

~HEART (882)

[Hebrew, *lev, le-vav'*, Greek, *kar-di'a*]

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• The important organ of the body whose chief function is to pump the blood to nourish the body cells.

• For the soul of every sort of flesh is its blood by the soul in it. Consequently I said to the sons of Israel; You must not eat the blood of any sort of flesh, because the soul of every sort of flesh is its blood. Anyone eating it will be cut off. ([Leviticus 17:14](#))

• The **heart** is made prominent in the Scriptures, being mentioned about a thousand times in one way or another. The [Hebrew](#) *lev, le-vav'* and [Greek](#) *kar-di'a*, words for heart are used by the Bible writers both literally and figuratively.

• The Literal Heart

• In comparatively few instances the Bible writers refer to the literal **heart** organ. Thus, when Jehu proceeded to shoot Jehoram between the arms, the arrow came out at his **heart**.

• And Jehu himself filled his hand with a bow and proceeded to shoot Jehoram between the arms, so that the arrow came out at his **heart**, and he collapsed in his war chariot. ([2 Kings 9:24](#))

• And you must put the Urim and the Thummim into the breastpiece of judgment, and they must prove to be over Aaron's **heart** when he comes in before Yehowah, and Aaron must carry the judgments of the sons of Israel over his **heart** before Yehowah constantly. ([Exodus 28:30](#))

• The Figurative Heart

- In the great majority of its occurrences in the Scriptures, the word **heart** is used **figuratively**.
- It is said to stand for the central part in general, the inside, and so for the **interior man** as manifesting himself in all his various activities, in his desires, affections, emotions, passions, purposes, his thoughts, perceptions, imaginations, his wisdom, knowledge, skill, his beliefs and his reasonings, his memory and his consciousness. [Journal of the Society of Biblical Literature and Exegesis, 1882, p. 67]
- So, in the Scriptures the figurative **heart** is not confined to being the seat of affection and motivation, nor is it limited to the intellect. Among the Semites all that was peculiar to man, in the category of feelings as well as intellect and will, was attributed to the **heart**. It is the sum total of the interior man as opposed to the flesh, which is the exterior and tangible man. [The Metaphorical Use of the Names of Parts of the Body in Hebrew and in Akkadian, by East. Dhorme, Paris, 1963, pp. 113,114,128 (in French)]
- Not mere outward appearances but what a person really is inside is what counts with God, who is an examiner of **hearts**.
- The refining pot is for silver and the furnace for gold, but Yehowah is the examiner of **hearts**. (**Proverbs 17:3**)
- In case you should say; Look! We did not know of this, will not he himself that **is making an estimate of hearts** discern it, and he himself that is observing your soul know and certainly pay back to earthling man according to his activity? (**Proverbs 24:12**)
- You **have examined my heart**, you have made inspection by night you have refined me; You will discover that I have not schemed. My mouth will not transgress. (**Psalms 17:3**)
- But Yehowah said to Samuel; Do not look at his appearance and at the height of his stature, for I have rejected him. For not the way man sees is the way God sees, because mere man sees what appears to the eyes, but as for Yehowah, he sees what the **heart** is. (**1 Samuel 16:7**)
- So the Scriptures counsel;
- More than all else that is to be guarded, safeguard your **heart**, for out of it are the sources of life. (**Proverbs 4:23**)

