

## ~HYPOCRITE (464)

[Hebrew, *cha-neph'*, Greek, *hy-po-kri-tes'*]

- **A person who pretends to be what he is not**, a person whose actions are out of harmony with his words.
- Although words from the Hebrew root *cha-neph'* are rendered hypocrite or hypocrisy in some translations, such as the King James Version, Douay, and Leeser, other translators have variously rendered these words profane Yg, impious Ro, godless RS, and apostate NW.
- According to A Hebrew and English Lexicon of the Old Testament by Brown, Driver, and Briggs (1980, pp. 337,338), *cha-neph'*, when used as an adjective, may be defined as profane, irreligious, godless, or, as a verb, be polluted, profane, inclining away from right.
- In the Scriptures *cha-neph'*, appears in parallel with those forgetting God.
- Thus are the pathways of all those forgetting God, and the very hope of an apostate will perish. (Job 8:13)
- The wicked,
- That the joyful cry of wicked people is short and the rejoicing of an apostate is for a moment? (Job 20:5)
- Evildoers
- That is why Yehowah will not rejoice even over their young men, and upon their fatherless boys and upon their widows he will have no mercy, because all of them are apostates and evildoers and every mouth is speaking senselessness. In view of all this his anger has not turned back, but his hand is stretched out still. (Isaiah 9:17)
- And it is used in contrast with the upright and innocent ones.
- Upright people stare in amazement at this, and even the innocent one gets excited over the apostate. (Job 17:8)

See Also APOSTASY

- The **Greek** word rendered **hypocrite**, *hy-po-kri-tes'*, means **one who answers**, as well as meaning a stage actor. Greek and Roman actors employed large masks with mechanical devices for amplifying the voice.

- Hence, the **Greek** word *hy-po-kri-tes'* came to be used in a metaphoric sense to apply to **one playing false**, or one **putting on a pretense**. The same word appears in the **Greek Septuagint** at;

- So that an **apostate** man may not reign, nor there be snares of the people. (**Job 34:30**)

- And those **apostate** in heart will themselves lay up anger. They should not cry for help because he has bound them. (**Job 36:13**)

- **Hypocrites** are **unfaithful ones**.

- The master of that slave will come on a day that he is not expecting him and in an hour that he does not know, and he will punish him with the greatest severity and assign him a part with the **unfaithful** ones. (**Luke 12:46**)

- And will punish him with the greatest severity and will assign him his part with the **hypocrites**. There is where his weeping and the gnashing of his teeth will be. (**Matthew 24:51**)

- And hypocrisy *hy-po'kri-sis*, as used in the Scriptures, may also denote **wickedness** and **cunning**.

- But Jesus, knowing their wickedness, said; Why do you put me to the test, **hypocrites**? (**Matthew 22:18**)

- Shall we pay, or shall we not pay? Detecting their **hypocrisy**, he said to them; Why do you put me to the test? Bring me a denarius to look at. (**Mark 12:15**)

- But he detected their cunning and said to them. (**Luke 20:23**)

- The rest of the Jews also joined him in putting on this pretense, so that even Barnabas was led along with them in their pretense. (**Galatians 2:13**)

- Where *hy-po'kri-sis* is rendered **pretense**.

- Jesus Christ identified as **hypocrites** persons who make gifts of mercy with showy display, who pray and fast to be seen of men, and who pick on the straw-like faults of their brothers but do nothing about removing their own rafter-like faults.

- Christ classified as such those who claimed to be God's servants but who failed to discern the significance of the time in which they were living and the events that were occurring, while readily drawing conclusions from the appearance of earth and sky as to what the weather would be like.

