



# WELCOME TO BIBLE HOUSE OF GRACE

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## Dogs

(2019)

Bible House of Grace contains an easy to read New and Old Testament commentary full of spiritual treasures and pearls, complete with an insightful resource guide illuminating God's love and grace.



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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 perfect knowledge or perfect understanding.

## Dogs.

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### Topics:

- A brief overview.
- The meaning dogs.
- A Syrophenician woman and dogs.
- Dogs and the wicked.
- Dogs and Israel's shepherds.
- Dogs eat the blood of Israel's enemies.
- Wild and domestic dogs.

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### A BRIEF OVERVIEW

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When dogs are referred to in Scripture in a demeaning manner and associated with evil and violence, it does not refer to domestic pet dogs, but rather to wild dogs, especially packs of wild hungry dogs that used to wander about the fields and streets of the cities of the East, devouring dead bodies and other scraps of food.

The Orientals had no language that would express greater contempt of anyone than to call them a dog for when spoken of in a demeaning manner they carry the following ideas:

- Being violent, defiant, predatory, destructive, greedy, and covetous.
- Living in deliberate and conscious violation of God's law.
- Lacking in worth, uncleanness, vileness and being without God.
- The lowest conceivable point of debasement.

**Blind dogs:** signify corrupt shepherds and religious leaders who:

- Have no understanding.
- Are greedy for gain and riches.
- Have an excessive appetite for power and fame.
- Compromise and twist God's word to be a great superstar and gain the accolade of multitudes.

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### THE MEANING DOGS

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**Dogs:** from Strong's Concordance can refer to a puppy, hound, or dog, it can be used in the sense of a pet or friend, figuratively it carries the idea of the lessor. Jesus is not demeaning or degrading the woman by likening her to a dog, for it would be totally contrary to the nature and character of Jesus to speak of a human being in a demeaning or degrading manner.

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## A SYROPHOENICIAN WOMAN AND DOGS

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- **Matthew 15:22-28:** And behold, a Canaanite woman from that region came out and was crying, "Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David; my daughter is severely oppressed by a demon."<sup>23</sup> But he did not answer her a word. And his disciples came and begged him, saying, "Send her away, for she is crying out after us."<sup>24</sup> He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel."<sup>25</sup> But she came and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, help me."<sup>26</sup> And he answered, "It is not right to take the children's bread and throw it to the dogs."<sup>27</sup> She said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table."<sup>28</sup> Then Jesus answered her, "O woman, great is your faith! Be it done for you as you desire." And her daughter was healed instantly.

The Jews considered themselves full grown concerning the things of God they saw themselves as the superior and righteous race with God, and the Gentiles as the unclean and lessor race without God, which is why they viewed the Gentiles no better than dogs. To the Jews the Syrophoenician Gentile woman, would be seen as an unclean woman without God, and as such no better than a dog concerning the things of God. Jesus is simply using the common language of the Jews to show that he fully understood the high opinion the Jews had of themselves, and the extremely low opinion they had of the Gentiles, most likely to highlight the great faith of the woman. Dogs in this context signify, uncleanness, and being without God.

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## DOGS AND THE WICKED

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The following verses show that dogs were regarded with disgust and spoken of with contempt and seen as unclean, filthy, unprofitable, and accursed creatures (especially by the early Eastern Orientals) they were not allowed to enter a house, but run about wild in the open air, living on offal and scraps of morsels and food that was thrown out.

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- **Deuteronomy 23:18:** You shall not bring the fee of a prostitute or the wages of a dog into the house of the LORD (Deut. 23:18).
- **1 Samuel 17:43:** The Philistine said to David, "Am I a dog, that you come to me with sticks?"
- **1 Samuel 24:14:** Whom has the king of Israel come out? After whom do you pursue? After a dead dog! After a flea!
- **2 Samuel 3:8:** Abner was very angry over the words of Ish-bosheth and said, "Am I a dog's head of Judah? (2 Sam. 3:8).
- **2 Samuel 16:9:** Abishai the son of Zeruiah said to the king, "Why should this dead dog curse my lord the king? Let me go over and take off his head."
- **Philippians 3:2:** Look out for the dogs, look out for the evildoers, look out for those who mutilate the flesh.
- **Revelation 22:15:** Outside are the dogs and sorcerers and the sexually immoral and murderers and idolaters, and everyone who loves and practices falsehood.