- And Christian wives are urged to give primary attention, not to external adornment, but to the **secret person of the heart** in the incorruptible apparel of the quiet and mild spirit, which is of great value in the eyes of God.
- And do not let your adornment be that of the external braiding of the hair and of the putting on of gold ornaments or the wearing of outer garments. (**1 Peter 3:3**)
- But let it be the secret person of the **heart** in the incorruptible apparel of the quiet and mild spirit, which is of great value in the eyes of God. (**1 Peter 3:4**)
- In a number of cases in the Bible where the term **heart** occurs, it evidently focuses attention on the **thinking faculties**, but not in a sense that would isolate such faculties from the rest of what makes up the inner person.
- Moses urged the Israelites; You must call back to your **heart** must recall to your mind, that Yehowah is the true God. And later he told them, Yehowah has not given you a **heart** mind, to know.
- And you well know today, and you must call back to your **heart** that Yehowah is the true God in the heavens above and on the earth beneath. There is no other. (**Deuteronomy 4:39**)
- And yet Yehowah has not given you a **heart** to know and eyes to see and ears to hear down to this day. (**Deuteronomy 29:4**)
- Showing that at times the **heart**, as referred to in both the Hebrew Scriptures and the **Christian Greek Scriptures**, includes the intellect are instances where it is associated with thinking.
- And Jesus, knowing their thoughts, said; Why are you thinking wicked things in your **hearts**? (**Matthew 9:4**)
- Reasoning
- Now there were some of the scribes there, sitting and **reasoning** in their **hearts**. (**Mark 2:6**)
- Understanding
- Look! I shall certainly do according to your words. Look! I shall

- certainly give you a wise and **understanding heart**, so that one like you there has not happened to be before you, and after you there will not rise up one like you. (**1 Kings 3:12**)
- For they had not grasped the meaning of the loaves, but their **hearts** continued dull of **understanding**. (**Mark 6:52**)
 - **Knowledge**
 - The **understanding heart** is one that searches for knowledge, but the mouth of stupid people is one that aspires to foolishness. (**Proverbs 15:14**)
 - **Motivation**, the impelling force behind our conduct, is a further vital aspect of the inner person, as represented by the **heart**. Thus, those making contributions for the construction of the tabernacle came, everyone whose **heart impelled him**.
 - Then they came, everyone whose **heart impelled him**, and they brought, everyone whose spirit incited him, Yehowah's contribution for the work of the tent of meeting and for all its service and for the holy garments. (**Exodus 35:21**)
 - And all the women whose **hearts** impelled them with wisdom spun the goats hair. (**Exodus 35:26**)
 - Every man and woman whose **hearts incited** them to bring something for all the work that Yehowah had commanded to make by means of Moses did so, the sons of Israel brought a voluntary offering to Yehowah. (**Exodus 35:29**)
 - And Moses proceeded to call Bezalel and Oholiab and every wise-**hearted** man into whose heart Yehowah had put wisdom, everyone whose heart impelled him to approach the work in order to do it. (**Exodus 36:2**)
 - Wicked Haman emboldened himself, literally, filled him as to his **heart**, to scheme against the Jews.
 - King Ahasuerus now said, yes, he went on to say to Esther the queen; Who is this, and just where is the one who has emboldened himself to do that way? (**Esther 7:5**) Footnote
 - But Peter said; Ananias, why has Satan **emboldened** you to play

- false to the Holy Spirit and to hold back secretly some of the price of the field? (**Acts of Apostles 5:3**)
- For the word of God is alive and exerts power and is sharper than any two-edged sword and pierces even to the dividing of soul and spirit, and of joints and their marrow, and is able to discern thoughts and **intentions of the heart**. (**Hebrews 4:12**)
 - Paul explains that God's word of promise, like a sharp sword, is able to discern thoughts and intentions of the heart. Jesus, too, indicated that from the **heart** springs the **motivating force** behind our conduct, whether it is good or bad.
 - For example, out of the **heart** come **wicked reasonings, murders, adulteries, fornications, thieveries, false testimonies, blasphemies**. (**Matthew 15:19**)
 - A good man brings forth good out of the good treasure of his **heart**, but a wicked man brings forth what is wicked out of his wicked treasure, for out of the **hearts abundance** his mouth speaks. (**Luke 6:45**)
 - With a view to our cultivating **right motivations**, the Bible warns us against allowing our dealings with others to be tainted by a desire for selfish gain
 - These men are murmurers, complainers about their lot in life, proceeding according to their own desires, and their mouths speak swelling things, while they are admiring personalities for the sake of their own benefit. (**Jude 1:16**)
 - Or permitting love of money, a craving for riches, to determine our course of life.
 - However, those who are determined to be rich fall into temptation and a snare and many senseless and hurtful desires, which plunge men into destruction and ruin. (**1 Timothy 6:9**)
 - For the love of money is a root of all sorts of injurious things, and by reaching out for this love some have been led astray from the faith and have stabbed themselves all over with many pains. (**1 Timothy 6:10**)
 - Do not toil to gain riches. Cease from your own understanding.