- Hence when you go making gifts of mercy, do not blow a trumpet ahead of you, just as the **hypocrites** do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may be glorified by men. Truly I say to you, They are having their reward in full. ([Matthew 6:2](#))

- Also, when you pray, you must not be as the **hypocrites**, because they like to pray standing in the synagogues and on the corners of the broad ways to be visible to men. Truly I say to you, they are having their reward in full. ([Matthew 6:5](#))

- When you are fasting, stop becoming sad-faced like the **hypocrites**, for they disfigure their faces that they may appear to men to be fasting. Truly I say to you, They are having their reward in full. ([Matthew 6:16](#))

- Stop judging that you may not be judged. ([Matthew 7:1](#))

- For with what judgment you are judging, you will be judged, and with the measure that you are measuring out, they will measure out to you. ([Matthew 7:2](#))

- Why, then, do you look at the straw in your brothers eye, but do not consider the rafter in your own eye? ([Matthew 7:3](#))

- Or how can you say to your brother; Allow me to extract the straw from your eye. When, look! A rafter is in your own eye? ([Matthew 7:4](#))

- **Hypocrite!** First extract the rafter from your own eye, and then you will see clearly how to extract the straw from your brothers eye. ([Matthew 7:5](#))

- How can you say to your brother, Brother, allow me to extract the straw that is in your eye, while you yourself are not looking at the rafter in that eye of yours? **Hypocrite!** First extract the rafter from your own eye, and then you will see clearly how to extract the straw that is in your brothers eye. (**Luke 6:42**)
- Then he went on to say also to the crowds; When you see a cloud rising in western parts, at once you say; A storm is coming, and it turns out so. (**Luke 12:54**)
- And when you see that a south wind is blowing, you say; There will be a heat wave, and it occurs. (**Luke 12:55**)
- **Hypocrites**, you know how to examine the outward appearance of earth and sky, but how is it you do not know how to examine this particular time? (**Luke 12:56**)
- Not only did the Son of God while on earth denounce the religious leaders of Israel as **hypocrites** but he also stated his reasons for doing so. They rendered mere lip service to the Creator, making the word of God invalid because of their traditions. (**Matthew 15:1,6-9**)
- He said to them; Isaiah aptly prophesied about you **hypocrites**, as it is written: This people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far removed from me. (**Mark 7:6**)
- It is in vain that they keep worshiping me, because they teach as doctrines commands of men. (**Mark 7:7**)
- Their actions were out of harmony with their words.
- Then Jesus spoke to the crowds and to his disciples, saying; (**Matthew 23:1**)
- The scribes and the Pharisees have seated themselves in the seat of Moses. (**Matthew 23:2**)
- Therefore all the things they tell you, do and observe, but do not do according to their deeds, for they say but do not perform. (**Matthew 23:3**)
- The scribes and Pharisees not only deliberately refused to avail themselves of the opportunity to enter the Kingdom of the heavens,

but they added to their sin by trying to hinder others from doing so. They put forth every effort to convert someone, only to make him twice as much a subject for Gehenna as they were.

- They were sticklers for the little things of the Law but disregarded the weightier matters of it justice, mercy, and faithfulness. As **hypocrites**, they possessed only a seemingly clean outward appearance, inside they were full of immoderateness.

- Like whitewashed graves, outwardly beautiful, they appeared righteous to men, but inside they were full of **hypocrisy** and lawlessness.

- They built the graves of the prophets and decorated the memorial tombs of the righteous ones, claiming that they would not have shed the blood of such ones. However, their course of action proved them to be just like their murderous forefathers.

- Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, **hypocrites**! Because you shut up the kingdom of the heavens before men, for you yourselves do not go in, neither do you permit those on their way in to go in. (**Matthew 23:13**)

- Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, **hypocrites**! Because you traverse sea and dry land to make one proselyte, and when he becomes one you make him a subject for Gehenna twice as much so as yourselves. (**Matthew 23:15**)

- Woe to you, blind guides, who say; If anyone swears by the temple, it is nothing, but if anyone swears by the gold of the temple, he is under obligation. (**Matthew 23:16**)

- Fools and blind ones! Which, in fact, is greater, the gold or the temple that has sanctified the gold? (**Matthew 23:17**)

- Also, If anyone swears by the altar, it is nothing, but if anyone swears by the gift on it, he is under obligation. (**Matthew 23:18**)

- Blind ones! Which, in fact, is greater, the gift or the altar that sanctifies the gift? (**Matthew 23:19**)

- Therefore he that swears by the altar is swearing by it and by all the things on it. (**Matthew 23:20**)

