

~FINGER (186)

- As an instrument of the hand and arm, the finger has a great deal to do with the direction and finer details of the work done by an individual. Because they form part of the hand, in the Bible the fingers are sometimes used synonymously with **hand**.
- The two words, fingers and **hands**, are used in parallel statements in describing the making of idols.
- And their land is filled with valueless gods. To the work of one's **hands** they bow down, to that which ones **fingers** have made. (Isaiah 2:8)
- Figuratively, God is spoken of as accomplishing work with his **finger(s)**, such as writing the Ten Commandments on stone tablets
- Now as soon as he had finished speaking with him on Mount Sinai he proceeded to give Moses two tablets of the Testimony, tablets of stone written on by God's **finger**. (Exodus 31:18)
- Then Yehowah gave me the two tablets of stone written upon with God's **finger**, and upon them were all the words that Yehowah had spoken with you in the mountain out of the middle of the fire in the day of the congregation. (Deuteronomy 9:10)
- Performing miracles
- And the magic-practicing priests tried to do the same by their secret arts, in order to bring forth gnats, but they were unable. And the gnats came to be on man and beast. (Exodus 8:18)
- Hence the magic-practicing priests said to Pharaoh; It is the **finger** of God! But Pharaoh's heart continued to be obstinate, and he did not listen to them, just as Yehowah had spoken. (Exodus 8:19)
- Creating the heavens,
- When I see your heavens, the works of your **fingers**, the moon and the stars that you have prepared. (Psalms 8:3)

- That God's **fingers** employed in creative activity have reference to his Holy Spirit, or active force, is indicated by the Genesis account of creation, where it is said that God's active force **Hebrew, ru'ach**, spirit moved over the surface of the waters.
- Now the earth proved to be formless and waste and there was darkness upon the surface of the watery deep, and God's **active force** was moving to and fro over the surface of the waters. (**Genesis 1:2**)
- However, the **Christian Greek Scriptures** give the key to sure understanding of this symbolic usage, Matthew's account explaining that Jesus expelled demons by **God's Holy Spirit** and Luke's telling us that it was by **God's finger**.
- But if it is by means of **God's spirit** that I expel the demons, the kingdom of God has really overtaken you. (**Matthew 12:28**)
- But if it is by means of **God's finger** I expel the demons, the kingdom of God has really overtaken you. (**Luke 11:20**)
- Gestures are particularly expressive among Orientals, a small motion often has weighty significance. The Bible portrays the good-for-nothing man as making indications with his **fingers**.
- A good-for-nothing man, a man of hurtfulness, is walking with crookedness of speech. (**Proverbs 6:12**)
- Winking with his eye, making signs with his foot, making indications with his **fingers**. (**Proverbs 6:13**)
- Israelites would have to remove from their midst such things as the poking out of the **finger**, possibly in scorn or false accusation; along with the speaking of what was hurtful, if they would obtain God's favor.
- In that case you would call, and Yehowah himself would answer; You would cry for help, and he would say; Here I am! If you will remove from your midst the yoke bar, the poking out of the **finger** and the speaking of what is hurtful. (**Isaiah 58:9**)
- And you will grant to the hungry one your own soulful desire, and you will satisfy the soul that is being afflicted, your light also will certainly flash up even in the darkness, and your gloom will be

like midday. (Isaiah 58:10)

- And Yehowah will be bound to lead you constantly and to satisfy your soul even in a scorched land, and he will invigorate your very bones, and you must become like a well-watered garden, and like the source of water, the waters of which do not lie. (Isaiah 58:11)
- Because the **fingers** are prominently before a person's eyes and are vital in carrying out ones purposes, God's people were figuratively to tie his commandments upon their fingers as a constant reminder and guide in everything they did.
- Keep my commandments and continue living, and my Law like the pupil of your eyes. (Proverbs 7:2)
- Tie them upon your **fingers**, and write them upon the tablet of your heart. (Proverbs 7:3)
- Blessed be Yehowah my Rock, who is teaching my hands for fighting, my **fingers** for warfare. (Psalms 144:1)
- When a delegation asked King Rehoboam for a lighter load of service than his father Solomon had laid upon them, the king was advised by his young attendants to respond that his little **finger** would be thicker than his father's hips. This metaphor meant, that he would put a much heavier burden on them.
- Your father, for his part, made our yoke hard, and, as for you, now make the hard service of your father and his heavy yoke that he put upon us lighter, and we shall serve you. (1 Kings 12:4)
- In turn the young men that had grown up with him spoke to him, saying; This is what you should say to this people who have spoken to you, saying; Your father, for his part, made our yoke heavy, but, as for you, make it lighter upon us, this is what you should speak to them; My little **finger** itself will certainly be thicker than my father's hips. (1 Kings 12:10)
- And now my father, for his part, loaded upon you a heavy yoke, but I, for my part, shall add to your yoke. My father, for his part, chastised you with whips, but I, for my part, shall chastise you with scourges. (1 Kings 12:11)

- The **Hebrew** word used here for **little finger** comes from a root meaning be small, little, least.
- Jesus Christ used a similar figure of speech in illustrating the harsh, arrogant domination the scribes and Pharisees exercised. Showing the complete unwillingness of these religious leaders to help the burdened people in the least, Jesus said that they bound heavy loads on men's shoulders but were themselves not willing to budge them with **their finger**.
- The scribes and the Pharisees have seated themselves in the seat of Moses. (**Matthew 23:2**)
- Therefore all the things they tell you, do and observe, but do not do according to their deeds, for they say but do not perform. (**Matthew 23:3**)
- They bind up heavy loads and put them upon the shoulders of men, but they themselves are not willing to budge them with **their finger**. (**Matthew 23:4**)
- In another metaphor Jesus depicted the rich man as desiring to get Lazarus to do even the least thing for him, bring only water on the tip of his **finger**, this request being designed to get Lazarus away from his favored position with Abraham.
- Now in course of time the beggar died and he was carried off by the angels to the bosom position of Abraham. Also, the rich man died and was buried. (**Luke 16:22**)
- So he called and said; Father Abraham, have mercy on me and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his **finger** in water and cool my tongue, because I am in anguish in this blazing fire. (**Luke 16:24**)
- One of the Rephaim who fought against Israel was a man of extraordinary size, a genetic freak, having his **fingers** and toes in sixes, 24 in all.
- And war arose yet again at Gath, when there happened to be a man of extraordinary size, with six **fingers** on each of his hands and six toes on each of his feet, twenty-four in number, and he too had been born to the Rephaim. (**2 Samuel 21:20**)

- And there came to be war again at Gath, when there happened to be a man of extraordinary size whose **fingers** and toes were in sixes, twenty-four, and he, too, had been born to the Rephaim. (**1 Chronicles 20:6**)