(Proverbs 23:4)

- Have you caused your eyes to glance at it, when it is nothing? For without fail it makes wings for itself like those of an eagle and flies away toward the heavens. (**Proverbs 23:5**)
- Rather, it encourages us to cultivate genuine love for God as a basis for our service to him
- For this is what the love of God means, that we observe his commandments, and yet his commandments are not burdensome. (**1 John 5:3**)
- And it must occur that if you will without fail obey my commandments that I am commanding you today so as to love Yehowah your God and to serve him with all your **heart** and all your soul. (**Deuteronomy 11:13**)
- And self-sacrificing love as a guide in dealing with fellow believers
- This is my commandment, that you love one another just as I have loved you. (**John 15:12**)
- No one has love greater than this, that someone should surrender his soul in behalf of his friends. (**John 15:13**)
- it also encourages us to make a practice of loving others of our fellowmen as we do ourselves
- In answer he said; You must love Yehowah your God with your whole **heart** and with your whole soul and with your whole strength and with your whole mind, and, your neighbor as yourself. (**Luke 10:27**)
- He said to him; You answered correctly. Keep on doing this, and you will get life. (**Luke 10:28**)
- But, wanting to prove himself righteous, the man said to Jesus; Who really is my neighbor? (**Luke 10:29**)
- In reply Jesus said; A certain man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho and fell among robbers, who both stripped him and inflicted blows, and went off, leaving him half-dead.

(Luke 10:30)

- **Now, by coincidence, a certain priest was going down over that road, but, when he saw him, he went by on the opposite side. (Luke 10:31)**
- **Likewise, a Levite also, when he got down to the place and saw him, went by on the opposite side. (Luke 10:32)**
- **But a certain Samaritan traveling the road came upon him and, at seeing him, he was moved with pity. (Luke 10:33)**
- **So he approached him and bound up his wounds, pouring oil and wine upon them. Then he mounted him upon his own beast and brought him to an inn and took care of him. (Luke 10:34)**
- **And the next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said; Take care of him, and whatever you spend besides this, I will repay you when I come back here. (Luke 10:35)**
- **Who of these three seems to you to have made himself neighbor to the man that fell among the robbers? (Luke 10:36)**
- **He said; The one that acted mercifully toward him. Jesus then said to him; Go your way and be doing the same yourself. (Luke 10:37)**
- **Really, then, as long as we have time favorable for it, let us work what is good toward all, but especially toward those related to us in the faith. (Galatians 6:10)**
- **Obviously, the cultivating of such motivations involves use of the thinking faculties.**
- **Happy are those observing his reminders, with all the heart they keep searching for him. (Psalms 119:2)**
- **Also, your reminders are what I am fond of, as men of my counsel. (Psalms 119:24)**
- **I have taken your reminders as a possession to time indefinite, for they are the exultation of my heart. (Psalms 119:111)**

