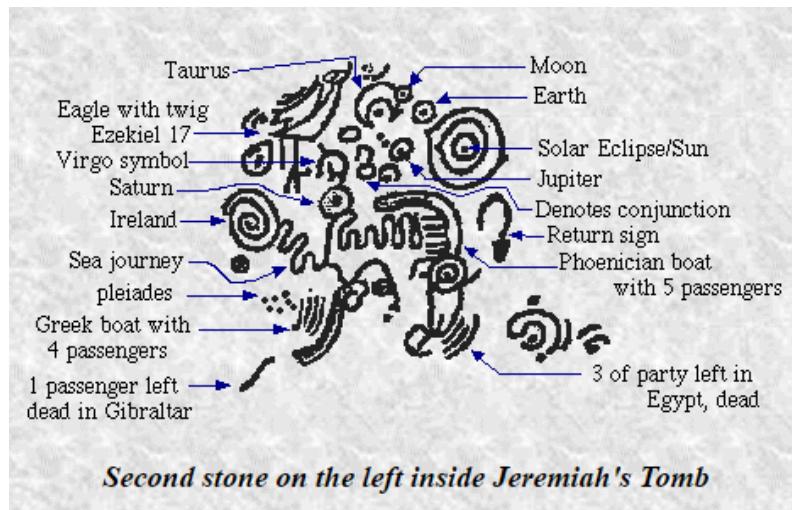


Ancient Hebrew Writing Direction

Overview

I have reviewed many bible related ancient writings and have found that Hieroglyphics were written in various directions. I also found some that wrote using the boustrophedon method. This document is meant to reflect my findings on biblical people and their descendants that wrote 'left to right'. I was able to find evidence that the early Hebrews did write 'left to right' and they continued writing 'left to right' when they migrated away from Mesopotamia and the Middle East area. I have not seen evidence that the early Hebrews ever wrote 'right to left'.

Here is an example of a Hebrew hieroglyphic that was written in a circular direction:



From: <http://jahtruth.net/jere.htm>

Boustrophedon

Hungarian Rovas, Greek Linear B, and Sabaeans sometimes used a writing system written in horizontal lines running alternatively from right to left then left to right. This is called Boustrophedon, which comes from the Greek βους (bous) "ox" + στρεφειν (strefein) "to turn", because it resembles the path an ox makes when plowing field, turning at the end of each row to return in the opposite direction.

Here is an example of ox turning:

THIS EXAMPLE OF BOUSTROPHEDON TEXT WAS
WRITTEN SPECIFICALLY FOR THE WIKIPEDIA
ARTICLE ON THIS OX TURNING METHOD OF
COVERING A WALL WITH TEXT IN ANCIENT
GREECE AND ELSEWHERE

For more information: <https://www.britannica.com/art/boustrophedon>

Left to Right - Writing

In the table, on the next page, I reflected every ancient biblical related language that wrote 'left to write'. I could not find anywhere that Aramaic or Phoenician was ever 'left to right'; however, some truth is hard to find. I did include them in the alphabet examples since theirs was almost identical to Hebrew and/or Greek. The dates used in the table came from the sites I referenced; some I do not think are not accurate though.

Year	Name	Tribe	Text Name	Text Left to Right	Text Right to Left	Top to Bottom	Hieroglyphic (sacred inscriptions) ¹
3200 BC	Mizraim (Gen 10:6)	Egyptian ²					Yes, in all directions
2686 BC	Mizraim (Gen 10:6)	Egyptian ³	Old Hieratic ⁴	Yes, religious items ⁵	Yes ⁶	Yes	
2500 BC	Peleg (Gen 10:25)	Pelasgian (Proto-Greek) ^{7, 8}	Greek Linear A ^{9, 10, 11}	Yes	Yes		Yes ¹²
2250 BC	Elam (Gen 5:32)	Elamite ¹³		Yes		Yes	
1500 BC	Wales, UK Area	Cimmerians ¹⁴	Coelbren	Yes			
1500 BC	Mycenaean Greeks	Judah-Zarah	Greek Linear B ¹⁵	Yes	Yes		Yes, logograms
968 BC	Hebrew (Gen 10:24)	Hebrews ¹⁶	Ancient or Paleo	Yes			Yes
500 BC	NE Iberian (includes France & Celtiberian)	Heber (Gen 10:24)	NE Iberian Script ¹⁷	Yes			Yes, syllabic signs
400BC	Greek (Septuagint & NT)		Koine ¹⁸	Yes			
400 AD	E. Germanic	Visigoths ¹⁹	Gothic ²⁰	Yes			

