

~MADNESS (616)

- **Madness And Demon Possession**
- **Feigned Madness**
- **Madness Of Opposition To Yehowah**
- **Madness From Oppression And Confusion**
- **Extreme Rage**
- **Contrasted With Wisdom**
- **Illustrative Use**

• **Mental derangement, either insanity or a condition of extreme rage or great folly.** Various **Hebrew** and **Greek** words are employed in the Scriptures to denote such disorders of the mind, whether lasting or temporary.

• **Some of these words seem to be associated with or derived from the weird and sometimes violent or sorrowful cries of persons afflicted with madness.**

• **Madness befell boastful Babylonian King Nebuchadnezzar. In fulfillment of a prophetic dream explained by Daniel, this monarch was stricken with madness at a time of boasting. For seven years he was insane, and vegetation he began to eat just like bulls.**

• **At that moment the word itself was fulfilled upon Nebuchadnezzar, and from mankind he was being driven away, and vegetation he began to eat just like bulls, and with the dew of the heavens his own body got to be wet, until his very hair grew long just like eagles feathers and his nails like birds claws. (Daniel 4:33)**

• **His reason gone, Nebuchadnezzar may have imagined that he was a beast, perhaps a bull. Regarding his mental derangement, a French medical dictionary states; LYCANTHROPY, from *ly'kos, lupus, wolf, an'thro-pos, homo, man.***

• **This name was given to the sickness of people who believe themselves to be changed into an animal, and who imitate the voice or cries, the shapes or manners of that animal.**

• **These individuals usually imagine themselves transformed into a wolf, a dog or a cat, sometimes also into a bull, as in the case of**

Nebuchadnezzar. [Dictionnaire des sciences médicales, par une société Deuteronomy médecins et Deuteronomy chirurgiens, Paris, 1818, Vol. 29, p. 246]

- **At the end of the seven years, Yehowah restored Nebuchadnezzar's understanding to him.**
- **And at the end of the days I, Nebuchadnezzar, lifted up to the heavens my eyes, and my own understanding began to return to me, and I blessed the Most High himself, and the One living to time indefinite I praised and glorified, because his rulership is a rulership to time indefinite and his kingdom is for generation after generation. (Daniel 4:34)**
- **And all the inhabitants of the earth are being considered as merely nothing, and he is doing according to his own will among the army of the heavens and the inhabitants of the earth. And there exists no one that can check his hand or that can say to him, What have you been doing? (Daniel 4:35)**
- **At the same time my understanding itself began to return to me, and for the dignity of my kingdom my majesty and my brightness themselves began to return to me, and for me even my high royal officers and my grandees began eagerly searching, and I was reestablished upon my own kingdom, and greatness extraordinary was added to me. (Daniel 4:36)**
- **Now I, Nebuchadnezzar, am praising and exalting and glorifying the King of the heavens, because all his works are truth and his ways are justice, and because those who are walking in pride he is able to humiliate. (Daniel 4:37)**

See Also LYCANTHROPY

.. Madness And Demon Possession

- **While not all persons afflicted with **madness** or **insanity** are **possessed by the demons**, logically persons possessed by the demons may be expected to **manifest an unbalanced mental state**. In the country of the Gerasenes, Jesus encountered a **madman** who was demon possessed.**
- **His haunt was among the tombs, and though he had often been bound with fetters and chains, the chains were snapped apart by him and the fetters were actually smashed, and nobody had the strength to subdue him.**

- **Further, continually, night and day, he was crying out in the tombs and in the mountains and slashing himself with stones. After Jesus cast out the demons, the man had a sound mind.**
- **Well, they got to the other side of the sea into the country of the Gerasenes. (Mark 5:1)**
- **And immediately after he got out of the boat a man under the power of an unclean spirit met him from among the memorial tombs. (Mark 5:2)**
- **He had his haunt among the tombs, and up to that time absolutely nobody was able to bind him fast even with a chain. (Mark 5:3)**
- **Because he had oftentimes been bound with fetters and chains, but the chains were snapped apart by him and the fetters were actually smashed, and nobody had the strength to subdue him. (Mark 5:4)**
- **And continually, night and day, he was crying out in the tombs and in the mountains and slashing himself with stones. (Mark 5:5)**
- **But on catching sight of Jesus from a distance he ran and did obeisance to him. (Mark 5:6)**
- **And, when he had cried out with a loud voice, he said; What have I to do with you, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I put you under oath by God not to torment me. (Mark 5:7)**
- **For he had been telling it; Come out of the man, you unclean spirit. (Mark 5:8)**
- **But he began to ask him; What is your name? And he said to him, My name is Legion, because there are many of us. (Mark 5:9)**
- **And he entreated him many times not to send the spirits out of the country. (Mark 5:10)**
- **Now a great herd of swine was there at the mountain feeding. (Mark 5:11)**

