

**Welcome to: -  
Bible House of Grace.**



*God, through His Son Jesus, provides eternal grace for our failures and human limitations.*

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**Pp**

**Bible Dictionary**  
**And**  
**Various Biblical Meanings.**  
2017

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The Bible not only reveals God's eternal plans purposes and promises  
But, also shows how you can know God for yourself.

*Teach it, don't demand it.*

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Pagans

Pagans (Gentiles in KJV) refers to a race or tribe (of the same habit) especially a foreign (non-Jewish) one (usually by implication a Gentile or heathen nation or people).

Palm Trees

See the title: "Cedar trees of Lebanon and Palm Trees," in this Bible Dictionary.

Parable

Parable (*Greek parabole*) means, a likeness, image, representation or picture. It is a symbolic or fictitious narrative of common life conveying a moral, a proverb, a saying or a comparison. A parable does not have to be biologically correct or environmentally correct or have everything correct, what is important is the picture it is presenting, the moral, the lesson or the message that is why it does not have to have every detail in the story absolutely, correct.

Paradise

Paradise can refer to a park, a special forest or an orchard, an Eden or a place of future happiness.

Parched land

In the book of Psalms, it is written, "The rebellious dwell in a parched land" (Psalm 68:6) this firstly applies to the land of Israel. God withheld rain, brought plagues, famines and war upon their land when Israel rebelled against Him and set their hearts diamond hard against the prophets and turned to other gods. But it also applies to those who aggressively deny God knowing nothing of His abundant love and grace dwelling in the heart and mind as the faithful who have made Him the King of their heart, mind and life do.

Parmenas

Parmenas means, constant, to stay in a place or state of relationship in an attitude of expectancy, to abide, continue, dwell, endure, be present, remain or stand.

Part

Part can refer to a section, an allotment, a division or to a share, a piece or portion.

Partakers

Partakers carries the idea of people being joined together by any one of any of the following bonds, natural blood, marriage, friendship, duty, law or attendance and companionship. It can refer to partners or fellow workers that share in a common work or office and to those who share similar perceptions, experiences, enjoyment and feelings even though they are not fully committed. Partaker has a very similar meaning to "tasting" or "taste" which means to try.

For further information see the title: Taste in this Bible Dictionary.

**Partakers is used of those joined to any one by:** the bonds of natural blood, marriage, friendship or the bond of a partner or work fellow that shares in work duties or in the office or to being in attendance with others or to companionship and to those who share in a duty of law or common faith.

It carries the idea of taking part or to become part of a thing. Often the context is referring to one who is sharing or experiencing, but not fully committed, they are perceiving and experiencing, enjoying and feeling, but not willing to be committed

Partiality

Partiality (Respect in the KJV) means, favouritism (i.e., respect of persons) it carries the idea of favouring someone special such as a rich or famous person. In the book of Proverbs, it is written, "Partiality in judging is not good, whoever says to the wicked, "You are in the right," will be cursed by peoples, abhorred by nations, but those who rebuke the wicked will have delight, and a good blessing will come upon them. (Proverbs 24:23).

The word partiality carries the idea of having a biased attitude and showing unfair favour toward a person over another because of a fondness for them. Whoever pardons a person who has done wrong for the following four reasons: -

1. They have a fondness for the person.
2. They belong to their church or their group.
3. They are of the same culture.
4. They are a friend or family member.

Will be loathed by the family of the victim and the community and if it is a king or ruler of a nation who has shown such corrupt bias loathed by the global population. In contrast to this those who give an honest testimony against the criminal regardless of whether they are a family member or a friend will not only be respected, but also bring great joy to all who have been affected by the criminals' crime

#### Participation

Participation (communion in KJV) means, partnership it carries the idea of social association and communication, fellowship, a sharer, associate or companion.

#### Pass

Pass (*Greek parerchomai*) means to come near or aside, to go by or away, to approach or arrive or to come or go forth. Figuratively to perish or neglect, to avert, avoid and turn away.

#### Passions

Passions (wax wanton in KJV) wax wanton (*Greek katastreniao*) means to become voluptuous characterized by luxury or sensual pleasure, it carries the idea of pleasure-loving, pleasure-seeking, self-indulgent and to begin to become immoral shameless and lustful toward another.

Wax wanton (*Greek kata*) often signifies opposition, distribution or intensity. Wax wanton (*Greek streniao*) means to be luxurious and live deliciously. Wax wanton (*Greek stereos*) means stiff, (i.e. solid) and carries the idea of being stable steadfast, strong and sure.

#### Passions

Passions (lust in KJV) lust (*Greek epithumia*) means, craving and longing to desire and lust after especially for what is forbidden. Lust (*Greek epithumeo*) means to set the heart upon, to long for (rightfully or otherwise), to covet, desire and lust after. Lust (*Greek thumos*) means passion (as if breathing hard) it also carries the idea of fierceness, indignation and wrath.

#### Passover

Passover (*Hebrew pecach*) it can refer to the festival or the victim (i.e., the offering) of the Jewish Passover. Passover (*Greek pascha*) refers to the Passover meal, the day and the festival and the special sacrifices connected with it.

**The feast of Passover:** Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread were to celebrate and remember that God in haste delivered Israel out of Egypt by night. On the 10<sup>th</sup> day of the first Jewish calendar month of the year (called Abib) all Israel were to take from their own flock one male lamb from their sheep or goats a year old and without blemish for each household and keep it until the 14<sup>th</sup> day.

On the 14<sup>th</sup> day in the evening at sunset the entire nation of Israel were to kill and eat the Passover at the place God choose to make His name dwell. If the members of a household were too few to eat a complete lamb, they could invite their neighbour (this was because all the flesh of the Passover had to be eaten by morning). The people who had gone to their neighbours to eat the Passover could not return to their own tents until the morning.

Immediately following Passover Day was the Feast of Unleavened Bread, the first day (15<sup>th</sup>) and the last day (21<sup>st</sup>) of the seven Day Feast of Unleavened Bread were Sabbath Days in which no secular work could be done.

Food offerings were to be presented to the LORD during these seven days (they became food for the priesthood and their families). If any Israelite ate leavened bread during the Feast they were to be cut off from Israel because only unleavened bread was to be eaten. (Unleavened bread was a symbol of affliction).

All the offerings were to be offered besides the evening and morning offering with their grain and drink offering. Nearly all, of these offerings became food for the priesthood and their families. Israel was to offer all, of their firstborn sons to the LORD as a constant reminder that the LORD brought them out of Egypt by a mighty hand, but they were to redeem (buy) them back and forever keep Saturday the seventh day of the Jewish calendar as a Sabbath Day of rest.

For further information see the title: Passover in the Old and New Testament in, Various Topics (ON WEBSITE MENU).

#### Pastors

Pastors, who have a wrong understanding of faith are in danger of having visions of grandeur.

#### Patience

Patience means enduring, continuing, sustaining, perseverance, steadfastness, constancy, endurance it carries the idea of waiting patiently. It refers to the characteristic of a person who is not swerved from their deliberate purpose and their loyalty to faith and devotion by even the greatest trials and sufferings.

#### Patient

Patient (*Hebrew 'arek*) means long suffering and slow to anger while patient (*Hebrew 'arak*) carries the idea of uncomplainingly and tolerantly tarrying long while the time a thing is expected is lengthened, deferred or drawn out. Patient (suffereth long in KJV) (steadfastness in ESV) (*Greek makrothumeo and makrothumos*) means to be long-spirited, forbearing, longsuffering, it carries the idea of being easy going (i.e., enduring temper without complaining).

Patient (*Greek hupomone hupomene*) (patience in KJV) (steadfastness in ESV) means, cheerful (or hopeful), to have fortitude, to suffer with endurance, to patiently stay and wait with constancy, or remain and stay under pressure or hardship of any kind and to undergo, persevere, abide, endure or bear trials.

Patient (*Greek makrothumeo*) means to be long-spirited, to be forbearing, to patiently bear suffering for a long period, of time, to be longsuffering, to have long patience and tolerance while waiting or under suffering. Patient (*Greek makrothumos*) means to compassionately, softly, mercifully, kindly and patiently endure fits of temper, rage and anger or displeasure, irritability and bad moods. Patient (*Greek epieikes*) means to suitably show mild, gentle rational and sensible, perseverance and fortitude and patient (*Greek anexikakos*) means to endure and forbear suffering, trouble and hardships.

#### Peace

Peace means, "rest and quietness" It implies security, safety prosperity, harmony between individuals and being content with one's earthly lot. It carries the idea of happiness, because peace and harmony keep things safe and make things prosperous which results in a state of national tranquility that is free from the rage havoc and horrors of war. It can also apply to the following: -

- To the Messiah's peace that comes with salvation and leads to the tranquil state of the mind and heart being assured of salvation through faith in Christ and God's grace which removes all fear of God.
- To the restored fellowship that Adam lost with God the Father that is re-established by faith in Christ.
- To the blessed state of the devout and upright after death
- To the peace Jesus will bring to earth when he returns in glory to establish God's Kingdom of righteousness, justice, joy and peace on earth.

James in his writings says, "A harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace." (James 3:18).

**Peace to you, do not be afraid:** this expression carries the idea that no harm will come to those it is spoken to, it is an expression of comfort that means that they can lay aside all their fears and be assured that no injury will befall them. It is the same as saying, "Fear not," which means, be at rest you are in no danger and have nothing to fear.

#### Peacocks

Peacock comes from the Hebrew word (*renen*) and literally means an ostrich (from its wail, its shrill and its harsh grating breathing sound). It carries the idea of goodly and singing aloud with joy and triumphant rejoicing. Its tail is known as a train since it consists not of tail quill feathers, but highly elongated upper tail of coverts (i.e., feathers that cover other feathers). The coverts help to smooth airflow over the wings and the tail. They spread out in a distinctive train that is more than 60 percent of the bird's total body length and displays large colourful eye markings of blue, gold, red, and other shades of colour.