¹ *Omniglot*, online < <http://www.omniglot.com/writing/egyptian.htm> > Hieroglyphic means sacred inscriptions

² *Omniglot*, online < <http://www.omniglot.com/writing/egyptian.htm> > Egyptian writing

³ *Omniglot*, online < <http://www.omniglot.com/writing/egyptian.htm> > Egyptian writing

⁴ *Omniglot*, online < <http://www.omniglot.com/writing/egyptian.htm> > Egyptian writing, all directions

⁵ William Matthew Flinders Petrie, Online < *Hieratic Papyri from Kahun and Gurob* > Google Books, p. 12

⁶ *Omniglot*, online < http://www.omniglot.com/writing/egyptian_hieratic.htm > Egyptian writing

⁷ *Wikipedia*, online < https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Names_of_the_Greeks > Proto-Greeks

⁸ *Hellenic World*, Online, < <http://hellenicwords.blogspot.com/2012/04/greeks-or-hellenes.html> > Pelasgians

⁹ *Linear A Text*, online < <http://people.ku.edu/~jyounger/LinearA/#8> > About Linear A

¹⁰ *Omniglot*, online < <http://www.omniglot.com/writing/lineara.htm> > About Linear A, left to right

¹¹ *Wikipedia*, online < https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Linear_A > About Linear A, left to right

¹² *Wikipedia*, online < https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cretan_hieroglyphs > Early Greek, Linear A sister

¹³ *Omniglot*, online < <http://www.omniglot.com/writing/elamite.htm#proto> > Elamite writing

¹⁴ *Sovern Wales, Coelbren Alphabet*, Online, < <https://sovereignwales.com/tag/coelbren-alphabet/> > History

¹⁵ *Omniglot*, online < <http://www.omniglot.com/writing/linearb.htm> > Greek Linear B language

¹⁶ *Gods Secrets*, Online < <https://godssecret.wordpress.com/2009/06/14/oldest-known-10-commandments-is-in-america-in-ancient-hebrew-script-from-time-of-king-solomon/> > Las Lunas stone shows written left to right

¹⁷ *Ancients Scripts* Online < <http://www.ancientscripts.com/iberian.html> > NE Iberian Script left to right

¹⁸ *Encyclopedia Britannica*, Online < <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Koine-Greek-language> > Koine Greek

The Oldest Hebrew Script

*“The faded text on the Qeiyafa Ostrakon has challenged potential translators; what is known is that its variations and **left-to-right** orientation signal a pre-Hebrew script deriving from Early Alphabetic rather than Phoenician writing.”*

From <http://www.biblicalarchaeology.org/daily/biblical-artifacts/inscriptions/the-oldest-hebrew-script-and-language/>

More information on the Hebrew Script:

<http://yehweh.org/profiles/blogs/ancient-hebrew-alphabet-chart>

<http://sum1good.deviantart.com/art/Ancient-Hebrew-Letter-Meanings-204915801>

http://www.ancientscripts.com/old_hebrew.html

Proto- Canaanite (Actually Hebrew) Writing

*“Some texts were written from **left to right and others, from right to left**. However, this writing was no doubt the pioneer of alphabetical writing. It was used by our forefathers and is the base of a more developed system of writing: the Hebrew alphabet.”*

From <http://www.hebrewtoday.com/content/history-alphabet>

1005 BC - During King David

*“Several ancient languages used similar alphabets. The letter shapes in the inscription suggest they were written **left-to-right**. Standard Hebrew—including that used on the ostrakon found at Khirbet Qeiyafa—is written right-to-left. However, at this time in history, the ancient Hebrew, Egyptian, and Canaanite languages could all be written in either direction.”*

From <https://answersingenesis.org/archaeology/shard-shows-written-language-at-jerusalem-when-david-ruled/>

968 BC - During King Solomon’s time:

On the next page is the Los Lunas stone that shows Paleo Hebrew writing that was written ‘**left to right**’. That stone writing is thought to have been done during King Solomon’s reign.