- So they entreated him, saying; Send us into the swine, that we may enter into them. (**Mark 5:12**)
- And he permitted them. With that the unclean spirits came out and entered into the swine, and the herd rushed over the precipice into the sea, about two thousand of them, and they drowned one after another in the sea. (**Mark 5:13**)
- But the herders of them fled and reported it in the city and in the countryside, and people came to see what it was that had happened. (**Mark 5:14**)
- So they came to Jesus, and they beheld the demon-possessed man sitting clothed and in his sound mind, this man that had had the legion, and they grew fearful. (**Mark 5:15**)
- Also, those who had seen it related to them how this had happened to the **demon-possessed man** and about the swine. (**Mark 5:16**)
- And so they started to entreat him to go away from their districts. (**Mark 5:17**)
- And they put in to shore in the country of the Gerasenes, which is on the side opposite Galilee. (**Luke 8:26**)
- But as he got out onto land a certain man from the city who had demons met him. And for a considerable time he had not worn clothing, and he was staying, not at home, but among the tombs. (**Luke 8:27**)
- At the sight of Jesus he cried aloud and fell down before him, and with a loud voice he said; What have I to do with you, Jesus Son of the Most High God? I beg you, do not torment me. (**Luke 8:28**)
- For he had been ordering the unclean spirit to come out of the man. For over a long time it had held him fast, and he was repeatedly bound with chains and fetters under guard, but he would burst the bonds and be driven by the demon into the lonely places. (**Luke 8:29**)
- Jesus asked him; What is your name? He said; Legion, because

many demons had entered into him. (Luke 8:30)

- And they kept entreating him not to order them to go away into the abyss. (Luke 8:31)
- Now a herd of a considerable number of swine was feeding there on the mountain, so they entreated him to permit them to enter into those. And he gave them permission. (Luke 8:32)
- Then the demons went out of the man and entered into the swine, and the herd rushed over the precipice into the lake and drowned. (Luke 8:33)
- But when the herders saw what had happened, they fled and reported it to the city and to the countryside. (Luke 8:34)
- Then people turned out to see what had happened, and they came to Jesus and found the man from whom the demons came out, clothed and in his sound mind, sitting at the feet of Jesus, and they became fearful. (Luke 8:35)
- Those who had seen it reported to them how the demon-possessed man had been made well. (Luke 8:36)
- So all the multitude from the surrounding country of the Gerasenes asked him to get away from them, because they were in the grip of great fear. Then he went aboard the boat and turned away. (Luke 8:37)
- However, the man from whom the demons had gone out kept begging to continue with him, but he dismissed the man, saying; (Luke 8:38)
- Be on your way back home, and keep on relating what things God did for you. Accordingly he went away, proclaiming throughout the whole city what things Jesus did for him. (Luke 8:39)
- However, Christians are kept safe from demon invasion that produces **madness** if they put on and keep on the complete suit of armor from God.
- Finally, go on acquiring power in the Lord and in the mightiness of his strength. (Ephesians 6:10)

- Put on the complete suit of armor from God that you may be able to stand firm against the machinations of the Devil. (**Ephesians 6:11**)
- Because we have a wrestling, not against blood and flesh, but against the governments, against the authorities, against the world rulers of this darkness, against the wicked spirit forces in the heavenly places. (**Ephesians 6:12**)
- On this account take up the complete suit of armor from God, that you may be able to resist in the wicked day and, after you have done all things thoroughly, to stand firm. (**Ephesians 6:13**)
- Stand firm, therefore, with your loins girded about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness. (**Ephesians 6:14**)
- And with your feet shod with the equipment of the Good News of peace. (**Ephesians 6:15**)
- Above all things, take up the large shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the wicked ones burning missiles. (**Ephesians 6:16**)
- Also, accept the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the spirit, that is, God's word. (**Ephesians 6:17**)

