

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



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

---

**Ba**

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

---

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*

---

*Although I believe my aim is pure and God's will perfect this document is still the product of a human man. As to such I neither claim special knowledge or perfect understanding.*

*If you think items presented on this site to be in error, please let me know and I will gladly reconsider the content*

---

---

Baal

The core meaning of the word, Baal is, "Lord, possessor and husband." However, the name Baal does appear in the Old Testament with a variety of meanings. Sometimes it is used in the primary sense of master or owner as in (Exod. 21:28, 34) (Judges 19:22) (Isaiah 16:8). Baal was the common term for husband as in (Exod. 21:3) (2 Sam. 11:26) (Hosea 2:16) this was because during these ancient days the Hebrew husband was regarded as the literal owner of his wife,

Baal means Lord, possessor, husband, since the Hebrew husband was regarded as the literal owner of his wife Baal was the common term for husband. Most often however, the word refers to the Semitic deity or deities called Baal. Baal is not the name of one god, but the name of the presiding deity of any given locality. Because the worship of Baal was much the same everywhere in Canaan, in time Baal came to represent the idea of one god.

The Baalim were believed to be the gods of the land, owning and controlling it and the increases of crops, fruits, and cattle was believed to be under their control. The farmer was completely dependent upon the Baalim. Some Baal's were believed to be in control of cities and some were considered greater than others.

The struggle between Baalism and Judaism came to a head on Mount Carmel when the prophet Elijah met the priests of Baal and slew four-hundred and fifty of them. However, the cult quickly revived and prospered until crushed by Jehu, but Jezebel's daughter, Athaliah, the wife of Jehoram, gave the worship of Baal a new impulse.

In the worship of Baal, incense and burnt sacrifices were offered to him and on extraordinary occasions children were offered by their parents as a sacrifice to them. Lascivious rites accompanied the worship and sometimes priests would dance around the altar in a state of frenzy, slashing themselves with knives. For some time, the name Baal was used by the Jews for their God without discrimination, but as the struggle between the two religions developed, the name Baal was given up in Judaism as a thing of sham. (See also Bel).

Baal was also the name of Reaiah's son (1 Chron. 5:5), the name of a son of a Benjamite (1 Chron 8:30), the name of a town (1 Chron. 4:33) and sometimes in composition it is the name of a man and not of Baal, (i.e., Baal-hanan, a king of Edom (Gen. 36:38) (1 Chron. 1:49).

**Baal of Peor:** Peor was the name of a mountain in Moab, where the Moabites idol Baal was worshipped. Its cult follower's practised immoral and lustful types of worship and women gave up their bodies to the most shameless lust. The name Baal-peor is mentioned in connection with the mountain on which Chemosh, the idol of Moab, was worshipped at which time Israel camped on the desert plain at the foot of the mountain (Num. 23:28).

The men of Israel began to whore with the daughters of Moab and they invited Israel to the sacrifices of their gods, and they ate and bowed down to their gods so Israel yoked (or joined) themselves to Baal of Peor (or the idol of Baal Peor) and a plague broke out amongst Israel.

Zimri a man of Israel brought Cozbi a Midianite woman to his family home (with the intention to sexually laying with her), in the sight of Moses and the whole congregation of the people of Israel, while they were weeping in the entrance of the tent of meeting. When Phinehas saw it he left the congregation and took a spear in his hand and went after the man of Israel into the chamber (bedroom) and pierced both of them and the plague on the people of Israel was stopped nevertheless, those who died by the plague were twenty-four thousand.

Phinehas turned back God's wrath from the people of Israel, because he was jealous with the LORD'S jealousy among Israel, so the LORD did not consume the people of Israel in His jealousy.

God gave to Phinehas and his descendants His covenant of peace of a perpetual priesthood because of his zeal and passion for God's Holy name and because he made atonement for the people of Israel. (The full story is in Numbers chapter twenty-five). Also see the title, "Phinehas," in Map Locations and People of the Bible. (ON WEBSITE MENU).

## Babble

Babble (*Greek kenophonia and kenos*) it means, empty sounding meaning a fruitless discussion or an articulate or artificial noise sound or saying empty of any wisdom, value or worth.

## Backslide

Backslide (*Hebrew cuwg*) means to flinch and hesitate it carries the idea of avoiding to think about something; avoiding to confront something and avoiding to, do something. Figuratively it means to retreat and turn away from one's faith and apostatize. It applies to those who depart from God and from the way of his precepts with all their heart and with deliberation, with free choice and with full purpose and not to the slips of human frailty otherwise every sin would be counted as departing or turning away from God.

There can be backsliding when the heart does not wickedly depart from God; but is through the infirmity and weakness of the flesh and the force of temptation; from this kind of backsliding the Lord's people are recovered and healed by his grace.

**The backslider's heart:** refers to those who make a deliberate conscious decision to forsake their faith and turn away from God and the Lord Jesus Christ and continue to live their life as they wish and according to their own sinful passions and desires. This type of apostasy begins in the heart and the mind and manifests itself outwardly in the life and the conversations of those who have chosen to live devoid of God.

It should be mentioned, backsliding in the heart is not about leaving a church, there are many reasons faithful believers may leave a church, some of which maybe, priests abusing children, ministers having affairs or robbing the church treasury, false doctrine or they have been mentally, emotionally or spiritually hurt by a fellow member and the list goes on. A faithful brother or sister may leave a church, but it does not always mean they are forsaking their faith or the Lord Jesus Christ, in fact for some to leave their church maybe the most spiritually healthy thing for them to do.

In the book of Proverbs, it is written, "The backslider in heart will be filled with the fruit of their own ways," (Prov. 14:14) meaning that those who willingly and heartily choose to backslide may have the worldly rewards they seek given to them and they may delight in their sins and get to enjoy the worldly riches their heart desires.

But it is all as pigs' food because they will reap the full judgment and due punishment of their unbelief and their sins and the just recompense of condemnation they are bringing upon themselves accordingly. This is because it is a universal principal of life that deeds and works whether good or bad bring divine judgment or divine rewards accordingly upon those who do them.

## Baldness and Sackcloth

It was common practise in times of extreme grief, sorrow and calamity for the people to mourn with great weeping and put on sackcloth and shave their head or tear out their hair especially when faced with national annihilation. But if such sorrow and weeping stemmed only from their fear of the calamity and affliction that they were about to suffer and not from an inward spirit of repentance and sorrow over their rebellion and wickedness before God it mattered not how much they plucked out their hair or how loud their wailing was it all counted for nothing.

The following verses show that plucking off the hair or shaving the head was common emblems of grief among the ancients.

- As soon as I (Ezra) heard this, I tore my garment and my cloak and pulled hair from my head and beard and sat appalled. (Ezra 9:3).

- Job arose and tore his robe and shaved his head and fell on the ground and worshiped. (Job 1:20).
- Make yourselves bald and cut off your hair, for the children of your delight; make yourselves as bald as the eagle, for they shall go from you into exile. (Micah 1:16).

## Baldness

Baldness, shorn beards and sackcloth were all signs of great grief and mourning. The Orientals regarded the beard with peculiar veneration. To cut one's beard off was the greatest mark of sorrow and mortification. (Jer. 48:37).

## Balm Honey and Oil

Balm itself was a rare perfume and used medicinally it was of such high value that the expression, "the balm of Gilead," has figuratively come to signify a universal cure when used in speech. During the final years of the kingdom of Judah Jeremiah asks, "Is there no balm in Gilead?" (Jer. 8:22) and later we read of merchants trading honey oil and balm in the markets in the land of Israel and Hebrew merchants carried an abundance of honey, oil and balm to the market of Tyre. (Ezek. 27:17).

While Joseph's brothers were sitting down eating bread, after putting him in a pit they saw a company of Ishmaelite's travelling from Gilead to Egypt with camels loaded with spices, balm and myrrh. (Gen. 37:25). Amongst the precious gifts the Queen of Sheba gave to King Solomon was a very great and abundant store of spices (1 Kings 10:10). In Chronicles, we read, "Neither was there any such spice as the queen of Sheba gave king Solomon." (2 Chron. 9:9) (also see honey).

## Balming

In a short space of time the body decays, smells and become offensive to all are near it once the life that sustained it has gone this is, why it must be wrapped up with spices, to preserve it. The days of embalming needed to be long to allow the body to lay in the drugs, spices, ointments of cedar, myrrh and cinnamon, and other things that were used to be of maximum effectiveness so that the preserving liquids would overtime penetrate thoroughly into the body to conserve it and keep it from corruption. Those that were trained in this practise were so skilled in it that some bodies have been preserved un-corrupt for thousands of years.

When the physicians had finished embalming the body and when its time of soaking had come to an end the body would be laid in a coffin like tomb and be delivered to the family of the deceased and the people would continue to publically mourn the death.