From <https://godssecret.wordpress.com/2009/06/14/oldest-known-10-commandments-is-in-america-in-ancient-hebrew-script-from-time-of-king-solomon/>

¹⁹ *Ominglot*, online, < <http://www.omniglot.com/writing/gothic.htm> >

²⁰ *Wikipedia*, online < https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gothic_alphabet > Gothic left to right



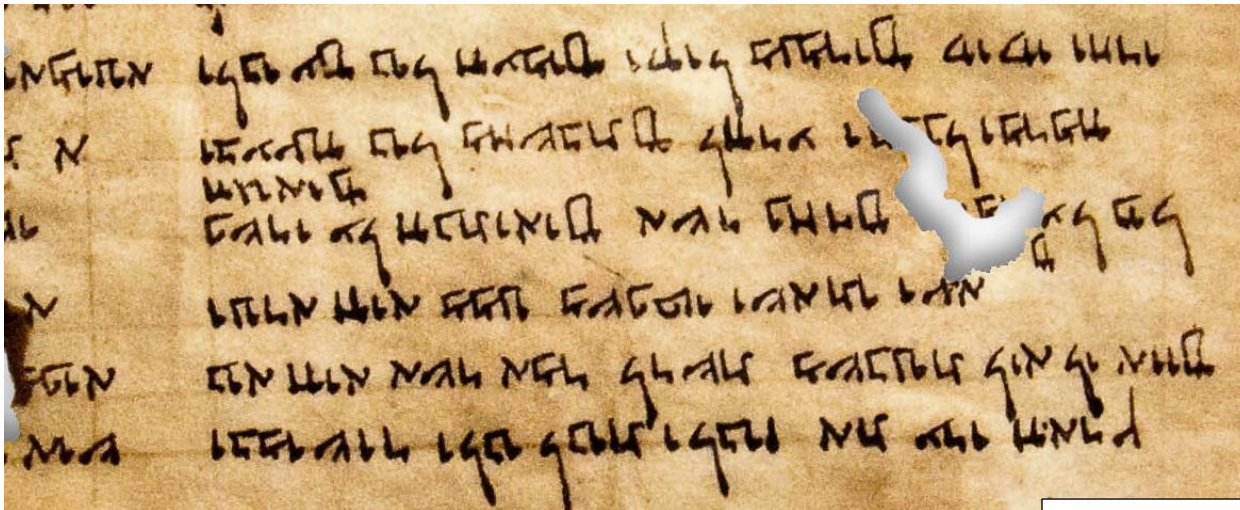
רָקִיךְ מֵעַתָּה יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ לָקַח אֶתְּךָ מֵאֶרֶץ מִצְרַיִם
 out of the land has taken you who your God Jehovah I (am)
 לֹא יִהְיֶה לְךָ אֱלֹהִים אֲחֵרִים לְפָנַי
 my face (1) before other gods there be not
 מִבְּיַת עֲבָדָי אֲשֶׁר אֶבְרָא מִן־בְּיַת מִצְרַיִם
 take not idol shall you make not (2) of slaves from house of Egypt (3)
 וְיָדַעְתָּ כִּי יְהוָה הוּא יְהוָה אֶחָד
 day of Remember (7) in vain Jehovah name (4)
 וְשָׁמַרְתָּ אֶת־שַׁבָּת יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ לְקַדְּשׁוֹ
 so that and your mother your father Honour to keep holy the sabbath
 כִּי יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ יֶחֱדָשׁ לְךָ אֶת־הַיָּמִים וְיִבְרַכְךָ
 your God Jehovah that ground upon your days will be long
 לְךָ לֹא תִגְדֹּל לְךָ לֹא תִשָּׂא לְךָ לֹא תִרְצַח לְךָ לֹא תִשָּׂא
 not you must steal not you commit adultery not you must murder not to you has given (5)
 לְרֵעֵךְ אִשְׁתְּ רֵעִי וְלֹא תִשָּׂא אֶת־שֵׁם יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ
 your neighbour wife of you must desire not false (6) witness against neighbour give testimony
 כִּי יִשָּׂא אֶת־שֵׁם יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ
 is your neighbours that and all

