

# Kadosh Samaritan

## A TrueType Font for Windows and Macintosh

Version 1.1

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The Samaritan script, also known as Old Hebrew or *ketab ibri*, is a particularly ornate and fascinating form of the Semitic alphabet. It presents the letters of the Hebrew script in a form closer to its ancient Phoenician roots. There are several styles of Samaritan writing—the specific characters in Kadosh Samaritan are based on the Samaritan letters as found in the Masonic writings of Albert Pike (1809-1891). This typeface will be useful to Biblical scholars as well as to researchers of the literature of Freemasonry.

Kadosh Samaritan follows the modified Michigan-Claremont encoding scheme found in the popular Scholars Press Hebrew fonts. This allows the user to transform unpointed Hebrew set in a Scholars Press font into Samaritan characters simply by changing the font. To facilitate this function, I have duplicated some characters where appropriate because in Tiberian there are special versions of certain letters (*kaf*, *mem*, *nun*, *pei*, *tzadi*) when they come at the end of a word. This was not done in ancient manuscripts, and there are no final forms of Samaritan glyphs.

On the many keys unused by Samaritan characters, Kadosh Samaritan offers a number of useful Masonic symbols, with a particular emphasis on the Scottish Rite. Among the supplements to be found are the double-headed eagle, the logo of the Scottish Rite Research Society, and the various crosses used in Scottish Rite signatures.

The Kadosh Samaritan font was created using the Font Creator Program (v3.1.3) by High-Logic (<http://www.high-logic.com>). This font is governed by the Terms of Use found at the end of this document. Product suggestions, license inquiries and other other concerns may be addressed to Shawn Eyer at [shawn@orindalodge.org](mailto:shawn@orindalodge.org).

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Enhancements are planned for this product. These include a better selection of enhanced characters, a version for older Macintosh computers and a character-only version which follows the appropriate Unicode mapping for Hebrew. The latest version of this font and supporting files may be found at:

<http://www.orindalodge.org/kadoshsamaritan.php>

## About the Samaritan Script

This unusual system of writing is an archaic form of Hebrew script. The glyphs correspond to the letters of the Hebrew alphabet (or more accurately, “aleph-beit”). A comparison of the two scripts will reveal that while Samaritan seems very unfamiliar, it in fact resembles the more recognized Hebrew writing in more than a few particulars. For example, א and א, ב and ב, ג and ג, and ד and ד are quite similar. Other letters hardly bear a resemblance, such as ה and ה, and ו and ו. One of the interesting features of Samaritan is the fact that its first letter, *aleph* (א) and its last, *tov* (ט) look so similar, unlike in square Hebrew script.

The Samaritan letters are actually based on the most ancient form of Hebrew writing, which was derived from the Phoenician alphabet. According to Yale historian Johanna Drucker:

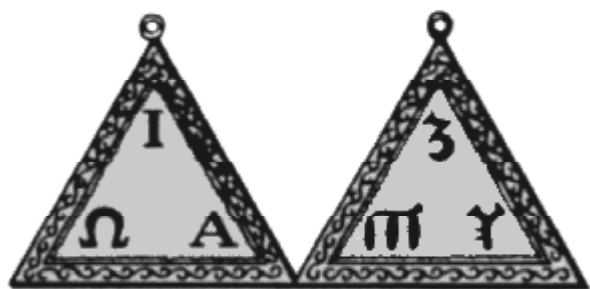
Old Hebrew developed in the 11th and 10th centuries BC during the time associated in biblical history with David and Solomon; it fell out of use after the fall of the Temple and Babylonian exile in the 6th century BC. Though preserved in the form of sect script Samaritan, old Hebrew was held in low esteem by the rabbinical Jews who adopted a chancellery script of the late Persian empire as the basis of the square Hebrew still in use today. (1995, p. 43)


The paleo-Hebrew script which Samaritan represents became politically-charged. Between 100 BC and AD 150, a time of Jewish revolt against Roman domination, it appears on artifacts from coins to Biblical manuscripts found among the Dead Sea Scrolls. Semitic language scholar John Healy explains that:

The retention of the old script may have had an element of nationalism about it. It was favored by certain Jewish sects, certainly by the Samaritans, who retained it throughout the ages. By contrast, the orthodox tradition of mainstream rabbinic Judaism came to be rather hostile to the old script and gave legitimacy to the newly adopted Aramaic script. . . . According to the Mishnah, a collection of Jewish legal judgements compiled c. AD 200, the Law scroll (Torah), when written in the old Hebrew script (as it was by the Samaritans), did not have about it the same sanctity as adhered to a normal scroll in the Jewish Aramaic script. (1991, pp. 32-33)

### THE FIRST THREE VERSES OF GENESIS IN HEBREW AND SAMARITAN


בראשית	אֵלֶּאֱלֵהֶם
ברא אלהים	אֵלֶּאֱלֵהֶם אֵלֶּאֱלֵהֶם
את השמים	אֵלֶּאֱלֵהֶם אֵלֶּאֱלֵהֶם
ואת הארץ	אֵלֶּאֱלֵהֶם אֵלֶּאֱלֵהֶם
והארץ היתה	אֵלֶּאֱלֵהֶם אֵלֶּאֱלֵהֶם
תהו ובהו	אֵלֶּאֱלֵהֶם אֵלֶּאֱלֵהֶם
וחשך על-פני	אֵלֶּאֱלֵהֶם אֵלֶּאֱלֵהֶם
תהום ורוח	אֵלֶּאֱלֵהֶם אֵלֶּאֱלֵהֶם
מרחפת	אֵלֶּאֱלֵהֶם אֵלֶּאֱלֵהֶם
אלהים	אֵלֶּאֱלֵהֶם אֵלֶּאֱלֵהֶם
על-פני המים	אֵלֶּאֱלֵהֶם אֵלֶּאֱלֵהֶם
ויאמר אלהים	אֵלֶּאֱלֵהֶם אֵלֶּאֱלֵהֶם
יהי אור	אֵלֶּאֱלֵהֶם אֵלֶּאֱלֵהֶם
ויהי-אור	אֵלֶּאֱלֵהֶם אֵלֶּאֱלֵהֶם



Greek and Samaritan characters as seen on the front and back of the jewel worn by Scottish Rite Masons in the Secret Master degree (4°) in Pike's version of the work. The Samaritan  is equivalent to יָהוָה (*yahu*), the first three letters of the tetragrammaton or ineffable name of deity in the Hebrew religion. The Greek ΙΑΩ (*iad*) is an ancient appellation of deity common in the Greek magical papyri, and certainly derived from the tetragrammaton. In the ceremony, only the Greek side would be visible. Similar objects are found throughout Pike's Scottish Rite rituals. Image from Pike's *Liturgy* (1877/1962, p. 10).



The jewel of the Intendant of the Building degree (8°) features Samaritan on both sides. On the public face of the jewel we find בִּנְחֹרִים-פֶּה (ben-kbûrîm) meaning “son of the noble ones.” On the reverse of the jewel, which would be seen only by the Mason wearing it during the act of putting it on and removing it, is פֶּה אֶחָד or אֶחָד (akhad) which means “one.” It does not denote the number one, but has clear religious implications, as in “Hear, O Israel, the Lord thy God, the Lord is One (akhad).” (Deuteronomy 6.4). Image from Pike’s *Liturgy* (1877/1962, p. 66).

The Samaritan culture preserved this script for over two thousand years. Although once numbering over a million people, by the early 1920s there were fewer than 200 Samaritans left in the world. Their language and culture is often wrongly considered to be extinct. But today there are approximately 700 Samaritans, and they preserve and promote their culture enthusiastically (Rustow, Liberman, & Deitsch, 2000). Divided between Tel Aviv and Nablus in the contested West Bank, the Samaritans carry on distinct religious observances which remain largely unchanged from ancient times, including the traditional sacrifices at their ancient altar on Mount Gerizim. Their ancient alphabet persists in such diverse examples as their Biblical scrolls, mezuzahs, amulets, and an even bi-weekly newspaper called .

Samaritan script is also still in use among a very different population: American Freemasons. In the latter part of the nineteenth century, an American named Albert Pike became prominent as an author and editor of rituals within a particular segment of Freemasonry called the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite. The lore of this philosophical fraternity frequently borrowed Hebrew, Greek and Latin words.