- The condition of our figurative **heart** is reflected in our **disposition, our attitude**, whether proud or humble.
- Everyone that is proud in **heart** is something detestable to Yehowah. Hand may join to hand, yet one will not be free from punishment. (**Proverbs 16:5**)
- Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am mild-tempered and lowly in **heart**, and you will find refreshment for your souls. (**Matthew 11:29**)
- Our **feelings and emotions** are also part of that inner man. These include love.
- And you must love Yehowah your God with all your **heart** and all your soul and all your vital force. (**Deuteronomy 6:5**)
- Now that you have purified your souls by your obedience to the truth with unhypocritical brotherly affection as the result, love one another intensely from the **heart**. (**1 Peter 1:22**)
- **Joy**
- Due to the fact that you did not serve Yehowah your God with rejoicing and **joy of heart** for the abundance of everything. (**Deuteronomy 28:47**)
- You also, therefore, are now, indeed, having grief. But I shall see you again and your **hearts** will rejoice, and your **joy** no one will take from you. (**John 16:22**)
- **Pain and sorrow**
- So the king said to me; Why is your face gloomy when you yourself are not sick? This is nothing but a **gloominess of heart**. At this I became very much afraid. (**Nehemiah 2:2**)
- That I have great grief and unceasing pain in my **heart**. (**Romans 9:2**)
- **Hate**
- You must not hate your brother in your **heart**. You should by all means reprove your associate, that you may not bear sin along

with him. (**Leviticus 19:17**)

- **Thus the heart can be anxious.**
- **Say to those who are anxious at heart; Be strong. Do not be afraid. Look! your own God will come with vengeance itself, God even with a repayment. He himself will come and save you people. (**Isaiah 35:4**)**
- **Pierced by affliction.**
- **For I am afflicted and poor, and my heart itself has been pierced within me. (**Psalms 109:22**)**
- **Melted by fear of distresses.**
- **And the officers must speak further to the people and say; Who is the man that is fearful and fainthearted? Let him go and return to his house, that he may not cause the hearts of his brothers to melt as his own heart. (**Deuteronomy 20:8**)**
- **In the Christian Greek Scriptures, when the mind is mentioned along with the heart, mind refers to the intellect while heart refers to the emotions, desires, and feelings of the inner person. For example, Jesus said,**
- **He said to him; You must love Yehowah your God with your whole heart and with your whole soul and with your whole mind. (**Matthew 22:37**)**
- **He thus showed that a person's desires, feelings, and emotions must express his love for God, but he must also express that love by the way he uses his mental faculties, as by taking in knowledge of God and Christ.**
- **This means everlasting life, their taking in knowledge of you, the only true God, and of the one whom you sent forth, Jesus Christ. (**John 17:3**)**
- **All such functions, capabilities, emotions, and qualities are ascribed, not to the literal heart organ, but to the figurative heart as representing the total inner personality.**

•• **The Heart Can Be Treacherous**

- Adam, although perfect, let his **heart** be enticed, he rejected the truth and turned away from God.
- But each one is tried by being drawn out and enticed by his own desire. (**James 1:14**)
- Then the desire, when it has become fertile, gives birth to sin, in turn, sin, when it has been accomplished, brings forth death. (**James 1:15**)
- Consequently, all human's, the offspring of fallen Adam, have been conceived in sin and brought forth in error.
- Look! With error I was brought forth with birth pains, and in sin my mother conceived me. (**Psalms 51:5**)
- After the Flood, God said regarding sinful mankind in general: The inclination of the **heart** of man is bad from his youth up.
- And Yehowah began to smell a restful odor, and so Yehowah said in his **heart**; Never again shall I call down evil upon the ground on man's account, because the inclination of the heart of man is bad from his youth up, and never again shall I deal every living thing a blow just as I have done. (**Genesis 8:21**)
- God told the rebellious nation of Judah; The **heart** is **more treacherous than anything else and is desperate**.
- The **heart** is more treacherous than anything else and is desperate. Who can know it? (**Jeremiah 17:9**)
- This constitutes a serious warning that those seeking to please God must give attention not merely to what other human's see, but to the kind of person they really are, the inner man.
- A person may have been a Christian for many years, have a fine knowledge of the Bible, and feel confident that he can safely handle any situation that may arise.
- Yet, although he knows full well that an act is wrong and specifically condemned by God's law, the thoughts and desires that he has secretly cherished may entice him into sinful action.