- Notes: (1) normal Hebrew spelling is without the HE character
 (2) probably an insertion mark for an additional line (the 2nd one from top)
 (3) right 3 characters (RES,SADE,MEM) are broken off
 (4) right character (ALEPH) is broken off
 (5) right character (YOD) is corrupted due to surface crack
 (6) normal Hebrew spelling uses QOPH instead of KAPH
 (7) normal Hebrew spelling is without the ALEPH character

Dead Sea Scrolls

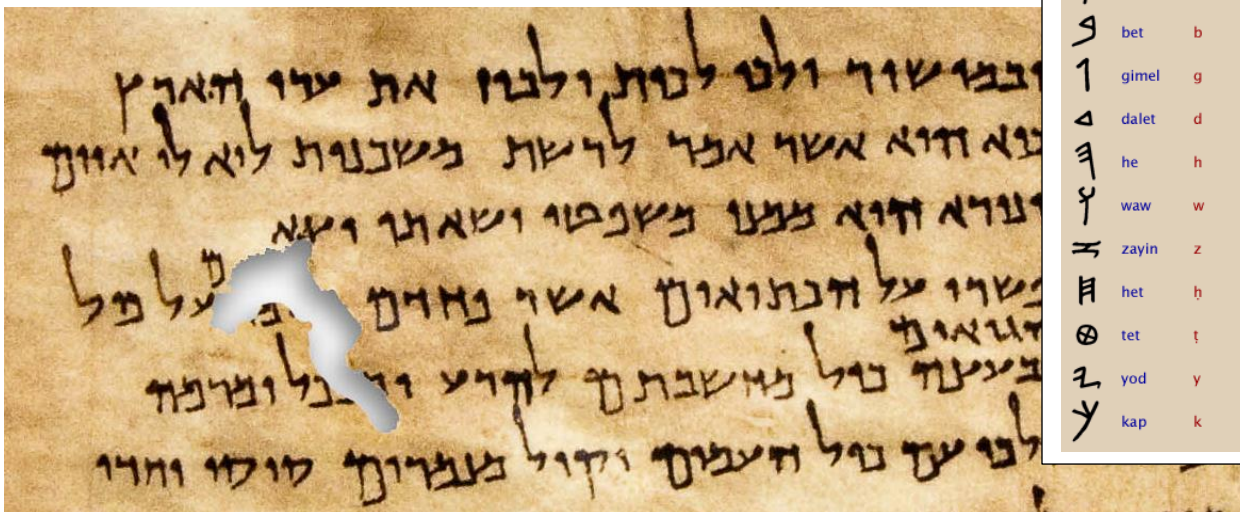
“Though Hebrew is read from right to left, the individual letters are written from **left to right**, since the pen must be pulled over the surface, never pushed (18). Today, Jewish scribes touch the letter with the pen immediately after completing a stroke, depositing a small amount of surplus ink on the wide stroke so that when it dries it will be even blacker and form a raised surface. This is a risky process, because any smudges could render the whole page unusable. This process also contributes to the problem of flaking.” From <http://cpart.mi.byu.edu/home/dss/about-dss/>

The Dead Sea Scrolls are always shown upside down on the internet so that they appear to be written from ‘right to left’; however, they are **really written from ‘left to right’**. Below is an example that I turned **right side up**:



Notice the text is now sitting on the lines. I can now make out several of the letters.