- And he that swears by the temple is swearing by it and by him that is inhabiting it. (**Matthew 23:21**)
- And he that swears by heaven is swearing by the throne of God and by him that is sitting on it. (**Matthew 23:22**)
- Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, **hypocrites!** Because you give the tenth of the mint and the dill and the cummin, but you have disregarded the weightier matters of the Law, namely, justice and mercy and faithfulness. These things it was binding to do, yet not to disregard the other things. (**Matthew 23:23**)
- Blind guides, who strain out the gnat but gulp down the camel! (**Matthew 23:24**)
- Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, **hypocrites!** Because you cleanse the outside of the cup and of the dish, but inside they are full of plunder and immoderateness. (**Matthew 23:25**)
- Blind Pharisee, cleanse first the inside of the cup and of the dish, that the outside of it also may become clean. (**Matthew 23:26**)
- Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, **hypocrites!** Because you resemble whitewashed graves, which outwardly indeed appear beautiful but inside are full of dead men's bones and of every sort of uncleanness. (**Matthew 23:27**)
- In that way you also, outwardly indeed, appear righteous to men, but inside you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness. (**Matthew 23:28**)
- Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, **hypocrites!** Because you build the graves of the prophets and decorate the memorial tombs of the righteous ones. (**Matthew 23:29**)
- And you say; If we were in the days of our forefathers, we would not be sharers with them in the blood of the prophets. (**Matthew 23:30**)
- Therefore you are bearing witness against yourselves that you are sons of those who murdered the prophets. (**Matthew 23:31**)
- Well, then, fill up the measure of your forefathers. (**Matthew 23:32**)

- Serpents, offspring of vipers, how are you to flee from the judgment of Gehenna? (**Matthew 23:33**)
- For this reason, here I am sending forth to you prophets and wise men and public instructors. Some of them you will kill and impale, and some of them you will scourge in your synagogues and persecute from city to city. (**Matthew 23:34**)
- That there may come upon you all the righteous blood spilled on earth, from the blood of righteous Abel to the blood of Zechariah son of Barachiah, whom you murdered between the sanctuary and the altar. (**Matthew 23:35**)
- Truly I say to you, all these things will come upon this generation. (**Matthew 23:36**)
- The teaching of the Pharisees and Sadducees was actually hypocrisy.
- Jesus said to them; Keep your eyes open and watch out for the **leaven** of the Pharisees and Sadducees. (**Matthew 16:6**)
- Then they grasped that he said to watch out, not for the leaven of the loaves, but for the **teaching, which was hypocrisy,** of the Pharisees and Sadducees. (**Matthew 16:12**)
- In the meantime, when the crowd had gathered together in so many thousands that they were stepping upon one another, he started out by saying first to his disciples; Watch out for the leaven of the Pharisees, which is **hypocrisy.** (**Luke 12:1**)
- And, look! A woman with a spirit of weakness for eighteen years, and she was bent double and was unable to raise herself up at all. (**Luke 13:11**)
- When he saw her, Jesus addressed her and said to her; Woman, you are released from your weakness. (**Luke 13:12**)
- And he laid his hands on her, and instantly she straightened up, and began to glorify God. (**Luke 13:13**)
- But in response the presiding officer of the synagogue, indignant because Jesus did the cure on the Sabbath, began to say to the

crowd; There are six days on which work ought to be done, on them, therefore, come and be cured, and not on the Sabbath day. (Luke 13:14)