- For these reasons a Christian, though he knows the truth and may consider himself mature, must remember the treachery that his **heart** can display and must therefore exercise great care not to place himself in the way of temptation.
- And do not bring us into temptation, but deliver us from the wicked one. (**Matthew 6:13**)
- Neither let us practice fornication, as some of them committed fornication, only to fall, twenty-three thousand of them in one day. (**1 Corinthians 10:8**)
- Neither let us put Yehowah to the test, as some of them put him to the test, only to perish by the serpents. (**1 Corinthians 10:9**)
- Neither be murmurers, just as some of them murmured, only to perish by the destroyer. (**1 Corinthians 10:10**)
- Now these things went on befalling them as examples, and they were written for a warning to us upon whom the ends of the systems of things have arrived. (**1 Corinthians 10:11**)
- Consequently let him that thinks he is standing beware that he does not fall. (**1 Corinthians 10:12**)

•• Serving With A Complete Heart

- The literal **heart** must be whole to function normally, but the figurative heart can be divided. David prayed,
- Instruct me, O Yehowah, about your way. I shall walk in your truth. **Unify my heart to fear your name.** (**Psalms 86:11**)
- Such a person may be **halfhearted**, lukewarmly worshiping God.
- The **halfhearted** ones **I have hated**, but your Law I have loved. (**Psalms 119:113**)
- So, because you are lukewarm and neither hot nor cold, I am going to vomit you out of my mouth. (**Revelation 3:16**)
- An individual can also be of a **double heart**, literally, with a **heart** and a **heart**, trying to serve two masters, or deceptively saying one thing while thinking something else.

- Of Zebulun those going out to the army, drawing up in battle formation with all the weapons of war, there were fifty thousand, and for flocking together to David they were not of a **double heart**. (1 Chronicles 12:33)
- Untruth they keep speaking one to the other, with a smooth lip they keep speaking even with a **double heart**. (Psalms 12:2)
Footnote
- Jesus strongly denounced such **double-hearted** hypocrisy.
- You hypocrites, Isaiah aptly prophesied about you, when he said; (Matthew 15:7)
- This people honors me with their lips, yet their **heart** is far removed from me. (Matthew 15:8)
- One seeking to please God must be neither **halfhearted** nor double-hearted but must serve him with a **complete heart**.
- And you, Solomon my son, know the God of your father and serve him with a complete **heart** and with a delightful soul, for all hearts Yehowah is searching, and every inclination of the thoughts he is discerning. If you search for him, he will let himself be found by you, but if you leave him, he will cast you off forever. (1 Chronicles 28:9)
- This requires diligent effort in view of the **hearts** being desperate and inclined to badness.
- The **heart** is more treacherous than anything else and is desperate. Who can know it? (Jeremiah 17:9)
- I, Yehowah, am searching the **heart**, examining the kidneys, even to give to each one according to his ways, according to the fruitage of his dealings. (Jeremiah 17:10)
- And Yehowah began to smell a restful odor, and so Yehowah said in his **heart**; Never again shall I call down evil upon the ground on man's account, because the inclination of the heart of man is bad from his youth up, and never again shall I deal every living thing a blow just as I have done. (Genesis 8:21)
- Of help in maintaining a complete **heart** are, heartfelt prayer,

