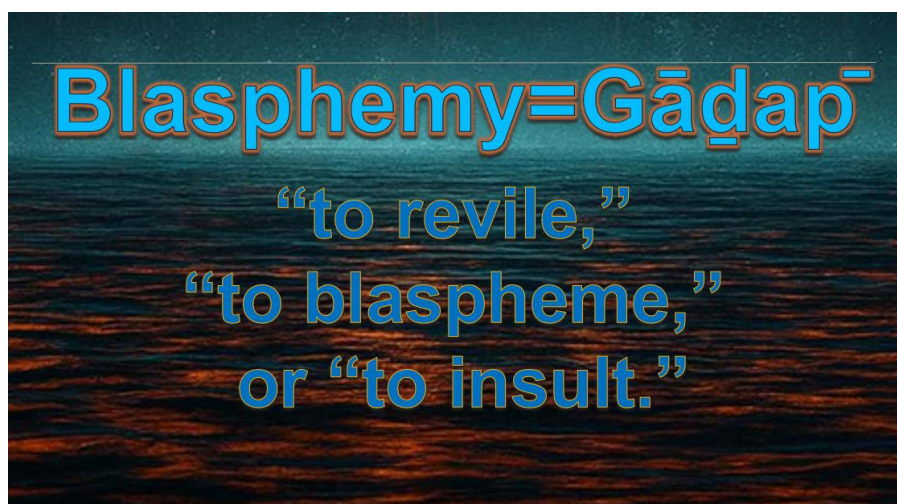




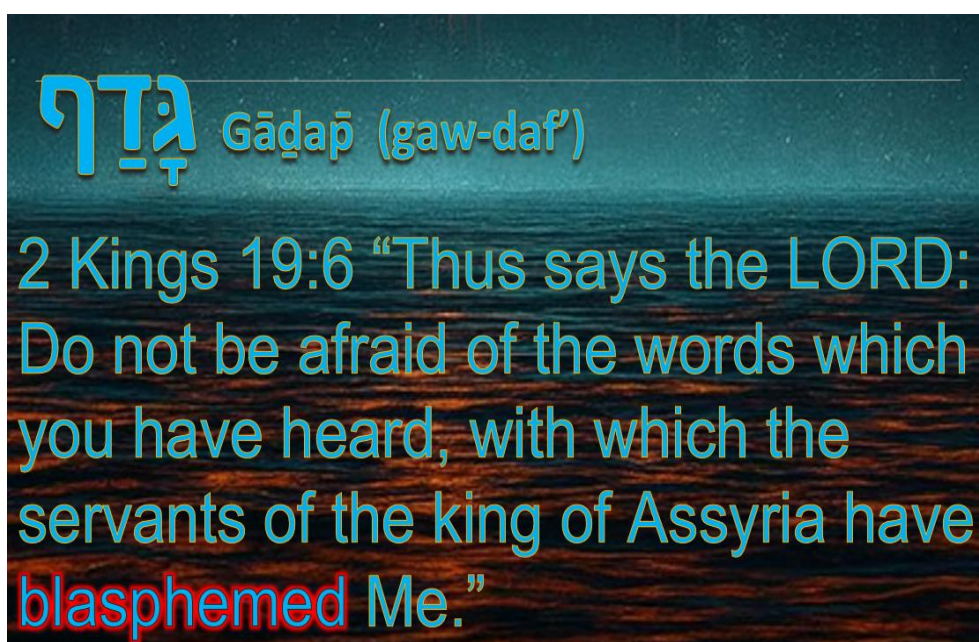
In this study we're going to take a closer look at a Hebrew word that carries deep meaning — the word גָּדַף , pronounced Gāḏap̄. (gaw-daf')




Why this word? Maybe you've wondered or been asked.. "what is blasphemy?" So, we figured we'd do a bit of a deeper study on the word and of course why not go to the paleo-Hebrew? So, let's dive in-



This word appears in several places in the Old Testament, and it's often translated as "to revile," "to blaspheme," or "to insult." But when we look back to the original Paleo-Hebrew the meaning becomes even richer.

The word gāḏap̄ (gaw-daf') shows up in verses like 2 Kings 19:6, where the prophet Isaiah speaks to King Hezekiah: That word "blasphemed" — that's gāḏap̄. (gaw-daf') It's not just someone speaking against another person. It's someone lifting their words against God Himself. Let's go back to how this word looked in ancient times. Paleo-Hebrew was built with pictures — each letter carried its own meaning.



