

~LABOR PAINS (337)

.. Symbolic Use

- The tribulation associated with giving birth. God expressed to the first woman, Eve, after she had sinned, what the result would be as to childbearing. If she had remained obedient, God's blessing would have continued upon her and childbearing would have been an unmixed joy, for, the blessing of Yehowah that is what makes rich, and he adds no pain with it.
- The blessing of Yehowah, that is what makes rich, and he adds no pain with it. (**Proverbs 10:22**)
- But now, as a general rule, the imperfect functioning of the body would bring pain. Accordingly, God said; As often the things that he **permits** are said to be **done** by him.
- To the woman he said; I shall greatly increase the pain of your pregnancy, in birth pangs you will bring forth children, and your craving will be for your husband, and he will dominate you. (**Genesis 3:16**)
- The **Hebrew** expression in this passage of Scripture is, literally, **your pain and your pregnancy** and is rendered by some translations **thy sorrow and thy conception**. **KJ, Yg**
- But the grammatical form used is called hendiadys, in which two words are connected by **and** though one thing is meant. Modern translations render the expression accordingly. **AT, Mo, RS**
- So it is not stated that conception would necessarily increase, but that the pain would.
- It is true that the pain of pregnancy and childbearing may be relieved by medical treatment and may even be prevented to some extent by care and preparatory methods. But, generally, childbirth remains a physically distressing experience.
- Then they pulled away from Bethel. And while there was yet a good stretch of land before coming to Ephrath, Rachel proceeded to give birth, and it was going hard with her in making the delivery. (**Genesis 35:16**)

- But so it was that while she had difficulty in making the delivery the midwife said to her; Do not be afraid, for you will have this son also. ([Genesis 35:17](#))
- And the result was that as her soul was going out, because she died, she called his name Benoni, but his father called him Benjamin. ([Genesis 35:18](#))
- Thus Rachel died and was buried on the way to Ephrath, that is to say; Bethlehem. ([Genesis 35:19](#))
- Hence Jacob stationed a pillar over her grave. This is the pillar of Rachel's grave down to this day. ([Genesis 35:20](#))
- Just as a pregnant woman draws near to giving birth, has **labor** pains, cries out in her birth pangs, so we have become because of you, O Yehowah. ([Isaiah 26:17](#))

.. Symbolic Use

- Despite **labor** pains associated with childbearing, there is happiness attendant upon the birth of a child. When Jesus Christ spoke intimately with his apostles on the evening before his death, he used this circumstance as an illustration.
- He explained to them that he was going to leave them and then went on to say; Most truly I say to you, you will weep and wail, but the world will rejoice. You will be grieved, but your grief will be turned into joy.
- A woman, when she is giving birth, has grief, because her hour has arrived, but when she has brought forth the young child, she remembers the tribulation no more because of the joy that a man has been born into the world.
- 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.
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- A woman, when she is giving birth, has grief, because her hour has arrived, but when she has brought forth the young child, she remembers the tribulation no more because of the joy that a man has been born into the world. ([John 16:21](#))
- 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](#))
- This painful time did come upon them for parts of three days, when they doubtless wept and afflicted their souls by fasting.
- Yet days will come when the bridegroom will indeed be taken away from them, then they will fast in those days. ([Luke 5:35](#))
- As for me, when they became ill, my clothing was sackcloth, with fasting I afflicted my soul, and upon my bosom my own prayer would return. ([Psalms 35:13](#))
- But early on the morning of the third day, Nisan 16, and for 40 days after that, the resurrected Jesus appeared to certain of the disciples. Imagine their joy!
- On the day of Pentecost, the 50th day from Jesus resurrection, God's Holy Spirit was poured out upon them, and they became joyful witnesses of his resurrection, first in Jerusalem and later in distant parts of the earth.
- To these also by many positive proofs he showed himself alive after he had suffered, being seen by them throughout forty days and telling the things about the kingdom of God. ([Acts of Apostles 1:3](#))
- But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit arrives upon you, and you will be witnesses of me both in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and to the most distant part of the earth. ([Acts of Apostles 1:8](#))
- And no one could take their joy away.
- 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](#))

- The psalmist described a gathering of kings as they viewed the splendor and magnificence of God's holy city Zion, with its towers and ramparts of strength.
- He says; They themselves saw, and so they were amazed. They got disturbed, they were sent running in panic. Trembling itself took hold of them there, birth pangs like those of a woman giving birth.
- Yehowah is great and much to be praised in the city of our God, in his holy mountain. ([Psalms 48:1](#))
- Pretty for loftiness, the exultation of the whole earth, is Mount Zion on the remote sides of the north, the town of the grand King. ([Psalms 48:2](#))
- In her dwelling towers God himself has become known as a secure height. ([Psalms 48:3](#))
- For, look! The kings themselves have met by appointment, they have passed by together. ([Psalms 48:4](#))
- They themselves saw, and so they were amazed. They got disturbed, they were sent running in panic. ([Psalms 48:5](#))
- Trembling itself took hold of them there, birth pangs like those of a woman giving birth. ([Psalms 48:6](#))
- The Psalms apparently describes an actual occurrence in which enemy kings were panic stricken in a projected attack on Jerusalem.
- Jeremiah, in prophesying defeat to come upon mighty Babylon, told of a people from the north, the report about whom would cause the king of Babylon to have severe pains, like a woman giving birth.
- This was fulfilled when Cyrus came against Babylon and particularly when the mysterious handwriting appeared on the wall at Babylonian King Belshazzar's feast. This the prophet Daniel interpreted to Belshazzar as portending the immediate fall of Babylon to the Medes and Persians.
- Look! A people is coming in from the north, and a great nation and grand kings themselves will be roused up from the remotest parts of the earth. ([Jeremiah 50:41](#))