- I have called with my whole **heart**. Answer me, O Yehowah. Your regulations I will observe. (**Psalms 119:145**)
- Let us raise our **heart** along with our palms to God in the heavens: (**Lamentations 3:41**)
- Regular study of God's Word,
- For Ezra himself had **prepared his heart to consult the Law of Yehowah** and to do it and to teach in Israel regulation and justice. (**Ezra 7:10**)
- The **heart** of the righteous **one meditates so as to answer**, but the mouth of the wicked ones bubbles forth with bad things. (**Proverbs 15:28**)
- Participation in preaching the Good News,
- And I said; I am not going to make mention of him, and I shall speak no more in his name. And in my **heart it proved to be like a burning fire shut up in my bones**, and I got tired of holding in, and I was unable to endure it. (**Jeremiah 20:9**)
- And association with others whose **hearts** are complete toward Yehowah.
- As he was going along from there he got to encounter Jehonadab the son of Rechab coming to meet him. When he blessed him, he accordingly said to him; Is your **heart** upright with me, just as my own **heart** is with your **heart**? To this Jehonadab said; It is. If it is, do give me your hand. So he gave him his hand. At that he made him get up into the chariot with him. (**2 Kings 10:15**)
- Then he said; Do go along with me and look upon my toleration of no rivalry toward Yehowah. And they kept him riding with him in his war chariot. (**2 Kings 10:16**)

·· What Is Meant By Being, In Want Of Heart

- A number of times the Scriptures speak of a person's being in want of **heart**. **Lexicon in Veteris Testamenti Libros [by Koehler and Baumgartner, Leiden, 1958, p. 470]** says that this means **without intelligence**.

- **A Hebrew and English Lexicon of the Old Testament by William Gesenius [translated by E. Robinson, 1836, p. 517] says that such a person is void of understanding. Want of heart marks a person who is lacking good judgment or discernment. Thus, want of heart is contrasted with understanding**
- **On the lips of the understanding person wisdom is found, but the rod is for the back of **one in want of heart**. (Proverbs 10:13)**
- **Discernment.**
- **The **one in want of heart** has despised his own fellowman, but the man of broad discernment is one that keeps silent. (Proverbs 11:12)**
- **Foolishness is a rejoicing to one who **is in want of heart**, but the man of discernment is one who goes straight ahead. (Proverbs 15:21)**
- **In other cases the one in **want of heart** is shown to be inexperienced, foolish, lacking in wisdom.**
- **That I might peer upon the inexperienced ones. I was interested in discerning among the sons a young man **in want of heart**. (Proverbs 7:7)**
- **True wisdom has built its house, it has hewn out its seven pillars. (Proverbs 9:1)**
- **It has organized its meat slaughtering, it has mixed its wine, more than that, it has set in order its table. (Proverbs 9:2)**
- **It has sent forth its lady attendants, that it may call out on top of the heights of the town. (Proverbs 9:3)**
- **Whoever is inexperienced, let him turn aside here. Whoever is in **want of heart**, she has said to him. (Proverbs 9:4)**
- **Come, feed yourselves with my bread and share in drinking the wine that I have mixed. (Proverbs 9:5)**
- **Leave the inexperienced ones and keep living, and walk straight in the way of understanding. (Proverbs 9:6)**

- He that is correcting the ridiculer is taking to himself dishonor, and he that is giving a reproof to someone wicked, a defect in him. (**Proverbs 9:7**)
- Do not reprove a ridiculer, that he may not hate you. Give a reproof to a wise person and he will love you. (**Proverbs 9:8**)
- Give to a wise person and he will become still wiser. Impart knowledge to someone righteous and he will increase in learning. (**Proverbs 9:9**)
- Whoever is inexperienced, let him turn aside here. And whoever is **in want of heart**, she has also said to him. (**Proverbs 9:16**)
- The very lips of the righteous one keep pasturing many, but for **want of heart** the foolish themselves keep dying. (**Proverbs 10:21**)
- By using the term **heart**, these scriptures show that positive qualities of the whole inner person are deficient.
- That the expression **want of heart** includes the idea of **lacking good judgment or discernment** is evident from the context in which it is used in the Scriptures.
- Anyone committing adultery with a woman is **in want of heart**, he that does it is bringing his own soul to ruin. (**Proverbs 6:32**)
- The wise man says that one committing adultery is in want of **heart**. Other translations here read, lacketh sense, **Ro**, has no sense, **RS, JB**, lacks judgment, **NIV**, is a senseless fool, **NE**. The adulterer is a senseless fool in view of the bitter fruit of such sexual immorality.
- For one to know wisdom and discipline, to discern the sayings of understanding. (**Proverbs 1:2**)
- To receive the discipline that gives insight, righteousness and judgment and uprightness. (**Proverbs 1:3**)
- To give to the inexperienced ones shrewdness, to a young man knowledge and thinking ability. (**Proverbs 1:4**)
- For the commandment is a lamp, and a light the Law is, and the reproofs of discipline are the way of life. (**Proverbs 6:23**)