This is how it was reflected on the internet:



Ancient Hebrew Alphabet

א	'alep	א	lamed	ל
ב	bet	מ	mem	מ
ג	gimel	נ	nun	נ
ד	dalet	ס	samek	ס
ה	he	ע	ayin	ע
ו	waw	פ	pe	פ
ז	zayin	צ	tsade	צ
ח	het	ק	qop	ק
ט	tet	ר	reš	ר
י	yod	ש	šin	ש
כ	kap	ת	taw	ת

From: <http://www.facsimilefinder.com/facsimiles/dead-sea-scrolls-facsimile#&gid=1&pid=2>

Another Source

Willie Martin reflects the original was ‘left to right’ [https://israelect.com/reference/WillieMartin/Writing%20\[A\].htm](https://israelect.com/reference/WillieMartin/Writing%20[A].htm)

Ancient Alphabets

The next couple of pages contain writing examples of early bible related languages.

- LTR means 'left to right'
- RTL means 'right to left'

When reviewing Hebrew alphabets notice how it easily was turned into the current day English and German alphabets.

Greek Linear A, Peleg c. 2500 BC - LTR

	A	E	I	O	U	A2	O2	U2
	𐀀	𐀁	𐀂	𐀃	𐀄	𐀅		
D	𐀆	𐀇	𐀈		𐀉			
J	𐀊	𐀋			𐀌			
K	𐀍	𐀎	𐀏	𐀐	𐀑			
M	𐀒	𐀓	𐀔					
N	𐀕	𐀖	𐀗		𐀘			
P	𐀙		𐀚	𐀛	𐀜	𐀝		𐀞
Q	𐀟	𐀠	𐀡					
R	𐀢	𐀣	𐀤	𐀥	𐀦	𐀧		
S	𐀨	𐀩	𐀪		𐀫			
T	𐀬	𐀭	𐀮	𐀯	𐀰	𐀱		
W	𐀲		𐀳					
Z	𐀴	𐀵		𐀶	𐀷			

Other symbols: 𐀸 𐀹 𐀺 𐀻 𐀼 𐀽 𐀾 𐀿
 au (?) pi (?) pa (?) twe (?)

Unclassified symbols: 𐀿 𐀻 𐀼 𐀽 𐀾 𐀿

<http://www.omniglot.com/writing/lineara.htm>



Greek Linear B, Judah-Zarah, c. 1500 BC – left to right

𐀀	𐀁	𐀂	𐀃	𐀄	𐀅	𐀆	𐀇	𐀈	𐀉	𐀊	𐀋	𐀌
a	da	ja	ka	ma	na	pa	qa	ra	sa	ta	wa	za
𐀍	𐀎	𐀏	𐀐	𐀑	𐀒	𐀓	𐀔	𐀕	𐀖	𐀗	𐀘	𐀙
e	de	je	ke	me	ne	pe	qe	re	se	te	we	ze
𐀚	𐀛		𐀜	𐀝	𐀞	𐀟	𐀠	𐀡	𐀢	𐀣	𐀤	
i	di		ki	mi	ni	pi	qi	ri	si	ti	wi	
𐀥	𐀦	𐀧	𐀨	𐀩	𐀪	𐀫	𐀬	𐀭	𐀮	𐀯	𐀰	𐀱
o	do	jo	ko	mo	no	po	qo	ro	so	to	wo	zo
𐀲	𐀳	𐀴	𐀵	𐀶	𐀷	𐀸		𐀹	𐀺	𐀻		
u	du	ju	ku	mu	nu	pu		ru	su	tu		

<http://www.omniglot.com/writing/linearb.htm>

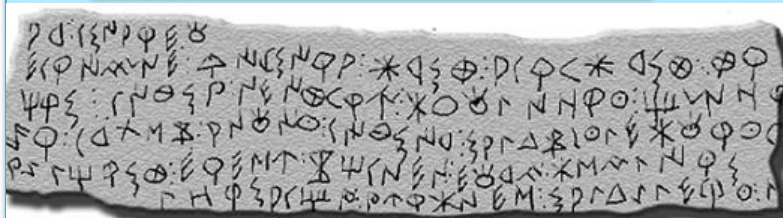
NE Iberian Script (Hebrew), c. 500 BC –left to right

