

~DUNG (313)

- The **excrement of human's, birds, and beasts** is represented by various words in Biblical languages. In the Scriptures, dung often has figurative associations.
- A private place or privy was at the service of Israel's soldiers outside their army camps, and they were to **cover their excrement**.
- And a private place should be at your service outside the camp, and you must go out there. (**Deuteronomy 23:12**)
- And a peg should be at your service along with your implements, and it must occur that when you squat outside, you must also **dig a hole with it** and turn and **cover your excrement**. (**Deuteronomy 23:13**)
- For Yehowah your God is walking about within your camp to deliver you and to abandon your enemies to you, and your camp must prove to be holy, that he may see nothing indecent in you and certainly turn away from accompanying you. (**Deuteronomy 23:14**)
- This preserved the army's cleanness before Yehowah and also helped to prevent the spread of fly-borne infectious diseases.
- One of Jerusalem's gates was the Gate of the Ash-heaps, usually called **the Dung Gate**.
- And I proceeded to go out by the Valley Gate by night and in front of the Fountain of the Big Snake and to the Gate of the Ash-heaps, and I was constantly examining the walls of Jerusalem, how they were broken down and the gates of it had been eaten up by fire. (**Nehemiah 2:13**)
- The Valley Gate was what Hanun and the inhabitants of Zanoah repaired, they themselves built it and then set up its doors, its bolts and its bars, also a thousand cubits in the wall as far as the Gate of the Ash-heaps. (**Nehemiah 3:13**)
- And the Gate of the Ash-heaps was what Malchijah the son of Rechab, a prince of the district of Beth-haccherem, repaired, he

himself went building it and setting up its doors, its bolts and its bars. (**Nehemiah 3:14**)

- Then I brought up the princes of Judah upon the wall. Further, I appointed two large thanksgiving choirs and processions, and the one was walking to the right upon the wall to the Gate of the Ash-heaps. (**Nehemiah 12:31**)
- It was situated a thousand cubits (445 meters)(1,458 feet) to the East of the Valley Gate and hence to the South of Mount Zion. This gate was probably so named because of the refuse heaped up in the Valley of Hinnom located below it and to which it led, the city's garbage was possibly taken out through this gate.
- Some of the nomadic peoples may have used **dung** as fuel. Ezekiel, enacting a scene prophetic of Jerusalem's siege, objected when God commanded him to use **human excrement** for fuel in baking bread. God kindly permitted him to use **cattle manure instead**.
- And as a round cake of barley you will eat it, and as for it, upon **dung** cakes of the **excrement of mankind** you will bake it before their eyes. (**Ezekiel 4:12**)
- And Yehowah went on to say; Just like this the sons of Israel will eat their bread unclean among the nations to which I shall disperse them. (**Ezekiel 4:13**)
- And I proceeded to say; Alas, O Sovereign Lord Yehowah! Look! My soul is not a defiled one, neither a body already dead nor a torn animal have I eaten from my youth up, even until now, and into my mouth there has come no foul flesh. (**Ezekiel 4:14**)
- Accordingly he said to me; See, I have given you **cattle manure** instead of the **dung cakes of mankind**, and you must make your bread upon it. (**Ezekiel 4:15**)
- And he continued saying to me; Son of man, here I am breaking the rods around which ring-shaped loaves are suspended, in Jerusalem, and they will have to eat bread by weight and in anxious care, and it will be by measure and in horror that they will drink water itself. (**Ezekiel 4:16**)
- To the intent that they may be lacking bread and water and they may look astonished at one another and rot away in their error.