**NOTE:** it is right and proper to pay respect to the memory of those who have been taken by death and give a certain amount of time to lamenting them. Even though those who belong to the Lord Jesus Christ are confident that when death takes a Christian loved one or a Christian relative or friend that they have gone to glory and are in a far better place, it is still nevertheless common for those left behind to feel deep sadness for their own loss and feel grief for the loss of their company and feel sorrow for the loss of never again being able to share with them the many good things they had planned together and looked forward to (at least not on this side of eternity).

## Band (Battalion)

Band (Battalion in ESV) (*Greek speira*) refers to a mass of men, a Roman military regiment or an army of soldiers and by analogy a squad of Levitical custodians or doorkeepers.

## Baptize

Baptize (*Greek baptizo*) in the context of water baptism means to immerse and make clean with water, to cleanse or wash by dipping, to making ones-self clean with water, to overwhelm, dip and submerge. It carries the idea of a vessel being sunk in water. Baptize (*Greek baptisma and baptizo*) means immersion and overwhelmed it can apply to submerging in water baptism or to being crushed with calamities and afflictions with which one is so overwhelmed by them they feel as they are drowning under the pressure of them.

Baptised (*Greek baptizo*) (*bapto*) means to make whelmed meaning, fully wet, it is used only (in the New Testament) of ceremonial cleansing and purification and especially of the ordinance of Christian water baptism. It is used in sense of washing and covering wholly with a fluid.

Literally it means, to moisten (a part of one's person) and by implication, to stain (as with dye). Water baptism into the name of the Lord Jesus Christ is the beginning of a spiritual journey to eternal life and everlasting glory.

**It should be mentioned:** being baptised into Christ is not being baptised into a religious institution a denomination or a church. Before the elders of some churches will water baptise a believer they not only require the person desiring to be baptised, to have an understanding and knowledge of almost every detail of the Bible from Genesis to Revelation that their church teaches, but also require them to embrace the historical traditions of the church or the religious institution or denomination they are affiliated with.

But this is not Biblical water baptism, since during the time of Christ and the apostles there were no denominations or religious organisations in the Christian faith and many were immediately baptised when they honestly repented after hearing of Jesus forgiveness, his love toward them and the message of the Gospel.

In the New Testament, a person was baptised into Christ on the basis, of their repentance before God and belief in the Lord Jesus Christ, then they became part of the global body of Christ with all its divisions and imperfections. Remember there were Jews who had been steeped in the Mosaic Law for over four thousand years and Gentiles who knew nothing of God, both uniting together as one nation or a new creation in the Body of Christ. These two groups would have had to have shown each other enormous grace and love, because now in Christ they were members of the same global family growing together, in behaviour and knowledge until Christ returns.

**Baptism today:** a repentant sinner who wants to submit to God and accept Christ should be baptised regardless of whether they want to be a member of an individual church or not, because being a member of a church has nothing to do with being saved, it may help the new born believer to grow in their salvation, but it should not be a requirement of their baptism. The newly baptised believer should have the choice of what organisation or church they want to commit too or be a part of if any. Being a member of a religious organisation or church should be a separate choice and issue to being baptised into Christ.

Repenting before God and being baptised into the Lord Jesus Christ should not be dependent on being a member of some religious organisation, denomination or church. Biblical water baptism is an individual human being expressing their commitment to God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ and not a baptism into any particular religious institution.

Those who baptise have, to trust God and not the religious organisation to keep the baptised believer in Christ and allow the power and influence of the Holy Spirit to guide them to where the Lord would have them fellowship. Many churches obviously help in this role, but there can be a danger that we put our trust in the institution to keep the newly baptised believer more than in God's Holy Spirit dwelling in their heart.

Some might respond to this, with the comment, "but all Christians should fellowship," this is absolutely true, however any sinner who is truly repentant and being baptised into Christ and his global Kingdom will want to fellowship with other brothers and sisters of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Baptism has various applications in the Bible, but it primarily refers to a baptism into the Lord Jesus Christ by full immersion in water as taught in the New Testament Scriptures, but the word baptism can also apply to a baptism of suffering and Christ's baptism of death, a baptism of decision (i.e., a crisis of decision) and a baptism of judgment and a baptism of martyrdom. All of these baptisms have nothing to do with water, so it is the context that determines which application or which meaning of baptism is to be applied.

**Baptism of fire:** embraces the purging from sin and false doctrine, but is primarily a confrontation of the Gospel bringing a person to a crisis decision of accepting or rejecting Christ. Rejecting Christ is called a baptism in fire because the outcome is judgment to condemnation and eternal death.

**Baptism of suffering:** embraces persecution, suffering, and martyrdom.

**Baptism and Jesus:** Jesus did not baptise, but his disciples did (John 4:2).

#### Barbarians

Barbarians (*Greek barbaros*) it means a foreigner and refers to those who are not Greeks. (i.e. non-Greek)

#### Bath

Bath (*Hebrew bath*) means a division of liquids and figuratively carries the idea of breaking in pieces and laying desolate, as a measure it refers to a Hebrew measure of about twenty-two litres (or six gallons).

#### Battalion

See Band (Battalion (above)).

#### Battles and Lofty Language

Isaiah wrote: "The heavens tremble and the earth will be shaken out of its place." This battle is so great, the fear so intense, the destruction so enormous and the hundreds of thousands of human bodies that are left on the surface of the earth for birds to feast on is so vast that the only way to describe the alarm, panic, terror, horror and magnitude of the battle and the widespread destruction of the land and its cities is to say, "the heavens trembled, and the earth shook out of its place." Isaiah is using biblical lofty language to convey to the reader the magnitude and enormity of the awful events and the overwhelming killing, bloodshed and incalculable and gigantic number of deaths that will take place on this horrific day. (Isaiah 13:13)

#### BC

See AD (Anno Domini) in A in Bible Dictionary (ON WEBSITE MENU).

#### Beard

The beard was highly esteemed and regarded as a distinguished ornament. Victor's would shave the beard of their enemies (especially the kings and commanders of armies) to humble them. To have the beard shaved by an enemy was considered highly insulting among the Jews. Even today it is still considered an insult among Eastern nations to have an enemy shave the beard. Since the beard was held in such high esteem it can be seen as a symbol of those who are held in honour amongst Jewish society such as the king, the high-priest, the Levitical priests, the princes and those belonging to the royal house.

- Hanun (king of Assyria) took David's servants and shaved off half the beard of each and cut off their garments in the middle, at their hips, and sent them away<sup>5</sup>When it was told David, he sent to meet them, for the men were greatly ashamed (2 Samuel 10:4) (1 Chronicles 19:4).
- I gave my back to those who strike, and my cheeks to those who pull out the beard; I hid not my face from disgrace and spitting. (Isaiah 50:6).

**Beards and the Egyptians:** only allowed their hair and beards to grow when in mourning (i.e., when in captivity, famine or mourning the death of a loved one etc.). Early ancient Egyptian monuments show only captives and men of low condition with beards. In contrast to this beards in Palestine were regarded as a manly ornament.

#### Beasts

Beasts can speak of the nature of man: an ox often signifies a servant or worker, the lion symbolize kingship and rulership and the eagle is sometimes used to signify a supreme being or creature above all creatures. Beasts can also represent kings and the nations they rule over in the book of Daniel we read that there are

four great beasts that are four kings who will arise out of the earth.” (Daniel 7:17). The four great beasts are, a lion signifying Babylon, a bear signifying Medo-Persia, a leopard signifying Greece and a fourth beast exceedingly strong that has ten horns and great iron teeth and brakes in pieces all it stamps on (Daniel 7:7), that signifies Rome and the final ruling kingdom on earth when Christ returns to establish God's Kingdom of righteousness, justice, joy and peace on earth.

## Beating

Beating can refer to being thumped and pummel by the palm, the fist, the hand, a stick or any other instrument with a single blow or by repeated blows. It can also refer to an accidental collision and by implication to mentally punish, beat and smite one's own conscience with guilt or to offend it by wrongful behaviour.

## Beelzebub

Beelzebub (*Chaldee origin*) and (*Hebrew Ba'al Zebuw*) Beelzebul, Beelzeboul and Beelzebub are the same god. It was the dung-god, the Baal of the fly, he was a special deity of the Ekronites (Baal-Zebub) and the Philistines (2 Kings 1:2-3) (2 Kings 1:6) (2 Kings 1:16). Ahaziah sent messengers to inquire of Beelzebub (2 Kings 1:2).

The name Beelzebub was used as a name of Satan because Beelzebub was believed to be the prince of devils (Matt. 10:25) (Matt. 12:24) (Matt. 12:27) (Mark 3:22) (Luke 11:15) (Luke 11:18-19). A person may have total faith and absolute belief in Beelzebub the god of the flies or even a monkey god, but that does not mean they exist.

**Beelzebul, John the Baptist and Jesus:** The Jewish scribes believed that Beelzebul the chief of demons possessed John the Baptist and Jesus, which raises the question, “If the Jewish scribes believed John the Baptist and Jesus were possessed by a demon and we know that is a totally wrong diagnosis, why would their belief that other people were possessed by demons be a correct diagnosis? (Mark 3:22). For further information concerning this question, see the title: “Jesus had a devil (people believed Jesus had a demon),” in, Satan and his family (ON WEBSITE MENU).

