

~FLEA (42)

[Hebrew, *par-`osh*]

- A very small wingless parasitic insect. **Fleas** are usually reddish brown and have short front and middle legs but long hind legs. The **fleas** strong and spiny legs as well as its flat sides enable it to move with ease and rapidity between the hairs or feathers of its host.
- The short rearward-pointing hairs covering this insects oval-shaped body not only permit the **flea** to move forward readily but also make it more difficult for the victim to remove it.
- The **fleas** small head is equipped with a beak that is used to pierce the skin of its victim, causing the blood to flow. Its leaping ability is phenomenal.
- Although less than 0.3 centimeters (1/8 inches) long, the **flea** that lives on human's can jump more than 30 centimeters (1 foot) horizontally and nearly 20 centimeters (8 inches) vertically. The Biblical variety of **flea** is probably that called, *Pulex irritans*.
- In Scripture the **flea** is mentioned only twice. When David was being pursued by King Saul, he questioned the king; After whom are you chasing? After a single **flea**? By comparing himself to a **flea**, David emphasized his littleness in comparison with Saul, thus showing that it was hardly worthwhile for the king to chase after him.
- After whom has the king of Israel gone out? After whom are you chasing? After a dead dog? After a single **flea**? (1 Samuel 24:14)
- And now do not let my blood fall to the earth before the face of Yehowah, for the king of Israel has gone out to look for a single **flea**, just as one chases a partridge upon the mountains. (1 Samuel 26:20)
- Conveys a similar thought, but in the Greek Septuagint the words a single **flea** read my soul.