

## ~FOOT (524)

[Hebrew, *re'ghel*, Greek, *pous*]

- Christ Washes His Disciple's Feet
- Walking
- Other Figurative Uses
- Comely Feet
- Cut Off Your Foot
- In The Christian Body
- God's Footstool

• The Hebrew *re'ghel* and the Greek *pous* basically refer to the lowest part of the leg, the body part upon which a person or an animal stands. Both terms are used literally and figuratively.

• In ancient times, as in many parts of the earth today, the feet were the main means of transportation. Some of the common people went barefoot, but sandals consisting of little more than a sole were commonly worn.

• On entering a house, a person removed his sandals. An essential, virtually obligatory mark of hospitality was to wash the feet of a guest, the service was performed either by the householder or by a servant, or at least water was provided for the purpose.

• Let a little water be taken, please, and you must have your **feet** washed. Then recline under the tree. (**Genesis 18:4**)

• With that the man came on into the house, and he went unharnessing the camels and giving straw and fodder to the camels and water to wash his **feet** and the **feet** of the men who were with him. (**Genesis 24:32**)

• Immediately she rose up and bowed with her face to the earth and said, Here is your slave girl as a maidservant to wash the **feet** of the servants of my lord. (**1 Samuel 25:41**)

• And, look! A woman who was known in the city to be a sinner learned that he was reclining at a meal in the house of the Pharisee, and she brought an alabaster case of perfumed oil. (**Luke 7:37**)

• And, taking a position behind at his **feet**, she wept and started to

wet his **feet** with her tears and she would wipe them off with the hair of her head. Also, she tenderly kissed his **feet** and greased them with the perfumed oil. ([Luke 7:38](#))

- With that he turned to the woman and said to Simon; Do you behold this woman? I entered into your house; You gave me no water for my **feet**. But this woman wet my **feet** with her tears and wiped them off with her hair. ([Luke 7:44](#))

### **See Also SANDAL**

- Since the sandals were removed when one was on holy ground, the priests when performing duties in the tabernacle or the temple undoubtedly served **barefoot**.
- Then he said; Do not come near here. Draw your sandals from off your **feet**, because the place where you are standing is holy ground. ([Exodus 3:5](#))
- In turn the prince of the army of Yehowah said to Joshua; Draw your sandals from off your **feet**, because the place on which you are standing is holy. At once Joshua did so. ([Joshua 5:15](#))
- No sandals were included in the instructions for making the priests garments. ([Exodus Chapter 28](#))

### **See Also ATTITUDES AND GESTURES**

#### **• Christ Washes His Disciple's Feet**

- Jesus Christ gave his disciples a lesson in humility and service to one another when he, their Master, washed their feet.
- After that he put water into a basin and started to wash the **feet** of the disciples and to dry them off with the towel with which he was girded. ([John 13:5](#))
- And so he came to Simon Peter. He said to him; Lord, are you washing my **feet**? ([John 13:6](#))
- In answer Jesus said to him; What I am doing you do not understand at present, but you will understand after these things. ([John 13:7](#))

- Peter said to him; You will certainly never wash my **feet**. Jesus answered him; Unless I wash you, you have no part with me. (John 13:8)
- Simon Peter said to him; Lord, not my **feet** only, but also my hands and my head. (John 13:9)
- Jesus said to him; He that has bathed does not need to have more than his **feet** washed, but is wholly clean. And you men are clean, but not all. (John 13:10)
- He knew, indeed, the man betraying him. This is why he said; Not all of you are clean. (John 13:11)
- When, now, he had washed their **feet** and had put his outer garments on and laid himself down at the table again, he said to them; Do you know what I have done to you? (John 13:12)
- You address me, Teacher, and, Lord, and you speak rightly, for I am such. (John 13:13)
- Therefore, if I, although Lord and Teacher, washed your feet, you also ought to wash the **feet** of one another. (John 13:14)
- Let a widow be put on the list who has become not less than sixty years old, a wife of one husband. (1 Timothy 5:9)
- Having a witness borne to her for fine works, if she reared children, if she entertained strangers, if she washed the **feet** of holy ones, if she relieved those in tribulation, if she diligently followed every good work. (1 Timothy 5:10)
- On this occasion Jesus said; He that has bathed does not need to have more than his **feet** washed, but is wholly clean, doubtless referring to the fact that even if a person was bathed, his **feet** would get dusty even in a short walk, and would frequently need washing.
- In the days of Jesus earthly ministry, the priests and Levites on guard duty at the temple, after immersing themselves early in the morning, were not required to bathe again that day, except to wash their hands and **feet**.
- And Aaron and his sons must wash their hands and their **feet** at it. (Exodus 30:19)

