

Yeshua's Kingdom of Heaven Handbook

It's a Yod, not a Jot and Tittle!

Not only did Yeshua read and speak Hebrew, so did his followers and disciples! Two very well known, but not accurately understood words in the Gospel of Matthew proves it ó *jot and tittle*. For some reason *jot* and *tittle* stick in the minds of Christian Bible readers. But when you ask them what *jot* or *tittle* mean, you get a lot of conflicting and some really weird answers. Today, you are going to get the facts about what Yeshua originally said and how they ended up in English translations of the Bible as *jot* and *tittle*.

Let's begin by reading Matthew 5:18 from the *King James* translation:

For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.

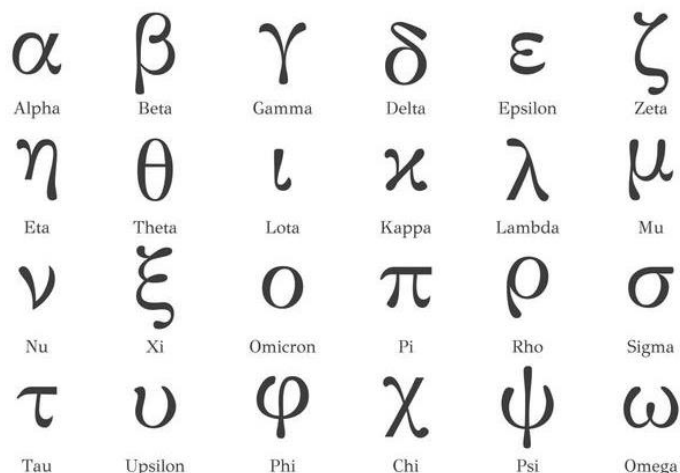
If you have not read the article *From Yeshua to Jesus* in *Yeshua's Kingdom Handbook* please take a moment to read it online by [clicking here](#) before you continue. In it you will see how we began with the name *Jesus* and traced it through Latin and Greek back to his real Hebrew name (Yeshua). We will use the same method to trace the words *jot* and *tittle* back to the Hebrew words Yeshua spoke as he taught a very important lesson to his disciples.

Our first step is to discover the Greek words the King James translators translated *jot* and *tittle*.

The Greek word translated *jot* is **ἰῶτα** (*iota*).

The Greek word translated *tittle* is **κεραία** (*keraiia*).

The word (*iota*) is the name for the smallest letter of the Greek alphabet.



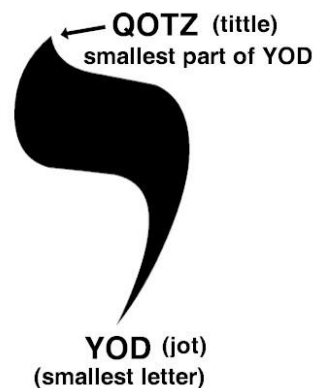
The Greek word *kerasia* is defined as a *horn, anything like a horn, a small dot in writing.*

When we trace the Greek words back to Hebrew, we discover *iōta* is the Greek translation of the Hebrew word *yod*, the tenth and smallest letter of the Hebrew alphabet.



When we trace the Greek word *kerasia* back to Hebrew we discover that it is the Hebrew word transliterated *qotz*, which means *thorn*.

At the time of Yeshua there was a popular phrase that is translated *ōnot a yod or a thorn of a yod*. For the Hebrew speaking audience it meant something like this *ōnot the smallest letter or even the smallest part of the smallest letter*. Yeshua used that idea to make an important point.



Some people had accused him of *destroying* the words of the *Hebrew Scriptures*. His response was this *I will not destroy one yod or even one qotz of a yod of the Hebrew Scriptures.* Now we know that not only did Yeshua read and speak Hebrew, so did his followers and disciples *otherwise they couldn't have understand what he taught!* We will discuss Yeshua's response in its full context in a future study.

Now you know that Yeshua didn't say "jot" or "tittle." You understand what he did say and what those words meant to him and his audience. *You can be sure that anyone that does not know how "jot" and "tittle" ended up in their Bible, especially if they believe that their Bible is the inerrant and infallible word of God doesn't understand the most important words for Christians in their Bible or the words of Yeshua.* The world urgently needs Christians who understand Yeshua's teachings and movement today. *It's time to put jots and tittles – and tons of other inaccuracies behind us!*

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Shalom,
Jim Myers