· Feigned Madness

- On one occasion, while he was outlawed by King Saul, David sought refuge with Achish the king of Gath. Upon discovering who he was, the Philistines suggested to Achish that David was a security risk, and David became afraid.
- Consequently, he disguised his sanity by acting insane. He kept making cross marks on the doors of the gate and let his saliva run down upon his beard.
- Thinking David was crazy, Achish let him go with his life, as a harmless idiot. David was later inspired to write (**Psalms Chapter 34**), in which he thanked Yehowah for blessing this strategy and delivering him.
- Then David rose up and continued running away on account of Saul on that day, and at length came to Achish the king of Gath.

(1 Samuel 21:10)

- So David proceeded to go from there and escape to the cave of Adullam, and his brothers and the entire house of his father got to hear of it and made their way down there to him. (1 Samuel 22:1)

.. Madness Of Opposition To Yehowah

- The prophet Balaam foolishly wanted to prophesy against Israel in order to receive money from King Balak of the Moabites, but Yehowah overruled and prevented his efforts.
- The apostle Peter wrote about Balaam that a voiceless beast of burden, making utterance with the voice of a man, hindered the prophets' mad course. For Balaam's **madness** the apostle used the Greek word *pa-ra-phro-ni'a*, which has the thought of being beside one's mind.
- Abandoning the straight path, they have been misled. They have followed the path of Balaam, the son of Beor, who loved the reward of wrongdoing. (2 Peter 2:15)
- But got a reproof for his own violation of what was right. A voiceless beast of burden, making utterance with the voice of a man, hindered the prophets' **mad** course. (2 Peter 2:16)
- Yehowah's angel now passed by again and stood in a narrow place, where there was no way to turn aside to the right or the left. (Numbers 22:26)
- When the ass got to see Yehowah's angel she now lay down under Balaam, so that Balaam's anger blazed, and he kept beating the ass with his staff. (Numbers 22:27)
- Finally Yehowah opened the mouth of the ass and she said to Balaam; What have I done to you so that you have beaten me these three times? (Numbers 22:28)
- At this Balaam said to the ass; It is because you have dealt ruthlessly with me. If only there were a sword in my hand, for now I should have killed you! (Numbers 22:29)
- Then the she-ass said to Balaam; Am I not your she-ass that you

have ridden upon all your life long until this day? Have I ever been used to do to you this way? To which he said; No! (Numbers 22:30)

- And Yehowah proceeded to uncover Balaam's eyes, so that he saw Yehowah's angel stationed in the road with his drawn sword in his hand. At once he bowed low and prostrated himself on his face. (Numbers 22:31)
- Regarding the false prophets of Israel, the prophet Hosea wrote: The prophet will be foolish, the man of inspired expression will be **maddened** on account of the abundance of your error, even animosity being abundant.
- The days of being given attention must come, the days of the due payment must come. Those of Israel will know it. The prophet will be foolish, the man of inspired expression will be maddened on account of the abundance of your error, even animosity being abundant. (Hosea 9:7)
- Yehowah brings **madness** to his opposers and those who reject his wisdom, identifying himself as the One that makes diviners themselves **act crazily**, that is, by making their forecasts prove false.
- This is what Yehowah has said, your Repurchaser and the Former of you from the belly; I, Yehowah, am doing everything, stretching out the heavens by myself, laying out the earth. Who was with me? (Isaiah 44:24)
- I am frustrating the signs of the empty talkers, and I am the One that makes diviners **themselves act crazily**, the One turning wise men backwards, and the One that turns even their knowledge into foolishness. (Isaiah 44:25)
- Job said; concerning worldly judges, that Yehowah makes judges themselves **go crazy**.
- He is making counselors go barefoot, and he makes judges themselves **go crazy**. (Job 12:17)
- Paul compared men who resisted the truth and who tried to corrupt the Christian congregation to Jannes and Jambres, who resisted Moses. He assured; They will make no further progress, for

their **madness** will be very plain to all, even as the **madness** of those two men became.