**Beelzebul, the strong man:** when the scribes accused Jesus of casting out demons by the power of Beelzebul Jesus said, “If Satan is casting out Satan? His kingdom is divided against itself, and will eventually crumble.” Jesus was pointing out a simple principle that applies to a business, an organisation, a family, a friendship or a marriage. He is using common logic against the scribes by pointing out that if two people are waring against each other how will their relationship hold together. Jesus applies this obvious principal of division to Satan and his kingdom by telling the scribes if Satan is waring against himself (casting out his own demons) then his kingdom will fall apart so why would Satan be stopping his very own demons from achieving Satan's destructive work. (Mark 3:23-27).

Jesus is simply saying: “If a strong man lives in a house (representing the Kingdom of God) no-one can enter that house because of the strong man, therefore someone must first tie up the strong man and then they will be able to enter that house (the Kingdom of God). The influence of Satan works through humanity so at this time the strong man represents the chief priests, scribes and Pharisees and the entire Levitical ceremonial law and priesthood, because they made it almost impossible for the common people to find God, so it follows that Jesus is the man who has come to bind up the strong man.

Jesus through his death and resurrection achieved this. The strong man, the chief priests and the entire Levitical ceremonial law and priesthood were totally destroyed by Jesus death and resurrection because since the Lord's resurrection no-one needs a human priest to stand between them and God as the Lord Jesus Christ is everyone's eternal High Priest and the only mediator anyone needs to stand before them and God. For further information, see the title: “Beelzebub,” in, Satan and his Family (ON WEBSITE MENU).

## Bees

The expression, “They surrounded me like bees,” (Psalm 118:12) is used to depict the fierce armies of an enemy. Many years ago, the building company I was with was contracted to build a very large and modern golf club.

Sometimes we would have a crack at hitting a couple of balls on the actual golf course at lunch time. One particular day we heard this enormously loud humming noise, naturally we turned to see what it was, from a distance it appeared as a single massive black cloud approaching.

As it got closer it became obvious it was a swarm of bees, someone in the group yelled out, "Hit the dirt lay down," everyone immediately did and the potentially life threatening cloud continued on the path flying only a couple of feet above us. The expression, "they surrounded us like bees," is a most appropriate expression to depict the fierce armies of an enemy since bees move all together as one body and have the power to cause extremely severe pain and even death.

Before

Before can refer to any of the following, previously, prior to, in front of, at the first, to announce beforehand, (i.e. predict, foretell, promise) and figuratively it carries the idea of being superior or above.

Beginnings

Means, the beginning or origin by which anything begins to be, the first place, the first principality the first born, the first thing or the first person that commences something or the first in a series or to a leader.

Begotten

Begotten means to produce again. Begotten in Scripture always relates to being born or birth whereas sent always relates to being sent to minister or ministry. Peter wrote, "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead" (1 Peter 1:3) showing that it can apply to being born again and carry the idea of having one's mind changed so that he or she lives a new life, especially one that is conformed to the will of God,

**Behemoth** (from Hebrew *b<sup>e</sup>hemah*), but is actually an Egyptian derivative of a water-ox, (i.e. the hippopotamus) or Nile-horse, however it can apply to any large animal with four limbs and feet which are used for walking such as beasts and cattle. Some believe Behemoth to be the hippopotamus, others that it was the animal Job had in mind known as the river horses of Africa and others the Elephant.

All of these animals fit certain aspects of the three animals mentioned, but none of them perfectly fit the description of behemoth. In the book of Job we are told, God made behemoth as he made Job; he eats grass like and ox; he is strong; has a tail stiff like cedar; thighs of bonze and limbs of bronze and iron.

He if the first works of God, he eats food and plays on mountains; lies under lotus plants and reeds in the marsh; has no fear, and is confident going through the Jordan river. (Job 40:15-24). For further information concerning Behemoth see Job chapter forty in Commentary OT (ON WEBSITE MENU).

Behold

Behold (*Hebrew idou*) literally means to see, consider, know, perceive, understand, to have knowledge of and to beware or sure of a thing. It is used in Scripture to call absolute and focused attention and indicates that what the prophet is about to say would be something unusual, remarkable, and not what would be expected in the ordinary course of events.

Bel

Bel comes from the Hebrew word (*Bel*) and (*Ba'al*) and refers to the Baal of the Babylonians and a Phoenician deity, the plural is Baalim. It means Lord, possessor and husband. Since the Hebrew husband was regarded as the literal owner of his wife Baal was the common term for a husband.

Bel was the Baal of the Babylonians. The Babylonian Hymn to Bel translated from the cuneiform script, reveals him as the supreme ruler; the life-giver; the god of justice; he who holds society together; controller of the elements especially fire (Isaiah 46:1) (Jer. 50:2) (Jer. 51:44) (See Baal).

Babylon was the religious and cultural centre of the land and Bel was the supreme god of the Babylonians (Isaiah 46). Bel is the Chaldaic form of Baal and is believed by some to be identical with that god.

Like the equivalent Hebrew Baal, the name Bel was used also in the sense of "lord" or "owner". Bel presided over the air. Each of the important deities had, in one or more of the Babylonian cities, a large temple in which he or she was worshipped as the divine civic ruler and protector. The larger cities also contained many temples and chapels dedicated to one deity or another; Babylon, for example, possessed more than fifty temples in Chaldean times (8th to 6th century BC.).

Temple services were generally conducted in open courts containing fountains for ablution and altars for sacrifices. In the inner part of the temple, the statue of the deity stood on a pedestal in a special niche, it was the holy of holies, and only the high priest and other privileged members of the clergy and court were permitted to enter it.

The clergy comprised of high priests, sacrifice priests, musicians, singers, magicians, soothsayers, diviners, dream interpreters, astrologers, female devotees, and hierodules (temple courtesans). Sacrifices were offered daily, they consisted of animal and vegetable foods, libations of water, wine, and beer, and the burning of incense. Numerous annual and monthly festivals were held, including a feast to celebrate the new moon. (See Baal)

Most often in Scripture the word Bel refers to the Semitic deity or deities called Baal.

Throughout the land of Canaan, the worship of Baal was much the same and because of this the name Baal over time came to represent the idea of one god to the people in Canaan.

The Baal was believed to be the god owning and controlling the land and the god that increased its crops, fruits, and cattle and because of this belief the farmer was completely dependent upon the Baal. Some Baal's were believed to be greater in power than others having control of entire cities.

The struggle between Baalism and Judaism came to a head on Mount Carmel when the prophet Elijah met the priests of Baal and slew four hundred and fifty of them. However, the cult quickly recuperated and prospered until crushed by Jehu, but Jezebel's daughter, Athaliah, the wife of Jehoram, gave the worship of Baal a new impulse.

In the worship of Baal, incense and burnt sacrifices were offered to him and on extraordinary occasions the victims were children offered by their parents. Lascivious rites accompanied the worship and on various occasions' priests, danced around the altar in a state of frenzy slashing themselves with knives.

At first the name Baal was used by the Jews for their God without discrimination, but as the struggle between the two religions developed, the name Baal was given up in Judaism as a thing of sham.

## Belief and Believe

Belief (*Greek pistis*) means persuasion and confidence it carries the idea of having a moral conviction of a religious truth or the truthfulness of God or the truthfulness of a religious teacher, especially reliance upon Christ for salvation. It means to place credence in something and that the mind has accepted that something such as a statement, principle or doctrine is true and real which is often underpinned by an emotional or spiritual sense of certainty.

Some peoples understanding of the word believe is to think or suppose, or to be more or less persuaded of the truth of anything, it is in this sense that some people believe in Christ. They believe that Jesus lived; that he was a perfect man who was the Son of God, and that he died on the cross to save sinners, but the biblical meaning of believe embraces far more than this.

The biblical meaning of the word, believe comes from a Greek word which means, to adhere to and cleave to, to have faith, rely on and trust in. This means that believe in its true biblical meaning carries the idea of having absolute personal reliance upon the Lord Jesus Christ as Saviour. It is in this sense that the Bible uses the word believe especially in Scriptures relating to salvation.

**Believing in Christ and images of the mind:** people can believe in the picture of Jesus in their mind and follow that image, but the belief should be based on what God's word teaches about him and not on our own idea or imagination of him.

- People can strongly believe in something, but that does not mean that they live up to it.
- People say, "I can't believe it," but in most cases the truth is, they don't want to believe it.
- Belief needs to be checked, until a person has proven to themselves the thing they profess to believe is true.
- When people believe something without evidence they cannot be challenged.

Belial

The word Belial embraces all, of the following, worthlessness, destruction, wickedness and evil it is a name of Satan and of ungodly men,

Belly

Belly (*Greek koilia*) probably meaning, to be soft. It can refer to the intestines, the abdomen, the belly, the bowels and the womb and heart. Figuratively it means sympathy, by implication a vest and by extension the stomach and the uterus. When the belly is used of men it carries the idea of, the seat of a generation.