(Ezekiel 4:17)

- This seems to indicate that it was not the normal practice in Israel.
- **Dung** was **used as manure to fertilize the soil**. Straw and **dung** seem to have been mixed in a manure place, the straw possibly being trodden into it by animals.
- For the hand of Yehowah will settle down on this mountain, and Moab must be trodden down in its place as when a straw heap is trodden down in a manure place. (Isaiah 25:10)
- A way to fertilize a fig tree was to **dig around it and put on manure**.
- In reply he said to him, Master, let it alone also this year, until I dig around it and **put on manure**. (Luke 13:8)
- Generally, **dung** was considered to be offensive refuse, something for disposal. Expressive of its offensiveness and also giving force to the thought of removal were Yehowah's words concerning the wayward house of Israel's King Jeroboam.
- For that reason here I am bringing calamity upon the house of Jeroboam, and I shall certainly cut off from Jeroboam anyone urinating against a wall, a helpless and worthless one in Israel, and I shall indeed make a clean sweep behind the house of Jeroboam, **just as one clears away the dung** until it is disposed of. (1 Kings 14:10)
- Turning **a man's house into a public privy** was the greatest insult and a punishment.
- And by me an order has been put through that, as for anybody that violates this decree, a timber will be pulled out of his house and he will be impaled upon it, and his house will be turned into a public privy on this account. (Ezra 6:11)
- The king was answering and saying to the Chaldeans; The word is being promulgated by me; If you men do not make the dream known to me, and its interpretation, dismembered is what you will be, and into **public privies your own houses** will be turned. (Daniel 2:5)

- And from me an order is being put through, that any people, national group or language that says anything wrong against the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego should be dismembered, and its house should be **turned into a public privy**, forasmuch as there does not exist another god that is able to deliver like this one. (**Daniel 3:29**)
- During the test of godship atop Mount Carmel, Elijah taunted the prophets of unresponsive Baal by saying,
- And it came about at noon that Elijah began to mock them and say; Call at the top of your voice, for he is a god, for he must be concerned with a matter, and he has **excrement** and has to go to the **privy**. Or maybe he is asleep and ought to wake up! (**1 Kings 18:27**)
- Jehu later had the house of Baal pulled down, and they kept it set aside for **privies**.
- Further, they pulled down the sacred pillar of Baal and pulled down the house of Baal, and they kept it set aside for **privies** down to this day. (**2 Kings 10:27**)
- **Dung or manure** is also employed as a simile to denote an **ignominious end of an individual or a nation**.
- When they returned and told him, he went on to say; It is the word of Yehowah that he spoke by means of his servant Elijah the Tishbite, saying; In the tract of land of Jezreel the dogs will eat the flesh of Jezebel. (**2 Kings 9:36**)
- And the dead body of Jezebel will certainly become as manure upon the face of the field in the tract of land of Jezreel, that they may not say; This is Jezebel. (**2 Kings 9:37**)
- They were annihilated at En-dor, they became manure for the ground. (**Psalms 83:10**)
- At that time, is the utterance of Yehowah, people will also bring forth the bones of the kings of Judah and the bones of its princes and the bones of the priests and the bones of the prophets and the bones of the inhabitants of Jerusalem from their graves. (**Jeremiah 8:1**)

- And they will actually spread them out to the sun and to the moon and to all the army of the heavens that they have loved and that they have served and that they have walked after and that they have sought and that they have bowed down to. They will not be gathered, nor will they be buried. As **manure upon the face of the ground they will become.** (Jeremiah 8:2)
- Speak, this is what the utterance of Yehowah is; The dead bodies of mankind must also fall like manure upon the face of the field and like a row of newly cut grain after the reaper, with no one to do the gathering up. (Jeremiah 9:22)
- With deaths from maladies they will die. They will not be bewailed, neither will they be buried. As **manure** upon the surface of the ground they will become, and by the sword and by famine they will come to an end, and their dead bodies will actually serve as food for the flying creatures of the heavens and for the beasts of the earth. (Jeremiah 16:4)
- God foretold that during his controversy with the nations those slain by Yehowah would not be bewailed, gathered up, or buried, but they would become **as manure on the surface of the ground.**
- A noise will certainly come clear to the farthest part of the earth, for there is a controversy that Yehowah has with the nations. He must personally put himself in judgment with all flesh. As regards the wicked ones, he must give them to the sword, is the utterance of Yehowah. (Jeremiah 25:31)
- This is what Yehowah of armies has said; Look! A calamity is going forth from nation to nation, and a great tempest itself will be roused up from the remotest parts of the earth. (Jeremiah 25:32)
- And those slain by Yehowah will certainly come to be in that day from one end of the earth clear to the other end of the earth. They will not be bewailed, neither will they be gathered up or be buried. As manure on the surface of the ground they will become. (Jeremiah 25:33)
- The great day of Yehowah is near. It is near, and there is a hurrying of it very much. The sound of the day of Yehowah is bitter. There a mighty man is letting out a cry. (Zephaniah 1:14)

