

## ~DESTRUCTION (566)

[Hebrew, '*a-vadh*' destroy, Greek, *a-pol'ly-mi*, perish]

.. Will All Persons Destroyed By God In Times Past Be Dead Forever  
.. Everlasting Destruction

- The **act of destroying, ruining, or annihilating**. Destruction usually refers to the physical end of an object or a living creature.
- So he built again the high places that Hezekiah his father had destroyed, and set up altars to Baal and made a sacred pole, just as Ahab the king of Israel had done, and he began to bow down to all the army of the heavens and to serve them. (**2 Kings 21:3**)
- At any moment that I may speak against a nation and against a kingdom to uproot it and to pull it down and to **destroy** it. (**Jeremiah 18:7**)
- Because of this the king himself became angry and got very furious, and he said to **destroy** all the wise men of Babylon. (**Daniel 2:12**)
- At that time Daniel, for his part, addressed himself with counsel and sensibleness to Arioch the chief of the kings bodyguard, who had gone out to kill the wise men of Babylon. (**Daniel 2:14**)
- Even for them to ask for mercies on the part of the God of heaven concerning this secret, in order, that they might not **destroy** Daniel and his companions with the remainder of the wise men of Babylon. (**Daniel 2:18**)
- It may also refer to spiritual ruin.
- If anyone destroys the temple of God, God will **destroy** him, for the temple of God is holy, which temple you people are. (**1 Corinthians 3:17**)

## See Also TEMPLE (The Anointed Christians A Spiritual Temple)

- A **Hebrew** word commonly translated **destroy** is '*a-vadh*'.
- As for any soul that will do any sort of work on this very day, I must destroy that soul from among his people. (**Leviticus 23:30**)

- Your hand will find all your enemies, your own right hand will find those hating you. (**Psalms 21:8**)
- Their fruitage you will destroy from the very earth, and their offspring from the sons of men. (**Psalms 21:10**)
- It has the basic meaning **be lost**, or **perish**, and corresponds to the **Greek** term *a-pol'ly-mi*.
- After that Pharaoh's servants said to him; How long will this man prove to be as a snare to us? Send the men away that they may serve Yehowah their God. Do you not yet know that Egypt has **perished**? (**Exodus 10:7**)
- As regards the she-asses that **were lost** to you three days ago, do not set your heart on them, for they have been found. And to whom does all that is desirable of Israel belong? Is it not to you and to the whole house of your father? (**1 Samuel 9:20**)
- At that the Pharisees went out and immediately began holding council with the party followers of Herod against him, in order to **destroy** him. (**Mark 3:6**)
- But he was in the stern, sleeping upon a pillow. So they woke him up and said to him; Teacher, do you not care that we are about to **perish**? (**Mark 4:38**)
- What man of you with a hundred sheep, on losing one of them, will not leave the ninety-nine behind in the wilderness and go for the **lost one** until he finds it? (**Luke 15:4**)
- The noun form of '*a-vadh*' is '*avad-dohn*', meaning **destruction**.
- Sheol is naked in front of him, and the place of **destruction** has no covering. (**Job 26:6**) Footnote
- See The **Hebrew** term *cha-ram*', means devote to **destruction**, or place under a sacred ban, that is, restrict from common or profane use.
- One who sacrifices to any gods but Yehowah alone is to be devoted to **destruction**. (**Exodus 22:20**) Footnote