The book of Proverbs says, "The spirit of man is the lamp of the LORD, (candle of the LORD in KJV) searching all his innermost parts," (inward parts of the belly in KJV). (Prov. 20:27). The word belly comes from the Hebrew word (*beten*) it refers to the belly, especially the womb; also the bosom or body of anything, it carries the idea of being born within the womb and from the body and therefore when used figuratively it embraces the spirit of man.

The following verse shows that the spirit of man was firstly breathed into him by his Creator, "The LORD God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature" (Gen. 2:7). The spirit of man embraces the entire life and every faculty of the body, the heart, the mind, the innermost being and the thoughts. See also the title: The Spirit of Man, the Spirit of God, the Candle of Man and the Lamp of Man," in Spirit in Bible Dictionary under Spirit.

**The belly, innermost being, Spirit, mind and heart:** the King James Bible says, "The words of a talebearer are as wounds, and they go down into the innermost parts of the belly." The English Standard Bible says, "The words of a whisperer are like delicious morsels; they go down into the inner parts of the body. (Prov. 18:8). The following verses show that the belly refers to the mind and the heart and the spirit which collectively are the innermost being of human nature.

- The spirit of man is the lamp of the LORD, searching all his innermost parts of the belly. <sup>28</sup>Steadfast love and faithfulness preserve the king, and by steadfast love his throne is upheld. <sup>29</sup>The glory of young men is their strength, but the splendour of old men is their gray hair. <sup>30</sup>Blows that wound cleanse away evil; strokes make clean the innermost parts of the belly. (Prov. 20:27-30) (See KJV).
- I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint; my heart is like wax; it is melted within my breast (the midst of my bowels in KJV). (Psalm 22:14).

Proverbs verse eight describes the eagerness with which people gladly swallow in tales and rumours and gossip of scandal and slander which find their way to the innermost being of the mind and heart. They are like tasty foods that are eagerly swallowed, and go down into the innermost parts of the belly, meaning they are treasured up in the deepest recesses of the heart and mind, to be remembered and spoken of again whenever there is an opportunity for sharing them. These tales and gossip of scandal and slander not only cause deep wounds in those who such malicious rumours are spread about, but also wound their reputation.

There are talebearers and gossipers who pretend to be affected and grieved for the failings and infirmities of those they are secretly exposing in their gossip, but are in reality not only secretly rejoicing, but also enjoying telling the tale. Tales and rumours and gossip of scandal and slander though perhaps pleasing at first to tell and hear are wounds that injure the person who receives them and those who they are spoken of, because they go down into the innermost parts of the mind and sink deep into the heart of those who hear them and of those who they are told and there they remain.

## Beloved

In the Greek language, the word love is broken up into the following words each with their different, but similar meanings.

**Agapao:** (from agab below) means to be greatly in love, to love much, to be very dear and well loved (in a social or moral sense). In its widest sense, it embraces the idea of deliberately setting the will upon proper principles, performing right duties and upon proprieties that are considered right and proper.

**Agab:** to breathe after, i.e. to love (sensually) to dote a lover, meaning to be extremely and uncritically fond of, to idolize, treasure, cherish and lavish affection. To think very highly of and appreciate greatly admire and hold dear (it can apply to a husband, wife, child, lover or to God and even idols and false gods the people hold dear to their hearts.

**Phileo:** to be a friend to, to be fond of, to have affection for, to be personally attached by sentiment, emotion or feeling to an individual or an object.

**Thelo:** to commit and determine from many different options to do a thing from a personal, individual enthusiastic impulse.

**Boulomai:** to choose, prefer, wish and be inclined to sometimes gladly, to intend and be willing, it carries the idea of a kind and unbiased submissive acceptance.

**Haireomai:** to prefer, choose and take for oneself.

**Thumos:** carries the idea of breathing hard and signifies passion from a heart filled with love or with wrath.

**Nous:** embraces the intellect, the mind in understanding, thought, feeling and will (of human mind or God's mind).

**Summing it up:** when each of the various aspects of these words are collected together they give the full meaning to the word beloved, which is as follows, to love greatly with the mind, the intellect, the thoughts, the will and the feelings and deliberately set the will upon doing all one can to make the one loved feel cherished. It is to be bonded by heartfelt emotion holding the loved one as a dear friend always thinking the best of them and loving them with unbiased submissive acceptance and passion from a heart filled with love. Love toward God should be greater in our mind and heart than anything we have, desire or want. God's calls Jesus His Beloved Son at: -

- His water baptism (Mark 1:11) (Luke 3:22).
- The Mount of Transfiguration (Matt 17:5) (Mark 9:7) (Luke 9:35).
- The resurrection (Acts 13:30-34) (Psalm 2:5-7).

## Benefactors

Benefactors (*Greek euergetes and eu*) it means, a worker of good a humanitarian meaning, a charitable caring kind and compassionate person who does good to all humanity, it carries the idea of something good and well done.

## Beside

Beside (*Greek existemi*) carries the idea of being outside of one's own intelligence and normal mind, to be at a wits end; to be astounded; to be astonished; to be insane; to be beside oneself; to be amazed and to be bewitched.

**Betrothal and Betrothed** (espoused in KJV) (*Greek mnaomai*) literally means to give a souvenir (engagement present), to woo a woman, a maiden an unmarried daughter (virgin) and ask her in marriage or to be promised in marriage it carries the idea of fixing the mind upon.

**Betrothal from the Oxford Dictionary means** the action of giving a pledge or engagement to marry, the Britannica Encyclopaedia says it is the promise or engagement between a man and a woman that they will be married, but in societies in which premarital sexual relations are tolerated and overlooked or in which consensual union is common, betrothal may be unimportant.

**Betrothal as a contract** (*from the Britannica Encyclopaedia*) In most societies, betrothal is part of the marriage process, and a change of intention by one of the partners after he or she is betrothed. It is a serious matter, subject in some instances to a fine or other penalty. Marriage has historically been so frequently a matter of alliance between kinship groups that mate selection has been more, often than not removed from the hands of the participants and negotiated by important or assigned representatives of each kinship group. In many, but by no means all, such cases, various forms and degrees of mutual visits and gift exchange between the two families have marked betrothal, especially when two potentially hostile groups are concerned.

**Betrothal of a child** (*from the Britannica Encyclopaedia*) child betrothal may be adopted to ensure continuing social, economic, or political harmony.

**Betrothal and courtship** (*from the Britannica Encyclopaedia*) just as it has become difficult to draw the boundary between dating and courtship, so too it is sometimes difficult to draw a rigid distinction between courtship and betrothal.

**Betrothal and living together** (*from the Britannica Encyclopaedia*) a couple may live together for a number of years before deciding to marry, and the betrothal stage and even the marriage itself may be reduced from its traditional significance. This is especially true in Western societies, particularly for young middle-class couples.

**Betrothal and its decline** (*from the Britannica Encyclopaedia*) the decline in importance of betrothal is linked to the greater degree of sexual freedom permitted in many societies today.

**Betrothal allowed for sexual intimacy** (*from the Britannica Encyclopaedia*) previously, betrothal often allowed a couple to engage in sexual activities not permitted between those who were merely dating or courting. Even where sexual intercourse was prohibited before marriage, other forms of sexual license or nonsexual intimacy were permitted.

**Betrothal and bundling** (*from the Britannica Encyclopaedia*) in parts of Scotland and Scandinavia, engaged couples were, allowed to sleep in the same bed but were sewn up in different sleeping bags, a custom known as bundling.

**Betrothal in the Oxford Dictionary and the Encyclopaedia Britannica** the action of giving a pledge or engagement to marry, betrothal is the promise or engagement between a man and a woman that they will be married. In some societies betrothal is a contract and forms part of the marriage process, and a change of intention by one of the partners after he or she is betrothed. It is a serious matter, subject in some instances to a fine or other penalty.

**Jewish Betrothal and Marriage** (*from the Britannica Encyclopaedia*) involves a double ceremony performed together in modern times, but separated in ancient times by a year. First is the betrothal (*erusin*), which includes the reading of the marriage contract (*ketubba*) and the giving of the ring with a declaration, "Behold you are consecrated to me by this ring according to the law of Moses and Israel," accompanied by certain benedictions.

This is followed by the marriage proper (*nissu'in*), consisting of the reciting of the seven marriage benedictions. The ceremony is performed under a huppa, a canopy, that symbolizes the bridal bower.

**Jewish Ketubba or betrothal contract** (*from the Britannica Encyclopaedia*) also spelled Ketubah, or Kethubah (Hebrew: marriage contract) (plural Ketubbot, Ketuboth, or Ketubbahs) was a formal Jewish marriage contract written in Aramaic and guaranteeing a bride certain future rights before her marriage.