In all but Pike's earliest revisions of the Scottish Rite ceremonies, Samaritan letters appear where Hebrew had formerly been displayed. Although no evidence has survived to indicate Pike's reason for altering the script, the practical context suggests that he introduced Samaritan to make the rituals seem more authentic to their dramatic setting (in most cases, during the Solomonic period). Additionally, he may have felt that by varying the scripts seen during the degrees (square Hebrew letters were not completely eliminated) it might make the ceremonies seem less sectarian. Masonry—in its Scottish Rite form particularly—regards itself as religiously neutral, and Pike may have felt that too

great a reliance on Hebrew lettering could give the impression that Masonry was unduly slanted toward Judaism. While open to all religions, Masonry has mostly been populated by protestants. All speculation aside, Pike's enthusiastic embrace of the Samaritan script is attested throughout his published works as well as his rituals—an enthusiasm all the more impressive for the fact that he is not known to have justified it. Nor was Pike's purpose merely to obfuscate the already cryptic lessons given to the initiates. To assist serious students of Masonry, Pike published a key to the Samaritan alphabet in 1878, and it was this chart which formed the source for the design of Kadosh Samaritan (Pike, 1878/1999).

For the last 125 years this long-neglected writing style has found new life among the hundreds of thousands of Scottish Rite Masons in the United States and elsewhere. And while the indigenous usage of Samaritan writing—like the culture that preserved it—once verged on extinction, it remains an important though often overlooked Semitic alphabet, preserving as it does some of the most ancient Hebrew letter-forms.

### References

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Samaritans performing an ancient ritual atop Mount Gerizim in 1934.




































# Kadosh Samaritan Alphabet Map

KEY	GLYPH	VALUE	DESCRIPTION
)	𐤀	0041	𐤀 (aleph)
b	𐤁	0098	𐤁 (beit)
g	𐤂	0103	𐤂 (gimel)
d	𐤃	0100	𐤃 (daled)
h	𐤄	0104	𐤄 (hei)
w	𐤅	0119	𐤅 (vov)
z	𐤆	0122	𐤆 (zayin)
x	𐤇	0120	𐤇 (chet)
+	𐤈	0043	𐤈 (tet)
y	𐤉	0121	𐤉 (yud)
k	𐤊	0107	𐤊 (kaf)
l	𐤋	0108	𐤋 (lamed)
m	𐤌	0109	𐤌 (mem)
n	𐤍	0110	𐤍 (nun)
s	𐤎	0115	𐤎 (samech)
(	𐤏	0040	𐤏 (ayin)
p	𐤐	0112	𐤐 (pei)
c	𐤑	0099	𐤑 (tzadi)
q	𐤒	0113	𐤒 (kuf)
r	𐤓	0114	𐤓 (reish)
#	𐤔	0035	𐤔 (shin)
t	𐤕	0116	𐤕 (tav)

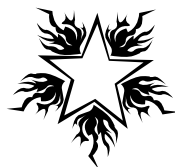
## *Additional Mappings for Compatibility*

C	𐤏	0067	𐤏 (final tzadi)
K	𐤊	0075	𐤊 (final kaf)
M	𐤌	0077	𐤌 (final mem)
N	𐤍	0078	𐤍 (final nun)
P	𐤐	0080	𐤐 (final pei)
D	𐤃	0068	𐤃 (rare alternate for daled)
X	𐤇	0088	𐤇 (rare alternate for chet)
Y	𐤍	0089	𐤍 (rare alternate for nun)
\$	𐤔	0036	𐤔 (for compatibility with an older Samaritan inscription font)

# Kadosh Samaritan Supplemental Characters

KEY	GLYPH	VALUE	DESCRIPTION
!		0033	“without the gates”
%		0037	pentalpha <i>dextra</i>
&		0038	“squaring the circle”
*		0042	Secret Master
,		0044	Blazing Star
.		0046	tripunctial mark
/		0047	double-headed eagle
0		0048	circle
1		0049	point within a circle
2		0050	“spirit divided”
3		0051	“descent into matter”
4		0052	quaternity
5		0053	pentalpha <i>sinistra</i>
6		0054	interlaced hexagram
7		0055	heptagon
8		0056	octagon
9		0057	nonagon
:		0058	end of sentence
;		0059	separator
<		0060	end of line
=		0061	47th problem of Euclid
?		0063	Scottish Rite Research Society logo
@		0064	point, circle, parallel lines
[		0091	tetraktis
]		0093	tetraktis of yods = 10×10
`		0096	pointed cubical stone
		0124	Amun-Ra hieroglyph
~		0126	<i>yud</i> in triangle = 14°
À		0192	18° Knight Rose Croix
Á		0193	32° Prince of the Royal Secret
Ã		0195	33° honorary
Ä		0196	Grand Cross
Å		0197	S.:G.:I.:G.:
Æ		0198	Sovereign Grand Commander
Ç		0199	K.:C.:C.:H.:

Ñ	✚	0209	Teutonic cross
Ö	✚	0214	cross fitchee
Ü	✚	0220	cross pattée fitched
à	⚏	0224	tau cross
á	✚	0225	Templar cross
â	⚕	0226	caduceus
ã	✚	0227	Cross of St. Andrew
ä	✚	0228	Maltese cross
å	✚	0229	Greek cross
æ	✚	0230	<i>crux rosa</i>
ç	✚	0231	<i>crux ansata</i>
è	⚏	0232	salt
é	⚏	0233	sulphur
ê	⚏	0234	spirit
ë	✚	0235	passion cross



# Installation Instructions

## Microsoft Windows (3.1; 95/98/ME; NT/XP)

### *Step One: Uncompress the Archive*

Unzip the archive to a temporary directory (or “folder”).

*Note:* Some users have unzipped the font directly into the Windows/Fonts folder. This will not install the font and is not recommended. If this has been done, be sure to remove any Kadosh Samaritan files which may appear in that folder.

### *Step Two: Open the Fonts Folder*

Load your Windows Control Panel and within that, open the Fonts folder. You should see all of the fonts you are using displayed in this window.

### *Step Three: Install the Font*

In the Fonts window, select File>Install New Font. A dialog box will open listing the fonts available to install. Kadosh Samaritan will not be there. Select Browse and navigate to the temporary directory or folder into which you unzipped your original archive. Select OK, and the name “Kadosh Samaritan” should quickly appear in the listing of fonts available to install. Be sure that “Copy font to Fonts folder” is checked *on*.

Highlight Kadosh Samaritan and the select “Install Font(s)” or the equivalent.

### *Step Four: Test*

Kadosh Samaritan should appear in your Fonts folder. Launch it (“double-click” on it) to see it working. Then load a word processor, select the Kadosh Samaritan font, and try typing some characters in it. If you experience the font not working after being first installed, reboot. Report any persistent issues to me.

### *Step Five: Clean-up*

Once Kadosh Samaritan is installed in the Fonts folder, you may elect to delete the temporary directory or folder into which it was originally unzipped. You may find it prudent to save the PDF or text file which contains this documentation for your reference at a later time.

## About the Designer

Shawn Eyer is a member of the adjunct faculty of the Department of Liberal Studies at John F. Kennedy University in Orinda, California. He holds degrees in religious studies and psychology. His research has focused on the literature of early Christianity, gnosticism and the Greek mystery religions, and he is the author of several publications in these fields. His Masonic affiliations include the Northern and Southern California research lodges, the Southern Jurisdiction of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, the Grand College of Rites, the Scottish Rite Research Society and the College of the Consistory.

## Revision History

Version 0.1	13 March 2001	First completed version.
Version 1.0	23 January 2003	Original Release. Addition of special characters. 7-page documentation added.
Version 1.1	9 February 2003	Minor revision. Addition of 𐤀 and 𐤁 glyphs. Installation instructions added to documentation; essay on the history of Samaritan script expanded.

## Technical Notes

### *Development*

The Kadosh Samaritan font was created using the Font Creator Program (v3.1.3) by High-Logic (<http://www.high-logic.com>).

### *Conversion*

Translation to Apple Macintosh (pre-OS X) TrueType format is planned for a future release.

### *Compatibility*

Kadosh Samaritan has been tested under Windows 95/98, Windows ME, Windows 2000, and Windows XP and Apple OS X. It is not compatible with Windows 3.0 or earlier, as these versions do not support TrueType fonts. If you have tested it under other operating systems, especially Windows 3.1, Windows CE or Windows NT 4.0, please let me know.

### *Unicode*

A Unicode-mapped version of the font is planned for a future release.

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## *Contact Information*

Product suggestions, license inquiries and other other concerns may be addressed to Shawn Eyer at [shawn@orindalodge.org](mailto:shawn@orindalodge.org).

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כָּבֵל אֱלֹהִים הַסֹּתֵר דְּבָר וְכִבְדּוֹ מִלְכִּים חֶקֶר דְּבָר  
מִשְׁלֵי כְּהֵב