

~FLY (65)

[Hebrew, *zevuv'*, flies]

- A two-winged insect of the genus *Musca* that usually lays its eggs in decayed or waste matter. The tiny hairs covering the **fly's** body and legs as well as the pads of sticky hairs on each foot carry bacteria millions of them in the case of a single housefly.
- Dead **flies** are what cause the oil of the ointment maker to stink, to bubble forth, wrote the congregator. The putrefaction of dead flies would cause the oil to give off an offensive odor as well as to ferment, ruining it, just as a little foolishness would damage the reputation of one known for his wisdom and glory.
- Dead **flies** are what cause the oil of the ointment maker to stink, to bubble forth. So a little foolishness does to one who is precious for wisdom and glory. (**Ecclesiastes 10:1**)
- Isaiah speaks of Yehowah's whistling for the **flies** at the extremity of the Nile canals of Egypt and for the bees of the land of Assyria so that these might settle down upon the precipitous torrent valleys, the clefts of the crags, the thorn thickets, and all the watering places of Judah.
- This is evidently to be understood in a figurative sense, the **flies** denoting Egypt's armies and the bees the armies of the Assyrians.
- And it must occur in that day that Yehowah will whistle for the flies that are at the extremity of the Nile canals of Egypt and for the bees that are in the land of Assyria. (**Isaiah 7:18**)
- And they will certainly come in and settle down, all of them, upon the precipitous torrent valleys and upon the clefts of the crags and upon all the thorn thickets and upon all the watering places. (**Isaiah 7:19**)
- The name of the god venerated by the Philistines at Ekron, Baal-zebub, means Owner of the **Flies**. This has given rise to the thought that his worshipers may have regarded him as being able to control these insects.

- Since the giving of oracles was associated with Baal-zebub, others have suggested that the name may denote that this god gave oracles by means of the flight or buzzing of a **fly**.
- Then Ahaziah fell down through the grating in his roof chamber that was in Samaria and got sick. So he sent messengers and said to them; Go, inquire of Baal-zebub the god of Ekron whether I shall revive from this sickness. (**2 Kings 1:2**)
- So they said to him; There was a man that came up to meet us, and he proceeded to say to us; Go, return to the king who sent you, and you must speak to him; This is what Yehowah has said; Is it because there is no God at all in Israel that you are sending to inquire of Baal-zebub the god of Ekron? Therefore, as regards the couch upon which you have gone up, you will not come down off it, because you will positively die. (**2 Kings 1:6**)

See Also BAAL-ZEBUB

See Also GADFLY