

~JACKAL (142)

[Hebrew, *tan*]

- A kind of wild dog that has a long, pointed muzzle and a bushy tail, and closely resembles the fox. This animal, *Canis aureus* is still encountered in Palestine.
- Though the **jackal** may attack and kill fowl and even lambs and, in fact, live on almost anything, including fruit, it is basically a scavenger that feeds on carrion.
- Hence, the animal performs a beneficial service, since the carrion otherwise might provide a breeding place for germs. **Jackals** generally hunt at night, singly, in pairs, or in small packs.
- During the day they usually sleep in desolate places, holes in the ground, caves, abandoned buildings, or ruins.
- Since **jackals** are denizens of wild, lonely, and even desert-like areas, the domain of the jackal is used figuratively in the Scriptures to represent a state of utter desolation, without human inhabitant.
- Various prophecies use this figure to forecast desolation for Jerusalem, the cities of Judah, Hazor, Babylon, and Edom.
- And I will make Jerusalem piles of stones, the lair of **jackals**, and the cities of Judah I shall make a desolate waste, without an inhabitant. (**Jeremiah 9:11**)
- Listen! A report! Here it has come, also a great pounding from the land of the north, in order to make the cities of Judah a desolate waste, the lair of **jackals**. (**Jeremiah 10:22**)
- And Hazor must become the lair of **jackals**, a desolate waste to time indefinite. No man will dwell there, and in her no son of mankind will reside as an alien. (**Jeremiah 49:33**)
- And Babylon must become piles of stones, the lair of **jackals**, an object of astonishment and something to whistle at, without an inhabitant. (**Jeremiah 51:37**)
- For in the heavens my sword will certainly be drenched. Look!

- Upon Edom it will descend, and upon the people devoted by me to destruction in justice. ([Isaiah 34:5](#))
- On her dwelling towers thorns must come up, nettles and thorny weeds in her fortified places, and she must become an abiding place of **jackals**, the courtyard for the ostriches. ([Isaiah 34:13](#))
 - And Esau I have hated, and I finally made his mountains a desolated waste and his inheritance for the **jackals** of the wilderness. ([Malachi 1:3](#))
 - The Bible also makes reference to the **jackals** mournful wailing, or howling.
 - And **jackals** must howl in her dwelling towers, and the big snake will be in the palaces of exquisite delight. And the season for her is near to come, and her days themselves will not be postponed. ([Isaiah 13:22](#))
 - On this account I will wail and howl, I will walk barefoot and naked. I shall make a wailing like the **jackals**, and a mourning like female ostriches. ([Micah 1:8](#))
 - The **jackal's** cry begins at sunset and is a long-drawn-out wail, repeated three or four times, each repetition being slightly higher in key than the preceding one. Finally the wail ends in a series of short, loud, yelping barks.
 - In Scripture the **jackal** figures repeatedly in an illustrative setting. Job, in describing his own lamentable state, exclaims that he has become a brother to **jackals**.
 - A brother to **jackals** I became, and a companion to the daughters of the ostrich. ([Job 30:29](#))
 - In regard to a humiliating defeat of God's people, the psalmist, perhaps with reference to the battlefield where **jackals** congregate to feed upon those slain
 - 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](#))
 - Mourned; You have crushed us in the place of **jackals**.

- For you have crushed us in the place of **jackals**, and you cover us over with deep shadow. (**Psalms 44:19**)
- Babylon's siege of Jerusalem in **607 B.C.E.** brought the stress of famine, with the result that mothers treated their own offspring cruelly. Thus Jeremiah appropriately contrasted the cruelty of my people with the **jackals'** maternal care.
- Even **jackals** themselves have presented the udder. They have suckled their cubs. The daughter of my people becomes cruel, like ostriches in the wilderness. (**Lamentations 4:3**)
- The very hands of compassionate women have boiled their own children. They have become as bread of consolation to one during the breakdown of the daughter of my people. (**Lamentations 4:10**)
- On account of the intense droughts on the land of Judah when it lacked Yehowah's blessing, zebras are depicted as snuffing up the wind, that is, panting for breath, like **jackals**.
- This is what occurred as the word of Yehowah to Jeremiah concerning the matters of the droughts. (**Jeremiah 14:1**)
- Judah has gone mourning, and its very gates have faded away. They have become dejected to the earth, and even the outcry of Jerusalem has gone up. (**Jeremiah 14:2**)
- And the zebras themselves have stood still upon the bare hills, they have snuffed up the wind like the **jackals**, their eyes have failed because there is no vegetation. (**Jeremiah 14:6**)
- On the other hand, with reference to the restoration of his people, Yehowah promised that the abiding place of **jackals** would come to have grass, reeds, and papyrus plants.
- And Yehowah's providing water for his people in the wilderness would cause animals such as the **jackal** to glorify him.
- And the heat-parched ground will have become as a reedy pool, and the thirsty ground as springs of water. In the abiding place of **jackals**, a resting-place for them, there will be green grass with reeds and papyrus plants. (**Isaiah 35:7**)

- The wild beast of the field will glorify me, the **jackals** and the ostriches, because I shall have given water even in the wilderness, rivers in the desert, to cause my people, my chosen one, to drink. (**Isaiah 43:20**)
- The people whom I have formed for myself, that they should recount the praise of me. (**Isaiah 43:21**)