

~FACE (423)

[Hebrew, *pa-neh'*, Greek, *pro'so pon*]

.. Attitude Or Position

- The Hebrew and Greek words for face Hebrew, *pa-neh'*, Greek, *pro'so pon* are used in varied senses, even as is true of the English word.
- The literal face, the front part of the head, is often meant.
- Then Joseph fell upon the **face** of his father and burst into tears over him and kissed him. (**Genesis 50:1**)
- When you are fasting, stop becoming sad-**faced** like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces that they may appear to men to be fasting. Truly I say to you, they are having their reward in full. (**Matthew 6:16**)
- But you, when fasting, grease your head and wash your **face**. (**Matthew 6:17**)
- For if anyone is a hearer of the word, and not a doer, this one is like a man looking at his natural **face** in a mirror. (**James 1:23**)
- Similarly, the front or forepart of anything may be meant.
- And you must join five tent cloths by themselves and six tent cloths by themselves, and you must fold double the sixth tent cloth at the forefront of the tent. (**Exodus 26:9**)
- When Joab saw that the battle charges had come to be against him from the front and from the rear, he at once chose some of all the choice men in Israel and drew them up in formation to meet the Syrians. (**2 Samuel 10:9**)
- And I began to see, and, look! There was a hand thrust out to me, and, look! In it there was the roll of a book. (**Ezekiel 2:9**)
- And he gradually spread it out before me, and it was written upon in front and on the back, and there were written in it dirges and moaning and wailing. (**Ezekiel 2:10**)

- Where the **Hebrew** term for **face** is translated forefront, or front. Or the reference may be to the surface
- Make ready, you men, a slaughtering block for his own sons because of the error of their forefathers, that they may not rise up and actually take possession of the earth and fill the face of the productive land with cities. (**Isaiah 14:21**)
- The very waters keep themselves hidden as by stone, and the **surface** of the watery deep makes itself compact. (**Job 38:30**)
- And he made out of one man every nation of men, to dwell upon the entire **surface** of the earth, and he decreed the appointed times and the set limits of the dwelling of men. (**Acts of Apostles 17:26**)
- Or outward appearance of a thing.
- Hypocrites, you know how to examine the outward appearance of earth and sky, but how is it you do not know how to examine this particular time? (**Luke 12:56**)
- For the sun rises with its burning heat and withers the vegetation, and its flower drops off and the beauty of its outward appearance perishes. So, too, the rich man will fade away in his ways of life. (**James 1:11**)

•• Attitude Or Position

- The expressions of one's **countenance** are an important index of one's frame of mind and feelings. Therefore **face** is often used to describe the attitude of God and man under various circumstances or to denote ones position as viewed by God or others. Some frequent usages are here presented.
- **Seeking the face** meant to seek audience before another, as before God or before an earthly ruler, imploring favorable attention or help.
- This is the generation of those **seeking** him, of those searching for your face, O God of Jacob. (**Psalms 24:6**)
- Concerning you my heart has said; **Seek** to find my **face**, you people. Your face, O Yehowah, I shall **seek** to find. (**Psalms 27:8**)

- Do not conceal your **face** from me. Do not in anger turn your servant away. My assistance you must become. Do not forsake me and do not leave me, O my God of salvation. (**Psalms 27:9**)
- Search for Yehowah and his strength. **Seek** his **face** constantly. (**Psalms 105:4**)
- Many are those seeking the **face** of a ruler, but the judgment of a man is from Yehowah. (**Proverbs 29:26**)
- I shall go. I will return to my place until they bear their guilt, and they will certainly **seek** my **face**. When they are in sore straits, they will seek me. (**Hosea 5:15**)
- The Hebrews spoke of **lifting up another's face**, thereby meaning showing consideration for such one.
- With that David accepted from her hand what she had brought him, and to her he said; Go up in peace to your house. See, I have listened to your voice that I may have consideration for your person. (**1 Samuel 25:35**)

See Also IMPARTIALITY

- To soften another's **face** indicates an allaying of his anger or a gaining of his favor and goodwill.
- And Moses proceeded to **soften the face** of Yehowah his God and to say; Why, O Yehowah, should your anger blaze against your people whom you brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a strong hand? (**Exodus 32:11**)
- I have **softened your face** with all my heart. Show me favor according to your saying; (**Psalms 119:58**)
- **Making ones face to shine** toward another, expresses favor.
- May Yehowah make his **face** shine toward you, and may he favor you. (**Numbers 6:25**)
- O God of armies, bring us back, and light up your **face**, that we may be saved. (**Psalms 80:7**)