**See Also DEVOTED THING**

**See Also ABADDON**  
**See Also APOLLYON**

- At times, Yehowah has found it necessary to execute judgment upon those meriting **destruction** in order to uphold his name and his standards of righteousness. As a result of the wicked conduct of the people in Noah's day, Yehowah executed a judgment of **destruction** when he caused a global flood to **destroy** the world of that time.
- For, according to their wish, this fact escapes their notice, that there were heavens from of old and an earth standing compactly out of water and in the midst of water by the word of God. (2 Peter 3:5)
- And by those means the world of that time suffered **destruction** when it was deluged with water. (2 Peter 3:6)
- Similarly, because of the loud cry of complaint about Sodom and Gomorrah and their heavy sin, Yehowah **destroyed** the cities and their inhabitants.
- Consequently Yehowah said; The cry of complaint about Sodom and Gomorrah, yes, it is loud, and their sin, yes, it is very heavy. (Genesis 18:20)
- For we are bringing this place to ruin, because the outcry against them has grown loud before Yehowah, so that Yehowah sent us to bring the city to ruin. (Genesis 19:13)
- Then Yehowah made it rain sulphur and fire from Yehowah, from the heavens, upon Sodom and upon Gomorrah. (Genesis 19:24)
- So he went ahead overthrowing these cities, even the entire District and all the inhabitants of the cities and the plants of the ground. (Genesis 19:25)
- In addition to natural forces, Yehowah at times used human agents to accomplish a sentence of **destruction**. In the case of the wicked nations of Canaan, Yehowah used his people Israel as principal executioners of his condemnatory decree.
- Hear, O Israel, you are today crossing the Jordan to go in and dispossess nations greater and mightier than you, cities great and fortified to the heavens. (Deuteronomy 9:1)

- And you well know today that Yehowah your God is crossing before you. A consuming fire he is. He will **annihilate** them, and he himself will subdue them before you, and you must dispossess them and **destroy** them speedily, just as Yehowah has spoken to you. (**Deuteronomy 9:3**)
- Do not say in your heart when Yehowah your God pushes them away from before you this; It was for my own righteousness that Yehowah has brought me in to take possession of this land, whereas it is for the wickedness of these nations that Yehowah is driving them away from before you. (**Deuteronomy 9:4**)
- That is the way you will do to all the cities very far away from you that are not of the cities of these nations. (**Deuteronomy 20:15**)
- It is only of the cities of these peoples that Yehowah your God is giving you as an inheritance that you must not preserve any breathing thing alive. (**Deuteronomy 20:16**)
- Because you should without fail devote them to **destruction**, the Hittites and the Amorites, the Canaanites and the Perizzites, the Hivites and the Jebusites, just as Yehowah your God has commanded you. (**Deuteronomy 20:17**)
- In order, that they may not teach you to do according to all their detestable things, which they have done to their gods, and you may indeed sin against Yehowah your God. (**Deuteronomy 20:18**)
- Yehowah justly **destroys** deliberate lawbreakers, liars, and those showing hostility to his servants.
- As for any soul that will do any sort of work on this very day, I must destroy that soul from among his people. (**Leviticus 23:30**)
- You will **destroy** those speaking a lie. A man of bloodshed and deception Yehowah detests. (**Psalms 5:6**)
- And in your loving-kindness may you silence my enemies, and you must **destroy** all those showing hostility to my soul, for I am your servant. (**Psalms 143:12**)
- He acts against false religion and its idols.

- And you must drive away all the inhabitants of the land from before you and **destroy all their stone figures**, and all their **images of molten metal** you should **destroy**, and **all their sacred high places you should annihilate**. (**Numbers 33:52**)
- You should absolutely **destroy** all the places where the nations whom you are dispossessing have served their gods, on the tall mountains and the hills and under every luxuriant tree. (**Deuteronomy 12:2**)
- And you must pull down their altars and shatter their sacred pillars, and you should burn their sacred poles in the fire and cut down the graven images of their gods, and you must **destroy** their names from that place. (**Deuteronomy 12:3**)
- Yehowah even took **destructive** action against his people Israel when they proved disobedient to his covenant.
- And it must occur that if you should at all forget Yehowah your God and you should actually walk after other gods and serve them and bow down to them, I do bear witness against you today that you people will absolutely perish. (**Deuteronomy 8:19**)
- Like the nations that Yehowah is **destroying** from before you, that is the way you will perish, because you will not listen to the voice of Yehowah your God. (**Deuteronomy 8:20**)
- And it must occur that just as Yehowah exulted over you to do you good and to multiply you, so Yehowah will exult over you to **destroy** you and to annihilate you, and you will simply be torn away from off the soil to which you are going to take possession of it. (**Deuteronomy 28:63**)
- And it must occur that just as I had kept alert toward them to uproot and to pull down and to tear down and to **destroy** and to do damage, so I shall keep alert toward them to build up and to plant, is the utterance of Yehowah. (**Jeremiah 31:28**)