**Jewish law and divorce:** Jewish religious law permits a man to divorce his wife at any time for any reason the ketubba was introduced in ancient times to protect a woman's rights and to make divorce a costly matter for the husband. The conditions stipulated in the document also guarantee the woman's right to property when her husband dies. A Jewish wife carefully preserves the ketubba, not as evidence of marriage, but for its future value. In orthodox and conservative congregations, the ketubba is a prerequisite for marriage.

Two witnesses not related to the couple or to each other and, in some congregations, by the bridegroom also must sign it. A summary of the conditions is often added in the vernacular, and this is usually read together with the formal document just before or during the marriage ceremony. Handwritten ketubbot with illuminated margins, common in the Middle Ages. In the Middle Ages illuminated margins were common in the handwritten ketubbot. Now the illuminated margins have mostly been replaced by printed formulas with a space provided for the specific conditions of the contract. The formula used by Conservative Jews obliges the couple to appear before a rabbinic court to settle future marital disputes. This obligation provides an opportunity for counselling and precludes the possibility of immediate divorce agreed to in a state of high emotion.

Beulah

Beulah comes from the Hebrew word (*ba'al*) it literally means to be a lord and master over; to marry have dominion and to be a husband. Figuratively it means to be an owner. In the context of some verses it carries the idea of being married, signifying Jerusalem's new relationship to God and the great improvement of her state from ungodliness to godliness. See also: Hephzi-bah in Bible Dictionary (ON WEBSITE MENU).

Bible

Nine tips to help understand the Bible, always: -

1. Look to see who is talking, because they may not be saying a truth or correct thing.
2. Look for the sequence of thought in the chapter.
3. Be consciously aware of wider meanings, meaning, the hidden undesigned patterns that are deeper than what is superficially being said.
4. Keep in mind that the Scriptures contain the words of the greatest mind in the universe.
5. Single verses have, to be interpreted in the light of the Bible's core truth.
6. God talks to Israel, but the application can often apply to the reader personally.
7. Look for the power or meaning behind the message the words contain.
8. Words do not always carry the same meaning, often it is the context that gives the word its meaning.
9. Behind many passages and chapters in the Bible is the Lord Jesus Christ while lying in others verses is a future age.

**All Scripture is breathed out by God:** applies to the messages spoken by the prophets and apostles, it does not mean every individual or single word of the Bible, but it does mean the messages that the sum total of the individual words are teaching.

**The Bible is to be used for:** teaching and reproof, correction and training in righteousness so that the man or woman of God may be competent and equipped for every good work (2 Tim. 3:16-17).

**A principal of Bible writers and authors:** a common principal of Bible writers is to hide themselves in the letter they are writing. The writers very rarely use the word I, they will often say, "that disciple with them" or "him" when they are referring to themselves. It is a style of writing that avoids boasting and contrasts the natural spirit of the world and pride which desires to feel important, biblical writers deliberately avoid this by hiding themselves in their writings.

**The Bible and Jesus:** a lot of what the Bible or Jesus says, pre-supposes some things while other things are in place or happening.

**Bibles translations:** can translate the thought the words carry or translate it word for word.

**Darby's Bible:** uses the words, "congregation" or "assembly" instead of church some say the Darby Bible is a good literal translation, because the author had a big mind.

**A Danger in Biblical Interpretation:** it is all too easy to be beguiled by words into building a theological superstructure upon them, which the words were never designed to bear.

**Bible Books:** Kings, is the plain history while Chronicles shows how God was acting in history. The following is my perspective only. The Bible records history revealing how God works through world events and is telling a spiritual story from God's perspective, but even though it records snippets of history it is not a real historical book, rather it records accounts expressing a faith that says God is just, if there is punishment there is a reason for it.

The stories also contain another message of forgiveness for those who turn to God with all their heart and soul and obey His voice accept their guilt and change their ways. Throughout its pages it proclaims to mankind there is hope.

Biblical writers may expand the story to develop the meaning or leave out much of the detail so that the core focus of the story is in focus. The central focus or primary purpose of the Bible is not the historical account or the exact detail of the story, but the eternal lessons that the story communicates to the reader, it is about God's relationship with man and the good and evil in the human heart.

**Keys to reading the Bible:** no reader should be surprised that large chunks of history or unimportant details the story are not mentioned, as it is common for Scripture to leave matters not important to the story to the intelligence, reasoning and logic of the reader. Had the original writers of the Bible manuscripts not taken this approach the Bible would be so thick it would take a lifetime to read it. When these gaps occur, it is left to the intelligence and common sense of the reader to fill them in.

A letter written to a loved one will be different in style to one that is written to a university. Who a person is that writes will determine the style and intellect and the emotion of that letter. It is always important to take this principal into account when interpreting the Bible and to be aware of the danger of being beguiled by words, into building a theological superstructure upon them, which the words were never designed to bear, many false doctrines are built this way.

**Biblical language:** the main message of the Bible is man's way back to God and the proclamation of the Kingdom and the resurrection. The miracles and healings are only to authenticate the message and for a Jew and Bible writers if a thing or event is declared by God that it will happen, it can be spoken of or written about as though it has already happened, this is because it is sure to come to pass.

Bind

Bind in the Old Testament (*rakac*) it means to tie, to yoke, hitch, fasten and join together. In the New Testament, it comes from the Greek word (*deo*) meaning to bind (literal or figurative) it carries the idea of being tied in knots and to be bound.

Bird

Bird (*Greek tsippowr and tsaphar*) it means to skip about and refers to a little bird (as hopping), (i.e. a fowl or sparrow).

Sparrow from the English Dictionary means a small dull-coloured songbird with a short sturdy beak for cracking seeds, while a sparrowhawk is a small hawk that preys on smaller birds and has short broad wings, a long tail, and a dark grey to blackish back.

## Bitter

Bitter (*Hebrew mar and marar*) it means angry and resentful over something mentally painful or very hard to accept, it is manifested in a person by the outward expression of intense hostility. It carries the idea of a person being angry and resentful over something mentally painful or very hard to accept, it is manifested in the person by the outward expression of intense hostility.

There is a joy (however twisted) and comfort in the heart of the person who has such intense anger and bitterness toward someone who has offended or hurt them. This is mostly because the bitterness is like a band aid over a painful cut it covers the hurt. Those who do not know the victim's circumstances can never understand the comfort and joy the person feels by hanging onto their bitterness. (Proverbs 14:10).

**Bitterness:** (*Greek pikria*) (*pikros*) means, caustic acid, especially poison, it carries the idea of sharpness or piercing, biting or cutting and can be literal or figurative.

## Bituman pits

Bituman pits: (slimepits in KJV) (Gen 14:10) (*Hebrew word chemar*) it literally means bitumen (as rising to the surface), and to boil up or to ferment (with scum). It refers to a tar pit, or more accurately an asphalt pit or asphalt lake, it is the result of a type of petroleum seep where subterranean bitumen leaks to the surface, creating a large area of natural asphalt.

This happens because, after the material reaches the surface, its lighter components vaporize, leaving only the thick asphalt. These tar pits can trap animals because the asphalt that seeps up from underground forms a bitumen pit so thick that even the largest of animals cannot free themselves before they die of starvation.

**The valley of Siddim and bitumen pits:** (Gen. 14:10) the valley is thought to have been located on the southern end of the Dead Sea where modern bitumen (asphalt, slime pits) deposits have been found. This valley was chosen by the five Mesopotamian kings for the place of battle against the armies of Sodom and Gomorrah. (Gen. 14:10-12)

**Bitumen pits and Chedorlaomer:** (Gen. 14:10) Chedorlaomer the king of Elam and those with him had conquered and plundered a very large number of kingdoms which means they were masters of battle. It is almost certain that Chedorlaomer very cleverly draw the king of Sodom and those with him to the valley of Siddim because of the bitumen pits (slimepits in KJV) knowing that as the soldiers of Sodom and Gomorah fled from his armies many would fall into the pits and perish.

## Blameless

Blameless (*Hebrew yashar*) in the Old Testament means straight, right, pleasant, prosperous, good, well pleasing, upright, convenient, equity, righteous and most upright. Blameless (*Greek amemptos*) in the New Testament means irreproachable, faultless and un-blamable. However, when blameless is used in the context of being righteous it does not mean being without sin, but carries the following ideas: -

- Confessing or acknowledging sin when you have done wrong.
- Repenting when you have offended or hurt another human or God.
- Putting things right where possible when a wrong has been done.
- Believing in the Messiah the Lord Jesus Christ and his message of salvation.
- Believing you are saved by grace apart from the law (Philip. 1:10).

