

~BULL (415)

[Hebrew, *shohr*, Greek, *tau'ros*, Aramaic, *tohr*]

- And in case a **bull** should gore a man or a woman and that one actually dies, the **bull** is to be stoned without fail, but its flesh is not to be eaten, and the owner of the **bull** is free from punishment. (**Exodus 21:28**)
- *Par*
- You must now present the **bull** before the tent of meeting, and Aaron and his sons must lay their hands upon the **bulls** head. (**Exodus 29:10**)
- *Ba-qar'*
- *'agha-lim'* **young bulls**
- You men that are lying down on couches of ivory and are sprawling on their divans, and are eating the rams out of a flock and the **young bulls** from among fattened calves. (**Amos 6:4**)
- *Re'em'* **wild bull**
- God is bringing them out of Egypt. The swift course like that of a **wild bull** is his. (**Numbers 23:22**)
- Aramaic, *tohr*
- And from the sons of mankind he was driven away, and his very heart was made like that of a beast, and with the wild asses his dwelling was. Vegetation they would give him to eat just like **bulls**, and with the dew of the heavens his own body got to be wet, until he knew that the Most High God is Ruler in the kingdom of mankind, and that the one whom he wants to, he sets up over it. (**Daniel 5:21**)
- Greek, *tau'ros*
- Again he sent forth other slaves, saying; Tell those invited; Look! I have prepared my dinner, my **bulls** and fattened animals

- are slaughtered, and all things are ready. Come to the marriage feast. (**Matthew 22:4**)
- For in the Law of Moses it is written: You must not muzzle a **bull** when it is threshing out the grain. Is it **bulls** God is caring for? (**1 Corinthians 9:9**)
 - *Mo'skhos* , young bull
 - And bring the fattened **young bull**, slaughter it and let us eat and enjoy ourselves. (**Luke 15:23**)
 - These original-language words for the male of cattle have been variously translated **bull**, **bullock**, **calf**, **ox**. In modern English usage **ox** has come to apply especially to a **castrated bull**, but the original-language words often rendered **ox** and **oxen** in various translations are not to be understood in this restricted sense.
 - Although **castration** is the method ordinarily employed for **breaking bulls** for service as draft animals, apparently this was not practiced by the Israelites, **for a mutilated animal was unfit for sacrifice.**
 - As for a **bull** or a sheep having a member too long or too short, you may make it a voluntary offering, but for a vow it will not be accepted with approval. (**Leviticus 22:23**)
 - But one having the testicles squeezed or crushed or pulled off or cut off you must not present to Yehowah, and in your land you should not render them up. (**Leviticus 22:24**)
 - You must not sacrifice to Yehowah your God a **bull** or a sheep in which there proves to be a defect, anything bad, because it is a thing detestable to Yehowah your God. (**Deuteronomy 17:1**)
 - So he returned from following him and then took a span of the **bulls** and sacrificed them, and with the implements of the bulls he boiled their flesh and then gave it to the people, and they proceeded to eat. After that he rose up and went following Elijah and began to minister to him. (**1 Kings 19:21**)
 - It has, therefore, been suggested that the breed used by the Israelites may have been of a gentle temper.

- The male of beef cattle has occupied a prominent place in the religions of many pagan peoples. Whether because of its great strength or its potential as sire of numerous offspring, it has been honored, even worshiped.
- The Babylonians employed the **bull** as the symbol of their principal god, Marduk. In Egypt living **bulls** were venerated as incarnations of a god Apis at Memphis and Mnevis at Heliopolis. The occurrence of the **bull**, Taurus, as one of the primary signs of the zodiac offers additional evidence of the important place accorded the **bull** in pagan religions.
- Shortly after the Exodus, even the Israelites, likely because of being contaminated by the religious concepts with which they became acquainted while in Egypt, exchanged Yehowah's glory for a representation of a **bull**.
- Furthermore, they made a **calf** in Horeb and bowed down to a molten image. ([Psalms 106:19](#))
- So that they exchanged my glory for a representation of a **bull**, an eater of vegetation. ([Psalms 106:20](#))
- Later, the first king of the ten-tribe kingdom, Jeroboam, set up **calf** worship at Dan and Bethel.
- Consequently the king took counsel and made two golden **calves** and said to the people; It is too much for you to go up to Jerusalem. Here is your God, O Israel, that brought you up out of the land of Egypt. ([1 Kings 12:28](#))
- Then he placed the one in Bethel, and the other he put in Dan. ([1 Kings 12:29](#))
- Of course, according to God's Law to Israel, no veneration whatsoever, not even in a representative way, was to be given to the **bull** or any other animal.
- You must not make for yourself a carved image or a form like anything that is in the heavens above or that is on the earth underneath or that is in the waters under the earth. ([Exodus 20:4](#))
- You must not bow down to them nor be induced to serve them,

because I Yehowah your God am a God exacting exclusive devotion, bringing punishment for the error of fathers upon sons, upon the third generation and upon the fourth generation, in the case of those who hate me. (**Exodus 20:5**)