## •• Will All Persons Destroyed By God In Times Past Be Dead Forever

- The Bible indicates that not all **destruction** is eternal. This is demonstrated by the fact that the **Hebrew** word, '*avad-dohn*', destruction, is used twice to parallel **Sheol**.

- **Sheol** is naked in front of him, and the place of **destruction** has no covering. (**Job 26:6**)
- **Sheol** and the place of **destruction** are in front of Yehowah. How much more so the hearts of the sons of mankind! (**Proverbs 15:11**)
- The prophet Zephaniah spoke of the **destruction** of Assyria, whereas Ezekiel said that the Assyrians would go down to **Sheol**.
- And he will stretch out his hand toward the north, and he will **destroy Assyria**. And he will make Nineveh a desolate waste, a waterless region like the wilderness. (**Zephaniah 2:13**)
- The foremost men of the mighty ones will speak out of the midst of **Sheol** even to him, with his helpers. They will certainly go down, they must lie down as the uncircumcised, slain by the sword. (**Ezekiel 32:21**)
- There is where Assyria and all her congregation are. His burial places are round about him. All of them are slain, those falling by the sword. (**Ezekiel 32:22**)
- When speaking of the **destruction** of the rebels Dathan and Abiram, Moses wrote that they went down **alive into Sheol**.
- And it came about that as soon as he had finished speaking all these words, the ground that was under them began to be split apart. (**Numbers 16:31**)
- So down they went, and all who belonged to them, **alive into Sheol**, and the earth went covering them over, so that they perished from the midst of the congregation. (**Numbers 16:33**)
- Since **Sheol** in the Bible denotes the common grave of mankind from which there will be a resurrection, it is evident that not all **destruction** not even all **destruction** at the hand of God is necessarily eternal.
- This is also illustrated by what happened to the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah and their inhabitants. Jude indicated that these cities **were everlastingly destroyed**.

- So too Sodom and Gomorrah and the cities about them, after they in the same manner as the foregoing ones had committed fornication excessively and gone out after flesh for unnatural use, are placed before us as a warning example by **undergoing the judicial punishment of everlasting fire**. (Jude 1:7)
- And by reducing the cities Sodom and Gomorrah to ashes he condemned them, **setting a pattern for ungodly persons of things to come**. (2 Peter 2:6)
- However, Jesus words recorded in;
- Truly I say to you, it will be more endurable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah on Judgment Day than for that city. (Matthew 10:15)
- Show that at least some of the inhabitants of Sodom and Gomorrah will receive a resurrection.

**See Also JUDGMENT DAY**

## **• Everlasting Destruction**

- The Bible does not indicate that all the dead will be resurrected. Jesus implied this when he spoke of those who have been counted worthy of gaining that system of things and the resurrection from the dead.
- But those who have been counted worthy of gaining that system of things and the resurrection from the dead neither marry nor are given in marriage. (Luke 20:35)
- The possibility of **eternal destruction** for some is also indicated by Jesus words at;
- But those who have been counted worthy of gaining that system of things and the resurrection from the dead neither marry nor are given in marriage. (Luke 20:35)
- Do not become fearful of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul, **but rather be in fear of him that can destroy both soul and body in Gehenna**. Regarding this text, *The New International Dictionary of New Testament Theology* [edited by C. Brown, 1978, Vol. 3, p. 304] states[;]

- And do not become fearful of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather be in fear of him that can destroy both soul and body in Gehenna. (**Matthew 10:28**)
- Teaches not the potential immortality of the soul but the irreversibility of divine judgment on the unrepentant. Also, Bauer's Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament (revised by F. W. Gingrich and F. Danker, 1979, p. 95), gives the meaning **eternal death** with reference to the Greek phrase in;
- And do not become fearful of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather be in fear of him that can destroy both soul and body in **Gehenna**. (**Matthew 10:28**)
- Translated **destroy both soul and body in Gehenna**. Thus, being consigned to **Gehenna** refers to utter **destruction** from **which no resurrection is possible**.