Likening these young men to dogs is an exaggerated description of their character and their vileness to highlight the fact that Job considered them so lacking in worth that they were not even worthy to be his shepherds and watch over his sheep. Job held these young men in less esteem than his dogs. This was the lowest conceivable point of debasement. The Orientals had no language that would express greater contempt of anyone than to call them a dog.

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## DOGS AND ISRAEL'S SHEPHERDS

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- **Isaiah 56:11-12:** The dogs have a mighty appetite; they never have enough. But they are shepherds who have no understanding; they have all turned to their own way, each to his own gain, one and all. <sup>12</sup>"Come," they say, "let me get wine; let us fill ourselves with strong drink; and tomorrow will be like this day, great beyond measure."

**Israel's corrupt shepherds are** likened to blind dogs with an excessive appetite and no understanding. They are excessively greedy for gain and are never satisfied. They are religious leaders who have turned to their own way for the purpose of acquiring financial wealth and material possessions or for gaining human praise for being someone famous. They are ruled by extreme pride, and their sole motivation for being in the position they are in is to be a great superstar and gain the accolade of multitudes

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## DOGS EAT THE BLOOD OF ISRAEL'S ENEMIES

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- **Psalms 68:23:** That you may strike your feet in their blood, that the tongues of your dogs may have their portion from the foe.

Out of all afflictions God will bring Israel out, the symbolism used here is not implying savage cruelty, but signifying the completeness of the conquest as expressed in the following verses.

- **2 Kings 9:36:** When they came back and told him, he said, "This is the word of the LORD, which he spoke by his servant Elijah the Tishbite, 'In the territory of Jezreel the dogs shall eat the flesh of Jezebel
- **Jeremiah 15:3:** I will appoint over them four kinds of destroyers, declares the LORD: the sword to kill, the dogs to tear, and the birds of the air and the beasts of the earth to devour and destroy.

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The meaning is; if the enemies of God's people continue to invade and harass them by war, they will be entirely cut off by the sword, and their slaughter will be so great, that the victorious army is forced to trample on their dead and bloody bodies, and wild and hungry dogs (and wild animals and birds) will feed off the bleeding corpses to satisfy their hunger. The words of (Psalm 68:23) are not an expression of acts of cruelty, but the description of a complete victory, and of the horrors that happens after bloody battles of war.

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## WILD AND DOMESTIC DOGS

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- **Revelation 21:15:** Outside (the Holy City) are the dogs and sorcerers and the sexually immoral and murderers and idolaters, and everyone who loves and practices falsehood.

Dogs in this context clearly signify the wicked and evil doers.

- **Revelation 22:15:** Outside are the dogs and sorcerers and the sexually immoral and murderers and idolaters, and everyone who loves and practices falsehood.

When dogs are referred to in Scripture in a demeaning manner and associated with evil and violence, it does not refer to domestic pet dogs, but rather to wild dogs, especially packs of wild hungry dogs that used to wander about the fields and streets of the cities of the East, devouring dead bodies and other scraps of food. They signify, those who are violent,

defiant, predatory, and those who are destructive, greedy, covetous and all who live in deliberate and conscious violation of God's law. The following verses speak of these types of wild dogs:

- Anyone belonging to Jeroboam who dies in the city the dogs shall eat. (1 Kings 14:11).
- They washed the chariot by the pool of Samaria, and the dogs licked up his (the king of Israel) blood. (1 Kings 22:38).
- The dogs shall eat Jezebel in the territory of Jezreel, and none shall bury her. (2 Kings 9:10) (2 Kings 9:36).

For these reasons dogs, became objects of dislike and the following verses show that Israel's fierce and cruel enemies became poetically spoken of as dogs:

- Dogs encompass me (David); a company of evildoers encircles me; they have pierced my hands and feet. (Psalm 22:16).
- Deliver my (David) soul from the sword, my precious life from the power of the dog! (Psalm 22:20).

Added to this the dog was an unclean animal, therefore they are represented as being outside the city, because nothing unclean was permitted to enter the House of God.

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*As the founder of Bible House of Grace, I would like to thank the many Christian scholars, commentators and theologians who have gone before me, and the many today, who have freely made available their works to enhance the knowledge of the Bible to all people worldwide. It is only with the help of these faithful writers that much of Bible House of Grace exists as it does today.*