- However, the Lord answered him and said; **Hypocrites**, does not each one of you on the Sabbath untie his bull or his ass from the stall and lead it away to give it drink? (Luke 13:15)
- Was it not due, then, for this woman who is a daughter of Abraham, and whom Satan held bound, look! Eighteen years, to be loosed from this bond on the Sabbath day? (Luke 13:16)
- Well, when he said these things, all his opposers began to feel shame, but all the crowd began to rejoice at all the glorious things done by him. (Luke 13:17)
- A striking example of a **hypocritical** course was that followed by the disciples of the Pharisees and the party followers of Herod when approaching Jesus on the tax question.
- First they resorted to flattery, saying; Teacher, we know you are truthful and teach the way of God in truth. Then they posed the catch question; Is it lawful to pay head tax to Caesar or not?
- Appropriately Jesus referred to them as **hypocrites**, since they were not really desirous of getting an answer to their question but merely raised it with a view to trapping Jesus in his speech.
- Then the Pharisees went their way and took counsel together in order to trap him in his speech. (Matthew 22:15)
- So they dispatched to him their disciples, together with party followers of Herod, saying; Teacher, we know you are truthful and teach the way of God in truth, and you do not care for anybody, for you do not look upon men's outward appearance. (Matthew 22:16)
- Tell us, therefore. What do you think? Is it lawful to pay head tax to Caesar or not? (Matthew 22:17)
- But Jesus, knowing their wickedness, said; Why do you put me to the test, **hypocrites**? (Matthew 22:18)
- Show me the head tax coin. They brought him a denarius.



**(Matthew 22:19)**

- **And he said to them; Whose image and inscription is this? (Matthew 22:20)**
- **They said, Caesar's. Then he said to them; Pay back, therefore, Caesar's things to Caesar, but God's things to God. (Matthew 22:21)**
- **Well, when they heard that, they marveled, and leaving him they went off. (Matthew 22:22)**
- **The scribes and the chief priests now sought to get their hands on him in that very hour, but they feared the people, for they perceived that he spoke this illustration with them in mind. (Luke 20:19)**
- **And, after observing him closely, they sent out men secretly hired to pretend that they were righteous, in order, that they might catch him in speech, so as to turn him over to the government and to the authority of the governor. (Luke 20:20)**
- **And they questioned him, saying; Teacher, we know you speak and teach correctly and show no partiality, but you teach the way of God in line with truth. (Luke 20:21)**
- **Is it lawful for us to pay tax to Caesar or not? (Luke 20:22)**
- **But he detected their cunning and said to them. (Luke 20:23)**
- **Show me a denarius. Whose image and inscription does it have? They said; Caesar's. (Luke 20:24)**
- **He said to them; By all means, then, pay back Caesar's things to Caesar, but God's things to God. (Luke 20:25)**
- **Well, they were not able to catch him in this saying before the people, but, in amazement at his answer, they said nothing. (Luke 20:26)**
- **A **hypocritical** course cannot be concealed indefinitely.**
- **In the meantime, when the crowd had gathered together in so many thousands that they were stepping upon one another, he**

- started out by saying first to his disciples; Watch out for the **leaven** of the Pharisees, which is **hypocrisy**. (Luke 12:1)
- But there is **nothing carefully concealed that will not be revealed**, and secret that will not become known. (Luke 12:2)
  - Wherefore what things you say in the darkness will be heard in the light, and what you whisper in private rooms will be preached from the housetops. (Luke 12:3)
  - **Hypocrites** are condemned by God as unworthy of life everlasting.
  - But if ever that evil slave should say in his heart; My master is delaying. (Matthew 24:48)
  - And should start to beat his fellow slaves and should eat and drink with the confirmed drunkards. (Matthew 24:49)
  - The master of that slave will come on a day that he does not expect and in an hour that he does not know. (Matthew 24:50)
  - And will punish him with the greatest severity and will assign him his part with the **hypocrites**. There is where his weeping and the gnashing of his teeth will be. (Matthew 24:51)
  - Therefore, a Christians love and faith must be without **hypocrisy**.
  - Let your love be without **hypocrisy**. Abhor what is wicked, cling to what is good. (Romans 12:9)
  - But in every way we recommend ourselves as God's ministers, by the endurance of much, by tribulations, by cases of need, by difficulties. (2 Corinthians 6:4)
  - By purity, by knowledge, by long-suffering, by kindness, by Holy Spirit, by love free from **hypocrisy**. (2 Corinthians 6:6)
  - Really the objective of this mandate is love out of a clean heart and out of a good conscience and out of faith without **hypocrisy**. (1 Timothy 1:5)
  - The wisdom from above is not hypocritical.

- **But the wisdom from above is first of all chaste, then peaceable, reasonable, ready to obey, full of mercy and good fruits, not making partial distinctions, not hypocritical. (James 3:17)**