▷	Ǝ	Ɔ	H	↑					
a	e	i	o	u					
Λ	Ɔ	V	Ɔ						
l	m	m̄	n						
◁	◊	∫	M						
r	f	s	ś						
	⊗	┐	✱	□					
ba	be	bi	bo	bu					
Λ	Λ	<	<	∫	∫	⊗	⊗	◊	
ka	ga	ke	ge	ki	gi	ko	go	ku	gu
X	X	◊	◊	Ψ	Ψ	Ш	Ш	Δ	Δ
ta	da	te	de	ti	di	to	do	tu	du

<http://www.ancientscripts.com/iberian.html>

Iberian Example Below

The Iberians also used symbols; notice they are using the same sun symbol as the Hebrew above. They are also using the circle with the x in the middle from the alphabet.



<http://www.omniglot.com/writing/iberian.htm>

Ancient Picture-Hebrew, c. 1900 BC

III	—○	人	=	→	└	□	⊗
het	waw	haw	=	digg	gaml	bet	'alp
ḥ	w	h	ḡ	d	g	b	'
courtyard	hook	hurrah	?	fish	throwstick	house	ox
eye	?	snake	water	lamd	kap	yad	ḥa
'en	šamk	naḥš	mem	l	k	y	ḥ
eye	š	n	m	l	k	y	ḥ
	?	snake	water	goad	hand	arm	yarn
+	⊗	ω	⊗	∞	∨	└	⊗
+	⊗	ω	⊗	∞	∨	└	⊗
taw	šimš	ṭann	ra's	qup	šad	pi't	ḡa
t	š	ś/ṭ	r	q	š	p	ḡ
owner's mark	sun	bow	head	monkey	plant	corner (?)	?

<http://www.omniglot.com/writing/protosinaitc.htm>

Hebrew Alphabet c. 800 BC - LTR

𐤀	'alep	'	𐤁	lamed	l
𐤂	bet	b	𐤃	mem	m
𐤄	gimel	g	𐤅	nun	n
𐤆	dalet	d	𐤇	samek	s
𐤈	he	h	𐤉	ayin	'
𐤊	waw	w	𐤋	pe	p
𐤌	zayin	z	𐤍	tsade	š
𐤎	het	ḥ	𐤏	qop	q
𐤐	tet	ṭ	𐤑	reš	r
𐤒	yod	y	𐤓	šin	š
𐤔	kap	k	𐤕	taw	t

http://www.ancientscripts.com/old_hebrew.html

Ancient Hebrew Pictures to English

Ancient Hebrew Picture-Letter (Pictograph ¹)	Picture Description	Meaning of Letter	Best English Transliteration ²	English Transcription (Sound) ³	
1		ox-head	strong, power, leader	A	A [ah]
2		tent floor-plan	family, house, in	B	B
3		foot	gather, walk, carry	G	G
4		tent door	movement, hang, enter	D	D
5		man with arms raised	breath, look, reveal	E	E [eh]
6		tent peg	add, secure, hook	U	U [ooh]
7		mattock (plough)	food, cut, weapon, nourish	Z	Z
8		tent wall	outside, divide, half	H	CH ⁶
9		basket	surround, contain, mud	ð ⁵	TH
10		hand and arm	work, throw, worship	I	I [eeh]
11		open palm of hand	bend, open, allow, tame	K	K
12		shepherd's staff	teach, yoke, toward, bind	L	L
13		water	chaos, mighty, blood	M	M
14		sprouting seed	continue, heir, son	N	N
15		thorn	grab, hate, protect	X	X
16		eye	watch, know, shade	O	O [oh]
17		open mouth	blow, scatter, edge	P	P
18		destination and path	trail, journey, hunt	S	TS
19		sun at the horizon	condense, circle, time	Q	Q ⁷
20		man's head	first, top, beginning	R	R
21		two front teeth	sharp, press, eat, two	J ⁵	SH
22		two crossed sticks	mark, sign, signal	T	T

