

## ~FOX (91)

[Hebrew, *shu-`al'*, Greek, *a-lo'pex*]

- A doglike animal distinguished by its pointed face, its large, erect, triangular ears, and its bushy tail. The **fox** is well known for its craftiness, and perhaps with reference to this characteristic Jesus Christ spoke of King Herod as that **fox**.
- And he said to them; Go and tell that **fox**, Look! I am casting out demons and accomplishing healing today and tomorrow, and the third day I shall be finished. (Luke 13:32)
- To elude its enemies, the **fox** depends more on cunning than swiftness, although for a short distance the animal has been reported to attain a speed of over 70 kilometers/hour (43 miles per hour)
- The present-day natives of Syria and Palestine do not always differentiate between the jackal and the **fox**, and many scholars believe that the Hebrew designation *shu-`al'* probably includes both the fox or *Vulpes vulpes* and the jackal or *Canis aureus*.
- A number of Bible translators have rendered *shu-`al'* as **jackal** in some of its occurrences.
- Jesus Christ, in forewarning a man desirous of following him, called attention to the fact that **foxes** had dens, whereas the Son of man had no place to lay his head.
- But Jesus said to him; **Foxes** have dens and birds of heaven have roosts, but the Son of man has nowhere to lay down his head. (Matthew 8:20)
- And Jesus said to him; **Foxes** have dens and birds of heaven have roosts, but the Son of man has nowhere to lay down his head. (Luke 9:58)
- Unless **foxes** use a natural crevice or the deserted or usurped burrow of another animal, they commonly burrow holes in the ground to form their dens.

- According to naturalists, the **fox** is not really as much of a poultry thief as he is purported to be. The animal's diet includes insects, rodents and other small animals, birds, carrion, grass, and fruits.
- Do you people grab hold of the **foxes** for us, the little foxes that are making spoil of the vineyards, as our vineyards are in bloom. (**Song of Solomon 2:15**)
- The **18th-Century** naturalist, **F. Hasselquist**, reported that in the neighborhood of Bethlehem and elsewhere steps had to be taken to guard against the inroads of **foxes** upon the vineyards when the grapes were ripe. [**Voyages and Travels in the Levant, London, 1766, p. 184**]
- Many feel that the jackal is meant at;
- They will be delivered over to the power of the sword, they will become a mere portion for **foxes**. (**Psalms 63:10**)
- Where reference is made to **foxes** as having a portion of those slain. The rendering **foxes** is, however, not inappropriate when considering that **foxes** also feed on carrion.
- The Scriptures allude to **foxes** dwelling in desolate areas, even ruins, away from human habitation.
- On account of Zion's mountain that is desolated, foxes themselves have walked on it. (**Lamentations 5:18**)
- Like **foxes** in the devastated places are what your own prophets have become, O Israel. (**Ezekiel 13:4**)
- They also tell of Samson's using 300 **foxes** to burn the grain, vineyards, and olive groves of the Philistines
- And Samson went his way and proceeded to catch three hundred **foxes** and to take torches and turn tail to tail and put one torch between two tails, right in the middle. (**Judges 15:4**)
- With that he set fire to the torches and sent them out into the fields of standing grain of the Philistines. Thus he set on fire everything from sheaf to standing grain and the vineyards and the olive groves. (**Judges 15:5**)

- **And of Tobiah the Ammonites ridicule that a mere **fox** could break down the wall of Jerusalem that was being rebuilt by the repatriated Jews.**
- **Now Tobiah the Ammonite was alongside him, and he went on to say; Even what they are building, if a **fox** went up against it, he would certainly break down their wall of stones. (**Nehemiah 4:3**)**