- To guard you against the bad woman, against the smoothness of the tongue of the foreign woman. (**Proverbs 6:24**)
- Do not desire her prettiness in your **heart**, and may she not take you with her lustrous eyes. (**Proverbs 6:25**)
- Because in behalf of a woman prostitute one comes down to a round loaf of bread, but as regards another man's wife, she hunts even for a precious soul. (**Proverbs 6:26**)
- Can a man rake together fire into his bosom and yet his very garments not be burned? (**Proverbs 6:27**)
- Or can a man walk upon the coals and his feet themselves not be scorched? (**Proverbs 6:28**)
- Likewise with anyone having relations with the wife of his fellowman, no one touching her will remain unpunishable. (**Proverbs 6:29**)
- People do not despise a thief just because he commits thievery to fill his soul when he is hungry. (**Proverbs 6:30**)
- But, when found, he will make it good with seven times as much, all the valuables of his house he will give. (**Proverbs 6:31**)
- Anyone committing adultery with a woman is in want of **heart**, he that does it is bringing his own soul to ruin. (**Proverbs 6:32**)
- A plague and dishonor he will find, and his reproach itself will not be wiped out. (**Proverbs 6:33**)
- For the rage of an able-bodied man is jealousy, and he will not show compassion in the day of vengeance. (**Proverbs 6:34**)
- He will have no consideration for any sort of ransom, neither will he show willingness, no matter how large you make the present. (**Proverbs 6:35**)
- That I might peer upon the inexperienced ones. I was interested in discerning among the sons a young man in want of **heart**. (**Proverbs 7:7**)

- She has misled him by the abundance of her persuasiveness. By the smoothness of her lips she seduces him. (**Proverbs 7:21**)
- All of a sudden he is going after her, like a bull that comes even to the slaughter, and just as if fettered for the discipline of a foolish man. (**Proverbs 7:22**)
- Until an arrow cleaves open his liver, just as a bird hastens into the trap, and he has not known that it involves his very soul. (**Proverbs 7:23**)
- And now, O sons, listen to me and pay attention to the sayings of my mouth. (**Proverbs 7:24**)
- May your **heart** not turn aside to her ways. Do not wander into her roadways. (**Proverbs 7:25**)
- For many are the ones she has caused to fall down slain, and all those being killed by her are numerous. (**Proverbs 7:26**)
- The ways to Sheol her house is, they are descending to the interior rooms of death. (**Proverbs 7:27**)
- Outwardly he may appear to be a reputable person, but the inner man is seriously lacking in proper development.
- Another proverb says;
- A man that is wanting in **heart** shakes hands, going full surety before his companion. (**Proverbs 17:18**)
- Perhaps swayed by sentimentality, such a man enters an agreement that could well result in loss of money and serious economic hardship for him. Though he may be well-intentioned or have praiseworthy motives, he nonetheless betrays a lack of good judgment.
- In contrast to being in want of **heart**, the proverbs also speak of a person's acquiring **heart**.
- He that is acquiring **heart** is loving his own soul. He that is guarding discernment is going to find good. (**Proverbs 19:8**)
- Says; He that is acquiring **heart** is loving his own soul. He that is guarding discernment is going to find good. He is a person who gives

serious attention to what he really is deep down inside. He uses his mind to acquire accurate knowledge of God and of his ways, he meditates on these things and seeks to apply them.