- Now in the way that Jannes and Jambres resisted Moses, so these also go on resisting the truth, men completely corrupted in mind, disapproved as regards the faith. (2 Timothy 3:8)
- Nevertheless, they will make no further progress, for their **madness** will be very plain to all, even as the **madness** of those two men became. (2 Timothy 3:9)

•• Madness From Oppression And Confusion

- Among the dire consequences the Israelites would suffer for disobedience to Yehowah was being stricken with **madness**. As a result of the oppressive measures of their conquerors, they would become **maddened**, responding in an unreasoning way because of frustration.
- Yehowah will strike you with **madness** and loss of sight and bewilderment of heart. (Deuteronomy 28:28)
- And you will indeed become one who gropes about at midday, just as a blind man gropes about in the gloom, and you will not make your ways successful, and you must become only one who is always defrauded and robbed, with no one to save you. (Deuteronomy 28:29)
- You will become engaged to a woman, but another man will rape her. You will build a house, but you will not dwell in it. You will plant a vineyard, but you will not begin to use it. (Deuteronomy 28:30)
- Your bull slaughtered there before your eyes, but you will not eat any of it. Your ass taken in robbery from before your face, but it will not return to you. Your sheep given to your enemies, but you will have no savior. (Deuteronomy 28:31)
- Your sons and your daughters given to another people and your eyes looking on and yearning for them always, but your hands will be without power. (Deuteronomy 28:32)
- The fruitage of your ground and all your production a people will eat whom you have not known, and you must become one who is

only defrauded and crushed always. (**Deuteronomy 28:33**)

- And you will certainly become maddened at the sight of your eyes that you will see. (**Deuteronomy 28:34**)
- Indeed, King Solomon stated that mere oppression may make a wise one **act crazy**.
- For mere oppression may make a wise one **act crazy**, and a gift can destroy the heart. (**Ecclesiastes 7:7**)
- In prophecy Babylonian King Nebuchadnezzar was likened to the cup of the wine of Yehowah's rage. This the nations would have to drink, and it would cause them to shake back and forth and act like **crazed men** because of the sword that I Yehowah am sending among them.
- For this is what Yehowah the God of Israel said to me; Take this cup of the wine of rage out of my hand, and you must make all the nations to whom I am sending you drink it. (**Jeremiah 25:15**)
- And they must drink and shake back and forth and act like crazed men because of the sword that I am sending among them. (**Jeremiah 25:16**)
- Later, in Babylon herself **madness** would be brought about, her idolaters having horrifying visions, and because of their frightful visions they would **keep acting crazy**.
- There is a sword against the Chaldeans, is the utterance of Yehowah, and against the inhabitants of Babylon and against her princes and against her wise ones. (**Jeremiah 50:35**)
- There is a sword against the empty talkers, and they will certainly act foolishly. There is a sword against her mighty men, and they will actually become terrified. (**Jeremiah 50:36**)
- There is a sword against their horses and against their war chariots and against all the mixed company that are in the midst of her, and they will certainly become women. There is a sword against her treasures, and they will actually be plundered. (**Jeremiah 50:37**)
- There is a devastation upon her waters, and they must be dried

- up. For it is a land of graven images, and because of their frightful visions they keep acting crazy. (**Jeremiah 50:38**)
- **She, too, would have to drink the cup of Yehowah's rage.**
 - **Flee out of the midst of Babylon, and provide escape each one for his own soul. Do not be rendered inanimate through her error. For it is the time of vengeance belonging to Yehowah. There is treatment that he is paying back to her. (**Jeremiah 51:6**)**
 - **Babylon has been a golden cup in the hand of Yehowah, she making all the earth drunk. From her wine the nations have drunk. That is why the nations keep acting crazed. (**Jeremiah 51:7**)**
 - **Suddenly Babylon has fallen, so that she is broken. Howl over her, you people. Take balsam for her pain. Perhaps she may be healed. (**Jeremiah 51:8**)**