- And **setting a person before ones face** denotes favorable attention.
- As for me, because of my integrity you have upheld me, and you will set me before your **face** to time indefinite. (**Psalms 41:12**)
- Surely the righteous themselves will give thanks to your name, the upright ones will dwell before your **face**. A melody of David. (**Psalms 140:13**)
- **Face to face**, may denote intimate association or communication. Thus, Moses was privileged to have such a close relationship with God and be used so powerfully by God that he is referred to as a prophet whom Yehowah knew face to face.
- But there has never yet risen up a prophet in Israel like Moses, whom Yehowah knew **face** to face. (**Deuteronomy 34:10**)
- As respects all the signs and the miracles that Yehowah sent him to do in the land of Egypt to Pharaoh and all his servants and all his land. (**Deuteronomy 34:11**)
- And as regards all the strong hand and all the great awesomeness that Moses exercised before the eyes of all Israel. (**Deuteronomy 34:12**)
- While it is said that Moses beheld the appearance of Yehowah and that Yehowah spoke to him mouth to mouth, yet Moses never saw Yehowah's **face** literally. Rather, as the context shows, it was God's speaking through angelic spokesmen to Moses in open, verbal communication, instead of by visions or dreams, that gave the basis for such expression.
- And he went on to say; Hear my words, please. If there came to be a prophet of yours for Yehowah, it would be in a vision I would make myself known to him. In a dream I would speak to him. (**Numbers 12:6**)
- Not so my servant Moses! He is being entrusted with all my house. (**Numbers 12:7**)
- Mouth to mouth I speak to him, thus showing him, and not by riddles, and the appearance of Yehowah is what he beholds. Why, then, did you not fear to speak against my servant, against

Moses? (Numbers 12:8)

- And he added; You are not able to see my **face**, because no man may see me and yet live. (**Exodus 33:20**)
- This Moses, whom they disowned, saying; Who appointed you ruler and judge? this man God sent off as both ruler and deliverer by the hand of the angel that appeared to him in the thornbush. (**Acts of Apostles 7:35**)
- This is he that came to be among the congregation in the wilderness with the angel that spoke to him on Mount Sinai and with our forefathers, and he received living sacred pronouncements to give you. (**Acts of Apostles 7:38**)
- Why, then, the Law? It was added to make transgressions manifest, until the seed should arrive to whom the promise had been made, and it was transmitted through angels by the hand of a mediator. (**Galatians 3:19**)
- Finally Jacob was left by himself. Then a man began to grapple with him until the dawn ascended. (**Genesis 32:24**)
- When he got to see that he had not prevailed over him, then he touched the socket of his thigh joint, and the socket of Jacob's thigh joint got out of place during his grappling with him. (**Genesis 32:25**)
- After that he said; Let me go, for the dawn has ascended. To this he said; I am not going to let you go until you first bless me. (**Genesis 32:26**)
- So he said to him; What is your name? To which he said; Jacob. (**Genesis 32:27**)
- Then he said; Your name will no longer be called Jacob but Israel, for you have contended with God and with men so that you at last prevailed. (**Genesis 32:28**)
- In turn Jacob inquired and said; Tell me, please, your name. However, he said; Why is it that you inquire for my name? With that he blessed him there. (**Genesis 32:29**)
- Hence Jacob called the name of the place Peniel, because, to

quote him, I have seen God **face** to face and yet my soul was delivered. (**Genesis 32:30**)

- In the belly he seized his brother by the heel, and with his dynamic energy he contended with God. (**Hosea 12:3**)
- And he kept contending with an angel and gradually prevailed. He wept, that he might implore favor for himself. At Bethel He got to find him, and there He began talking with us. (**Hosea 12:4**)
- Moses recalled to Israel that God spoke **face to face** with them, since they heard the loud voice at Sinai, though none of them actually saw Yehowah.
- **Face** to face Yehowah spoke with you in the mountain out of the middle of the fire. (**Deuteronomy 5:4**)
- So you people came near and stood at the base of the mountain, and the mountain was burning with fire up to midheaven, there was darkness, cloud and thick gloom. (**Deuteronomy 4:11**)
- And Yehowah began to speak to you out of the middle of the fire. The sound of words was what you were hearing, but no form were you seeing, nothing but a voice. (**Deuteronomy 4:12**)
- And he proceeded to state to you his covenant, which he commanded you to perform, the Ten Words, after which he wrote them upon two tablets of stone. (**Deuteronomy 4:13**)
- And it was I whom Yehowah commanded at that particular time to teach you regulations and judicial decisions, for you to do them in the land to which you are passing over to take possession of it. (**Deuteronomy 4:14**)
- And you must take good care of your souls, because you did not see any form on the day of Yehowah's speaking to you in Horeb out of the middle of the fire. (**Deuteronomy 4:15**)
- And the blare of a trumpet and the voice of words, on hearing which voice the people implored that no word should be added to them. (**Hebrews 12:19**)