- That day is a day of fury, a day of distress and of anguish, a day of storm and of desolation, a day of darkness and of gloominess, a day of clouds and of thick gloom. (**Zephaniah 1:15**)
- A day of horn and of alarm signal, against the fortified cities and against the high corner towers. (**Zephaniah 1:16**)
- And I will cause distress to mankind, and they will certainly walk like blind men, because it is against Yehowah that they have sinned. And their blood will actually be poured out like dust, and their bowels like the **dung**. (**Zephaniah 1:17**)
- Neither their silver nor their gold will be able to deliver them in the day of Yehowah's fury, but by the fire of his zeal the whole earth will be devoured, because he will make an extermination, indeed a terrible one, of all the inhabitants of the earth. (**Zephaniah 1:18**)
- According to the Law, no sin offering, the blood of which was brought into the sanctuary to make atonement, was to be eaten by the priest. Its carcass and its **dung** were to be burned in a clean place outside the camp.
- But as for the skin of the bull and all its flesh along with its head and its shanks and its intestines and its **dung**. (**Leviticus 4:11**)
- He must have the entire bull taken out to the outskirts of the camp to a clean place where the fatty ashes are poured out, and he must burn it upon wood in the fire. Where the fatty ashes are poured out it should be burned. (**Leviticus 4:12**)
- However, no sin offering of which some of the blood will be brought into the tent of meeting to make atonement in the holy place must be eaten. It is to be burned with fire. (**Leviticus 6:30**)
- However, he will have the bull of the sin offering and the goat of the sin offering, the blood of both of which was brought in to make atonement in the holy place, taken forth outside the camp, and they must burn their skins and their flesh and their **dung** in the fire. (**Leviticus 16:27**)

- This was because none of the animal was to be put to any other use or allowed to decay. It was clean, that is, sanctified to Yehowah and therefore had to be burned in a clean place.
- For the bodies of those animals whose blood is taken into the holy place by the High Priest for sin are burned up outside the camp. ([Hebrews 13:11](#))
- Hence Jesus also, that he might sanctify the people with his own blood, suffered outside the gate. ([Hebrews 13:12](#))
- Let us, then, go forth to him outside the camp, bearing the reproach he bore. ([Hebrews 13:13](#))
- Paul, who highly esteemed spiritual things and greatly valued his hope in Christ, declared; On account of him I have taken the loss of all things and I consider them as a lot of refuse, that I may gain Christ and be found in union with him.
- Why, for that matter, I do indeed also consider all things to be loss on account of the excelling value of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord. On account of him I have taken the loss of all things and I consider them as a lot of refuse, that I may gain Christ ([Philippians 3:8](#))
- And be found in union with him, having, not my own righteousness, which results from law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness that issues from God on the basis of faith. ([Philippians 3:9](#))
- The [Greek](#) word here rendered **refuse**, *sky'ba-lon*, denotes either **excrement** or the things left from a feast and thrown away from the table. Even if the apostle had the latter meaning in mind, his evaluation of **all things** as **refuse** emphasizes the high value he placed on gaining and being found in union with Christ.

See Also DOVES DUNG

- Regarding the expression **dungy idols**,

See Also IDOL, IDOLATRY (Viewpoint of God's Servants Toward Idolatry)