- He carefully molds his desires, affections, emotions, and goals in life in harmony with what he realizes will be approved by God. So doing, he benefits himself, demonstrating that he loves his own soul.
- By thus building up the inner person, he guards discernment, because he fortifies in wholesome ways those factors that powerfully influence his own ability to think clearly and act wisely.

.. God's Heart

- Yehowah reveals that he has affections and emotions, the Bible describing him as having a **heart**. At the time of the Flood **he felt hurt at his heart**, regretting that men had rejected his righteous rule, making it necessary for him to turn from being their benefactor to becoming their destroyer.
- And Yehowah felt regrets that he had made men in the earth, and he felt hurt at his **heart**. (**Genesis 6:6**)
- By contrast, God's **heart** rejoices when his servants are faithful.
- Be wise, my son, and make my **heart** rejoice, that I may make a reply to him that is taunting me. (**Proverbs 27:11**)
- Such a thing as the cruel offering up of human's as burnt sacrifices, practiced by some of the deviating Israelites, never had come up into God's **heart**, showing also that he could not be a God of eternal torment.
- And they have built the high places of Topheth, which is in the valley of the son of Hinnom, in order to burn their sons and their daughters in the fire, a thing that I had not commanded and that had not come up into my **heart**. (**Jeremiah 7:31**)
- And they built the high places of the Baal in order to burn their sons in the fire as whole burnt offerings to the Baal, something that I had not commanded or spoken of, and that had not come up into my **heart**. (**Jeremiah 19:5**)

.. Center, Or Midst Of A Thing

- Because the literal **heart** is a central organ of the body, the term **heart** is at times applied to the center, or midst, of something, such as the **heart** of the earth.
- For just as Jonah was in the belly of the huge fish three days and three nights, so the Son of man will be in the **heart** of **the earth three days and three nights**. (**Matthew 12:40**)
- The **heart** of the sea,
- And by a breath from your nostrils waters were heaped up, they stood still like a dam of floods, the surging waters were congealed in the **heart** of the sea. (**Exodus 15:8**)
- When you threw me to the depths, into the **heart** of the open sea, then a very river encircled me. All your breakers and your waves, over me they passed on. (**Jonah 2:3**)
- The **heart** of the big tree,
- To this Joab said; Let me not hold myself up this way before you! With that he took three shafts in his palm and proceeded to drive them through the **heart** of Absalom while he was yet alive in the heart of the big tree. (**2 Samuel 18:14**)
- So you people came near and stood at the base of the mountain, and the mountain was burning with fire up to midheaven, there was darkness, cloud and thick gloom. (**Deuteronomy 4:11**)
- The expression midheaven literally means **the heart of the heavens**. See NW Footnote

.. Prophetic

- The symbolic use of **heart** figures in a prophetic way at;
- The first one was like a lion, and it had the wings of an eagle. I kept on beholding until its wings were plucked out, and it was lifted up from the earth and was made to stand up on two feet just like a man, and there was given to it the **heart of a man**. (**Daniel 7:4**)

- Where the lion-like beast representing the kingdom of Babylon was made to stand on two feet and was given the **heart of a man**, that is, it no longer possessed the courageous **heart of the lion**.
- And even the valiant man whose **heart** is as the **heart** of the lion will himself surely soften in weakness, for all Israel is aware that your father is a mighty man and so, too, are the valiant men that are with him. (**2 Samuel 17:10**)
- It was then defeated by the symbolic bear, Medo-Persia.
- And, see there! Another beast, a second one, it being like a bear. And on one side it was raised up, and there were three ribs in its mouth between its teeth, and this is what they were saying to it, Get up, eat much flesh. (**Daniel 7:5**)

See Also BEASTS, SYMBOLIC