

### ~KNEE, KNEEL (373)

- Kneeling
- While Imploring Favor
- During Prayer
- Obeisance Or Acknowledgment Of High Station

- This joint in the leg is important for support of the body. Hence, wobbling or **enfeebled** knees portray weakness, and **knocking** knees, fear.
- Anyone stumbling, your words would raise up, and **knees** giving way you would make firm. (**Job 4:4**)
- My **knees** themselves have swayed from fasting, and my very flesh has grown lean, without any oil. (**Psalms 109:24**)
- Strengthen the weak hands, you people, and make the **knees** that are **wobbling** firm. (**Isaiah 35:3**)
- At that time, as regards the king, his very complexion was changed in him, and his own thoughts began to frighten him, and his hip joints were loosening and his very **knees** were **knocking** each other. (**Daniel 5:6**)
- Hence straighten up the hands that hang down and the **enfeebled knees**. (**Hebrews 12:12**)
- All except 300 of Gideon's 10,000 men bent down upon their **knees** to drink, apparently putting their faces down to the water. In this position they could not be alert, prepared in case of a surprise attack.
- They were more concerned with slaking their thirst than with the issue at hand. On the other hand, the 300 remained on their feet, picking up the water and lapping it out of their hands, alert, watchful, ready. The 9,700 negligent ones were therefore dismissed.
- And now call out, please, in the hearing of the people, saying; Who is there afraid and trembling? Let him retire. So Gideon put them to the proof. With that, twenty-two thousand of the people retired, and there were ten thousand that remained. (**Judges 7:3**)

- So he had the people go down to the water. Then Yehowah said to Gideon; Every one that laps up some of the water with his tongue just as a dog laps, you will set him by himself, also every one that bends down upon his knees to drink. (**Judges 7:5**)
- And the number of those lapping with their hand to their mouth turned out to be three hundred men. As for all the rest of the people, they bent down upon their **knees** to drink water. (**Judges 7:6**)
- Yehowah now said to Gideon; By the three hundred men who did the lapping I shall save you people, and I will give Midian into your hand. As for all the other people, let them go each one to his place. (**Judges 7:7**)
- So they took the provisions of the people in their hand, and their horns, and all the men of Israel he sent away each one to his home, and he kept hold of the three hundred men. As for the camp of Midian, it happened to be down below him in the low plain. (**Judges 7:8**)
- Figuratively, a child said to be **born upon the knees** of a person other than the mother, and thus enjoying that one's favor and care, was acknowledged as that persons child, or descendant, just as Bilhah's child was counted as Rachel's.
- So she said; Here is my slave girl Bilhah. Have relations with her, that she may give birth upon my knees and that I, even I, may get children from her. (**Genesis 30:3**)
- With that she gave him Bilhah her maidservant as wife, and Jacob had relations with her. (**Genesis 30:4**)
- And Bilhah became pregnant and in time bore Jacob a son. (**Genesis 30:5**)
- Then Rachel said; God has acted as my judge and has also listened to my voice, so that he gave me a son. That is why she called his name Dan. (**Genesis 30:6**)
- And Joseph got to see Ephraim's sons of the third generation, also the sons of Machir, Manasseh's son. They were born upon Joseph's **knees**. (**Genesis 50:23**)

- Yehowah promised restoration for his people and likened them to children of Zion, or Jerusalem, who would be fondled upon the **knees**, that is, well cared for, brought back into a favored state.
- For this is what Yehowah has said; Here I am extending to her peace just like a river and the glory of nations just like a flooding torrent, and you will certainly suck. Upon the flank you will be carried, and upon the **knees** you will be fondled. (**Isaiah 66:12**)
- Like a man whom his own mother keeps comforting, so I myself shall keep comforting you people, and in the case of Jerusalem you will be comforted. (**Isaiah 66:13**)

## ••Kneeling

- The **Hebrew** word for **kneel** *ba-rakh'* possibly has the same root as the one for **blessing**, which may indicate that at least at times blessings were conferred upon persons while they **knelt**.