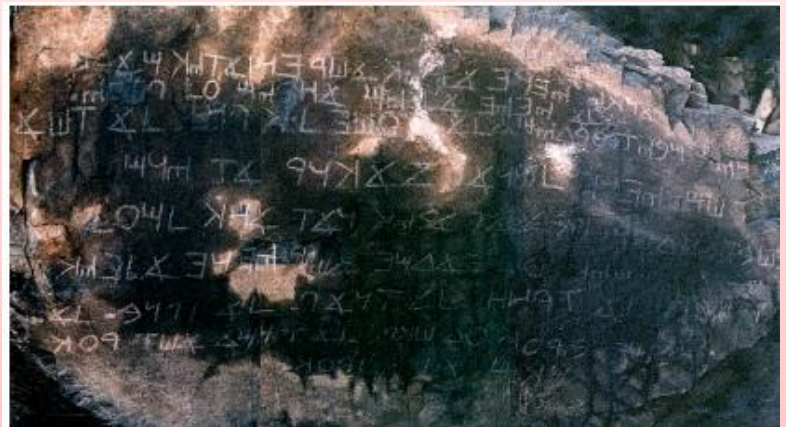
<http://yehweh.org/profiles/blogs/ancient-hebrew-alphabet-chart>

East Germanic, Gothic – c. 400 AD

λ	β	Γ	Δ	ε	υ	z	h	ψ
ahsa a	bairkkan b	giba g	dags d	aihvus e	qairthra q	iuja z	hagl h	thiuth þ
[a/a:]	[b/v]	[g/ŋ/x]	[d/ð]	[e/e:]	[k ^v]	[z]	[h/x]	[θ]
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
ι	κ	λ	μ	ν	ς	π	π	υ
eis eis	kusma kusma	lagus lagus	manna manna	nauths nauths	jer jer	urus urus	pairthra pairthra	
i	k	l	m	n	j	u	p	
[i/i:]	[k]	[l]	[m]	[n]	[j]	[u/u:]	[p]	
10	20	30	40	50	60	70	80	90
κ	ς	τ	γ	ƒ	x	θ	ϱ	↑
raida r	saul s	teivs t	winja w	faihu f	iggws x	hwair h	othal o	
[r]	[s]	[t]	[w/y]	[f]	[k ^h]	[w]	[o/o:]	
100	200	300	400	500	600	700	800	900

<http://www.omniglot.com/writing/gothic.htm>

Ancient Paleo Hebrew, c. 968 BC, New Mexico, LTR



out of the land has taken you who your God Jehovah I (am)
 my face (1) before other gods these be not
 take not idol shall you make not (2) of slaves from house of Egypt (3)
 day of Remember (7) in vain Jehovah name (8)
 so that and your mother your father Honour to keep holy the sabbath
 your God Jehovah that ground upon your days will be long
 not you must steal not you commit adultery not you must murder not to you has given (5)
 your neighbour wife of you must desire not false (6) witness against neighbour give testimony
 is your neighbours that and all

Wales Coelbren, c. 1500 BC - LTR

Λ	A	▷	Dd	∩	Ll
△	Á	◁	E	∩	M
∨	B	◁	É	∩	N
∪	V	◁	F	◊	O
H	M	◁	G	◊	Ó
<	C	×	Ng	∩	P
∩	Ch	H	H	∩	Ph
×	Ngh	I	I	∩	Mh
>	D	∩	L	∩	R

<https://sovereignwales.com/tag/coelbren-alphabet/>

Example: notice the similarities to the Hebrew on right.



