

# The Hebrew Word for Father:



**Figure 1:** I drew this Israeli flag in Inkscape and SVG.

In this chapter, we are going to examine the Hebrew word:

אָב,

, or:

‘āv’

.



**Figure 2:** Figure 2: I drew this Hebrew word ‘āv’ in Inkscape. Sometimes a custom font can really set a piece of graphic design off.

### **Body:**

The Hebrew word for ‘father’ is:

אב

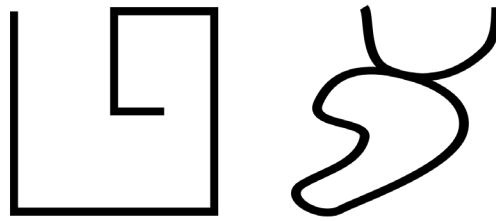
Which is pronounced:

/ʔa:v/ , /ʔa:v/

, and which can be transliterated as:

‘āv’

In Phoenician, or “Paleo-Hebrew” it is spelt:



**Figure 3:** The Phoenician, or Paleo-Hebrew word for ‘father.’ Pictographically, it is said to mean ‘the strength of the house;’ ‘the leader of the house.’

According to this intriguing website on [Ancient Hebrew](#), this word, pictographically, means ‘the strength of the house;’ ‘The leader (aluph)<sup>1</sup> of the house (beith).’ The site-master says that in Classical Hebrew thought, each person was said to be blessed with three fathers:

1. a biological father: ‘the strength of a household;’ ‘the leader of a household;’
2. a priest: the ‘leader of the house of God;’
3. God: the ‘leader of the Universe.’

In Biblical Hebrew, ‘the patriarchs,’ or ‘the fathers,’ or ‘Abraham, Isaac and Jacob,’ are called the:

אבות

or:

‘āvōth’

.<sup>2</sup>

We are introduced to *father Abraham* as:

אברם

or:

‘av(e)rām’<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> According to Wiktionary in Hebrew, the word, אלוף which is pronounced: /ʔal.ˈlof/ /ʔal.ˈlof/ means:

1. ‘A major general (military rank);’
2. ‘A champion (someone who has been winner in a contest);’
3. ‘Biblical Hebrew: A close friend.’

According to Wiktionary in Hebrew, the word, בית or ‘báyith’ means:

1. ‘house;’
2. ‘stanza (part of a poem or a song).’

The Aramaic word בית or ‘beith’ or ‘beyth’ is the second letter of the Aramaic Abjad that Hebrew uses. The Phoenician pictograph represents a ‘house,’ or a ‘tent.’ Figuratively, it can represent ‘body,’ which is the ‘house of the soul;’ ‘a temple,’ which is ‘the house of God;’ or even ‘the Universe.’

<sup>2</sup> Pronounced: /ʔa:ˈvo:θ/ /ʔa:ˈvo:θ/ /ʔa:ˈvo:θ/ /ʔa:ˈvo:θ/ .

<sup>3</sup> Pronounced: /ʔav.əˈra:m/

, which name means ‘exalted father.’<sup>4</sup>

## **Conclusion:**

In classical Hebrew, a little goes a long way. By our learning of the word, אָב or ‘āv,’ we have gained a more or less implicit understanding of Ancient-Hebrew and Phoenician culture, as regards how they view concepts such as *God*, *patriarchy*, and *fatherhood*.

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<sup>4</sup> According to [Wiktionary](#) The adjective אָב or ‘rām,’ pronounced: /ra:m/, means:

1. ‘high,’ ‘important;’
2. ‘loud.’