The large train is used in mating rituals and courtship displays. It can be arched into a magnificent fan that reaches across the bird's back and touches the ground on either side. Females are believed to choose their mates according, to the size, colour, and quality of these most beautiful feather trains. Technically, only males are peacocks. Females are peahens, and together, they are called peafowl.

#### Peddler

Peddler (corrupt in KJV) means a huckster and bargainer, it carries the idea of being corrupt, unethical shady and fraudulent in the business of retailing and buying.

#### Peg

**In the book of Isaiah, it is written:** "I will fasten him like a peg in a secure place (fasten him as a nail in a sure place KJV), and he will become a throne of honor to his father's house." (Isaiah 22:23). The word nail comes from the Hebrew word (*yathed*) it literally means to pin through or fast with a peg, a nail, a pin or a stake. It is used both for the peg that fastens a tent to the ground or for a nail driven into the wall. In ancient houses, large nails, pegs or spikes were fixed in stone walls or solid timber for the following two purposes: -

1. For coats that protect from harsh and cold weather or decorative ornaments of the family home to be hung on.
2. For suits of armour, shields, swords, etc., used in battle or taken in battle to be hung on around the walls of a room used for the storage of such things or to be hung as a flamboyant display of power on the walls of the royal palace.

The peg is the principal support for objects to be hung upon, signifying that Eliakim would not only be the principal support of all those under his authority, but also the principal support of the whole civil and ecclesiastical state. The peg signifies that Eliakim would be a leader that would not only support those he ruled over, but also be one the people could trust and fully rest securely on his leadership. The words, "I will fasten him," show that it was the LORD who established Eliakim's authority and power and not Eliakim himself.

**Jesus a sure peg:** Jesus can be, seen as a sure place by his grace he will set before those who trust in him an open door, which no man can shut, and bring them to everlasting happiness and eternal glory. In contrast to this those who neglect so great salvation will as Shebna was be cut off from ever seeing light after the grave and find that when the Lord shuts none can open. The load hung upon Christ the sure peg is the sins of those who trust in him. He carried the sin of the people on his shoulders to the cross of Calvary where he was fastened as a sure peg and was given the key of David: -

- To the angel of the church in Philadelphia write: "The words of the holy one, the true one, who has the key of David, who opens and no one will shut, who shuts and no one opens. (Rev. 3:7).

The key of David is the key to salvation and God's eternal Kingdom there is salvation in no other, only Christ can save only he opens the door to the eternal Kingdom of God and eternal life. (Rev. 3:7).

## Penitent

Penitent means, to think differently or afterwards, to reconsider, it carries the idea of feeling a moral compunction to repent.

## Pentecost

**The Day of Pentecost:** on the Day of Pentecost, (Acts Chapter 2), God lifted the language barrier so that people from all nations were able, to hear the Gospel preached in their own tongue (meaning their own language) and understand what was being spoken so that all could respond accordingly (and not just Israel) and be united, as one nation and one people in the Lord Jesus Christ.

As the confounding of languages at Babel divided the children of men, and scattered them abroad, so the gift of understanding languages contributed greatly to the gathering together of the children of God who took the Good News of the Gospel to nations, cities, villages and towns uniting men and women with one mind in Christ who received the message of the Gospel and glorified God.

When the faithful of all nations and languages enter the next life and dwell directly in God's presence they will again share a common language and a common purpose, but not to celebrate their own glory, but to honour God and to glorify their Saviour and celebrate with their King the Lord Jesus Christ.

## People

Eight types of people that the Bible presents: -

1. The righteous (i.e., those granted righteousness, because of their faith in Christ).
2. The ungodly (referring to those who have no belief toward God).
3. Religious hypocrites (those that have a form of godliness, but don't bother to find the truth or even attempt to live it).
4. The sinner, generally applies to all the descendants of Adam, but specifically to those without God and the Lord Jesus Christ.
5. The wicked and evil, referring to those who deliberately and willfully deny God and oppose His ways and oppress and inflict harm upon others for their own selfish gain.
6. Religious leaders (faithful and unfaithful)
7. Disciples (faithful and unfaithful)
8. Crowds

## Perdition

Perdition (*Greek apoleia*) means ruin or loss (physical, spiritual or eternal) and can refer to a damnable nation, people or individual destined for destruction and death, because of their pernicious and wicked ways. Perdition (*Greek apollumi*) means to utterly-destroy and perish, and perdition (*Greek olethros*) means to destroy, it carries the idea of a prolonged period of ruin, punishment, destruction and death. Putting it all together perish means to declare that a nation, people or individual must be abolished and put entirely out of the way by being put to death.

## Perfect

Jesus said, "You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect." (Matthew 5:48). Perfect (*Greek teleios and telos*), carries the following three ideas, firstly, being complete in labour and mental and moral character and secondly to set out for a definite point or goal and reach the conclusion. Thirdly, to reach the ultimate or prophetic purpose and fourthly to reach a full old age. However, in the context of this verse being perfect is in the context of loving your neighbor; loving your enemies; of God making the sun rise on the evil and on the good and of

sending rain on the just and the unjust (Matt. 5:43-48), which means that being perfect is about fulfilling the royal law (James 2:8) and Jesus command to, love your neighbor as yourself (Mark 12:31) meaning do not deliberately do harm to other humans. No sane person deliberately does things to inflict pain on themselves, loving others as you love yourself is not about feeling some warm and fuzzy emotion towards others, it is about not hurting others as you would not hurt yourself. For further information on loving your neighbor as yourself see the title: "Love your Neighbour as Yourself and the Fruits of the Spirit." In, Articles (ON WEBSITE MENU).

#### Perfumes

**Perfumes and unfaithful Israel:** a loose woman or a wife who was unfaithful to her husband would bathe herself in perfumes, paint her eyes and adorned herself with ornaments for, the purpose of alluring other lovers to her. The prophet Isaiah likens the people of Israel to these unfaithful woman, because they were acting like an unfaithful wife to God their husband in that they had forsaken Him and were journeying to foreign kings with oil, perfumes and precious ointments and gifts (Isaiah 57:9) in, order to court the friendship of foreign kings and gain their favour to procure their aid and help instead of looking to God and remaining faithful to Him.

#### Perish

Perish means to abolish, destroy and entirely put out of the way and to give one over to the grave and eternal destruction in the lake of fire (a symbol of utter and total extinction).

#### Permit

Permit (suffer in KJV) means, to turn over, to transfer, to allow and to let or give leave, liberty, right, freedom, authorisation, permission and license and approval.

#### Pernicious

Pernicious (sensuality in ESV) means, ruin and loss (physical, spiritual or eternal). It carries the idea of destruction and annihilation it can apply to a damnable and wicked nation or a corrupt individual doomed to destruction and death or to ways that are wasteful and harmful.

#### Perplexed

Perplexed means, to have no way out, to be mentally at a loss, to stand in doubt or be perplexed.

#### Persuades

Persuades means, to convince by argument, true or false; to pacify, calm or appease; to make amends (by fair means); to agree to evidence or authority; to rely by inward certainty and assurance; to believe and have confidence. It can carry the idea of making a friend, obeying, trusting and yielding.

#### Personification

In Scripture, the grave is personified as a hungry mouth, as a stomach and as a place with kings waiting for the king of Babylon. Wisdom, patience and Jerusalem are all personified as a woman. Jerusalem is also personified as a mother with children, her children being all the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the priests, prophets, husbands, wives and their children.

The title, "The daughters of Jerusalem," embraces, all the inhabitants of Jerusalem (including the children). When they are spoken of as virgin daughters it carries the idea of them having only one husband (God) contrasted to pagan faiths that have many gods. For further information see the title, "Personification," in, Various Topics (ON WEBSITE MENU).

#### Perspectives

Even though Christians may have the same love for Christ, having different perspectives will lead them on different paths. Following are some of these perspectives: -

- God prospers His children with worldly riches and possessions now in this present time, contrasted to, God prospers people spiritually in the present age, but not with worldly riches and possessions.

- The Kingdom of God is not here until Jesus returns, contrasted to, the Kingdom of God arrived with the birth of Christ
- The Bible is absolute, without any grammatical or language errors, contrasted to, the Bible contains God's messages, but does have some grammatical and language errors
- The Bible is a spiritual book that contain portions of Scripture that transcends time and people, contrasted to, the Bible is a spiritual book that does not contain Scripture that transcends time and people.
- God intervenes in people's lives and history now, in this present age, contrasted to, God does not and will not intervene in this present age until Christ returns.
- Christ was both the Son of God and God Himself, contrasted to, Christ was the Son of God and a man who had the supernatural power of God available to him, but not God Himself.
- The miracles of the book of Acts continue to this day, contrasted to, the miracles of the book of Acts was for that age only to authenticate Jesus was the Son of God and do not continue into our present age.

People may believe much the same thing, but if they have different perspectives it is very likely they will travel different paths.

#### Perverse

Perverse comes from the Hebrew word (*`av`eh*) it literally means rebellious, unreasonable, obstinate and stubborn and carries the idea of committing iniquity, making trouble and doing what is crooked, wrong and wicked.

#### Pervert

Pervert (distort in ESV) means, to turn around, change, pervert, twist, corrupt or reverse.

#### Phileo

Phileo (*Greek philos*) means, to be fond of a friend, to have an affection and a personal attachment as a matter of thought or feeling.

#### Phoenix

Phoenix refers to an Eastern Mythological bird which was said by the poets to die and be reborn from its own ashes every five-hundred-years.

#### Phylacteries

Jesus said to the crowds and to his disciples, "They (the scribes and the Pharisees) do all their deeds to be seen by others. For they make their phylacteries broad and their fringes long, (Matt. 23:5).

Phylacteries (*Greek phylakterion and phulasso*) means, a guard-case. It refers to a small box that slips of paper with text of Scripture were written on and placed in. They were then worn on the body (usually the arm or the forehead head).

The scribes and the Pharisees wore these Phylacteries believing by wearing them they were made holy. The word Phylacteries carries the idea of isolation, separation, seclusion and to watch or be on guard and by implication to preserve, obey, avoid beware and to keep oneself.