- **When they go into the tent of meeting they will wash with water that they may not die, or when they go near the altar to minister in order to make an offering made by fire smoke to Yehowah. (Exodus 30:20)**
- **And they must wash their hands and their feet that they may not die, and it must serve as a regulation to time indefinite for them, for him and his offspring throughout their generations. (Exodus 30:21)**
- **By saying; You men are clean, but not all, referring to Judas, Jesus apparently gave his actions on this occasion an additional spiritual significance.**
- **Jesus said to him; He that has bathed does not need to have more than his feet washed, but is wholly clean. And you men are clean, but not all. (John 13:10)**
- **He knew, indeed, the man betraying him. This is why he said; Not all of you are clean. (John 13:11)**
- **Then at;**
- **Husbands, continue loving your wives, just as the Christ also loved the congregation and delivered up himself for it. (Ephesians 5:25)**
- **That he might sanctify it, cleansing it with the bath of water by means of the word. (Ephesians 5:26)**
- **Jesus is shown as cleansing the Christian congregation with the bath of water by means of the word of truth. Logically, Jesus faithful followers were likewise to show humble concern not only for the physical needs of their brothers but even more so for their spiritual needs.**
- **Thereby they would help one another to keep clean from the daily temptations and entanglements that might contaminate a Christian while walking in this world.**
- **Let us approach with true hearts in the full assurance of faith, having had our hearts sprinkled from a wicked conscience and our bodies bathed with clean water. (Hebrews 10:22)**

- Brothers, even though a man takes some false step before he is aware of it, you who have spiritual qualifications try to readjust such a man in a spirit of mildness, as you each keep an eye on yourself, for fear you also may be tempted. ([Galatians 6:1](#))
- And keep making straight paths for your feet, that what is lame may not be put out of joint, but rather that it may be healed. ([Hebrews 12:13](#))

### See Also WASHING OF FEET

#### • Walking

- The words **foot** and **feet** are frequently used to denote a person's inclination or the course he takes, good or bad.
- I have considered my ways, that I may turn back my **feet** to your reminders. ([Psalms 119:59](#))
- From every bad path I have restrained my **feet**, for the purpose that I may keep your word. ([Psalms 119:101](#))
- For their **feet** are those that run to sheer badness, and they keep hastening to shed blood. ([Proverbs 1:16](#))
- Smooth out the course of your **foot**, and may all your own ways be firmly established. ([Proverbs 4:26](#))
- Her **feet** are descending to death. Her very steps take hold on Sheol itself. ([Proverbs 5:5](#))
- Also, that the soul should be without knowledge is not good, and he that is hastening with his **feet** is sinning. ([Proverbs 19:2](#))
- Their **feet** are speedy to shed blood. ([Romans 3:15](#))
- The word walk is used with similar significance, as in the statement, Noah walked with the true God, meaning that he took a course in harmony with God's will and commandments.
- This is the history of Noah. Noah was a righteous man. He proved himself faultless among his contemporaries. Noah **walked** with the true God. ([Genesis 6:9](#))

- Furthermore, it is you God made alive though you were dead in your trespasses and sins. (**Ephesians 2:1**)
- In which you at one time **walked** according to the system of things of this world, according to the ruler of the authority of the air, the spirit that now operates in the sons of disobedience. (**Ephesians 2:2**)
- God directs the **feet** of his faithful servants in the right path, figuratively, showing them the way to go so as not to stumble to a spiritual fall or be ensnared in evil, and sometimes even safeguarding them against capture by the enemy.
- The **feet** of his loyal ones he guards. As for the wicked ones, they are silenced in darkness, for not by power does a man prove superior. (**1 Samuel 2:9**)
- My eyes are constantly toward Yehowah, for he it is that brings my **feet** out of the net. (**Psalms 25:15**)
- Your word is a lamp to my **foot**, and a light to my roadway. (**Psalms 119:105**)
- He cannot possibly allow your **foot** to totter. The One guarding you cannot possibly be drowsy. (**Psalms 121:3**)
- Because of the tender compassion of our God. With this compassion a daybreak will visit us from on high. (**Luke 1:78**)
- To give light to those sitting in darkness and deaths shadow, to direct our **feet** prosperously in the way of peace. (**Luke 1:79**)
- On the other hand, he will cause the wicked to lose their **footing** and go down in defeat.
- Vengeance is mine, and retribution. At the appointed time their **foot** will move unsteadily, for the day of their disaster is near, and the events in readiness for them do make haste. (**Deuteronomy 32:35**)
- The nations have sunk down into the pit that they have made, in the net that they hid, their own **foot** has been caught. (**Psalms 9:15**)

