

## ~EVIL (322)

[Hebrew, *ra`*, Greek, *ka-kos*]

.. The Meaning Of Yehowah's Bringing Evil

.. Avoidance Of Evil

.. Christian Suffering Of Evil

- That which results in pain, sorrow, or distress. In order to convey the correct thought in **English**, the very comprehensive **Hebrew** word *ra`* is variously translated as bad, gloomy, ugly, evil, calamitous, malignant, ungenerous, and envious, depending upon the context.
- Thus Yehowah God made to grow out of the ground every tree desirable to ones sight and good for food and also the tree of life in the middle of the garden and the tree of the knowledge of good and **bad**. (**Genesis 2:9**)
- And he began to inquire of the officers of Pharaoh who were with him in the jail of his masters house, saying; For what reason are your faces **gloomy** today? (**Genesis 40:7**)
- And here there were seven other cows ascending after them out of the river Nile, **ugly** in appearance and thin fleshed, and they took their stand alongside the cows by the bank of the river Nile. (**Genesis 41:3**)
- When the people got to hear this **evil** word, they began to mourn, and none of them put his ornaments on himself. (**Exodus 33:4**)
- So Yehowah kept putting signs and miracles, great and **calamitous**, upon Egypt, upon Pharaoh and upon all his household before our eyes. (**Deuteronomy 6:22**)
- Yehowah will strike you with a **malignant** boil upon both knees and both legs, from which you will not be able to be healed, from the sole of your foot to the crown of your head. (**Deuteronomy 28:35**)
- Do not feed yourself with the food of anyone of ungenerous eye, nor show yourself craving his tasty dishes. (**Proverbs 23:6**)
- A man of envious eye is bestirring himself after valuable things, but he does not know that want itself will come upon him.

**(Proverbs 28:22)**

- The **Greek** word *ka-kos'* may be defined as that which is (1) morally **evil** and (2) destructive, among the ways it has been translated are, bad, evil, hurtful, injurious, wrong.
- For the good that I wish I do not do, but the **bad** that I do not wish is what I practice. (**Romans 7:19**)
- Return **evil** for **evil** to no one. Provide fine things in the sight of all men. (**Romans 12:17**)
- Deaden, therefore, your body members that are upon the earth as respects fornication, uncleanness, sexual appetite, **hurtful** desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. (**Colossians 3:5**)
- A certain one of them, their own prophet, said, Cretans are always liars, **injurious** wild beasts, unemployed gluttons. (**Titus 1:12**)
- But solid food belongs to mature people, to those who through use have their perceptive powers trained to distinguish both right and **wrong**. (**Hebrews 5:14**)
- The **Hebrew** verb *qa-lal'* means call down **evil** upon.

**See Also MALEDICTION**

- As first used in the Scriptures, the word *ra`* is the very antithesis of good. Adam was commanded not to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and bad *ra`* and was also warned of the consequences for disobedience.
- Hence, it is evident that God sets the standard as to what is good and what is bad, it is not within man's prerogative to do so apart from God. Although Adam transgressed God's express law, this transgression is not chargeable to Yehowah, for with **evil** things form of **Greek** *ka-kos'*, God cannot be tried nor does he himself try anyone. But each one is tried by being drawn out and enticed by his own desire.
- When under trial, let no one say; I am being tried by God. For with **evil** things God cannot be tried nor does he himself try anyone. (**James 1:13**)

- But each one is tried by being drawn out and enticed by his own desire. (**James 1:14**)
- And Yehowah God also laid this command upon the man; From every tree of the garden you may eat to satisfaction. (**Genesis 2:16**)
- But as for the tree of the knowledge of good and bad you must not eat from it, for in the day you eat from it you will positively die. (**Genesis 2:17**)
- And to Adam he said; Because you listened to your wife's voice and took to eating from the tree concerning which I gave you this command, You must not eat from it, cursed is the ground on your account. In pain you will eat its produce all the days of your life. (**Genesis 3:17**)
- And thorns and thistles it will grow for you, and you must eat the vegetation of the field. (**Genesis 3:18**)
- In the sweat of your face you will eat bread until you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken. For dust you are and to dust you will return. (**Genesis 3:19**)