#### Physician

Physician means, one that cures, heals or makes whole.

#### Pigs

**Eating pig's flesh:** (Isaiah 65:4) (eat swine's flesh in KJV) the flesh of pigs was forbidden. This may not necessarily be for sanitary and healthy reasons, but perhaps because pigs rolled around in mud and therefore were a perfect symbol of those who loved sin and they were commonly sacrificed in pagan festivals. However, whatever the reason under the law given to Israel it is written: -



- You shall not touch the pig, because it parts the hoof but does not chew the cud, is unclean for you. Their flesh you shall not eat, and their carcasses you shall not touch. (Deut. 14:8) (Lev. 11:7).
- Those who sanctify and purify themselves to go into the gardens, following one in the midst, eating pig's flesh and the abomination and mice, shall come to an end together, declares the LORD. (Isaiah 66:17).
- So keep my charge never to practice any of these abominable customs that were practiced before you, and never to make yourselves unclean by them: I am the LORD your God. (Lev. 18:30).

To eat pigs flesh at all was contrary to God's law, but to eat it in idolatrous sacrifices not only greatly increased Israel's guilt, but was also an utter abomination, before God.

**Eat pig's flesh, and broth of tainted meat:** Isaiah speaks of a rebellious people who sit in tombs, and spend the night in secret places; who eat pig's flesh, and broth of tainted meat in their vessels (eat broth of abominable things in their vessels in KJV) (Isaiah 65:4). This refers to the practise of putting pieces and fragments of slaughtered pigs and unclean (by the Levitical Law) foods into their vessels (i.e., pots) and making a stew, broth or soup that they ate or drank at sacrificial feast. The Levitical Law states that the following things would be unclean to Israel: -

- The pig, because it parts the hoof and is cloven-footed but does not chew the cud, is unclean to you. <sup>8</sup>You shall not eat any of their flesh, and you shall not touch their carcasses; they are unclean to you. (Lev. 11:7-8).
- You shall regard them as detestable; you shall not eat any of their flesh, and you shall detest their carcasses. (Lev. 11:11).

A list of every unclean and the clean animal is given in Leviticus chapter eleven.

Ever since the Jews return from Babylon and during Jesus generation onward Israel has been free from idolatry, however, the imagery of idolatrous abominations (especially during Isaiah's time) is still considered the most loathsome of all sins in the eyes of God. For this reason, it is employed to describe the accumulation of all the sins of Israel in ages gone by culminating in the worst of all sins their killing of the Messiah and still rejecting Him.

## Pillars of Stone

It was common practice to ratify a covenant by erecting a stone pillar. One of the ways in which such pillars would be set up was to gather a heap of stones and lay them in a circular ring to serve as seats, and in the centre of the circle set up a very large stone (or a pillar of stones) vertically to serve as an altar. Sometimes a sacrifice would be offered on these altars followed by a feast of reconciliation between the individuals or families seated on the stones surrounding the pillar. Even to this day heaps of stones that have been used in this way as memorials are found in various regions of the Middle East.

**Jacobs pillar:** Jacob set up a pillar of stone: (Gen. 35:14) to permanently mark the second spot where God had appeared and spoke to him, but not in a dream as before, but while he was awake. He not only sets up a stone pillar, but poured a drink-offering of wine on it and then anointed it with oil. The drink and wine offering signify gratitude and devotion while oil is used to signify the quickening and sanctifying power of the Spirit of God. This was not simply a pillar of stones like many others, but a consecrated monumental pillar to signify this special and unique visitation of God to Jacob.

## Pine

Pine (see plants)

## Pit

The pit refers to a huge hole in the ground that people are buried in sometimes an area within this massive pit where the dead bodies lie is called the grave.

During the Old Testament era, it was common for twenty-thousand men to be killed on a battle field in one day. To prevent disease, and wild animals and birds eating the decaying corpses they would be buried in a mass grave. The same thing is done today when there is a plague or too many bodies and not enough men to bury them all in separate graves, this mass grave was called a pit.

When the Scripture speaks of the pit as a bad place it implies that it is only the ungodly that are buried there. The Bible talks a lot about the uncircumcised and those who have fought with weapons of war and the chief people and nations of the earth being in the pit (sometimes personified as being alive and walking around within it) in contrast to the faithful who belong to Christ being referred to as sleeping in Christ (because their death is only temporary).

There are many Scriptures that use the word pit and all refer to different aspects of a grave and not one of them teach or even imply everlasting torment.

**Eternal torment:** the teaching that those who are judged unworthy of eternal life go to a place of fiery flames called hell where they are not only cruelly and brutally tortured by evil eternal creatures called demons, but their bodies are also burned by fiery flames so that they suffer the worst of all agonies for all eternity is not only a gross misunderstanding of Scripture, but is also a gross misrepresentation of God's character, since it portrays Him as an extremely sadistic God, especially when it is considered that even those in the secular world would not inflict such brutal and cruel torture on a human for their entire life let alone for all eternity. Added to this John tells us that God is love (1 John 4:8) (1 John 4:16).

This horrific doctrine of hell was no-doubt perpetuated in the early years of the church by religious leaders to scare the naïve into the church and has been adopted and perpetuated by their followers from generation to generation through tradition and religious institutions and organisations.

Eternal life or eternal death (i.e., utter and total extinction) is the two choices the Bible teaches from Genesis to Revelation. For further information see the titles: -

- Hell or the Grave (Final destination of Humans).
- The Lake of Fire.
- The Pit in the Old and New Testament.
- All titles are in Death (ON WEBSITE MENU).

Pitch

The word pitch comes from the Hebrew word (*zepheth*) literally means to liquefy as asphalt from its tendency to soften in the sun.

Plagues

The Ten Plagues.

1. Water turned to blood in Egypt and in Goshen (Exod. 7:20-21).
2. Frogs came upon Egypt and Goshen (Exod. 8:1-13).
3. Gnats (or lice) came upon Egypt and Goshen (Exod. 8:16-19).

Here God removes the magicians power to bring up gnat and their power to do any of the following wonders and, also put a division between the land of Egypt and the land of Goshen (i.e., between God's people and the people of Egypt).

4. Flies came upon Egypt. (Exod. 8:20-24).
5. Death came upon of all Egypt's livestock. (Exod. 9:1-7).
6. Boils came upon the Egyptians. (Exod. 9:8-11).
7. Hail came upon Egypt. (Exod. 9:22-26).

8 Locusts came upon Egypt. (Exod. 10:12-15).

9 Darkness came upon Egypt. (Exod. 10:21-23).

10 Death came upon all of Egypt's firstborn. (Exod. 12:28-31).

## Plants

**Aloes:** (a chief spice) is the fragrant wood of the eaglewood tree from which a resin is obtained and used for making perfumes. The bitter-tasting aloe leaf extract was also used as a laxative.

**Aloes in the Old Testament:** refers to a large and spreading tree known as eagle wood, the inner wood of the tree, particularly when in a state of partial decay, is fragrant.

**Aloes in the New Testament:** refers to a member of the lily family, this plant has a cluster of thick fleshy basal leaves which contain aloin, a substance which, dissolved in water and added to myrrh, was used by the ancients in their highly perfected art of embalming.

It is interesting to note that the aloes is a large fragrant tree of the lily family that spreads.

Lilies have no thorns and are a harmless plant and therefore a perfect symbol of the church (the global family established in Christ and called to love their neighbour as themselves, meaning to do good and not harm to others). The church like the aloes should be harmless to all humanity and continually growing and spreading.

Added to this, aloes contain a substance that when dissolved in water and added to myrrh, was used by the ancients in their highly perfected art of embalming. A perfect picture of those who are sleeping in Christ, being protected and kept by the loving power of God.

**Calamus:** (a chief spice) is a tropical Asian palm tree. It was used for rattan and the roots were used as source of oil for perfumes.

**Cinnamon:** (a chief spice) cinnamon is a tropical warm reddish-brown evergreen tree native to Asia that produces cinnamon. Its aromatic bark is dried or ground into a powder and used as a food spice for flavouring.

**Frankincense:** (a chief spice) frankincense is obtained from native trees of Northern India and Arabia. Its clear yellow aromatic gum or resin exudes from incisions made in the bark and hardens into small yellow tears. It is used in perfumes and as incense, especially in religious ceremonies.

**Henna:** (a chief spice) a bush native to Asia and North Africa with leaves that yield a rich reddish-brown coloured dye, it was used for cosmetics and to dye hair and fabrics.

**Mulberry tree:** the Hebrew word for Mulberry tree is the name of a tree (2 Sam. 5:23-24) (1 Chron. 14:14-15) which cannot be identified.

**Mustard seed and the tree:** a thick stemmed plant which under good conditions would often grow higher than a man can reach, the branches of the larger plants were a favourite place for smaller birds to nest (Matt. 13:31-32). The field mustard was an important economic plant of the Holy Land its leaves were used as greens and the seeds were either powdered or made into paste.

**Myrrh:** (a chief spice) is a bitter plant obtained from various trees and bushes that are native to Africa and southern Asia. Its aromatic resinous gum is used in perfumes, incense, and medicinal preparations.

**Myrrh in the New Testament:** is one of the most valuable of the gum resins. Either naturally or when the stems are injured, the gum oozes from the shrub-like tree. The pale-yellow liquid gradually solidifies and turns dark red or even black. This aromatic gum was sold as a spice or medicine.

**Myrrh in the Old Testament:** a small shrub known as the rockrose or lot plant which grows in rocks and sand in Palestine. It produces the perfumed gum which has been mistranslated myrrh in parts of the Old Testament (Gen. 37:25-27). Not the true myrrh of the New Testament).

**Harvesting myrrh:** the natural gum or resin has been extracted from the myrrh tree and used throughout history as a perfume, incense and medicine. When people harvest myrrh, they wound the trees by penetrating through the bark repeatedly to bleed the tree of its gum like resin. Myrrh is also mentioned in the New Testament as one of the three gifts the magi presented to Mary when she gave birth to Jesus (Matt. 2:11). Jesus was offered wine and myrrh before his crucifixion (Mark 15:23). Nicodemus and Joseph of Arimathea brought a hundred-pound mixture of myrrh and aloes to wrap Jesus' body. (John 19:39).