	-Gimel — a picture of a camel or foot, meaning to lift up or move
	-Dalet — a picture of a door, meaning a pathway or entrance.
	-Pe — a picture of a mouth, meaning to speak or declare.

The word גִּדָּפַּ (gāḏāp̄) has three

letters:

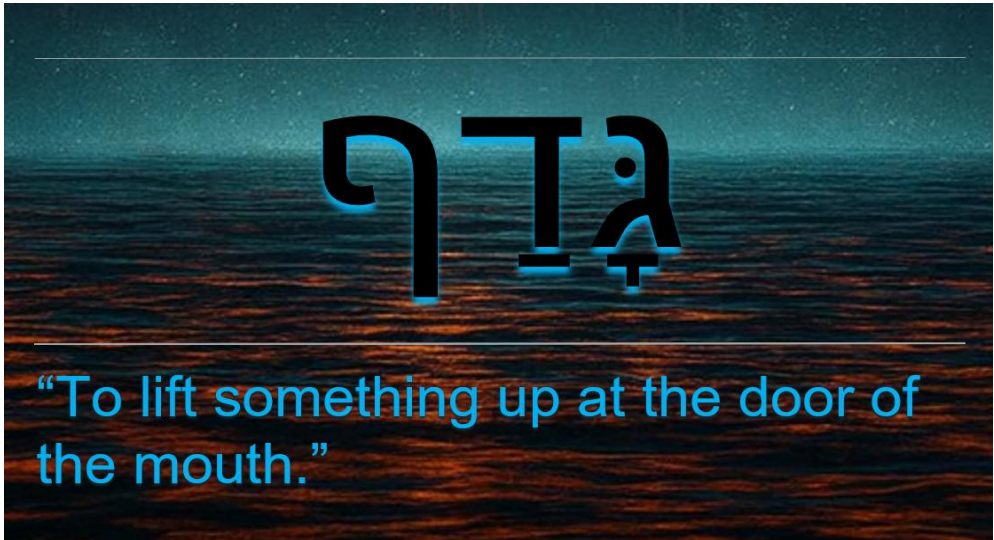
-Gimel

-Dalet

-Pe

Each letter carries it's own symbolism and meaning. That's the cool thing about Paleo-Hebrew. Often, each word has a deeper meaning revealed in the letters used to make that word.

When you combine these pictures, you get this phrase: "To lift something up at the door of the mouth." First, that's a powerful image. Think about it — before words ever come out, they stand at the door of the mouth. The word



gāḏāp̄ gives the sense of someone lifting up words — raising them — and letting them pass through the doorway of speech in a wrong way. It's speech that exalts itself, that's lifted in pride, or that rebels against God.

It's not just what's said — it's the spirit behind it. Words lifted high with arrogance, bitterness, or unbelief.

POWER IN YOUR TONGUE

- ▶ Proverbs 18:21 says: "Death and life are in the power of the tongue."
- ▶ Psalm 141:3 says: "Set a guard, O Lord, over my mouth; keep watch over the door of my lips."
- ▶ Matthew 12:36–37, Jesus says: "For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned."

Throughout Scripture, God constantly warns about the power of the tongue. Notice that — "the door of my lips." That's the same imagery as the letter Dalet, the door, in gāḏāp̄. Our words open doors — they either open the way for blessing or for destruction.

A few verses before that the verse is Matthew, Christ says this:

Matthew 12:31-32 "Therefore I say to you, every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven men, but the **blasphemy** against the Spirit will not be forgiven men. ³² Anyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man, it will be forgiven him; but whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit, it will not be forgiven him, either in this age or in the age to come.

I think this is where the question "what is blasphemy" comes from... this is where we often get confused and concerned as to what exactly blasphemy is.

So when the Bible talks about gāḍaḗ, it's not just talking about "bad words." It's talking about lifting up speech that dishonors God. It's the heart posture behind our words. Do we lift up praise or pride? Do we speak life or speak against the very One who gives it?

As believers, our mouths are meant to be doors that let out faith, truth, and grace. So today, take a moment to think about what's standing at the door of your mouth. Are your words lifting God higher — or lifting yourself? Are your words opening doors of healing — or doors of hurt? Because just as gāḍaḗ shows us — every word we lift carries weight. And what we lift at the door of the mouth can either glorify God or grieve Him.

Thanks for studying with us today. We hope this look at the word gāḍaḗ helps you see how even the smallest details in Scripture can reveal huge truths about our walk with God. So, keep your heart humble, your mouth guarded, and your words lifting others toward Him. Amen.