## •• The Meaning Of Yehowah's Bringing Evil

- Rightly, Yehowah brought **evil** or **calamity** upon Adam for his disobedience. Hence, in the Scriptures, Yehowah is referred to as the Creator of **evil** or **calamity**. **KJ**
- Forming light and creating darkness, making peace and creating **calamity**, I, Yehowah, am doing all these things. (**Isaiah 45:7**)

His enforcing of the penalty for sin, namely, death, has proved to be an **evil**, or a **calamity**, for mankind. So, then, **evil** is not always synonymous with wrongdoing. Examples of **evils** or **calamities** created by Yehowah are the **Flood of Noah's day** and the **Ten Plagues** visited upon Egypt.

- But these **evils** were not wrongs. Rather, the rightful administration of justice against wrongdoers was involved in both cases. However, at times Yehowah, in his mercy, has refrained from bringing the intended calamity or evil in execution of his righteous judgment because of the repentance on the part of those concerned.

- And the true God got to see their works, that they had turned back from their bad way, and so the true God felt regret over the calamity that he had spoken of causing to them, and he did not cause it. (**Jonah 3:10**)
- Additionally, in having a warning given, Yehowah has undeservedly provided opportunities for the practicers of bad to change their course and thus to keep living.
- Say to them; As I am alive, is the utterance of the Sovereign Lord Yehowah, I take delight, not in the death of the wicked one, but in that someone wicked turns back from his way and actually keeps living. Turn back, turn back from your bad ways, for why is it that you should die, O house of Israel? (**Ezekiel 33:11**)

## •• Avoidance Of Evil

- Since Yehowah determines the standard of right and wrong, it behooves the individual to acquaint himself with that standard fully in order to be able to discern what course must be followed.
- But solid food belongs to mature people, to those who through use have their perceptive powers trained to distinguish both right and wrong. (**Hebrews 5:14**)
- The love of money is one of those **evil**, or injurious, things to be avoided.
- For the love of money is a root of all sorts of **injurious** things, and by reaching out for this love some have been led astray from the faith and have stabbed themselves all over with many pains. (**1 Timothy 6:10**)
- It is unwise to be anxious about material things, for, as Jesus said; Sufficient for each day is its own badness *ka-ki'a*; that is, the trouble, or affliction, associated with the day.
- So, never be anxious about the next day, for the next day will have its own anxieties. Sufficient for each day is its own **badness**. (**Matthew 6:34**)
- In putting on the new personality, hurtful desire is included among the things to be eliminated.

- Deaden, therefore, your body members that are upon the earth as respects fornication, uncleanness, sexual appetite, **hurtful desire**, and covetousness, which is idolatry. (**Colossians 3:5**)
- As the **Devil** tempted Jesus with **evil**, so Christians find that **evil** thoughts crop up or are presented to them. But to avoid being drawn into sin when this happens, the Christian should follow Jesus example and dismiss such evil immediately.
- When under trial, let no one say; I am being tried by God. For with **evil** things God cannot be tried nor does he himself try anyone. (**James 1:13**)
- But each one is tried by being drawn out and enticed by his own desire. (**James 1:14**)
- Then the desire, when it has become fertile, gives birth to sin, in turn, sin, when it has been accomplished, brings forth death. (**James 1:15**)
- Then Jesus was led by the spirit up into the wilderness to be tempted by the **Devil**. (**Matthew 4:1**)
- After he had fasted forty days and forty nights, then he felt hungry. (**Matthew 4:2**)
- Also, the Tempter came and said to him; If you are a son of God, tell these stones to become loaves of bread. (**Matthew 4:3**)
- But in reply he said; It is written: Man must live, not on bread alone, but on every utterance coming forth through Yehowah's mouth. (**Matthew 4:4**)
- Then the **Devil** took him along into the holy city, and he stationed him upon the battlement of the temple (**Matthew 4:5**)
- And said to him; If you are a son of God, hurl yourself down, for it is written: He will give his angels a charge concerning you, and they will carry you on their hands, that you may at no time strike your foot against a stone. (**Matthew 4:6**)
- Jesus said to him; Again it is written: You must not put Yehowah your God to the test. (**Matthew 4:7**)