**Myrtle trees:** myrtle means, sweetness. It is a large evergreen shrub with fragrant flowers and spicy-sweet scented leaves. All parts of the plant are somewhat perfumed. It has been used as a symbol of beauty and sweetness (Isa 55:13). Out of its leafy twigs were made wreaths of acclaim and its boughs adorned the booths of the ancients at feast times (Zechariah 1:7, 8). (Imagine pic-nicking under these beautiful perfumed bushes).

**Pine:** (fir and pine in KJV) Fir (*Hebrew b<sup>e</sup>rowth*) refers to the cypress tree or some other elastic tree; fir (*Hebrew b<sup>e</sup>rowsh*) is of uncertain derivative and therefore may refer to a fir tree or a cypress tree (from the wood of this tree lances used for weapons of war and musical instruments were made). Pine (*Hebrew tidhar*) means enduring and refers to a species of hard-wood or lasting tree (perhaps the oak tree).

**Pomegranates:** (a chief spice) a tree native to tropical Asia that produces round-reddish fruit with a tough rind enclosing numerous seeds within a tart juicy red pulp, it was one of the trees grown in the famous Hanging Gardens of Babylon. It's hard, thin-rinded, apple-shaped fruits contain many seeds, each in a pulp sack filled with a tangy, sweet amethyst-colour juice. Although a low shrub or small tree, giving little shade, its refreshing fruit more than compensated the tired traveller who rested under it (1 Sam. 14:2). The pomegranate was also used as a decorative ornament in building (1 Kings 7:18, 20) and in textile designs (Exod. 28:31, 33, 34).

**Saffron:** (a chief spice) is a plant with showy purple, white or bright orange-yellow flowers native to Europe and South and Southwest Asia. The crocus is thought to have originated from the Greek island of Crete whose flowers produce saffron. It is ground to a powder and used to colour food or as a cooking spice for flavouring.

**Spikenard:** (a chief spice) (nard in ESV) the spikenard plant gives off a strong and distinctive aromatic fragrance and pleasant smell and was a favourite perfume of the ancients. They also made a precious rose red coloured ointment from the dried roots and woolly stems of the plant. It had, to be imported from Northern India and so it was extremely and understandably costly. Today it is still transported in an alabaster box to preserve its fragrance.

Plausible

Plausible (enticing in KJV) means, persuasive and enticing, to convince (by argument, (true or false) to agree (to evidence or authority), to rely (by inward certainty).

Pleasure

**Chasing pleasure and happiness:** see the title, "Happiness (Chasing Happiness and Pleasure) in this Bible Dictionary.

Pleiades

Pleiades (*Hebrew Kiymah*) means a cluster of stars (i.e. the Pleiades, seven stars). Zondervan Bible Dictionary says there is abundant evidence in the Bible that many of the constellations were known to the writers. The LORD asked Job many questions among these is the following: Can you bind the chains of the Pleiades, or loose the cords of Orion (Job 38:31).

The constellation of Cygnus, (the flying swan or the Northern Cross) has special significance to the Christian.

This is because it has the appearance of a huge cross in the summer sky. Its six bright stars form a Roman cross about the size of the big dipper. This cross may be said to be the evening's call to worship. It reminds us of the passage from Luke "Look up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near" (Luke 21:28).

This constellation sinks westward in the sky until at Christmas time it stands upright just above the horizon in the northwest. There is rich symbolism here in the fact that the star, Deneb, at the top of the cross, where the head of Christ was, is a super-giant star, while the one at the bottom, Albireo, where his feet were is a telescopic double. It is very beautiful with one star being yellow and the other blue.

In the last book of the Bible and in the last chapter of the book, the Lord Jesus is called "the Bright and Morning Star" (Rev 22:16). It appears the writer, the apostle John had frequently waited for the morning light and had watched for the bright morning star, which is usually a planet. Its beauty had greatly inspired him so he uses this apt figure by referring to the Lord Jesus Christ as "the Bright and Morning Star". May Christians watch for Christ's coming as men of old had watched for the bright stars of the morning.

Pomegranate

See (Plants) (above).

Poor

Poor (*ptocheuo* and *ptochos*) means, to be a pauper or beggar or become poor. It especially signifies an absolute public vagrant or beggar and figuratively it carries the idea of being distressed.

Porch

Porch (vestibule in ESV) means a vestibule (as bound to a building) it can refer to a foyer, atrium, entrance and hall.

Portico

Portico (porch in the KJV) refers to a colonnade or interior porch, foyer, atrium, entrance and hall.

Potsherd

Potsherd refers to a piece of earthenware, Job used a potsherd to scrape his body in his affliction (Job 2:8). Potsherds are also referred to in other places in the Bible (Psalm 22:15) (Proverbs 26:23). There are many inscribed potsherds known as "ostraca" that furnish valuable information for the archaeologist.

Potter and Clay

**In the book of Isaiah, it is written** "you turn things upside down! Shall the potter be regarded as the clay, that the thing made should say of its maker, "He did not make me," or the thing formed say of him who formed it, "He has no understanding." (Isaiah 29:16). Isaiah was indignant at the perversity of the so called wise and learned men exalting their own reasoning above that of God.

He is basically saying "What right have they to say that their Creator has no understanding." They mocked His prophets, despised His teachings and regarded formality to be all that was required, they adhered to their outward ceremonial rites, holy days and kept their religious customs and traditions, but their heart was far from God. They worshipped God with their mouth and lips, but withheld their heart and did things in darkness that shouldn't be done supposing that God did not see them.

The sense of the passage is that it would be absurd for, that which is made to complain of the maker as having no intelligence, and no right to make it as he did. It would be absurd for the piece of pottery to complain of the potter as if he had no skill; and it is equally absurd in a man to complain of God, or to regard Him as being destitute of wisdom.

Such was the conceit, stupidity and perverseness of the Jews, in endeavouring to hide their deceitful counsels from the LORD, and in thinking that He did not see and know them. By their actions they turned the order of things upside down, putting themselves first and God second

**You turn things upside down:** means they are putting themselves and their counsel before God's. Isaiah is bringing them the true counsel of God, but they in turn not only mock Isaiah which is the same as mocking God, but also scoff at the message and counsel that Isaiah is speaking to them which is also the same as scoffing at God. They esteemed the clay above the potter supposing God to be destitute of wisdom and could not see what is done, which is absurd as it would be for the clay jar to complain that the potter who formed it has no understanding. This passage is cited by the apostle Paul: -

- Who are you, O man, to answer back to God? Will what is molded say to its molder, "Why have you made me like this?" <sup>21</sup>Has the potter no right over the clay, to make out of the same lump one vessel for honored use and another for dishonorable use? (Romans 9:20-21).

If we have failed to accept our low status and Bible teaching that we all come from Adam and Adam was made from the dust and accept the reality that all humans come from the same clay, we can not only be tempted to make inappropriate criticisms of God, but also be tempted to ask inappropriate questions about His justice.

To expect to understand all things concerning God and His ways can be likened to a small child insisting that their father explain the workings of the family car to them, but even if it was explained they wouldn't understand since the concepts are far beyond them. If we accept the truth that we all come from the dust of the earth, that we will never understand all things and that God's ways are higher than ours, we will not be concerned with these types of inappropriate criticisms and questions.

**Vessels fit for honour and vessels fit for dishonour:** it should be noted that Paul is not saying that God is making or predestining one human for honour and another for dishonour but rather that God being the creator of all mankind does have the right to do this and that He is with long suffering enduring prideful and wicked people whose outward actions clearly show that they are only fit for destruction. It means that those who are corrupt, act wickedly and deny Him are suited for dishonour, while those who do what is good and right are suited for honour.

**Reasons God hardens people's hearts:** in the Old Testament, the Scripture state that God did not give Israel the land of Canaan because of their righteousness, but because of the wickedness of the people of Canaan (Deut. 9:5) it was because of the wickedness of the people of Canaan that the LORD hardened their hearts so that they would come against Israel in battle and be destroyed (Joshua 11:19-20).

In the New Testament John cites the words of Isaiah against the chief priest and Pharisees stating God has blinded their eyes and hardened their heart because they were full of pride and constantly plotted to kill Jesus (John 12:37-43) showing that God confirms people in their own attitudes and positions which they themselves choose from their own freewill, but if these same people repent of their pride and wicked hearts their eyes will be opened to God's ways and His truth.

**An example of man's free will working within God's sovereign will:** the following is a simple example that can help in showing how man's free works within God's sovereign will (howbeit certainly not perfect or an all-encompassing example). Take a large glass jar (representing God's sovereign will) and half fill it with cardboard pieces (representing individual humans). Shake the jar and every cardboard piece will move in their own individual and different directions within the space inside the jar, but no matter where they move they are still within the Jar.

The sovereignty and foreknowledge of God is an eternal mystery that our mortal mind will never understand until we inherit our immortal body. Nevertheless, an eternal truth that can be understood that Israel seemed to have forgotten is that like the clay on the potter's wheel has no power to escape the potter's hands, we have no power to escape the hands of the Master Potter or to save ourselves.

**NOTE:** in contrast to the unfaithful Israelites the Old Testament faithful never held God accountable to their understanding of what is fair nor did they hold God accountable to things that appeared unfair to our limited human understanding and

appearance. They always saw themselves as the clay and God as the Master Potter. (See also, Reprobate in this Bible Dictionary). For further information concerning predestination, see the title: "Predestination," (ON WEBSITE MENU).

## Potters Gate

Potters Gate is a gate in the wall of Jerusalem which is thought to be referred to by Jeremiah (Jer. 19:2), it may be the same gate that leads to the Valley of Hinnom or the Dung Gate.