## •• While Imploring Favor

- A person might **kneel** as an act of respect or to implore favor, as when a chief of fifty representing King Ahaziah knelt before Elijah to plead for his life and that of the men accompanying him.
- And he went sending again a third chief of fifty and his fifty. But the third chief of fifty went up and came and bent down upon his knees in front of Elijah and began to implore favor of him and speak to him; Man of the true God, please let my soul and the soul of these fifty servants of yours be precious in your eyes. (**2 Kings 1:13**)
- Here fire came down from the heavens and went eating up the two former chiefs of fifty and their fifties, but now let my soul be precious in your eyes. (**2 Kings 1:14**)
- It was on bended **knee** that a leper entreated Jesus to make him clean.
- There also came to him a leper, entreating him even on bended **knee**, saying to him; If you just want to, you can make me clean. (**Mark 1:40**)
- At that he was moved with pity, and he stretched out his hand

and touched him, and said to him; I want to. Be made clean. (Mark 1:41)

- And immediately the leprosy vanished from him, and he became clean. (Mark 1:42)
- And as he was going out on his way, a certain man ran up and fell upon his **knees** before him and put the question to him; Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit everlasting life? (Mark 10:17)
- Jesus said to him; Why do you call me good? Nobody is good, except one, God. (Mark 10:18)
- You know the commandments. Do not murder. Do not commit adultery. Do not steal. Do not bear false witness. Do not defraud. Honor your father and mother. (Mark 10:19)
- The man said to him; Teacher, all these things I have kept from my youth on. (Mark 10:20)
- Jesus looked upon him and felt love for him and said to him; One thing is missing about you. Go, sell what things you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven, and come be my follower. (Mark 10:21)
- But he grew sad at the saying and went off grieved, for he was holding many possessions. (Mark 10:22)

#### • During Prayer

- True worshipers often **knelt** when praying to God, this posture being a suitable indication of their humility.
- And at the grain offering of the evening I stood up from my humiliation, with my garment and my sleeveless coat torn apart, and I proceeded to **kneel** upon my **knees** and spread out my palms to Yehowah my God. (Ezra 9:5)
- But in Joppa there was a certain disciple named Tabitha, which, when translated, means Dorcas. She abounded in good deeds and gifts of mercy that she was rendering. (Acts of Apostles 9:36)
- But Peter put everybody outside and, bending his knees, he

prayed, and, turning to the body, he said; Tabitha, rise! She opened her eyes and, as she caught sight of Peter, she sat up. ([Acts of Apostles 9:40](#))

- After coming in sight of the island of Cyprus we left it behind on the left side and sailed on to Syria, and landed at Tyre, for there the boat was to unload its cargo. ([Acts of Apostles 21:3](#))
- By a search we found the disciples and remained here seven days. But through the spirit they repeatedly told Paul not to set foot in Jerusalem. ([Acts of Apostles 21:4](#))
- So when we had completed the days, we went forth and started on our way, but they all, together with the women and children, conducted us as far as outside the city. And kneeling down on the beach we had prayer. ([Acts of Apostles 21:5](#))
- And said good-bye to one another, and we went up into the boat but they returned to their homes. ([Acts of Apostles 21:6](#))
- Solomon assumed a kneeling position before the congregation of Israel during his prayer at the temples dedication.
- For Solomon had made a platform of copper and then put it in the middle of the enclosure. Its length was five cubits, and its width five cubits, and its height three cubits, and he kept standing upon it. And he proceeded to **kneel** upon his **knees** in front of all the congregation of Israel and to spread his palms out to the heavens. ([2 Chronicles 6:13](#))
- Despite a royal decree that for 30 days petition should be made only to King Darius, Daniel knelt in prayer to Yehowah three times a day, doing so while the windows of his roof chamber were open toward Jerusalem.
- Accordingly these high officials and satraps themselves entered as a throng to the king, and this is what they were saying to him; O Darius the king, live on even for times indefinite. ([Daniel 6:6](#))
- All the high officials of the kingdom, the prefects and the satraps, the high royal officers and the governor's, have taken counsel together to establish a royal statute and to enforce an interdict, that whoever makes a petition to any god or man for thirty days except to you, O king, should be thrown to the lions pit. ([Daniel](#)