Hebrew Alphabet c. 800 BC - LTR

𐤀	'alep	ʾ	𐤁	lamed	l
𐤂	bet	b	𐤃	mem	m
𐤄	gimel	g	𐤅	nun	n
𐤆	dalet	d	𐤇	samek	s
𐤈	he	h	𐤉	ayin	ʿ
𐤊	waw	w	𐤋	pe	p
𐤌	zayin	z	𐤍	tsade	ṣ
𐤎	het	ḥ	𐤏	qop	q
𐤐	tet	ṭ	𐤑	reš	r
𐤒	yod	y	𐤓	šin	š
𐤔	kap	k	𐤕	taw	t

http://www.ancientscripts.com/old_hebrew.html

Notice these early alphabets did not have the letter 'j'. That is because they did not use that 'j' sound. Therefore, the letter 'j' should really not be in our bibles. The 'j' should really be 'y'.

The first two letters of these alphabets are 'alpha' and 'bet'; this is where our current day word 'alphabet' originates from.

Here is example of how the Modern Greek came from Phoenician. The Phoenician alphabet came from the Hebrew.

	Phoenician	Ionia	Athens	Corinth	Argos	Crete	Euboea	Modern	AP	MP
alpha	𐤀	Α	Α	Α	Α	Α	Α	Α α	[a]	[a]
beta	𐤂	Β	Β	Β	Β	Β	Β	Β β	[b]	[v]
gamma	𐤄	Γ	Γ	Γ	Γ	Γ	Γ	Γ γ	[g]	[y]
delta	𐤆	Δ	Δ	Δ	Δ	Δ	Δ	Δ δ	[d]	[ð]
epsilon	𐤈	Ε	Ε	Ε	Ε	Ε	Ε	Ε ε	[e]	[e]
digamma	𐤊	Ϝ	Ϝ	Ϝ	Ϝ	Ϝ	Ϝ	Ϝ Ϝ	[w]	[w]
zeta	𐤌	Ζ	Ζ	Ζ	Ζ	Ζ	Ζ	Ζ ζ	[zd]	[z]
eta		Η	Η	Η	Η	Η	Η	Η η	[e]	[i]
heta	𐤈	Θ	Θ	Θ	Θ	Θ	Θ	Θ θ	[h]	[θ]
theta	𐤊	Θ	Θ	Θ	Θ	Θ	Θ	Θ θ	[tʰ]	[θ]
iota	𐤌	Ι	Ι	Ι	Ι	Ι	Ι	Ι ι	[i]	[i]
kappa	𐤎	Κ	Κ	Κ	Κ	Κ	Κ	Κ κ	[k]	[k]
lambda	𐤐	Λ	Λ	Λ	Λ	Λ	Λ	Λ λ	[l]	[l]
mu	𐤒	Μ	Μ	Μ	Μ	Μ	Μ	Μ μ	[m]	[m]
nu	𐤔	Ν	Ν	Ν	Ν	Ν	Ν	Ν ν	[n]	[n]
xi	𐤖	Ξ	Ξ	Ξ	Ξ	Ξ	Ξ	Ξ ξ	[ks]	[ks]
omicron	𐤘	Ο	Ο	Ο	Ο	Ο	Ο	Ο ο	[o]	[o]
pi	𐤚	Π	Π	Π	Π	Π	Π	Π π	[p]	[p]
san	𐤜			Σ	Σ	Σ			[s]	
koppa	𐤞	Ϟ	Ϟ	Ϟ	Ϟ	Ϟ	Ϟ	Ϟ Ϟ	[k]	
rho	𐤠	Ρ	Ρ	Ρ	Ρ	Ρ	Ρ	Ρ ρ	[r]	[r]
sigma	𐤢	Σ	Σ		Σ		Σ	Σ σ	[s]	[s]
tau	𐤄	Τ	Τ	Τ	Τ	Τ	Τ	Τ τ	[t]	[t]
upsilon		Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ υ	[u, u]	[i, v]
phi		Φ	Φ	Φ	Φ		Φ	Φ φ	[pʰ]	[f]
khi		Χ	Χ	Χ	Χ		Χ	Χ χ	[kʰ]	[ç, x]
psi		Ψ	Ψ	Ψ	Ψ		Ψ	Ψ ψ	[ps]	[ps]
omega		Ω	Ω				Ω	Ω ω	[o:]	[o]

Yahshua told us that he is the beginning and the end:
“I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End.” Revelation 22:13