## Power

Power (*Greek dunamis*) (might in KJV) means, force and power especially miraculous power, a mighty deed, an act of strength, a wonderful work or an act of violence and by implication can apply to a miracle itself or a worker of miracles.

Power can also apply to the power of God's Spirit within a person that gives them the desire to live a life that honours God and brings a good testimony to the name of Jesus and to the miracle power needed to give the ability to perform a task.

## Practice

Practice (do in the KJV) means to practise or perform repeatedly, especially to habitually commit to accomplishing or executing a thing personally.

## Praetorium

Praetorium is of Latin origin; the *praetorium* or governor's courtroom it can refer to the courtroom of the palace or to the common, judgment hall and sometimes includes the whole edifice and camp. In the book of Acts the King James Bible says, "Felix the governor commanded Paul to be kept in Herod's judgment hall. (Acts 23:35) while the English Standard Bible says, "Felix the governor commanded Paul to be guarded in Herod's praetorium," showing that the praetorium at, this time refers to Herod's judgement hall.

## Prayer

Prayer (*Hebrew palai*) means to judge (officially or mentally) and by extension to intercede, pray, entreat and make supplication while prayer (*Hebrew t'phillah*) carries the idea of making intercession and supplication and by implication a hymn.

Prayer (*Greek aiteo*) carries the idea of demanding something due; prayer (*Greek enteuxis*) carries the idea of an interview such as a special supplication, intercession or prayer and prayer (*Greek entugchano*) means to chance upon and by implication to confer with and by extension to entreat (in favor or against) to deal with and make intercession.

Prayer (*Greek erotao*) means a request as a favor and prayer (*Greek euche*) carries the idea of a wish, expressed as a petition to God or a contractual vow that puts one under obligation; prayer (*Greek euchomai*) means to wish and by implication to pray to God; prayer (*Greek deesis*) refers to a petition, a prayer, a request and supplication; prayer (*Greek deomai*) means to beg (as binding oneself), to petition, beseech and make a request in prayer. It carries the idea of urgent need and of asking, demanding and enquiring and by implication to learn and understand (by casual intelligence).

Prayer (*Greek proseuche*) carries the idea of earnest worshipful prayer and by implication an oratory in a chapel or church; prayer (*Greek proseuchomai*) means to pray earnestly to God, (i.e., to supplicate and worship); prayer (*Greek punthanomai*) means to question and ascertain by inquiry (as a matter of information) and prayer (*Greek zeteo*) implies a search for something hidden.

**Following is an example of a prayer spoken from the heart:** a girl's fiancée was critically sick so she called a priest and told him she wanted to pray, but all she can think of saying is, "Dear God make him well, dear God make him well, please dear God make him well," and then told the priest she didn't know how to pray.

The priest said, "Then that well be your prayer," but the grieving girl said that she feels she should quote something from the Bible. The priest very wisely assured her that God will consider something from the heart far more valuable than any quote from the Bible.

Prayer is about praying what is on the heart, not memorized quotes of Scripture or being able to cleverly put verses of the Bible together, unless they are expressing the honest heart attitude of the person that is praying. A prayer that is full of common language, stutters and pauses, but comes from an honest heart means more to God than one that is prayed in perfect King James language and quotes wonderful Scriptures, but comes from a heart that is disconnected from what is being said.

**Prayer and burdens:** if a care or worry is too small to be made into a prayer, it's too small to be made into a burden.

**Prayer and circumstances:** it is strange that while praying, we seldom ask for a change of character, but always a change in circumstances, prayer may not change the science of being, but it can bring us into harmony with it.

**Have whatsoever you ask:** applies to mercy, grace, forgiveness and spiritual understanding, wisdom and knowledge

## Predestined

Predestined (*Greek proorizo, pro and horizo*) means, to limit or predetermine in advance, to determine decree, specify ordain and declare before. Though God's final-end is determined, His ways of getting to it are flexible.

Predestination and God's eternal foreknowledge is a stunning mystery to the human mind, by foreknowledge God is, able to allow us to do as we please and come what may our free will is still mysteriously working within God's Sovereign will and bringing about His eternal plan that He set in motion before the beginning of time such is the wonder of God's eternal foreknowledge and His eternal wisdom. God in the book of Isaiah says: -

- My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD, for as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts (Isaiah 55:8-9).

The following is a simple example that can help in showing how man's free works within God's sovereign will (howbeit certainly not perfect or an all-encompassing example). Take a large glass jar (representing God's sovereign will) and half fill it with cardboard pieces (representing individual humans). Shake the jar and every cardboard piece will move in their own individual and different directions within the space inside the jar, but no matter where they move they are still within the Jar.

**A principal of predestination:** from the beginning God predestinated that He would love, forgive and save those who from their own free will choose to follow His Son the Lord Jesus It is salvation in Christ that is predestinated, not who will be saved and who will not

**Predestination and God's foreknowledge:** is a stunning mystery to the mortal finite human mind, but majestically manifests the wisdom of God who has given mankind free will. By eternal foreknowledge God is, able to allow us to do as we please and come, what may our free will is still mysteriously working within His Sovereign will and bringing about His eternal end that He planned and purposed before the beginning of time.

This is the wonder of dwelling in an eternal dimension that has no beginning and no end and the wonder of God's eternal mind and His eternal foreknowledge. A mystery our mortal and limited minds cannot grasp or comprehend. This, is why Scripture states: -

- Man, cannot find out the work of God that is done under the sun. However much man may toil in seeking, he will not find it out. Even though a wise man claims to know, he cannot find it out." (Eccles. 8:17).

**NOTE:** when speaking of God's predestination, foreknowledge, sovereignty and timeless mind it is with a fallen and finite mind that is limited to time (as we understand it) that we attempt to understand God's eternal wisdom and God's eternal knowledge which is far higher than our limited fallen mortal mind can



comprehend therefore we should never claim perfect understanding and should certainly not be dogmatic concerning our explanations and understandings when speaking of God's any of these topics, but always allow for a certain amount of mystery. For further information see the title: "Predestination" (ON WEBSITE MENU).

**Predestination and Jesus:** Jesus words,

- Now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had with you before the world existed. (John 17:5).
- Father, I desire that they also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory that you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world. (John 17:24).

Do not mean that Jesus was with God the Father before the world existed (as many believe), but that the majestic and royal glory of Christ has been in the mind, plans and purposes of God from before the foundation of the world. It can be likened to a pregnant woman who long before the birth of her baby not only knows that at some time in the future she will bring the unseen child into the world, but also deeply loves the baby even though it does not yet exist in this world.

A mother who plans and purposes to have a baby does not suddenly begin to love the new born child at birth, her love for the baby begins in her mind and heart the moment she plans and purposes to have a child even more she goes out and buys the unborn child, clothing toys beds and prams long before her baby is even born, because her love for the baby and the baby itself already exists in her mind.

Likewise, in this same sense God loved Jesus Christ and saw his future glory from the foundation of the world. Jesus did not pre-exist with God in heaven and then become a foetus in Mary's womb waiting to be born. Rather Christ was in the plans and purposes of God or in God's heart and mind from the beginning. Jesus was the centre of all of God's plans for the entire universe from the very foundations of the world. The glory Jesus had from the beginning was the in the future-plan and purpose of God, Christ was in the mind and heart of God from the beginning and it is in this sense that Jesus said: -

- Father, glorify me with the glory that I had with you before the world existed (John 17:5) and "Father, I desire that they also see my glory that you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world. (John 17:5).

A person does not have to exist to be loved in the heart and mind. From the moment parents begin to plan and purpose to have a baby they deeply love the child in their heart and mind even before the baby exists in the world, just ask any mother who has suffered the horror of a still birth and you will know how real this statement is and how real the child was in her mind.

Jesus did not have to physically exist for God's heart and mind to love him before the beginning of time and see his future glory and Jesus knowing the Scriptures from beginning to end was fully aware of the glory God had purposed for him from the foundation of the world. Even the prophets spoke of the coming of Jesus and his future glory and faithful Israel set their love on their coming Messiah and knew of his glory before he even came.

**Words of comfort and encouragement:** since the teaching that Jesus is God has such a strong hold on much of traditional Christianity the following will encourage and comfort faithful brothers and sisters in Christ who maybe in some doubt and unsure of what to believe concerning the Father and the Son. The Bible very clearly shows that even if Jesus was God no one has, to know this to be saved to eternal life since there is not one verse in the entire Bible that states: -

- We must believe that Jesus is God to be saved.

Nor is there one verse from Genesis to Revelations that says: -

- Whoever believes that Jesus is God will be saved.

In total contrast to this silence there are literally multitudes of Scriptures throughout the pages of the New Testament that very clearly proclaim: -

- We must believe that Jesus is the Son of God to be saved.

And that say: -

- Whoever believes that Jesus is the Son of God will be saved.

Surely if it was important to believe that Jesus was God to be saved to eternal life Jesus, the apostles and Paul would have told us at least once in all their teaching concerning salvation, but all we hear from Paul, the apostles and Jesus himself is them saying that we must believe that Jesus is the Son of God to be saved to eternal life. Jesus himself said, "This is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent" (John 17:3). For further information, see the title: "Trinity (The Doctrine of the Trinity)" in, Various Topics (ON WEBSITE MENU).

## Preparation

Preparation (*Hebrew kuwn*) to be erect (i.e. stand perpendicular), to set up and make firm, to fashion and fasten, to establish, fix, prepare and apply, to make provision, provide and be ready. Figuratively, appoint, render sure, confirm and direct. Preparation (*Greek paraskeue and paraskeuazo*) means readiness, to get ready to make ready and to be ready or prepare self.

**Preparation Day:** refers to the day before a Sabbath Day. The Jews could not work on the Sabbath Day so they prepared everything for it the day before this, is why the day before a Sabbath was given the title Preparation Day. At the time of Christ's crucifixion Preparation Day fell on Passover Day and is therefore sometimes referred to as Passover Preparation Day this is most likely to separate the day from common Preparation Days.