- Yehowah warns against associating in a course with bad persons, or going in a bad path.
- My son, if sinners try to seduce you, do not consent. (**Proverbs 1:10**)
- My son, do not go in the way with them. Hold back your **foot** from their roadway. (**Proverbs 1:15**)
- Do not incline to the right hand or to the left. Remove your **foot** from what is bad. (**Proverbs 4:27**)
- He advises a person to guard his **feet** when going to the house of God. The person should draw near with a sincere heart to hear and to learn.
- Guard your **feet** whenever you go to the house of the true God, and let there be a drawing near to hear, rather than to give a sacrifice as the stupid ones do, for they are not aware of doing what is bad. (**Ecclesiastes 5:1**)

## •• Other Figurative Uses

- Other figurative expressions are resting-place for the sole of the **foot**, that is, a place of residence or possession
- And the dove did not find any **resting-place for the sole of its foot**, and so it returned to him into the ark because the waters were yet upon the surface of the whole earth. At that he put his hand out and took it and brought it to himself inside the ark. (**Genesis 8:9**)
- And among those nations you will have no ease, nor will there prove to be any **resting-place for the sole of your foot**, and Yehowah will indeed give you there a trembling heart and a failing of the eyes and despair of soul. (**Deuteronomy 28:65**)
- A **footbreadth**, to indicate the smallest parcel of land one could possess
- And yet he did not give him any inheritable possession in it, no, not a **footbreadth**, but he promised to give it to him as a possession, and after him to his seed, while as yet he had no

child. (**Acts of Apostles 7:5**)

- Do not engage in strife with them, because I shall not give you of their land so much as the width of the sole of the **foot**, because I have given Mount Seir to Esau as a holding. (**Deuteronomy 2:5**)
- Lift up the **foot**,
- To take or initiate a course of action (**Genesis 41:44**), make your **foot** rare at the house of your fellowman, not taking undue advantage of his hospitality
- Make your **foot** rare at the house of your fellowman, that he may not have his sufficiency of you and certainly hate you. (**Proverbs 25:17**)
- Walking **barefoot**,
- In humiliation or mourning, captives often being led barefoot,
- At that time Yehowah spoke by the hand of Isaiah the son of Amoz, saying, Go, and you must loosen the sackcloth from off your hips, and your sandals you should draw from off your feet. And he proceeded to do so, walking about naked and bare**foot**. (**Isaiah 20:2**)
- laying something at the **feet** of a person, as a gift or offering,
- However, a certain man, Ananias by name, together with Sapphira his wife, sold a possession (**Acts of Apostles 5:1**)
- And secretly held back some of the price, his wife also knowing about it, and he brought just a part and deposited it at the **feet** of the apostles. (**Acts of Apostles 5:2**)
- Falling at ones **feet**, in obeisance.
- Now one of the presiding officers of the synagogue, Jairus by name, came and, on catching sight of him, he fell at his **feet** (**Mark 5:22**)
- Putting under the **feet**, in subjection.
- For God subjected all things **under his feet**. But when he says



that all things have been subjected, it is evident that it is with the exception of the one who subjected all things to him. (**1 Corinthians 15:27**)

- All things you **subjected under his feet**. For in that he subjected all things to him God left nothing that is not subject to him. Now, though, we do not yet see all things in subjection to him. (**Hebrews 2:8**)
- **Bruising or treading under feet**, in victory.
- And you people will certainly tread down the wicked ones, for they will become as **powder under the soles of your feet** in the day on which I am acting, Yehowah of armies has said. (**Malachi 4:3**)
- For his part, the God who gives peace will crush Satan **under your feet** shortly. May the undeserved kindness of our Lord Jesus be with you. (**Romans 16:20**)
- **Putting feet** upon the neck of an enemy, as a symbol of subduing or conquering him.
- And it came about that as soon as they had brought out these kings to Joshua, Joshua proceeded to call all the men of Israel and to say to the commanders of the men of war that had gone with him; Come forward. **Place your feet on the back of the necks of these kings**. So they came forward and placed their feet on the back of their necks. (**Joshua 10:24**)
- **Washing the foot** in blood, in execution of enemies.
- Yehowah has said; From Bashan I shall bring back, I shall bring them back from the depths of the sea. (**Psalms 68:22**)
- In order, that you may **wash your foot in blood**, that the tongue of your dogs may have its portion from the enemies. (**Psalms 68:23**)
- **Covering the feet**, easing nature, literally, keeping the **feet** hidden.
- And he himself went out. And his servants came and began looking, and there the doors of the roof chamber were locked. So

they said, He is just **easing nature** in the cool interior room.  
(**Judges 3:24**)

