

## ~GOAD (75)

[Hebrews, *mal-madh*]

- An agricultural implement consisting of a rod approximately 2.5 meters (8 feet) in length and chiefly used for driving and guiding bulls when plowing.
- One end of the rod is equipped with a sharp metal point to prick the animal, and a broad chisel-like blade affixed to the other end is used for removing dirt and clay from the plowshare or for clearing it of roots and thorns.
- A cattle goad, was used by Shamgar in killing 600 Philistines.
- And after him there proved to be Shamgar the son of Anath, and he went striking down the Philistines, six hundred men, with a cattle **goad**, and he too got to save Israel. (**Judges 3:31**)
- The **Hebrew** word here rendered **goad** *mal-madh'* comes from the root *la-madh'*, **learn or teach**
- The Bible record mentions that when the Philistines had the upper hand on the Israelites during Saul's reign, the Israelites were not permitted to have smiths and therefore were forced to go down to the Philistines to get their farming implements sharpened and to have their cattle **goads**, apparently the metal points, fixed fast.
- Now there was not a smith to be found in all the land of Israel, because the Philistines had said; That the Hebrews may not make a sword or a spear. (**1 Samuel 13:19**)
- And all the Israelites would go down to the Philistines to get each one his plowshare or his mattock or his ax or his sickle sharpened. (**1 Samuel 13:20**)
- And the price for sharpening proved to be a pim for the plowshares and for the mattocks and for the three-toothed instruments and for the axes and for fixing fast the ox**goad**. (**1 Samuel 13:21**)
- The **goad** is compared to the words of a wise person, words that move the listener to advance in harmony with the wisdom heard.

- The words of the wise ones are like **oxgoads**, and just like nails driven in are those indulging in collections of sentences, they have been given from one shepherd. (**Ecclesiastes 12:11**)
- The figurative expression kicking against the **goads** is drawn from the action of a stubborn bull that resists the prickings of the **goad** by kicking against it, resulting in injury to himself.
- The expression, **therefore, denotes resisting or rebelling against rightful authority or a condition that cannot be altered, doing so to one's own injury.** This is exactly what Saul did before becoming a Christian, by fighting against the followers of Jesus Christ, who had the backing of Yehowah God.
- And when we had all fallen to the ground I heard a voice say to me in the Hebrew language, Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me? **To keep kicking against the goads makes it hard for you.** (**Acts of Apostles 26:14**)
- And so, under the present circumstances, I say to you, do not meddle with these men, but let them alone. Because, if this scheme or this work is from men, it will be overthrown. (**Acts of Apostles 5:38**)
- But if it is from God, you will not be able to overthrow them. Otherwise, you may perhaps be found fighters actually against God. (**Acts of Apostles 5:39**)