Even though Passover Day was a Sabbath Day at the time of Christ's crucifixion it was also called the Preparation Day because the Day immediately following Passover Day at the time of Christ's death was also a Sabbath Day because it was the first Day of the Seven Day Feast of Unleavened Bread. For further information see the title: "Passover," in, Various Topics (ON WEBSITE MENU)

## Present tense

The word, "behold" in some prophetic context carries the idea of looking upon what is prophesied to follow as if it were certain and already accomplished. The present tense is sometimes used for the future, because it is guaranteed and certain that the prophetic event will come to pass.

## Prey

Prey carries the idea of something being obtained by hunting or by plunder. It is usually applied to the victims of wild beasts. When the expression, "the mountains of prey," is used in Scripture it carries the idea of a place and stronghold of robbers and thieves because it was from the mountains and rocks they would hide and venture out to plunder. The mountains and surrounding rocks furnished a safe place of retreat for robbers and because of this rocks of the mountains in some contexts became symbols of power.

## Pride

Pride (*Hebrew ga'own*) means arrogancy, pomp, excellency and majesty it carries the idea of being proud and swelling up in pride; pride (*Hebrew ga'ah*) means to mount up and in general to rise, figuratively to be gloriously majestic to increase and rise, up in triumph; pride (*Hebrew ge'ah*) means arrogance and pride; pride (*Greek huperephania*) means haughtiness and pride (*Greek huperephanos*) carries the idea of appearing above others, being noticeable and prominent and figuratively haughty and proud;

Pride (*Greek huper*) means over, above, beyond, superior to, more than, exceeding abundantly higher and the chiefest; pride (*Greek tuphoo*) means to envelop with smoke and figuratively to inflate with self-conceit, to be high-minded

and lifted-up with pride and pride (*Greek alazoneia*) braggadocio (i.e., boastful and arrogant behaviour) and by implication self-confidence that manifest itself in prideful boasting.

**Two aspects of pride:** not all pride is bad, it can be healthy or destructive, the following shows the difference between healthy and destructive pride.

Healthy pride embraces the following: -

- That happy satisfied feeling experienced when having or achieved something special that other people admire.
- Taking great pride in one's work is healthy and productive pride.
- That personal sense of satisfaction and pleasure that comes from something accomplished or a quality possessed.
- Having a proper sense of one's own value and the correct level of respect for the importance and value of one's personal character, life, efforts and achievements as opposed to having no confidence and no sense of worth.
- That personal feeling of satisfaction because of an achievement or possession that one is especially pleased to have accomplished and is fully satisfied with (i.e. their grandchildren were their pride and joy or the gold medal I won at the Olympics is my pride and joy etc.).

Unhealthy pride embraces the following: -

- Having a feeling of superiority and a haughty attitude. This type of pride is shown by somebody who believes (often unjustifiably) that he or she is better than others. A person who has this kind of pride will often not mix with those they consider their social inferiors. This pride is arrogant it exalts oneself above others and even God, and will treat those it looks down to and believes are inferior to them with disdain and at its peak with cruelty and destruction. It causes quarrels, strife, arguments, fights and even wars.
- Having the biggest ego of all, a person at this level of pride sees themselves at the top of humanity and views themselves as always being right. They believe they are equal to God or even a god themselves and are so egotistical that they think the whole world revolves around them.

**Leptons and atoms:** in science, there are molecules called leptons, they are even smaller than atoms, it has been said that, "Some people's pride is so high they only see people as leptons." But not all pride is necessarily bad it can be put into two different categories healthy pride and destructive pride.

**Pride and Satan:** the primary spirit that encapsulates the meaning of Satan is pride. The name Satan embraces the idea of the ultimate ego, the biggest ego, the top of the tree that is why an antichrist can kill millions of innocent people without losing sleep, he sees himself above all humanity and views himself as always right.

The peak of pride is to believe you are equal to God or even as a god this sounds almost crazy, but some people are so egotistical they think the whole world revolves around them. (Remember many of the Caesars of Rome believed they were gods or the son of God).

**The character of the prideful:** the feelings of many who are full of pride and arrogant are such that they suppose that God's creation should be made to bend to their plans and purposes, and that God's justice and principles should give way to their corruptions rather than that they should be dealt with as common sinners.

Such prideful, arrogant and self-righteous people expect to be treated as a special person and with special favour deserving of salvation they are too proud to think they would be treated and saved as common people are but, should have the eternal laws of God made to bend for them such is the pride of their heart.

## Prince

Prince (*Hebrew nasiy'*) means an exalted one, (i.e. a king, sheik, captain, chief, governor, prince and ruler; prince (*Hebrew sar*) refers to a head person (of any rank or class) a captain, a chief, a general, governor, a keeper, a lord or task master or steward that have rule over others while prince (*Hebrew sarar*) means to have, to get and exercise dominion or make self a prince. Prince (*Greek archon and archo*) means, to reign or rule over, it can apply to the first in rank, power or political authority or the chief ruler and magistrate.

## Prison

Prison (*Greek phulake and phulasso*) means, a guarding or guard or the act of guarding it carries the idea of isolation and a person watching over a criminal, figuratively it refers to guarding self outwardly or inwardly and by implication to preserve, obey, avoid beware and keep self-safe.

## Prochorus

Prochorus (*Greek Prochoros*) literally means before the dance, but also refers to a Christian man named Prochorus, while (*Greek pro*) means fore (i.e. in front of and prior to and (*Greek choros*) literally means a ring as round and carries the idea of a choir dancing around and figuratively it carries the idea of being superior.

## Proconsul

Proconsul refers to the deputy of the country.

## Profane

Profane means, to desecrate as by crossing the door-way or threshold and by implication it refers to the Jewish notion of heathenish and wickedness (i.e., a profane person).

## Promises

God's promises made to Abraham: -

- Abraham's very own son would be his heir. (Gen. 15:4).
- Abraham's offspring will be as the stars of heaven and the dust of the earth. (Gen. 15:5) (Gen. 28:14).
- God will make Abraham the father of a multitude of nations and kings will come from him. (Gen. 17:4-6).
- God will make an everlasting covenant with Abraham's offspring (seed in KJV). (Gen. 17:6).
- The LORD will be God to Abraham and his offspring (seed in KJV). (Gen. 17:6, 8).
- God will give to Abraham and his offspring (seed in KJV) the land of Canaan for an everlasting possession (Gen. 17:8).
- God will give Abraham a son by Sarah, kings shall come from her. (Gen. 17:16).
- Abraham's wife Sarah will become nations. (Gen. 17:16).
- Abraham's wife Sarah will bear a son and his name will be Isaac. (Gen. 17:19).
- God will establish His covenant with Isaac as an everlasting covenant for his offspring (seed in KJV) after him Gen. 17:19).
- Abraham and his offspring (seed in KJV) will be heir of the world. (Rom. 4:13).

**Promise of Genesis: in Genesis chapter three God said, "I will put enmity between you (the serpent) and the woman, and between your (the serpents) seed and her (the woman's) seed; he (the woman's seed) shall bruise your (the serpents seed) head, and you (the serpents seed) shall bruise his (the woman's seed) heel. (Genesis 3:15).**

**The serpent's seed:** refers to all those who are opposed to God especially the religious leaders of Jesus Generation the chief priests, Pharisees and scribes.

**The woman's seed:** refers to Christ.

The serpent's seed will bruise the heel of the woman's seed (Jesus Christ), but Jesus will bruise the head of the serpent's seed. Jesus is referred to as being bruised on the heel because God resurrected him and he will return and bruise the head of serpent's seed. The woman can refer to the nation of Israel, the Virgin Mary or the church.

The woman's seed primarily refers to the Lord Jesus Christ but by extension embraces Israel and all those who believe in Christ. The serpent's seed primarily refers to the Arabs who constantly troubled Israel, but by extension embraces everyone who is opposed to God. For further information see: Genesis 3:15, in Commentary New Testament, (ON WEBSITE MENU).

## Prophecy

**Prophecy God and the prophet speaking:** throughout many Scriptures the person speaking changes between them speaking and God speaking such a change of person's speaking is not uncommon in the Scriptures especially in Psalms and poetic and prophetic language. This is because the prophet is speaking on behalf of God and being inspired by God so though he is always the one actually-speaking the language can switch between him speaking about things to him speaking as the voice of God to the people.

**Prophecy and the present, past and future:** David being a prophet knew very well that both himself and the ark were types of Christ, and that the people of Israel were a type of the universal church, consisting of Jews and Gentiles and that the ceremonial rites and sacrifices were symbols pointing forward to Christ's death and resurrection and the Gospel. Being a prophet he by the Spirit of prophecy, looked through and beyond the present actions and types to the great mysteries of Christ's resurrection and ascension into heaven, and of the special privileges of the Christian church, and of the conversion of the Gentiles to God.

With this spiritual insight, he inter-mixes some passages which directly and immediately belong to the present actions and present time, but so arranges the structure of the language that there is in it a secondary sense that carries an allusion (though somewhat obscure) to a greater and more perfect fulfilment of the events spoken of.

Many of his Psalms contains such a mixture of things, some statements belong to the specific actions and events of a certain historical period, of time while others though speaking of certain past historical events also contain allusions to Christ the Gospel and future events. The brilliant skill in composing such writings in such a manner should not surprise us since David and the prophets of God were wholly inspired and moved by the Holy Spirit.

- No prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit. (2 Peter 1:21).

Some were inspired by God's word coming to their mind while others were transported in the Spirit and carried away to speak of the highest mysteries of God and the Gospel which at times even they themselves did not fully understand as we who can look back to the bloodstained cross of Calvary do.

The apostle Peter wrote: -

- Concerning this salvation, the prophets who prophesied about the grace that was to be yours searched and inquired carefully, <sup>11</sup>inquiring what person or time the Spirit of Christ in them was indicating when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the subsequent glories. (1 Peter 1:10-11)

**Prophecies that are repeated: many times:** often a prophecy is repeated using different words, but giving the same prophetic message. These double prophecies confirm that the prophecy is of God; that there is a sense of urgency concerning it

coming to pass and confirms that it is certain to come to pass and cannot be stopped in anyway. This same principal of doubling is not limited to prophecy only, but also applies to, visions and dreams throughout Scripture.

