

~BARBARIAN (83) (Bar-bar'ian)

- The repetition of *bar bar* in the Greek *bar'ba-ros* conveyed the idea of **stammering, babble, or unintelligible speech**, hence the term **barbarian** was originally applied by the Greeks to a foreigner, particularly one speaking a different tongue.
- At that time it did **not indicate lack of civilization, refinement, or good manners, nor did it convey any feeling of hostile contempt**. **Barbarian** simply distinguished especially **non-Greeks from Greeks**, much the same as Gentile divides off non-Jews from Jews.
- These non-Greeks did **not object or feel insulted** because they were called **barbarians**. Some Jewish writers, including Josephus, recognized themselves as being designated by the term [**Jewish Antiquities, XIV, 187 [x, 1], Against Apion, I, 58 [11]**],
- Romans called themselves barbarians until they adopted Greek culture. It is in this not unfavorable light, then, that Paul in writing to the Romans used an all-inclusive expression: **Both to Greeks and to Barbarians**.
- Both to Greeks and to **Barbarians**, both to wise and to senseless one's I am a debtor. (**Romans 1:14**)
- The principal factor separating Greeks from the **barbarian** world was their **language**, hence the term had special reference to those who did **not speak Greek**, as, for example, the inhabitants of Malta who spoke an unrelated tongue. In this instance the **New World Translation** gives meaning to *bar'ba-roi* by rendering it **foreign-speaking people**.
- And when we had made it to safety, then we learned that the island was called Malta. (**Acts of Apostles 28:1**)
- And the **foreign-speaking people** showed us extraordinary human kindness, for they kindled a fire and received all of us helpfully because of the rain that was falling and because of the cold. (**Acts of Apostles 28:2**)
- When the **foreign-speaking people** caught sight of the venomous creature hanging from his hand, they began saying to one

another; Surely this man is a murderer, and although he made it to safety from the sea, vindictive justice did not permit him to keep on living. (**Acts of Apostles 28:4**)

- Writing on the gift of tongues, Paul twice calls one speaking in an unintelligible tongue *bar'ba-ros* **foreigner**.
- If, then, I do not understand the force of the speech sound, I shall be a **foreigner** to the one speaking, and the one speaking will be a **foreigner** to me. (**1 Corinthians 14:11**)
- Where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcision nor uncircumcision, **foreigner**, Scythian, slave, freeman, but Christ is all things and in all. (**Colossians 3:11**)
- Similarly, the **Greek Septuagint** uses *bar'ba-ros* at;
- Praise Yah, you people! Offer praise, O you servants of Yehowah, praise the name of Yehowah. (**Psalms 113:1**)
- When Israel went forth from Egypt, the house of Jacob from a people speaking **unintelligibly**. (**Psalms 114:1**)
- In **Hebrew** and **English** versions;
- When Israel went forth from Egypt, the house of Jacob from a people **speaking unintelligibly**. (**Psalms 114:1**)
- And I will pour out upon you my denunciation. With the fire of my fury I shall blow upon you, and I will give you into the hand of men who are **unreasoning**, the craftsmen of ruination. (**Ezekiel 21:31**)
- Because the Greeks felt that **their language and culture were superior to all others**, and because they suffered indignities at the hand of their enemies, the term **barbarian** gradually assumed its common **disparaging connotation**.