**6:7)**

- Now, O king, may you establish the statute and sign the writing, in order for it not to be changed, according to the law of the Medes and the Persians, which is not annulled. (**Daniel 6:8**)
- In accord with this, King Darius himself signed the writing and the interdict. (**Daniel 6:9**)
- But Daniel, as soon as he knew that the writing had been signed, entered into his house, and, the windows in his roof chamber being open for him toward Jerusalem, even three times in a day he was **kneeling** on his **knees** and praying and offering praise before his God, as he had been regularly doing prior to this. (**Daniel 6:10**)
- At that time these able-bodied men themselves crowded in and found Daniel petitioning and imploring favor before his God. (**Daniel 6:11**)
- Jesus Christ himself furnished an example of kneeling in prayer to Yehowah. In the garden of Gethsemane on the night of his betrayal, Jesus bent his **knees** and began to pray.
- And he himself drew away from them about a stone's throw, and bent his **knees** and began to pray. (**Luke 22:41**)
- Practicers of false religion knelt before idols of their gods. But in Elijah's day there were still 7,000 faithful persons in Israel, all the knees that had not bent down to Baal.
- And I have let seven thousand remain in Israel, all the knees that have not bent down to Baal, and every mouth that has not kissed him. (**1 Kings 19:18**)
- Yet, what does the divine pronouncement say to him? I have left seven thousand men over for myself, men who have not bent the **knee** to Baal. (**Romans 11:4**)

## **.. Obeisance Or Acknowledgment Of High Station**

- **Kneeling** may denote obeisance or recognition of a superiors high position. Soldiers **knelt** before Jesus and did obeisance to him, doing so, however, in mockery.

- Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor's palace and gathered the whole body of troops together to him. (Matthew 27:27)
- And disrobing him, they draped him with a scarlet cloak. (Matthew 27:28)
- And they braided a crown out of thorns and put it on his head and a reed in his right hand. And, **kneeling** before him, they made fun of him, saying; Good day, you King of the Jews! (Matthew 27:29)
- And they spit upon him and took the reed and began hitting him upon his head. (Matthew 27:30)
- Finally, when they had made fun of him, they took the cloak off and put his outer garments upon him and led him off for impaling. (Matthew 27:31)
- The soldiers now led him off into the courtyard, that is, into the governor's palace, and they called the whole body of troops together. (Mark 15:16)
- And they decked him with purple and braided a crown of thorns and put it on him. (Mark 15:17)
- And they started greeting him; Good day, you King of the Jews! (Mark 15:18)
- Also, they would hit him on the head with a reed and spit upon him and, bending their **knees**, they would do obeisance to him. (Mark 15:19)
- Finally, when they had made fun of him, they stripped him of the purple and put his outer garments upon him. And they led him out to impale him. (Mark 15:20)
- Yehowah has granted the faithful resurrected Jesus Christ a superior position and a name that is above every other name, so that in the name of Jesus every **knee** should bend of those in heaven and those on earth and those under the ground.

- **All who gain life must bend their knees in worship to Yehowah in the name of Jesus Christ and acknowledge him as Lord to God's glory. This includes those under the ground, evidently showing that those resurrected from the grave also come under this requirement.**
- **For this very reason also God exalted him to a superior position and kindly gave him the name that is above every other name. (Philippians 2:9)**
- **So that in the name of Jesus every knee should bend of those in heaven and those on earth and those under the ground. (Philippians 2:10)**
- **And every tongue should openly acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father. (Philippians 2:11)**
- **Do not marvel at this, because the hour is coming in which all those in the memorial tombs will hear his voice. (John 5:28)**
- **And come out, those who did good things to a resurrection of life, those who practiced vile things to a resurrection of judgment. (John 5:29)**
- **In that he made known to us the sacred secret of his will. It is according to his good pleasure which he purposed in himself (Ephesians 1:9)**
- **For an administration at the full limit of the appointed times, namely, to gather all things together again in the Christ, the things in the heavens and the things on the earth. Yes, in him. (Ephesians 1:10)**
- **Primarily, recognition of Yehowah's supremacy and sovereignty is required of those desiring divine favor. Yehowah has declared;**
- **By my own self I have sworn, out of my own mouth in righteousness the word has gone forth, so that it will not return, that to me every knee will bend down, every tongue will swear. (Isaiah 45:23)**
- **But why do you judge your brother? Or why do you also look down on your brother? For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of God. (Romans 14:10)**



- For it is written: As I live, says Yehowah, to me every **knee** will bend down, and every tongue will make open acknowledgment to God. (**Romans 14:11**)
- So, then, each of us will render an account for himself to God. (**Romans 14:12**)
- Appropriately, therefore, the psalmist fervently urged fellow Israelites;
- O come in, let us worship and bow down, let us **kneel** before Yehowah our Maker. (**Psalms 95:6**)

**See Also ATTITUDES AND GESTURES**