**Following are four keys to understanding Bible prophecy.**

1. The first key is to understand that in many prophecies of the Bible the verses are not always written in chronological order. It is almost as though the prophet is so inspired that he immediately speaks the words as they come to him. They are then recorded in the order that the prophet spoke them, but that does not always mean they are in the actual chronological order that they will unfold throughout history. Sometimes the latter verses of a chapter may be the first events to take place in God's foreordained plan of events.
2. The second key is to know that a prophecy is often spoken in the present tense as though the event has already happened when in actual reality the fulfilment of it may still be many years away. This is because the prophet is seeing the vision in the present moment and speaks it as he sees it in present time. The people the prophet is speaking to know when the prophecy is a future event, but sometimes it can be difficult for those reading it thousands of years later to realise, because of the tense it is written in.
3. The third key is to understand when a prophet speaks, he is often speaking as the voice of God therefore the words he speaks are guaranteed to come to pass. This, is why the prophet sometimes will speak future predictions in the present moment because they are certain to happen at the right time in the future.
4. The forth key is to know that many future prophecies are spoken in the present tense, because the prophet is speaking the words of God or the vision as they come to him in his time. The prophet himself may not always be aware of the echoes contained in his prophecy or that the words he is speaking have contained within them the ability to transcend time and travel thousands of years through history to a future age or a future person

**Prophecy has a partial application and future fulfilment:** the wonder, beauty and splendour of Bible prophecy is that it often has a partial local fulfilment for the people of the era it is being spoken in and a more perfect and wider fulfilment that soars through time and history until it arrives at its predetermined destination and achieves the final purpose it has been set out to accomplish.

When the whole scope of these types of prophetic messages is taken, into account it can be clearly seen that there is intertwined within the language two events, the first being an historic fulfilment and the second being a much wider and far more perfect fulfilment yet to happen at some future time.

**Prophecy and God said:** most times the Scripture tells us it is a prophet speaking, but sometimes the Scripture will simply say, "God said," without mentioning a prophet, often if you go back to the original time it was said you will find what was said came through a prophet.

**Prophecy and short term and long term events:** Prophecy uses pictorial language and often has an immediate fulfilment so that when the short, term events of the prophecy came true it proved the long-term events of the prophecy would also come to pass.

When a prophecy has a short term and long term fulfillment, it is written in such a style that the language of the prophecy is, able to transcend the immediate person or local fulfilment it applies to and travel through time and history to a future person or age to come.

**A principal of prophecy:** often the end is shown first and then the lead up to that end, the chapters and verses aren't always written in the order that they happen, Revelation chapter nineteen may read backwards

**A prophet is the same as a seer:** in the book of Samuel it is written, "(Formerly in Israel, when a man went to inquire of God, he said, "Come, let us go to the seer," for today's "prophet" was formerly called a seer.) (1 Samuel 9:9).

**Prophecy and the Mount of Transfiguration:** on the Mount of Transfiguration (God's holy mountain) Peter, James and John saw Jesus transfigured before them with his face shining like the sun and his clothes as white as light. Then they see Moses and Elijah talking with Jesus with a bright cloud overshadowing them and heard a voice from the cloud saying, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him." (Matt. 17:1-5). This would have to be one of the most amazing experiences with Christ in the Bible, yet Peter wrote: -

- We have something more sure, the prophetic word, to which you will do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts, <sup>20</sup>knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation. <sup>21</sup>For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit. (2 Peter 1:19-21).

Peter is saying that as fantastic as it was for him, James and John to be on God's Holy Mountain and see the Majestic Glory as they did, they do not rest their faith on it, but rather on the prophetic word of God. This is because prophecies recorded in the Bible proves that the Scriptures could not have been written by anyone with the limitations of a mortal mind, without being inspired and influenced by the Spirit of God who planned and purposed the course of the world according, to His eternal foreknowledge before time began and therefore knows all things from beginning to end before they come to pass.

**Prophecy today:** prophecy properly means to predict future events, but it also means to declare the divine will of God; to interpret the purposes of God; or to make known in any way the truth of God, which is designed to influence people.

Though its first meaning is to predict or foretell future events the word 'prophecy' is not limited to this meaning since those who did prophecy were messengers of God, and as they commonly proclaimed predictions, instructions, and exhortations in, regard to the sins, dangers and duties of people the word 'prophecy' came to denote any who warned, threatened or in any way communicated the will of God. Today the word prophecy refers to proclaiming the messages of the Bible, since what we have in written form today is the prophetic word of God.

During the generations of Paul, the Scriptures were not neatly put together as we have them in the Canon of the Bible today, added to this their message was totally new so the people had to rely on others receiving visions and prophecies, but today we have all those spoken prophecies recorded in the pages of the Bible, therefore when a person is proclaiming God's word and the words of the Lord and the apostles they are proclaiming the prophetic word of God.

This, is why we do not need any more knowledge beyond what is recorded in the Bible since it has recorded within its pages God's plans, purposes, will and eternal outcome for all mankind. Today whoever proclaims the word of God is proclaiming prophecy.

Prophet

Prophet literally means a foreteller and by analogy an inspired speaker and by extension a poet.

Prophetess

Prophetess of the Bible are Miriam (Exod. 15:20) Deborah (Judges 4:4) Huldah (2 Kings 22:14) (2 Chron. 34:22) and Anna (Luke 2:36).

Propitiation

Propitiation (*Greek hilasterion and hilasmos*) means an expiatory, meaning having the power to atone for a person, place or thing, (i.e. an atoning victim such as the animal sacrifices and the Lord Jesus Christ). It can also refer to the lid of the Ark in the Temple as the mercy-seat of propitiation, appeasement and conciliation.

Propitiation (*Greek hilaskomai*) means to conciliate, (i.e. to atone for sin or be propitious (i.e., favorable, encouraging and merciful) and to make reconciliation, and appeasement for and thereby be united.

Propitiation (*Greek hileos*) means cheerful and favorable). To the Hebrews it carries the idea of God being gracious and merciful by averting some calamity. Summing it all up propitiation (also called expiation) is the act of appeasing a deity and thereby incurring divine favour and turning away divine judgment and condemnation.

## Proselyte

Proselyte (*Greek proselutos*) means an arriver from a foreign region and especially refers to one who has converted to Judaism, while proselyte (*Greek proserchomai*) means to approach, come near, visit, and figuratively to worship, agree approve and come or draw near to. Summing it all up the word proselyte refers to a person who has converted from one opinion, religion, faith, sect, or party to another and especially to a Gentile who has converted to Judaism.

## Prostitutes

**Prostitutes and Rahab:** Rahab was a prostitute, yet she feared the God of Jerusalem and protected Israel's spies and is listed with God's people of amazing faith in the great chapter of the Bible that is commonly known as the Hall of Faith (Heb. 11:31). Listed in this Hall of Faith are: -

- Abel, Enoch Noah and Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.
- Sarah, Joseph and Moses and Gideon, Barak, Samson and Jephthah.
- David, Samuel and the prophets.

Amongst these great men and women of faith is Rahab a prostitute woman (Heb. 11:31) that most would despise, yet God commends (praises and applauds) everyone listed in this chapter for their faith (Heb. 11:39). It is easy to judge and condemn a person by their outward lifestyle (especially prostitutes), but often the outward lifestyle is not a true reflection of the inward heart.

Consider a woman in a third world country, no husband, no income, no job, no social security, and two children to support and feed, the only way many of these women can buy food for their children is to go against everything good in their heart and humble themselves just to earn enough money to buy a meal.

It is true that in today's Western world many women willingly live such a lifestyle for the worldly riches and materialist gifts it brings to them, but it is equally true many live in such a manner just to survive which would certainly have been case with many women in ancient times. Rather than condemn such woman they should be shown great mercy and compassion since it is because of great poverty that they are forced to deny everything that is good within themselves and surrender it all for the survival of their children.

Such woman though living a morally wrong lifestyle on the outside are not morally corrupt on the inside, in fact most would probably be suffering great emotional and mental pain as well as a sense of shame. Unless we are willing to support and provide food for such woman we have no right to condemn them.

## Prudent

The word prudent comes from the Hebrew word (*aruwm*) it carries the idea of being cunning, crafty and subtle or practical sensible wise careful cautious and far-sighted so it can be used in a good or bad sense. In a good sense, it would apply to those who are honest; have good integrity and principals; have wisdom and are careful in making decisions and choices by considering the ramifications and consequences of such a choice in the long term.

In a bad sense, it would apply to those who also have wisdom, but use their knowledge to cleverly deceive others for their own gain and advantage. (It would be scripturally right and proper to call these types of people serpents).

## Provoke

Provoke means, to enrage, anger, or wrath justifiable or without reason. It carries the idea of a violent desire, a passion or an excitement of the mind.



## Prudence

**Prudence in a good sense:** means tact and discretion it refers to the good judgment and sensitivity needed to avoid embarrassing or upsetting others and embraces the ability of keeping sensitive information secret and having the freedom and authority to judge and decide on a matter and make a good decision concerning any given situation or circumstances. It includes the ability to use good judgment and good sense in dealing with practical matters by carefully considering the likely consequences and acting accordingly to manage resources so as to provide for the future

**Prudence in a bad sense:** means trickery and guile it primarily means to be skilful in the use of clever schemes to deceive others. To have a cunning, deceitful and treacherous quality and subtly use clever schemes designed to deceive people for, the purpose of achieving one's own goal. It can also apply to a deceptive military manoeuvre that is designed to deceive an enemy.

**Prudent from the Bible Dictionary:** means being careful in managing resources so, as to provide for the future and having good sense in dealing with practical matters it carries the idea of only acting on a thing after using good judgment and carefully considering the likely consequences.

## Prune

To prune something literally means to prune trees and vines from useless shoots, figuratively it carries the idea of making amends for a crime and cleansing one of filth, impurity and sin (i.e. an atoning for guilt).