- Endeavouring to live a lifestyle that is worthy of God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

In many contexts, blameless does not mean without sin if it was possible for any of us to achieve the glorious state of a sin-free life while in this mortal and fallen body then Christ died for no purpose rather (in some contexts) the word, blameless carries the following two ideas: -

1. To live a lifestyle that honours God and the name of the Lord Jesus Christ which means forsaking those things that are against God's will and behaviour that could bring hurt and harm to another human physically, financially, sexually, emotionally, mentally or spiritually and, instead of being led by self, ego, pride, lust and greed being filled with the fruits of the Spirit (i.e., love, compassion, kindness, forgiveness, patience, grace, mercy and such like things).
2. By faith we solely trust in Christ's righteousness to be saved and not our own self-righteousness and in God's grace, contrasted to trusting in self-effort or adhering to ceremonial rites, holy days and keeping religious customs and traditions. It means crowning our biblical knowledge in the royal robes of love contrasted to being harsh, dogmatic and legalistic. It is doing as much as is in our power to maintain the unity of the faith in contrast to causing divisions, arguments, contentions and strife. Being blameless means confessing our sin before the Lord, repenting when we have offended God or hurt another person especially a brother or sister in the Lord and putting things right where possible when a wrong has been done.

## Blameless

**Blameless and delighting God's heart:** no-one is without sin, when the word blameless is used in some contexts it does not mean without sin, it carries the idea of being a person who believes in God accepts His plan of salvation and not only does what is good and right, but also does what they can to help the poor and treats everyone with decency and respect. Today we don't use the expression, "A blameless person," we would instead say that they are a decent and good human being. The formula for those who truly desire to be a delight to God's heart is to always do the good and right thing and always treat others with decency and respect whether they are Christians or not.

**Blameless and without blemish:** in the book of Philippians we read, "be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish," (Philip. 2:15). This is not talking about being without sin, we know this because the Lord Jesus Christ is the only man who has ever been without sin. The focus is not being without sin but being blameless in the world's eyes or by the world's standards. Paul says those who are humble, obedient and do not grumble, murmur, complain or cause divisions and who without question do what is lawful and right will be counted innocent and blameless in the world (Philip. 2:15).

Scripture tells us Paul was blameless under the Law (Philip. 3:6) this does not mean he was without sin, but that he was: -

- Circumcised on the eighth day and belonged to the people of Israel.
- From the tribe of Benjamin and a dedicated Hebrew.
- A Pharisee and a scholar of the law.
- Zealous for the law and God and a persecutor of the church.
- Righteousness according to the law.

In Romans chapter seven Paul says, "he was blameless under the law" but when he looks inwardly at his thoughts, the intents of his heart, his attitudes and his motives he tells everyone that he cannot be counted as righteous before God. When Paul says, he was blameless under the law he does not have in mind the inward intents, thoughts, and motives of his heart. What Paul has in mind when he claims he is blameless according to the law is his outward actions, we know this because the Bible shows us that righteousness that comes by the law refers to the things a person can do and achieve themselves (Philip. 3:9).

According to the Jewish religious leaders if a person under the law outwardly did what the law required they were counted righteous by the law. The apostle Paul is saying according to the outward actions that the law demanded he could be counted as righteous because he outwardly did what the law required. It is in this sense Paul could say, according to the law he was blameless.

**Blameless, righteousness and mankind:** when blameless is used in regards to mankind it does not mean without sin, When the Bible uses the term blameless or righteous in regards to humans it means the person in focus is a decent person who does not deliberately harm other humans physically, financially, sexually, emotionally or spiritually.

They help the poor and do what is right before God. We know it does not mean without sin when mankind is in focus, because the entire Bible teaches that there has only ever been one man who walked on earth without sin before God and his name was the Lord Jesus Christ.

#### Blasphemers

Blasphemers (*Greek blasphemeo*) means, to revile, speak evil or criticise, profane or defame a thing, to denounce, protest against, or attack somebody or something in bitter or harsh language, especially God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

#### Blessed

Blessed (*Hebrew barak*) from the Old Testament means to kneel; by implication to bless God as an act of adoration and for a benefit received. It can also apply to mankind in the same way. It carries the idea of kneeling down and abundantly, praising and thanking.

Blessed (*Greek eulogeo, eu and logos*) from the New Testament means to speak well of (especially religiously), to bless and thank or speak a benediction upon another or a blessing of prosperity, healing or any other benefit. It carries the idea of speaking good of something that is well done or something good that had been said, by extension it carries the idea of being fortunate and happy.

#### Blessing

God is not a miser, the LORD'S cup is always overflowing in abundance, God is always speaking in abundance. A Christian maybe low on money, material possessions and wealth but never on grace, forgiveness and mercy. When the final storm comes a Christian won't regret what they didn't get when they are in their Father's house. To really enjoy life, find out (within God's will) what makes you happy and do it, everything else is background music when you are faced with death or being lowered into the grave.

In the book of Psalms, it is written, "the LORD withholds no good thing from those who walk uprightly. (Psalm 84:11). This applies to Israel as a nation and to Christians in the following two ways: -

1. Literally and materialistically to the nation of Israel because they at Mount Sinai entered into a covenant with God, that if they did right before Him, He would bless everything they did. He would prosper their land; their health; their livestock and multiply their children and make them the head of all nations and not the tail. But if they did evil and rebelled against Him and turned to other god's He would bring to ruin all they had achieved.

This of course He did when Israel set their hearts diamond hard against the prophets, entered into gross wickedness and rebelled against the LORD and turned to pagan gods. God used Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon as His servant (Jer. 25:8-9) to bring the city of Jerusalem to ruin, destroy the temple, lay the land of Israel waste and take the people of Israel into captivity for seventy-years.

2. To the Christians spiritually in that God will supply in Christ all they need for salvation to eternal life and fellowship with God. No one needs to adhere to ceremonial rites and holy days or keep religious customs and traditions to be saved. Everything we need is in Christ, God's mercy and love, forgiveness of sin and eternal life all come to us through Christ. If we are in Christ we are clothed in all these spiritual and heavenly riches and the LORD will withhold no

good thing from us meaning He will never withhold His love, mercy from us. These are the true riches of God that by far surpass any worldly wealth this world can give. It also means that God will not forbid us from enjoying what is good and wholesome in the world.

**Blessing and God hiding His face:** in Psalms, it is written, "When you hide your face, they are dismayed; when you take away their breath, they die and return to their dust (Psalm 104:29), when there is no blessing, it is referred to as God hiding his face.

## Blood

In the book of Romans, it is written, "we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. (Rom. 5:9). Blood in this verse comes from the Greek word (*haima*) which can refer to the blood of men or of animals, and figuratively to the juice of grapes, and by implication the blood of kindred and in the context of this verse to the atoning blood of the Lord Jesus Christ

**Blood and pagan cleansing:** in the ancient historical Roman and pagan world to cleanse a person they would be placed under a wire mesh grill on which a bull or ram was standing on. The throat of the bull or the ram would be cut and the person below would be drenched in the blood as it flowed down through the wire mesh grill. This symbolized both the cleansing and the energizing power of the animal flowing into the person being drenched in the blood of the animal. After the final drop of blood had flowed from the animal the person covered in its blood would emerge crying out that he or she was born again for eternity.

**The symbolism of blood:** blood is seen as the seat of life or the life of the flesh, the very beginning of the Bible states, "you shall not eat flesh with its life, that is, its blood" (Gen. 9:4) and in Genesis God says to Cain, "The voice of your brother's blood is crying to me from the ground," (Gen. 4:10x) when an innocent person's life is taken their blood is personified as a person crying out to God for justice.

When an animal is sacrificed their blood is a symbol of innocent life taken by violence and especially applies to the innocent life of the Lord Jesus Christ which he offered to save the guilty.

The use of the word blood in the Bible is never used when referring to someone that has died a natural death or of old age. The use of the word blood in the Bible is used as a graphic depiction of an innocent animal's life taken before its time and is symbolic of the destruction and death sin results in. When blood is used figuratively in the Bible is a symbol of innocent life taken by violence especially of the life of Christ.

**Blood and capital punishment:** God's justice says, "whoever sheds man's blood; by man shall his blood be shed, meaning the one administering justice in taking a guilty person's life is not guilty of destroying the life. God says in these circumstances the guilt is upon the one that committed the crime and not the one administering the justice, this means that a guilty person's death is a result of their own crime.

## Blotted

Blotted (*Greek exaleipho*) means, to smear or blot out, obliterate and wipe away and to erase, when used figuratively it carries the idea of pardoning sin.

## Boast

Boast (puffed up and vaunteth in KJV) (*Greek phusioo*) the primary sense is of blowing; to inflate and figuratively to make proud, (i.e., haughty, conceited, self-important, self-aggrandizing and superior), it carries the idea of a braggart, know-it-all, show off and of making oneself known.

## Boasting

Boasting (*Greek kauchesis*) (glorying in KJV) means, to boast in a good or a bad sense, in a good sense to glory, joy and rejoice in one's own or another person's achievements and works. In a bad sense to boast from an attitude of self-aggrandizing and self-importance believing oneself to be superior to others.

## Body

Body (*Greek soma*) the body (as a sound whole), it is used in a very wide application and can be literal or figurative i.e. the body of Christ.

## Boils

**Boils and Botch:** the following verses show that the words botch and boil come from the same Hebrew word (*sh<sup>e</sup>chiyn*), and that it can refer to a sickness that can be healed or to a sickness that is terminal.