- Again the **Devil** took him along to an unusually high mountain, and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. (**Matthew 4:8**)
- And he said to him; All these things I will give you if you fall down and do an act of worship to me. (**Matthew 4:9**)
- Then Jesus said to him; Go away, Satan! For it is written: It is Yehowah your God you must worship, and it is to him alone you must render sacred service. (**Matthew 4:10**)
- Then the **Devil** left him, and, look! Angels came and began to minister to him. (**Matthew 4:11**)
- Finally, brothers, whatever things are true, whatever things are of serious concern, whatever things are righteous, whatever things are chaste, whatever things are lovable, whatever things are well spoken of, whatever virtue there is and whatever praiseworthy thing there is, continue considering these things. (**Philippians 4:8**)
- Although, because of human imperfection, a Christian finds himself in constant conflict with the fallen flesh, as did Paul, and may do the bad that he does not wish to practice, he must not give in to the flesh but must keep up the fight against it.
- I find, then, this Law in my case, that when I wish to do what is right, what is bad is present with me. (**Romans 7:21**)
- So those who are in harmony with the flesh cannot please God. (**Romans 8:8**)
- The danger of failing to live up to God's righteous requirements is clearly seen in what Jesus stated concerning the **evil** slave. The severest punishment is to be meted out to that slave for his failure to care for the responsibilities entrusted to him and for going even to the point of beating his fellow slaves.
- But if ever that **evil** slave should say in his heart; My master is delaying. (**Matthew 24:48**)
- And should start to beat his fellow slaves and should eat and drink with the confirmed drunkards. (**Matthew 24:49**)

- The master of that slave will come on a day that he does not expect and in an hour that he does not know. (**Matthew 24:50**)
- And will punish him with the greatest severity and will assign him his part with the hypocrites. There is where his weeping and the gnashing of his teeth will be. (**Matthew 24:51**)

### • Christian Suffering Of Evil

- The Scriptures do not authorize the Christian to bring **evil** upon others, or to retaliate in kind. The Bible's counsel is;
- Return **evil** for **evil** to no one. Provide fine things in the sight of all men. (**Romans 12:17**)
- Do not avenge yourselves, beloved, but yield place to the wrath, for it is written: Vengeance is mine. I will repay, says Yehowah. (**Romans 12:19**)
- Do not let yourself be conquered by the **evil**, but keep conquering the evil with the good. (**Romans 12:21**)
- Moreover, in giving relative subjection to the governments ruling over them, servants of God should never be found to be practitioners of what is bad, for such governments, through their rulers who have a measure of God-given conscience to a lesser or greater degree, act against badness according to the Law of the land and rightfully exercise their authority to punish wrongdoers.
- For those ruling are an object of fear, not to the good deed, but to the bad. Do you, then, want to have no fear of the authority? Keep doing good, and you will have praise from it. (**Romans 13:3**)
- For it is God's minister to you for your good. But if you are doing what is bad, be in fear, for it is not without purpose that it bears the sword, for it is God's minister, an avenger to express wrath upon the one practicing what is bad. (**Romans 13:4**)
- For any misuse of their authority they will be accountable to the Supreme Judge. By suffering **evil** for righteousness sake, the Christian shares in the privilege of having a part in the glorifying of God's holy name.

- **But if he suffers as a Christian, let him not feel shame, but let him keep on glorifying God in this name. (1 Peter 4:16)**