## Ptah

**Ptah**, in Egyptian mythology was one of the greatest of gods, ancient inscriptions describe him as creator of the earth, father of the gods and all the beings of this earth, father of beginnings. He was regarded as the patron of metalworkers and artisans and as a mighty healer. He is usually represented in human form as a mummy, sometimes bearing the symbols of life, power, and stability. The main centre of his worship was in Memphis.

## Publicans

A publican was an under-collector of Roman revenue, there appear to have been two classes, firstly, the chief of the publicans of whom Zacchaeus is an example and secondly, the ordinary publican, the lowest class of the servants engaged in the collecting of the revenue they were hated because they were seen as the instruments that perpetuated the subjection of the Jews to the Roman Emperor because the paying of tribute was looked upon as a virtual acknowledgment of the Roman emperor's sovereignty.

Publicans were noted for their imposition pillage and extortion to which they were tempted to oppress the people with illegal taxes so they might more quickly enrich themselves.

Publicans of the New Testament were regarded as traitors and apostates, defiled by their relationships with the heathen, and willing tools of the oppressor that is why they publicans were classed with sinners, harlots and the heathen (Matt. 9:11) (Matt. 21:31) (Matt. 18:17). Levi was a publican who later became the apostle Matthew.

## Punishment

Punishment (*Hebrew `avon*) means perversity, (i.e., willfulness stubbornness), moral evil, iniquity and mischief and carries the idea of punishment for acts of wickedness and sin; punishment (*Hebrew `avah*) means to act crookedly, to do what is amiss, to commit iniquity, to act wickedly, to do wrong, pervert and cause trouble and punishment (*Hebrew `onesh*) carries the idea of a fine or tribute as a form of punishment.

Punishment (*Hebrew chatta'ah*) means an offence and sometimes to habitual sinfulness and its penalty and punishment; punishment (*Hebrew chata'*) means to miss and in general to commit sin; to harm, offend, forfeit, lack, lead astray, condemn and bear the blame. It can also carry the idea of offering up for sin, purging, purifying and making reconciliation.

Punishment (*Greek kolasis*) carries the idea of severe disciplinary corrective punishment; punishment (*Greek kolazo*) means to curtail and figuratively to chastise or reserve for infliction and punishment; punishment (*Greek timoria*) means vindication and by implication a penalty and punishment; punishment (*Greek timoreo*) means a guard and carries the idea of protecting one's honor and to avenge by inflicting a penalty upon others as a form of punishment; punishment (*Greek ekdikesis*) means vindication, retribution, vengeance and punishment while punishment (*Greek ekdikeo*) means to vindicate, retaliate and punish.

## Pur

The word Pur comes from the Hebrew word (*Puwr*) and means a lot as a broken piece it carries the idea of utterly crushing and bringing to nothing it is used in the following two verses: -

- In the first month, which is the month of Nisan, in the twelfth year of King Ahasuerus, they cast Pur (that is, they cast lots) before Haman day after day; and they cast it month after month till the twelfth month, which is the month of Adar. (Esther 3:7).
- Haman the Agagite, the son of Hammedatha, the enemy of all the Jews, had plotted against the Jews to destroy them, and had cast Pur (that is, cast lots), to crush and to destroy them. (Esther 9:24).

Haman, seeking to destroy Mordecai and massacre and exterminate the entire Jewish race called together his diviners to cast lots, according to the superstition and custom of those ancient and eastern people to find what day and what month would be the most-lucky to put his atrocious scheme into action. A lot was cast for each day of the month, and for each month in the year, and in some way or other one day and one month were indicated to them as being the most favourable.

It was in the first month of the year when Haman began to cast lots, and the time for the execution of the Jews was by these lots delayed till the last month of the year; which plainly proves the proverb, "though the lot be cast into the lap, yet the whole disposing thereof is from the Lord" (Proverbs 16:33). By this delay almost a whole year intervened between the design and its execution, which gave time for Mordecai and Queen Esther to turn Haman's evil plot against him.

## Pure

Pure (*Hebrew tahowr*) means clean and pure in a physical, chemical, ceremonial and moral sense; pure (*Hebrew taher*) carries the idea of being bright and by implication to be pure, clear, sound and unadulterated physically and mentally; Levitical it means morally uncontaminated, innocent and holy and to make or pronounce oneself, clean, and pure. Pure (*Hebrew barar*) means to clarify (i.e. polish, brighten) it carries the idea of choosing to be clean polished and show oneself pure.

Pure (*Greek katharos*) means clean physically or spiritually, likewise pure (*Greek hagnos*) also means clean and figuratively innocent, modest, perfect, chaste and pure (*Greek hagios*) means an awful thing and can refer to a sacred one, most holy one (i.e., physical pure and morally blameless) or to a religious consecrated ceremony.

The idea of pure being an awful thing carries the sense that to stand before the purity and Holiness of God without any covering would be a fearful thing.

## Purge

The word purge comes from the Hebrew word (*kaphar*) and means to cover over. Figuratively it carries the idea of atoning for sin to make amends for a wrong to put right what is clearly not, to overlook, pardon and forgive, to satisfy or cancel out a wrong-doing. To soothe, calm and to cleanse, to disannul, to be merciful, pacify, reconcile and bring together.

David's statement, "When iniquities prevail against me," (v3) carry the idea that sin has overtaken him, which of course they clearly did (i.e., his affair with Bathsheba and plotting the death of her husband Uriah), this entire tragic event crushed David when he heard the convicting words of Nathan, "You are the man," and brought him to his knees in honest repentance. (2 Sam. 25:5).

Here is the glory of God and the wonder of the Christian faith, when iniquities overtake the faithful and they return to God in honest repentance God not only forgives, but covers their sin and holds nothing against them. (The full story of David and Nathan is in 2 Samuel chapter twelve).

David's heart was one that always sought the LORD and desired above all things His steadfast love. Though he like all of us was fully aware that he was not perfect before God he had a heart of integrity and desired above all thing to bring honour to God. This is one of the reasons why he prays that God would help him when he lifts, up his hands toward the LORD'S most holy sanctuary. (Psalm 28:2).

John in his letters wrote: -

- If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. <sup>9</sup>If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. <sup>10</sup>If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us. (1 John 1:8-10)

This is not something new, David's Psalms and prayers clearly show that he understood the principle of repentance and of acknowledging and confessing sin. Some might say, "If David can sin and repent and be forgiven why not do as we please since repentance covers." The answer to this is simple, we may fool man, but we cannot fool God, he perceives the honest motivation of the heart and will judge accordingly. It is almost certain those who deliberately use God's grace as an excuse to sin will find themselves standing in the group Jesus speaks of in the following verses: -

- Not everyone who says to me, "Lord, Lord," will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven." (Matt. 7:21).
- Why do you call me "Lord, Lord," and not do what I tell you? (Luke 6:46).

## Purification

**Laws of purification:** since very early times the concept of purity was ingrained deep within the religious social structure of the children of Israel. The legalistic religious attitude of the Pharisees as a class during the time of Christ and their drive for religious ceremonial purity is manifested in the following verses: -

- (For the Pharisees and all the Jews do not eat unless they wash their hands, holding to the tradition of the elders, <sup>4</sup>and when they come from the marketplace, they do not eat unless they wash. And there are many other traditions that they observe, such as the washing of cups and pots and copper vessels and dining couches.) (Mark 7:3-4).

Under the Mosaic Law ceremonial purification was required for: -

- The birth of a child.
- Circumcision (it removed uncleanness) (if male).
- A woman (at conception and at menstruation). (Lev 12:2).
- Touching a dead body.
- Certain diseases (such as leprosy and the like). (Lev 13:8).
- Uncleanness due to a running sore. (Lev 15).

Offering a red heifer was prescribed for the sacrifice of purification (Num. 19:1-10) and family purity was strictly guarded with relationships concerning sex (Lev. 20:1-21) (Deut. 22:20 -21).

**Purification in the New Testament:** though the focus of the New Testament is transferred from the outward to the inner there is no relaxing of the basic principal for purity itself (Matt. 5:27) (Matt. 19:3-9) (Mark 10:2-11) (1 Cor. 5:9-13) (1 Cor. 6:18-20) (1 Cor. 7:8).

## Purim

**Purim and Pur:** both come from the Hebrew word (*puwr*). It means a broken piece and carries the idea of crushing, breaking and utterly-destroying. It refers to the evil plot Haman an enemy of the Jews had to annihilate the entire Jewish race in all the provinces of King Ahasuerus, because Haman cast Pur (that is, cast lots), to crush and to destroy them, but his evil plan returned on his own head, and he and his ten sons were hanged. This, is why the Jews called these days Purim, it is after the word Pur, because Haman cast lots to entirely-destroy the Jewish nation in all the kings one-hundred and twenty-seven provinces. (Esther 9:24-26).

**The Feast of Purim:** Mordecai after seeing that the Jews were feasting and celebrating their great victory for two days sent letters to all the Jews who were in all the provinces of King Ahasuerus obliging them to keep the fourteenth day and fifteenth day of Adar, year by year, as the two days and as the month of the year on which all Jews were to celebrate: -

- The relief they got from their enemies.
- That their great terror and fear had been turned into great victory and triumph.
- That their great sorrow and mourning had been turned into great joy and gladness.

These two days were to be kept as a holiday of feasting and gladness and as days for sending gifts of food to one another and gifts to the poor (Esther 9:20-22). The Jews keep this feast today.

## Purity

Purity is to love the absence (or degree of absence) of anything that is harmful and free from sin. Those who at the deepest level of their heart love purity will be favoured by a leader, ruler or a king (Proverbs 22:11) and especially by God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

## Purpose

Purpose carries the idea of aiming for a goal or an object toward which one intentionally strives for by making plans and taking, action to achieve.

**The purpose the LORD disciplines:** Blessed is the man whom you discipline, O LORD, and whom you teach out of your law, to give him rest from days of trouble, until a pit is dug for the wicked. (Psalm 94:12-13).

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End