- It shall become fine dust over all the land of Egypt, and become boils (*sh<sup>e</sup>chiyn*), breaking out in sores on man and beast throughout all the land of Egypt." <sup>10</sup>So they took soot from the kiln and stood before Pharaoh. And Moses threw it in the air, and it became boils (*sh<sup>e</sup>chiyn*), breaking out in sores on man and beast. (Exodus 9:9-11)
- The LORD will strike you with the boils (botch in KJV) (*sh<sup>e</sup>chiyn*), of Egypt, and with tumours and scabs and itch, of which you cannot be healed. (Deut. 28:27).
- The LORD will strike you on the knees and on the legs with grievous boils (botch in KJV) (*sh<sup>e</sup>chiyn*), of which you cannot be healed, from the sole of your foot to the crown of your head. (Deut. 28:35).
- Isaiah said, "Bring a cake of figs. And let them take and lay it on the boil (*sh<sup>e</sup>chiyn*), that he may recover." (2 Kings 20:7).
- So Satan went out from the presence of the LORD and struck Job with loathsome sores (boils in KJV) (*sh<sup>e</sup>chiyn*), from the sole of his foot to the crown of his head. (Job 2:7) (Job did recover from these boils).
- Now Isaiah had said, "Let them take a cake of figs and apply it to the boil, (*sh<sup>e</sup>chiyn*), that he may recover." (Isaiah 38:21).

The Hebrew word (*sh<sup>e</sup>chiyn*) literally means to burn (i.e., as a result of inflammation) and can refer to an ulcer, a boil or a botch. What the exact nature of the sickness was cannot be known for certain, however it is likely that it was some type of pestilential boil (i.e., an infectious, plague-causing disease-bearing a sickness that upon eruption brings about an incurable and rapid infection that terminates the life within a few days of those who are infected by it.

Many sicknesses that we easily cure today would have been major infections to those living during the Old Testament era. They did not have the medicines or medical knowledge that we have today.

Sicknesses that we take in our stride because of modern medicine would have been major illnesses and caused many early deaths amongst those who lived in these ancient days.

## Boldness

Boldness (*Greek parrhesia and rheo*) means, all out-spokenness it carries the idea of speaking to another or publically or writing with all out assurance, confidence, frankness and bluntness.

## Bone and my Flesh

The expression, "surely you are my bone and my flesh," signifies kinsmanship, it most likely originated from the following verse, Adam said, "This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man." (Gen. 2:23).

## Booths

See Feasts.

## Born

Born (*Greek gennao*) means to procreate of the father, but by extension of the mother and figuratively to regenerate (i.e., bear, beget, be born, bring forth, conceive and be delivered of).

**Borne** (*Hebrew nasa*) means to accept, forgive, pardon, suffer and bear up or take away.

**Born again:** being born again in a biblical sense, means receiving Jesus and his disciple's testimony. It is called being born again because if a person truly repents and acknowledges that they are a sinner before God and accept and trust the Lord Jesus Christ as their saviour it will change their life for the better.

In a secular sense the term born again can be likened to a person who wins a Million dollars or a terminally ill person being told their doctor was mistaken in his diagnosis and they will live a long life, both, of these people are likely to yell, "I have been born again," meaning their life has been totally changed for the better. To be born again carries the idea of causing to arise and excite and being converted to go in a different direction. In a Jewish sense, it refers to: -

- One who brings others over to his or her way of life.
- Converting someone to the same nature, kind or sort into their race, nation or family.
- A person who has changed to a new life or converted to another way of life.
- God making men and women his children through faith in Christ's work.
- Having one's mind changed so that they live a new life and are conformed to the will of God.
- A totally new situation, a change of mind and a new responsibility.

Being born again can be likened to a couple being married, they are born again in the sense that by marriage they entered into a new life of responsibilities and a change of mind. It can also be likened to a couple who fall truly in love, their heart, their emotions, their goals and their life are changed and turned around to go in a different direction since they no longer have any desire to be single, but now desire to live a life with the one they love.

**Born in sin:** to a Jew, means being born a Gentile and one without God (John 9:32-34). To mankind generally it means we are all born with a proneness to sin, it means we are all born with a certain level of selfishness, lust, greed, jealousy, anger, envy and such like things.

**Born and Jesus:** the statement "He who was born from above" means Jesus origin was heavenly (He who comes from above is above all) (John 3:31) he was born of God by the Holy Spirit it is in this sense that Jesus descended or came from above, meaning he was born of God and sent by God.

Botch

See boils above.

Bowels

In Isaiah, it is written, "the stirring of your inner parts and your compassion are held back from me," (Isaiah 63:15) (the sounding of thy bowels and of your mercies toward me, are they restrained in KJV).

The word bowels, comes from the Hebrew word (*me'ah*) it literally refers to the intestines, the abdomen or the belly. Figuratively it carries the idea of the inner part or the heart as the seat of the emotions of compassion and the affections of the mind. It denotes tender concern and can refer to any strong compassionate and caring emotion of the mind.

The expression, "the sounding of your bowels," refers to those sympathizing sighs and compassionate groans that proceed from the inner most being when they are affected by the thought of deep grief, compassion and pity and to the inner noisy rumblings stirred up by strong passions such as fear and love commonly called yearnings of the belly.

The meaning is, "where is your former compassion and mercies which you formerly showed for your people in distress? Why do you lay a restraint upon yourself that your bowels (i.e., compassion, pity and mercy) are not moved towards us?"

## Bracelets

The word bracelets come from the Hebrew word (*pathal*) it literally means to twine and can refer to a bracelet, to lace, to a ribbon or to a thread of cloth or of wire. This, is why it is sometimes translated cords or ribbon. Bracelets of a masculine type including armlets were worn by Hebrew men (mostly on the upper muscle of the arm rather than the wrist).

Because bracelets in some verses is translated lace it is possible that in some contexts it may refer to a ribbon a cord or some type of cloth that was worn as an emblem that signified the faith of those that wore it or their tribe.

**Bracelets and armlets:** in Genesis is written, “when the camels had finished drinking, the man (Abraham’s servant) took a gold ring weighing a half shekel, and two bracelets for her (Rebekah) arms weighing ten gold shekels (Gen. 24:22). The word bracelet in this verse comes from the Hebrew word (*tsamiyd*) it literally means a bracelet or arm-clasp and can carry the idea of a covering. Such bracelets are sometimes referred to as an armlet, since it was common for young women to wear them from the wrist to the elbow.

These bracelets were commonly made of silver, copper, brass or the ivory from an animal’s horn. Even today they can be seen through all Asia completely covering the whole arm from the wrist to the elbow and as ornaments worn by women in eastern countries. This ring and these two bracelets came from Abraham’s house it is certain they would have been highly valued and made of the most-pure gold and silver and the most precious and valued jewellery.

It is also very possible that they belonged to Abraham’s dearly departed and loved wife Sarah. Being of such a high value the servant most likely had the ring and the two bracelets safely stored in one of the saddle bags on the camels and once he knew Rebekah was chosen of the LORD he would have taken these out and given them to her as a reward for her kindness and courtesy to a stranger and to show that he greatly honoured, valued and respected her.

**I put bracelets on her arms and a ring on her nose:** (Gen. 24:47) not on the central cartilage of the nose, but on the left nostril, the flesh of which was pierced for the purpose. Rings of this type are still the usual betrothal present in Arabia, and are commonly worn there and in Persia. They are made of gold and silver and of coral, mother-of-pearl, and some of even cheaper materials. See also Ring, in Bible Dictionary (ON WEBSITE MENU).

## Brambles

Brambles (thorn in KJV) (*Hebrew chowach*) refers to a thorn, bramble or thistle and carries the idea of piercing

## Branch

In the Old Testament branch (*Hebrew qanah*) can refer to an upright reed, by resemblance a rod (especially for measuring) and to a shaft, tube, stem, a beam and figuratively of power.

In the New Testament branch (*Greek klados*) can refer to a twig, shoot or limb (as if broken off) and of bread being broken or of a branch or bud that springs or grows up.

**Branches on the day of Pentecost:** (the 51<sup>st</sup> day), the apostles and those with them became branches of the figurative grapevine when the Holy Spirit was poured out on them in Acts chapter two, these believers became branches joined to Jesus Christ the vine stem.

All who belong to Christ make up a symbolic vine, that produces the fruits of God’s Kingdom (Christ is the vine and all who belong to him are the branches)

## Brass

Fine brass can represent the flesh purified by trial.

## Bread

**Bread from heaven:** is called so, because God gave it and not because it came down from heaven.

## Briars and Thorns

The following verses show that briars and thorns are symbols of corrupt and worthless men and nations: -

- Worthless men are all like thorns that are thrown away. (2 Sam. 23:6-7).
- The light of Israel will become a fire, and his Holy One a flame, and it will burn and devour his thorns and briars in one day. (Isaiah 10:17).
- You (Ezekiel), son of man, be not afraid of them (Israel a nation of rebels), nor be afraid of their words, though briars and thorns are with you and you sit on scorpions. Be not afraid of their words, nor be dismayed at their looks, for they are a rebellious house. (Ezekiel 2:6).