- Bow and javelin they handle. They are cruel and will show no mercy. The sound of them is like the sea that is boisterous, and upon horses they will ride, set in array as one man for war against you, O daughter of Babylon. (**Jeremiah 50:42**)
- The king of Babylon has heard the report about them, and his hands have dropped down. There is distress! Severe pains have seized hold of him, just like a woman giving birth. (**Jeremiah 50:43**)
- At that moment the fingers of a man's hand came forth and were writing in front of the lampstand upon the plaster of the wall of the palace of the king, and the king was beholding the back of the hand that was writing. (**Daniel 5:5**)
- 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**)
- Peres, your kingdom has been divided and given to the Medes and the Persians. (**Daniel 5:28**)
- Concerning the coming of Yehowah's day, the apostle Paul explained that it would be when the cry of; Peace and security! Is being proclaimed.
- Then sudden destruction is to be instantly upon them just as the pang of distress upon a pregnant woman, and they will by no means escape.
- For you yourselves know quite well that Yehowah's day is coming exactly as a thief in the night. (**1 Thessalonians 5:2**)
- Whenever it is that they are saying; Peace and security! Then sudden destruction is to be instantly upon them just as the pang of **distress upon a pregnant woman**, and they will by no means escape. (**1 Thessalonians 5:3**)
- **Labor** pains come suddenly, the exact day and hour not being foreknown. The pains first are about 15 to 20 minutes apart, becoming closer together as **labor** advances.

- In most cases the time of **labor** is relatively short, especially in its second stage, but once **labor** pains begin, the woman knows that a birth is approaching and that the ordeal must be undergone. There is no escape.
- In the apostle John's vision in Revelation he saw a heavenly woman crying out **in her pains and in her agony to give birth**. The child born was a son, a male, who is to shepherd all the nations with an iron rod.
- In spite of the dragon's efforts to devour it, her child was caught away to God and to his throne.
- And a great sign was seen in heaven, a woman arrayed with the sun, and the moon was beneath her feet, and on her head was a crown of twelve stars. (**Revelation 12:1**)
- And she was pregnant. And she cries out in her pains and in her agony to give birth. (**Revelation 12:2**)
- And its tail drags a third of the stars of heaven, and it hurled them down to the earth. And the dragon kept standing before the woman who was about to give birth, that, when she did give birth, it might devour her child. (**Revelation 12:4**)
- and its tail drags a third of the stars of heaven, and it hurled them down to the earth. And the dragon kept standing before the woman who was about to give birth, that, when she did give birth, it might devour her child. (**Revelation 12:4**)
- The sons being caught away by God would denote God's acceptance of the child as his own, even as it was customary in ancient times to present a newborn child before its father for acceptance.
- It would follow that the woman is God's wife, the Jerusalem above, the mother of Christ's spiritual brothers.
- But the Jerusalem above is free, and she is our mother. (**Galatians 4:26**)
- For both he who is sanctifying and those who are being sanctified all stem from one, and for this cause he is not ashamed to call them brothers. (**Hebrews 2:11**)

- As he says; I will declare your name to my brothers. In the middle of the congregation I will praise you with song. ([Hebrews 2:12](#))
- Consequently he was obliged to become like his brothers in all respects, that he might become a merciful and faithful High Priest in things pertaining to God, in order to offer propitiatory sacrifice for the sins of the people. ([Hebrews 2:17](#))

See Also BIRTH

- God's heavenly woman would, of course, be perfect, and the birth would be without literal pain. The **labor pains** would, therefore, symbolically indicate that the woman would realize that the birth was at hand, she would be in expectation of it shortly.
- And she was pregnant. And she cries out in her pains and in her agony to give birth. ([Revelation 12:2](#))
- Who would this son, a male, be? He was to shepherd all the nations with an iron rod. This was foretold of God's Messianic King, at;
- Saying; I, even I, have installed my king upon Zion, my holy mountain. ([Psalms 2:6](#))
- Let me refer to the decree of Yehowah, he has said to me; You are my son. I, today, I have become your father. ([Psalms 2:7](#))
- Ask of me, that I may give nations as your inheritance and the ends of the earth as your own possession. ([Psalms 2:8](#))
- You will break them with an iron scepter, as though a potters vessel you will dash them to pieces. ([Psalms 2:9](#))
- But John saw this vision long after Christ's birth on earth and his death and resurrection. The vision would therefore appear to refer to the birth of the Messianic Kingdom in the hands of God's Son Jesus Christ, who, on being raised from the dead, sat down at the right hand of God, from then on awaiting until his enemies should be placed as a stool for his feet.
- But this man offered one sacrifice for sins perpetually and sat down at the right hand of God. ([Hebrews 10:12](#))

- From then on awaiting until his enemies should be placed as a stool for his feet. (**Hebrews 10:13**)
- The utterance of Yehowah to my Lord is; Sit at my right hand until I place your enemies as a stool for your feet. (**Psalms 110:1**)
- And I heard a loud voice in heaven say; Now have come to pass the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ, because the accuser of our brothers has been hurled down, who accuses them day and night before our God! (**Revelation 12:10**)
- This was an expected event, and as the time drew near, the expectation of it in heaven and on earth would become great, for fulfilled prophecy would be a sure indication of its nearness. So it would be, as the apostle pointed out to Christians, with the coming of Yehowah's day.
- Now as for the times and the seasons, brothers, you need nothing to be written to you. (**1 Thessalonians 5:1**)
- But you, brothers, you are not in darkness, so that that day should overtake you as it would thieves. (**1 Thessalonians 5:4**)