

## Greek Alphabet

Letter		Figure	Name	Remark
Α	α	1	Alpha	Sounds like "a" in father
Β	β	2	Beta	
Γ	γ	3	Gamma	
Δ	δ	4	Delta	
Ε	ε	5	Epsilon	Sounds like "e" in end
Ζ	ζ	7	Zeta	
Η	η	8	Eta	Sounds like "e" in men
Θ	θ	9	Theta	Sounds like "th" in thick
Ι	ι	10	Iota	Sounds like "i" in it
Κ	κ	20	Kappa	
Λ	λ	30	Lambda	
Μ	μ	40	Mu	
Ν	ν	50	Nu	
Ξ	ξ	60	Xi	Sounds like "x" in box
Ο	ο	70	Omikron	Sounds like "o" in off (open)
Π	π	80	Pi	
Ρ	ρ	100	Rho	
Σ		200	Sigma	Sounds like "s" in say
σ		200	Sigma	Only within a word, sounds like "s" in say
ς		6	Sigma	Only at the end of a word, sounds like "s" in say
Τ	τ	300	Tau	
Υ	υ	400	Upsilon	Sounds like the French "u" or the German "ü"
Φ	φ	500	Phi	
Χ	χ	600	Chi	Sounds like "ch" in Loch
Ψ	ψ	700	Psi	
Ω	ω	800	Omega	Sounds like "o" in grow (close)

## Remarks

The Greek letters did evolve out of the Semitic, our (Latin) letters came from the Greek. Therefore, some Greek letters are written exactly as ours. Capital letters were used before the small.

Pronunciation: γ in front of γ, φ, κ, ξ, χ sounds as ng in king.

The Greek diphthongs (combination of two vowels): ου sounds like "ou" in through, υι sounds like we in sweet, αυ sounds like ow in now, ει sounds like ei in height.

As in Hebrew, numbers were represented by normal letters, that means **Alpha=1**, Beta=2 etc. Exceptions are number 6: Ϛ and number 90, which is written with a token not included in alphabet. This means, that every word represents a number. The word **ΙΗΣΟΥΣ** = Jesus for example represents the **number 888**:

I	=	10
H	=	8
Σ	=	200
O	=	70
Υ	=	400
Σ	=	<u>200</u>
		<b>888</b>

**In the bible, the number 8 has something to do with a new beginning:**

- With 8 people on Noah's ark, God started a new section of history.
- The 8. day is the first day after Sabbath.
- On this very day, Jesus did rise from the dead. At the eighth day, the father in heavens did restart his creation: he created the first new man: *He is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy* (Colossians 1,18), and: *For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive. But each in his own turn: Christ, the firstfruits; then, when he comes, those who belong to him.* (1. Corinthians 15,22-23)

Luzius Schneider 13. June 1999