Since briars and thorns not only hinder the growth and fruitfulness of a vineyard, but also if left untouched have the power to bring the vineyard to total ruin it can refer to the following two groups of people: -

1. To those who confess to be in God's Kingdom, but act rebelliously and wickedly or set themselves up as false prophets and teachers and hypocritical ministers or wilfully sin and act contrary to God's good character. In Scripture these types of people are referred to as briars and thorns meaning they are as unfruitful and worthless as thorns and briars are to a vineyard and therefore only fit to be plucked up and consumed by the flames of a fire.
2. To secular nations or individuals who set themselves against God and against His people and who act in a manner that brings harm and hurt to others by their wicked and corrupt behaviour.

When God finds such briars and thorns instead of fruitful vines He will tread them down and consume them like a raging fire consumes briars and thorns in a dry field.

## Bride

Bride (spouse in KJV) (*Hebrew kallah*) means a bride (as if perfect) and can refer to a son's wife, daughter-in-law or spouse. Figuratively it means to complete or make perfect. Bride (*Greek numphe*) means to veil as a bride; to marry and can refer to a young married woman (as veiled), including a betrothed girl and by implication to a son's wife, a bride and daughter-in-law.

## Bridegroom

Bridegroom (*Hebrew chathan*) refers to a relative by marriage (especially through the bride) a husband or son in law, it carries the idea of giving a daughter away in marriage of and of developing a feeling and natural liking of identification with somebody (i.e. a father in law, a mother in law and a son in law etc.), by marriage.

Figuratively it can refer to a Jewish child by circumcision being religiously betrothed to God or of a Christian by faith being spiritually betrothed to Christ their bridegroom. Bridegroom (*Greek numphios*) means to veil as a bride prepared to marry, a young married woman (as veiled), including a betrothed girl and by implication a son's wife bride and daughter-in-law.

## Bright Morning Star

See the title: Constellations, Arcturus, Orion and Pleiades, in Bible Dictionary (ON WEBSITE MENU).

## Brimstone

**Brimstone and sulphur:** come from the Hebrew word (*gophriyth*) it literally means cypress-resin and is likened to sulphur because it is equally inflammable. In the Scriptures, it is used to denote a fire of great intensity and utter destruction because such a fire destroys everything in its path. The following verses show that the words brimstone and sulphur express the utter disdain of God toward those who such words are spoken against and carry the idea that there is no greater judgment or description of vengeance that can be pronounced upon a people or nation.

- Then the LORD rained on Sodom and Gomorrah sulfur (brimstone in KJV) and fire from the LORD out of heaven. (Gen. 19:24) (Luke 17:29).

- The whole land burned out with brimstone and salt, nothing sown and nothing growing, where no plant can sprout, an overthrow like that of Sodom and Gomorrah, Admah, and Zeboiim, which the LORD overthrew in his anger and wrath. (Deut. 29:23).
- Let him rain coals on the wicked; fire and sulfur (brimstone in KJV) and a scorching wind shall be the portion of their cup. (Psalm 11:6).
- For a burning place (Tophet in KJV) has long been prepared; indeed, for the king (of Assyria) it is made ready, its pyre made deep and wide, with fire and wood in abundance; the breath of the LORD, like a stream of sulphur (brimstone in KJV), kindles it. (Isaiah 30:33).
- With pestilence and bloodshed I will enter into judgment with him, and I will rain upon him (Gog who comes against the land of Israel) and his hordes and the many peoples who are with him torrential rains and hailstones, fire and sulfur (brimstone in KJV).  
<sup>23</sup>So I will show my greatness and my holiness and make myself known in the eyes of many nations. Then they will know that I am the LORD. (Ezekiel 38:22-23).
- I saw the horses in my vision and those who rode them: they wore breastplates the colour of fire and of sapphire and of sulfur, (brimstone in KJV) and the heads of the horses were like lions' heads, and fire and smoke and sulfur (brimstone in KJV) came out of their mouths. <sup>18</sup>By these three plagues a third of mankind was killed, by the fire and smoke and sulfur (brimstone in KJV) coming out of their mouths. (Rev. 9:17-18).
- The cowardly, the faithless, the detestable, as for murderers, the sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars, their portion will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur (brimstone in KJV), which is the second death. (Rev. 21:8).

The second death is a symbol of total destruction (i.e., utter extinction). For further information concerning the second death see the title: "Lake of Fire," in Death (ON WEBSITE MENU).

#### Bronze (Brass)

Bronze (brass in KJV) (*Hebrew n<sup>e</sup>chosheth*) literally refers to something made of that metal, (i.e. coin, a chain or shackle etc.). Figuratively when used as a meaning when compared to gold or silver it carries the idea of the filthiness of steel and the judgment of God. Bronze (brass in New Testament) (*Greek chalkolibanon and chalkos*) applies to an alloy of bronze, brass, copper, gold and silver having a brilliant lustre, the implication is of whiteness or brilliancy).

Figuratively bronze and brass compared to gold and silver are base metals in that gold and silver are pure metals, while bronze and brass are considered inferior metals this of course is why brass and bronze figuratively symbolise filthiness. In Deuteronomy it is written, "the heavens over your head shall be bronze, and the earth under you shall be iron. The LORD will make the rain of your land powder. From heaven dust shall come down on you until you are destroyed. (Deut. 28:23-24). Bronze when used in reference to God can speak of any of the following, a closed heaven, no access to God, no rain and no blessing.

#### Brother (Brethren)

Brother (Brethren in KJV) (*Hebrew 'ach*), literally a brother, but in the widest sense embraces anyone who has an affinity or resemblance with each other, (i.e., of the same kindred, nation or the same faith, religion and worldview etc.). Brothers (brethren in KJV) (*Greek adelphos*), literally refers to a brother from the womb, but it also embraces the same as Hebrew 'ach, previously mentioned.

**Brotherly love:** (*Greek Philadelpia and philadelphos*) means fraternal meaning brotherly love, affection, kindness and fondness. It carries the idea of showing friendship and mutual support amongst people, organizations, churches or groups with the same interests and aims. According to the practice of the East the greeting, "My brothers," was extended to distant degrees of relationships such as uncles, cousins and nephews and to kinsmen in general. The word brother carries the idea of a companion it is often used to denote resemblance and similarity in like qualities or in any respect as in the following verses: -

- Simeon and Levi are brothers; weapons of violence are their swords. (Gen. 49:5).

- Whoever is slack in his work is a brother to him who destroys. (Prov. 18:9).

Job said: -

- I am a brother of jackals (dragons in KJV), and a companion of ostriches (owls in KJV) (Job 30:29).

This statement of Job's can carry the following four ideas: -

1. Job was a brother of jackals in that he was solitary and alone with all his friends and acquaintance standing at a distance from him, as these creatures dwell alone in desolate places.
2. Job was a brother of jackals in that his mournful groaning and wailing bore some resemblance to the noise these creatures make.
3. When these creatures cry and howl, and make a mournful noise no pity or mercy is shown to them and so it was with Job; though he stood amongst the assembly and cried (v28) no one showed him compassion or mercy and in this way he felt like a brother to the jackals.
4. Job felt as though he was a brother to the jackals in that he was obliged to dwell with people whose venomous speeches, devouring words and cruel character was comparable to these creatures.

These verses clearly show that the word brother carries the ideas of a companion and often denotes resemblance and similarity in like qualities or in any respect to some other person or creature or thing.

#### Burden

Burden (*Hebrew massa'*) literally means a burden and applies to a burdensome task, experience, or service and carries the idea of affliction, suffering, trouble, misery, grief, sadness and sorrow. Burdened (*Greek bareo and barus*) means to be grievously weighed down and oppressed with a difficult, grave, sorrowful, painful, distressing, upsetting and disturbing work of labour, service, trial and hardship etc. It can also carry the idea of being burdened through a lack of information (i.e., not knowing) such as a parent whose child has gone missing.

#### Busybodies

Busybodies (*Greek periergazomai*) literally means to work all around, bustle about, but not in honest labour, but to meddle, intrude, pry and interfere upon the lives of others. In colloquial language it means the same as chatterers, blabbermouths and those we would today call gossipers and nosy parkers.

#### Buttress

In Timothy Paul wrote, "If I delay, you may know how one ought to behave in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, a pillar and buttress of truth. (1 Tim. 3:15).

The word buttress (ground of truth in KJV) comes from the Greek word (*hedraios*) it literally means a support and figuratively an immovable basis or foundation upon which one can sit steadfast, secure and safe and not be moved.

#### Buy

Buy (*Hebrew shabar*) means to deal, trade sell and buy grain corn, victuals and any other product or merchandise. Buy (*Greek agorazo*) means to go to market, the town-square the street or any place of public attendance to purchase and buy products being sold. Figuratively in contexts referring to salvation it carries the idea of being redeemed (i.e., bought back).