#### **See Also GEHENNA**

- The possibility of **eternal destruction** is particularly an issue during the conclusion of the system of things. When Jesus was asked by his disciples what would be the sign of his presence and of the conclusion of the system of things, he included as part of his answer the parable of the sheep and the goats.
- While he was sitting upon the Mount of Olives, the disciples approached him privately, saying; Tell us, When will these things be, and what will be the sign of your presence and of the conclusion of the system of things? (**Matthew 24:3**)
- When the Son of man arrives in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit down on his glorious throne. (**Matthew 25:31**)
- And all the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another, just as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. (**Matthew 25:32**)
- And he will put the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on his left. (**Matthew 25:33**)
- Then the king will say to those on his right, Come, you who have been blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you

from the founding of the world. (**Matthew 25:34**)

- For I became hungry and you gave me something to eat. I got thirsty and you gave me something to drink. I was a stranger and you received me hospitably. (**Matthew 25:35**)
- Naked, and you clothed me. I fell sick and you looked after me. I was in prison and you came to me. (**Matthew 25:36**)
- Then the righteous ones will answer him with the words; Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty, and give you something to drink? (**Matthew 25:37**)
- When did we see you a stranger and receive you hospitably, or naked, and clothe you? (**Matthew 25:38**)
- When did we see you sick or in prison and go to you? (**Matthew 25:39**)
- And in reply the king will say to them; Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me. (**Matthew 25:40**)
- Then he will say in turn, to those on his left; Be on your way from me, you who have been cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the Devil and his angels. (**Matthew 25:41**)
- For I became hungry, but you gave me nothing to eat, and I got thirsty, but you gave me nothing to drink. (**Matthew 25:42**)
- I was a stranger, but you did not receive me hospitably. Naked, but you did not clothe me. Sick and in prison, but you did not look after me. (**Matthew 25:43**)
- Then they also will answer with the words, Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison and did not minister to you? (**Matthew 25:44**)
- Then he will answer them with the words; Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did not do it to one of these least ones, you did not do it to me. (**Matthew 25:45**)
- And **these will depart into everlasting cutting-off**, but the righteous ones into everlasting life. (**Matthew 25:46**)

- Concerning the goats it was foretold that the heavenly King would say; Be on your way from me, you who have been cursed, into the **everlasting fire prepared for the Devil and his angels**, and Jesus added, These will **depart into everlasting cutting-off**. Clearly the attitude and actions of some individuals will result in their permanent **destruction**.
- However, Yehowah does not desire any to be **destroyed** but desires all to attain to repentance.
- Yehowah is not slow respecting his promise, as some people consider slowness, but he is patient with you because he does not desire any to be **destroyed** but desires all to attain to repentance. (**2 Peter 3:9**)
- Do I take any delight at all in the death of someone wicked, is the utterance of the Sovereign Lord Yehowah, and not in that he should turn back from his ways and actually keep living? (**Ezekiel 18:23**)
- For I do not take any delight in the death of someone dying, is the utterance of the Sovereign Lord Yehowah. So cause a turning back and keep living, O you people. (**Ezekiel 18:32**)
- In fact, Yehowah loved human's so much that he provided the ransom sacrifice of his own Son, Jesus Christ.
- For God loved the world so much that he gave his only-begotten Son, in order, that everyone exercising faith in him might not be **destroyed** but have everlasting life. (**John 3:16**)
- One there is that is lawgiver and judge, he who is able to save and to **destroy**. But you, who are you to be judging your neighbor? (**James 4:12**)
- Despite this loving provision, the majority refuse to follow the road leading off into life, but they remain on the road leading off into **destruction**.
- Go in through the narrow gate, because broad and spacious is the road leading off into **destruction**, and many are the ones going in through it. (**Matthew 7:13**)