- They have turned aside in a hurry from the way I have commanded them to go. They have made a molten statue of a calf for themselves and keep bowing down to it and sacrificing to it and saying; This is your God, O Israel, who led you up out of the land of Egypt. (**Exodus 32:8**)
- **Bulls** were offered in sacrifice by the Israelites (**Exodus Chapter 29**) (**Numbers Chapter 7**)
- Should a **bull** or a young ram or a goat be born, then it must continue under its mother seven days, but from the eighth day and forward it will be accepted with approval as an offering, an offering made by fire to Yehowah. (**Leviticus 22:27**)
- And they continued to sacrifice sacrifices to Yehowah and offer up burnt offerings to Yehowah on the day following that day, a thousand young **bulls**, a thousand rams, a thousand male lambs and their drink offerings, even sacrifices in great number for all Israel. (**1 Chronicles 29:21**)
- And at certain times the Law specifically directed that **bulls** were to be sacrificed. If the High Priest committed a sin that brought guiltiness upon the people, he was required to offer a **bull**, the largest and most valuable sacrificial victim, this undoubtedly in keeping with his responsible position as leader of Israel in true worship. A **bull** also had to be offered when the entire assembly of Israel made a mistake.
- If the priest, the anointed one, sins so as to bring guiltiness upon the people, then he must present for his sin that he has committed a sound young **bull** to Yehowah as a sin offering. (**Leviticus 4:3**)
- Now if the entire assembly of Israel makes a mistake and the matter has been hidden from the eyes of the congregation in that they have done one of all the things that Yehowah commands should not be done and so have become guilty. (**Leviticus 4:13**)
- And the sin that they have committed against it has become known, then the congregation must present a young **bull** for a sin

offering and must bring it before the tent of meeting. (**Leviticus 4:14**)

- On Atonement Day a **bull** was to be offered in behalf of the priestly house of Aaron. (**Leviticus Chapter 16**) In the seventh month of their sacred calendar the Israelites were required to offer more than 70 bulls as burnt offerings. (**Numbers Chapter 29**)
- The **bull** was used by the Israelites in the work related to farm operations, for plowing and threshing.
- You must not plow with a **bull** and an ass together. (**Deuteronomy 22:10**)
- You must not muzzle a **bull** while it is threshing. (**Deuteronomy 25:4**)
- The creature was to be treated humanely. The apostle Paul applied to God's Christian servants the principle embodied in the Law with respect to not muzzling a **bull** while it is threshing, indicating that just as the working **bull** was entitled to feed on the grain it was threshing, likewise the one sharing spiritual things with others is worthy of receiving material provisions.
- Should you come upon your enemy's **bull** or his ass going astray, you are to return it without fail to him. (**Exodus 23:4**)
- Six days you are to do your work, but on the seventh day you are to desist, in order, that your **bull** and your ass may rest and the son of your slave girl and the alien resident may refresh themselves. (**Exodus 23:12**)
- You must not muzzle a **bull** while it is threshing. (**Deuteronomy 25:4**)
- Who is it that ever serves as a soldier at his own expense? Who plants a vineyard and does not eat of its fruit? Or who shepherds a flock and does not eat some of the milk of the flock? (**1 Corinthians 9:7**)
- Am I speaking these things by human standards? Or does not the Law also say these things? (**1 Corinthians 9:8**)
- For in the Law of Moses it is written: You must not muzzle a **bull**

when it is threshing out the grain. Is it bulls God is caring for? (**1 Corinthians 9:9**)

- Or is it altogether for our sakes he says it? Really for our sakes it was written, because the **man who plows ought to plow in hope and the man who threshes ought to do so in hope of being a partaker.** (**1 Corinthians 9:10**)
- Legislation covered cases of theft of a **bull** and of damage done to persons and property by an untended **bull**.
- And in case a **bull** should gore a man or a woman and that one actually dies, the **bull** is to be stoned without fail, but its flesh is not to be eaten, and the owner of the **bull** is free from punishment. (**Exodus 21:28**)
- If its owner is with it, he is not to make compensation. If it is hired, it must come in its hire. (**Exodus 22:15**)
- The **bulls** sacrificed by the Israelites symbolized the one unblemished offering of Christ as the only adequate sacrifice for the sins of mankind.
- He entered, no, not with the blood of goats and of young **bulls**, but with his own blood, once for all time into the holy place and obtained an everlasting deliverance for us. (**Hebrews 9:12**)
- For if the blood of goats and of **bulls** and the ashes of a heifer sprinkled on those who have been defiled sanctifies to the extent of cleanness of the flesh. (**Hebrews 9:13**)
- How much more will the blood of the Christ, who through an everlasting spirit offered himself without blemish to God, cleanse our consciences from dead works that we may render sacred service to the living God? (**Hebrews 9:14**)
- Sacrificial **bulls** are also representative of another sacrifice, one that delights Yehowah in all times and circumstances, namely, the spontaneous fruitage of lips that, like vigorous **young bulls**, are used to make public declaration to his name.
- I will praise the name of God with song, and I will magnify him with thanksgiving. (**Psalms 69:30**)