- At length he came to the stone sheepfolds along the road, where a cave was. So Saul came in to ease nature, while David and his men were in the parts of the cave farthest back, sitting down. (**1 Samuel 24:3**)
- The phrase dipping his **foot** in oil was used prophetically in foretelling the fat, or abundant, portion that the tribe of Asher would have among the other tribes of Israel.
- And as to Asher he said; Blessed with sons is Asher. Let him become one approved by his brothers, and **one dipping his foot in oil**. (**Deuteronomy 33:24**)
- Ruth uncovered the **feet** of Boaz and lay down at his **feet** as a notification for him to take legal action in the matter of brother-in-law marriage.
- And it should occur that when he lies down, you must also take note of the place where he lies down, and you must come and uncover him at his feet and lie down, and he, for his part, will tell you what you ought to do. (**Ruth 3:4**)
- Meantime Boaz ate and drank, and his heart was feeling good. Then he went to lie down at the extremity of the grain heap. After that she came stealthily and uncovered him at his **feet** and lay down. (**Ruth 3:7**)
- And it came about at midnight that the man began to tremble. So he bent himself forward, and, look! A woman lying at his **feet**! (**Ruth 3:8**)

## •• **Comely Feet**

- Yehowah has special regard for the **feet** of those proclaiming the Good News of the Kingdom, calling them comely.
- How **comely** upon the mountains are the **feet** of the one bringing Good News, the one publishing peace, the one bringing Good News of something better, the one publishing salvation, the one saying to Zion; Your God has become king! (**Isaiah 52:7**)

- How, in turn, will they preach unless they have been sent forth? Just as it is written: How comely are the feet of those who declare Good News of good things! (**Romans 10:15**)
- The Christian must have his **feet** shod with the equipment of the Good News of peace so that he can properly carry the Good News.
- And with your **feet shod** with the equipment of the Good News of peace. (**Ephesians 6:15**)
- Jesus instructed his disciples that when those in a house or a city refused to take them in or listen to their words, they should shake the dust off their feet, thereby showing that they left the unreceptive house or city to the consequences that were due to come from a higher source, from heaven.
- Wherever anyone does not take you in or listen to your words, on going out of that house or that city **shake the dust off your feet**. (**Matthew 10:14**)

## .. Cut Off Your Foot

- Jesus spoke of cutting off ones **foot**, not literally but in a figurative sense, when he said; If, then, your hand or your **foot** is making you stumble, **cut it off and throw it away from you**.
- He meant that, instead of letting a body member such as a hand or a **foot** cause its owner to commit unforgivable sin, he should deaden such body member as completely as if it were severed from the body.
- If, then, your hand or your **foot** is making you stumble, cut it off and throw it away from you, it is finer for you to enter into life maimed or lame than to be thrown with two hands or two feet into the everlasting fire. (**Matthew 18:8**)
- And if your **foot** makes you stumble, cut it off, it is finer for you to enter into life lame than with two feet to be pitched into Gehenna. (**Mark 9:45**)
- Deadened, 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**)

## .. In The Christian Body

- The apostle Paul, likening the Christian congregation to a human body, highlights the interdependence of the members thereof when he says,

- If the **foot** should say; Because I am not a hand, I am no part of the body, it is not for this reason no part of the body. (**1 Corinthians 12:15**)

## •• God's Footstool

- Yehowah pictures himself in his sovereign position as sitting on a heavenly throne with the earth as his **footstool**.

- This is what Yehowah has said; The heavens are my throne, and the earth is my **footstool**. Where, then, is the house that you people can build for me, and where, then, is the place as a resting-place for me? (**Isaiah 66:1**)

- He says to Zion that he will beautify the place of his sanctuary, and he adds; I shall glorify the very place of my **feet**.

- To you the very glory of Lebanon will come, the juniper tree, the ash tree and the cypress at the same time, in order to beautify the place of my sanctuary, and I shall glorify the very place of my **feet**. (**Isaiah 60:13**)

- And to you the sons of those afflicting you must go, bowing down, and all those treating you disrespectfully must bend down at the very soles of your **feet**, and they will have to call you the city of Yehowah, Zion of the Holy One of Israel. (**Isaiah 60:14**)

**See Also HEEL**

**See Also TOE**