haman, פרמשתא

Yezata, son of Haman יזתא

Note: I only used Haman's family names since they were Agagites, and not Jewish in any way. They are despised by Jews and rightly so for their evil intent in trying to wipe out the Jews by tricking the king (Book of Esther). And yet...note the use the so-called prohibited letters tav and shin in the above names.

Throughout the Bible, the 3 so-called prohibited letters are used for non-Jewish people's names. God Himself has given approval for use of all Hebrew alphabet letters for names of all people (and the above examples included some very unseemly people precisely to show that these letter in discussion applied to everyone).

Everyone should know I am very pro-Jewish and not anti-semitic in any way. However, in regards to the Bible codes and transliterations of names, Moshe Shak's misguided paper and terrible advice cannot be left to stand. He is absolutely wrong both logically and from the evidence of the Bible itself.

In summary, don't be misled by bad advice on the Bible codes. All letters in the Hebrew alphabet should be used for transliteration of names as has been shown through many Bible code matrixes. Logic tells you to use all the Hebrew letters, and the evidence of names from the Bible itself shows approval for using all the letters for transliteration of names.

E-mail Roy A. Reinhold about this article at: codes@ad2004.com