- Whereas narrow is the gate and cramped the road leading off into life, and few are the ones finding it. (**Matthew 7:14**)
- The Bible indicates that a number of things, individuals, and organizations are to be everlastingly destroyed. Jesus referred to Judas as **the son of destruction**.
- When I was with them I used to watch over them on account of your own name which you have given me, and I have kept them, and not one of them is destroyed except **the son of destruction**, in order, that the scripture might be fulfilled. (**John 17:12**)
- Judas deliberate betrayal of the Son of God made him subject to **eternal destruction**. The same is true of those **who blaspheme the Holy Spirit**. They are guilty of **everlasting sin** and are forgiven neither in this system of things nor in that to come.
- Truly I say to you that all things will be forgiven the sons of men, no matter what sins and blasphemies they blasphemously commit. (**Mark 3:28**)
- However, whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit has **no forgiveness forever, but is guilty of everlasting sin**. (**Mark 3:29**)
- For example, whoever speaks a word against the Son of man, it will be forgiven him, but whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit, **it will not be forgiven him, no, not in this system of things nor in that to come**. (**Matthew 12:32**)
- Permanent **destruction** also awaits those who by choice do not know God and those who do not obey the Good News.
- In a flaming fire, as he brings vengeance upon those who do not know God and those who do not obey the Good News about our Lord Jesus. (**2 Thessalonians 1:8**)
- These very ones will undergo the judicial punishment of everlasting **destruction** from before the Lord and from the glory of his strength. (**2 Thessalonians 1:9**)
- The composite apostate man of lawlessness is also termed **the son of destruction**.
- Let no one seduce you in any manner, because it will not come

unless the apostasy comes first and the man of lawlessness gets revealed, **the son of destruction**. (2 Thessalonians 2:3)

- **A judgment of eternal destruction** has been determined for **Satan, his demons, the symbolic wild beast and false prophet, and even death and Hades**.
- Then he will say in turn, to those on his left; Be on your way from me, you who have been cursed, into the **everlasting fire prepared for the Devil and his angels**. (Matthew 25:41)
- And the Devil who was misleading them was hurled into the lake of fire and sulphur, where both the wild beast and the false prophet already were, and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever. (Revelation 20:10)
- And **death and Hades** were hurled into the lake of fire. This **means the second death**, the lake of fire. (Revelation 20:14)
- Furthermore, whoever was not found written in the book of life was hurled into the lake of fire. (Revelation 20:15)
- But as for the cowards and those without faith and those who are disgusting in their filth and murderers and fornicators and those practicing spiritism and idolaters and all the liars, their portion will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulphur. This means the second death. (Revelation 21:8)
- All of these are consigned to the lake of fire, that is, they are **everlastingly destroyed**.

**See Also LAKE OF FIRE**

**See Also BLASPHEMY**

**See Also MAN OF LAWLESSNESS**

- Fire was used in Bible times as the most thorough means of **destruction**. Hence, Jesus used fire to illustrate the complete **destruction** of the wicked.
- Therefore, just as the weeds are collected and burned with fire, so it will be in the conclusion of the system of things. (Matthew 13:40)
- The Son of man will send forth his angels, and they will collect

out from his kingdom all things that cause stumbling and persons who are doing lawlessness. (**Matthew 13:41**)

- And they will pitch them into the fiery furnace. There is where their weeping and the gnashing of their teeth will be. (**Matthew 13:42**)
- That is how it will be in the conclusion of the system of things: the angels will go out and separate the wicked from among the righteous (**Matthew 13:49**)
- And will cast them into the fiery furnace. There is where their weeping and the gnashing of their teeth will be. (**Matthew 13:50**)

**See Also FIRE**