- **By contrast, Jesus, in his pre-human existence, had personally been with the Father, and he pointed out that angels, spirit sons of God, also behold the **face** of God, serving in his heavenly courts.**
- **No man has seen God at any time, the only-begotten god who is in the bosom position with the Father is the one that has explained him. ([John 1:18](#))**
- **Therefore the Jews said to him; You are not yet fifty years old, and still you have seen Abraham? ([John 8:57](#))**
- **Jesus said to them; Most truly I say to you, before Abraham came into existence, I have been. ([John 8:58](#))**
- **See to it that you men do not despise one of these little ones, for I tell you that their angels in heaven always behold the **face** of my Father who is in heaven. ([Matthew 18:10](#))**
- **In reply the angel said to him; I am Gabriel, who stands near before God, and I was sent forth to speak with you and declare the Good News of these things to you. ([Luke 1:19](#))**
- **So, too, those called to be joint heirs with Christ in the heavens, in due time, see Yehowah God.**
- **See what sort of love the Father has given us, so that we should be called children of God, and such we are. That is why the world does not have a knowledge of us, because it has not come to know him. ([1 John 3:1](#))**
- **Beloved ones, now we are children of God, but as yet it has not been made manifest what we shall be. We do know that whenever he is made manifest we shall be like him, because we shall see him just as he is. ([1 John 3:2](#))**
- **And everyone who has this hope set upon him purifies himself just as that one is pure. ([1 John 3:3](#))**
- **Comparing the understanding of God's purpose had by the early Christian congregation with the fuller understanding to be had upon receiving their heavenly reward, and then coming to comprehend the divine purpose in its entirety as prophecy is fulfilled, the apostle Paul said;**

- For at present we see in hazy outline by means of a metal mirror, but then it will be **face** to face. At present I know partially, but then I shall know accurately even as I am accurately known. (**1 Corinthians 13:12**)
- And all of us, while we with unveiled **faces** reflect like mirrors the glory of Yehowah, are transformed into the same image from glory to glory, exactly as done by Yehowah the Spirit. (**2 Corinthians 3:18**)
- For God is he who said; Let the light shine out of darkness, and he has shone on our hearts to illuminate them with the glorious knowledge of God by the **face** of Christ. (**2 Corinthians 4:6**)
- To say or do anything **to ones face** indicates directness, an open confrontation.
- But repaying to his **face** the one who hates him by destroying him. He will not hesitate toward the one who hates him. He will repay him to his face. (**Deuteronomy 7:10**)
- Who will tell him of his way to his very **face**? And for what he himself has done who will reward him? (**Job 21:31**)
- And, in an unfavorable sense, may imply audacity and disrespect.
- But, for a change, thrust out your hand, please, and touch everything he has and see whether he will not curse you to your very **face**. (**Job 1:11**)
- The people made up of those offending me right to my **face** constantly, sacrificing in the gardens and making sacrificial smoke upon the bricks. (**Isaiah 65:3**)
- A related expression is **the rebuke of the face**.
- It is burned with fire, cut off. From the rebuke of your **face** they perish. (**Psalms 80:16**)
- To **set or direct ones face** has the sense of looking toward some goal, purpose, or desire.
- And he proceeded to run away and to get up and cross the River, he and all he had. After that he directed his **face** to the

mountainous region of Gilead. ([Genesis 31:21](#))

- And he continued; You yourself well know that the kingship was to have become mine, and it was toward me that all Israel had set their **face** for me to become king, but the kingship turned and came to be my brothers, for it was from Yehowah that it became his. ([1 Kings 2:15](#))
- Then it was that Hazael the king of Syria proceeded to go up and fight against Gath and capture it, after which Hazael set his **face** to go up against Jerusalem. ([2 Kings 12:17](#))
- And it carries the thought of strong intention and determination.
- At that Jehoshaphat became afraid and set his **face** to search for Yehowah. So he proclaimed a fast for all Judah. ([2 Chronicles 20:3](#))
- And the one coming against him will do according to his will, and there will be no one standing before him. And he will stand in the land of the Decoration, and there will be extermination in his hand. ([Daniel 11:16](#))
- And he will set his **face** to come with the forcefulness of his entire kingdom, and there will be equitable terms with him, and he will act effectively. And as regards the daughter of womankind, it will be granted to him to bring her to ruin. And she will not stand, and she will not continue to be his. ([Daniel 11:17](#))
- And he will turn his **face** back to the coastlands and will actually capture many. And a commander will have to make the reproach from him cease for himself, so that his reproach will not be. He will make it turn back upon that one. ([Daniel 11:18](#))
- And he will turn his **face** back to the fortresses of his own land, and he will certainly stumble and fall, and he will not be found. ([Daniel 11:19](#))
- As the days were now coming to the full for him to be taken up, he firmly set his **face** to go to Jerusalem. ([Luke 9:51](#))
- So he sent forth messengers in advance of him. And they went their way and entered into a village of Samaritans, to make

preparation for him. (Luke 9:52)

- But they did not receive him, because his **face** was set for going to Jerusalem. (Luke 9:53)
- Daniel **set his face to Yehowah** in that he earnestly sought Him, looking to him for help.
- And I proceeded to set my **face** to Yehowah the true God, in order to seek him with prayer and with entreaties, with fasting and sackcloth and ashes. (Daniel 9:3)
- You also can help along by your supplication for us, in order, that thanks may be given by many in our behalf for what is kindly given to us due to many prayerful **faces**. (2 Corinthians 1:11)