- This will also be more pleasing to Yehowah than a **bull**, than a young bull displaying horns, splitting the hoof. (**Psalms 69:31**)
- Take with yourselves words and come back to Yehowah. Say to him, all you people; May you pardon error, and accept what is good, and we will offer in return the young **bulls of our lips**. (**Hosea 14:2**)
- Through him let us always offer to God a sacrifice of praise, that is, **the fruit of lips which make public declaration to his name**. (**Hebrews 13:15**)
- In Bible symbolism the **bull** is used to denote power and strength. The molten sea in front of Solomon's temple rested on representations of **12 bulls**, in groups of three facing each of the cardinal directions.
- And he proceeded to make the molten sea ten cubits from its one brim to its other brim, circular all around, and its height was five cubits, and it took a line of thirty cubits to circle all around it. (**2 Chronicles 4:2**)
- It was standing upon twelve **bulls**, three facing the north and three facing the west and three facing the south and three facing the east, and the sea was above upon them, and all their hind parts were inward. (**2 Chronicles 4:4**)
- The four living creatures seen in vision by the prophet Ezekiel accompanying the chariot-like throne of Yehowah each had four faces, one of which was that of a **bull**.
- And as for the likeness of their faces, the four of them had a man's face with a lion's face to the right, and the four of them had a **bull's face** on the left. The four of them also had an eagle's face. (**Ezekiel 1:10**)
- In the vision of the apostle John, one of the four living creatures around the throne was like a young **bull**.
- And before the throne there is, as it were, a glassy sea like crystal. And in the midst of the throne and around the throne there are four living creatures that are full of eyes in front and behind. (**Revelation 4:6**)

- And the first living creature is like a lion, and the second living creature is like a young **bull**, and the third living creature has a face like a man's, and the fourth living creature is like a flying eagle. (**Revelation 4:7**)
- Hence, the **bull** would fitly represent one of Yehowah's basic attributes, namely, unlimited power.
- Once God has spoken, twice I have heard even this, that strength belongs to God. (**Psalms 62:11**)
- Raise your eyes high up and see. Who has created these things? It is the One who is bringing forth the army of them even by number, all of whom he calls even by name. Due to the abundance of dynamic energy, he also being vigorous in power, not one of them is missing. (**Isaiah 40:26**)
- In the Scriptures the **bull** also figures as a symbol of the aggressive enemies of Yehowah and of his worshipers, who would seek to enslave or destroy God's servants but who would themselves be annihilated at Yehowah's day of vengeance.
- Many young **bulls** have surrounded me, the powerful one's of Bashan themselves have got around me. (**Psalms 22:12**)
- Rebuke the wild beast of the reeds, the assembly of **bulls**, with the calves of the peoples, each one stamping down on pieces of silver. He has scattered the peoples that take delight in fights. (**Psalms 68:30**)
- And the wild **bulls** must come down with them, and young bulls with the powerful ones, and their land must be drenched with blood, and their very dust will be made greasy with the fat. (**Isaiah 34:7**)
- For Yehowah has a day of vengeance, a year of retributions for the legal case over Zion. (**Isaiah 34:8**)
- The flesh of mighty one's you will eat, and the blood of the chieftains of the earth you will drink, rams, young male sheep, and he-goats, young **bulls**, the fatlings of Bashan all of them. (**Ezekiel 39:18**)

See Also CALF

See Also OFFERINGS

- In Scripture, allusion is made to several of the characteristics of the **wild bull** Hebrew, *re'em*, and its intractable disposition.
- Does a **wild bull** want to serve you, or will it spend the night by your manger? (**Job 39:9**)
- Will you bind a **wild bull** fast with its ropes in the furrow, or will it harrow low plains after you? (**Job 39:10**)
- Will you trust in it because its power is abundant, and will you leave your toil to it? (**Job 39:11**)
- Will you rely on it that it will bring back your seed and that it will gather to your threshing floor? (**Job 39:12**)
- Its swiftness and invincibility.
- God is bringing them out of Egypt. The swift course like that of a **wild bull** is his. (**Numbers 23:22**)
- God is bringing him out of Egypt. The swift course of a **wild bull** is his. He will consume the nations, his oppressors, and their bones he will gnaw, and he will break them to pieces with his arrows. (**Numbers 24:8**)
- The power of its great horns
- As the **firstborn of a bull** his splendor is, and his **horns are the horns of a wild bull**. With them he will push peoples all together to the ends of the earth, and they are the tens of thousands of Ephraim, and they are the thousands of Manasseh. (**Deuteronomy 33:17**)
- Save me from the mouth of the lion, and from the horns of wild **bulls** you must answer and save me. (**Psalms 22:21**)
- But you will **exalt my horn like that of a wild bull**. I shall moisten myself with fresh oil. (**Psalms 92:10**)
- And its friskiness in youth.
- And he makes them skip about like a calf, Lebanon and Sirion like

the sons of wild **bulls**. (**Psalms 29:6**)

- Wild **bulls** are also used to represent the intractable enemies of Yehowah against whom the execution of his judgments is directed.
- And the **wild bulls** must come down with them, **and young bulls** with the powerful ones, and their land must be drenched with blood, and their very dust will be made greasy with the fat. (**Isaiah 34:7**)