•• Extreme Rage

- **Madness**, as used Biblically, can also denote extreme rage. On a Sabbath day Jesus cured a man with a withered right hand. The observing scribes and Pharisees thereupon, became filled with **madness**, and they began to talk over with one another what they might do to Jesus.
- **In the course of another Sabbath he entered into the synagogue and began teaching. And there was a man present whose right hand was withered. (**Luke 6:6**)**
- **The scribes and the Pharisees were now watching him closely to see whether he would cure on the Sabbath, in order to find some way to accuse him. (**Luke 6:7**)**
- **He, however, knew their reasonings, yet he said to the man with the withered hand; Get up and stand in the center. And he rose and took his stand. (**Luke 6:8**)**
- **Then Jesus said to them; I ask you men, Is it lawful on the Sabbath to do good or to do injury, to save or to destroy a soul? (**Luke 6:9**)**
- **And after looking around at them all, he said to the man; Stretch**

out your hand. He did so, and his hand was restored. (Luke 6:10)

- But they became filled with **madness**, and they began to talk over with one another what they might do to Jesus. (Luke 6:11)
- To describe their state of mind, Luke used the Greek word *a'noi-a*, meaning, literally, **mindlessness**, the English word, **paranoia**, is related to this term. Paul evidently had in **mind extreme rage or fury** when he admitted that in persecuting Christians he had been extremely **mad** against them.
- And by punishing them many times in all the synagogues I tried to force them to make a recantation, and since I was extremely **mad** against them, I went so far as to persecuting them even in outside cities. (Acts of Apostles 26:11)

.. Contrasted With Wisdom

- In the book of Ecclesiastes, the congregator reveals that he gave his heart to knowing wisdom and to knowing **madness**.
- And I proceeded to give my heart to knowing wisdom and to knowing **madness**, and I have come to know folly, that this too is a striving after wind. (Ecclesiastes 1:17)
- His investigation did not restrict itself to considering wisdom but also took into account its opposite as manifested by men.
- I myself turned around, even my heart did, to know and to explore and to search for wisdom and the reason of things, and to know about the wickedness of stupidity and the foolishness of **madness**. (Ecclesiastes 7:25)
- And I, even I, turned to see wisdom and **madness** and folly, for what can the earthling man do who comes in after the king? The thing that people have already done. (Ecclesiastes 2:12)
- Solomon again reveals that he weighed wisdom, **madness**, and folly. In this way he could determine their contrast in value. He recognized inordinate frivolity as **madness**, saying; I said to laughter: **Insanity!** For, as compared with wisdom, it was senseless, not producing real happiness.
- I said to laughter; Insanity! And to rejoicing; What is this

doing? (**Ecclesiastes 2:2**)

- **Commenting on the stupid ones condition of mind, Solomon said; The start of the words of his mouth is foolishness, and the end afterward of his mouth is calamitous **madness**.**
- **The start of the words of his mouth is foolishness, and the end afterward of his mouth is calamitous **madness**. (**Ecclesiastes 10:13**)**
- **Foolishness may take the form of a trick, which can sometimes be so harmful to its victim that the player of the trick is likened to a madman armed with deadly weapons.**
- **Just like someone **mad** that is shooting fiery missiles, arrows and death. (**Proverbs 26:18**)**
- **So is the man that has tricked his fellowman and has said; Was I not having fun? (**Proverbs 26:19**)**
- **Some have no hope in the resurrection of the dead, thinking that death ends all for everyone. Giving evidence of their unbalanced outlook, they seek only to satisfy their fleshly inclinations and show no concern about doing God's will.**
- **Solomon also took note of them, saying; Because there is one eventuality to all, the heart of the sons of men is also full of bad, and there is **madness** in their heart during their lifetime, and after it to the dead ones!**
- **This is what is calamitous in all that has been done under the sun, that, because there is one eventuality to all, the heart of the sons of men is also full of bad, and there is **madness** in their heart during their lifetime, and after it, to the dead ones! (**Ecclesiastes 9:3**)**

•• Illustrative Use

- **The apostle Paul's authority and apostleship were challenged by some in Corinth whom he sarcastically termed superfine apostles.**
- **For I consider that I have not in a single thing proved inferior to your superfine apostles. (**2 Corinthians 11:5**)**

- In order to bring the Corinthian congregation to their senses, Paul boasted about his credentials, his blessings and the things he had experienced in Yehowah's service, proving his claim. This boasting was contrary to the usual speech of a Christian, but Paul had to do it in this case.
- Hence he spoke of himself as though being out of his mind and said of the so-called superfine apostles; Are they ministers of Christ? I reply like a madman, I am more outstandingly one.
- I say this to our dishonor, as though our position had been weak. But if anyone else acts bold in something, I am talking unreasonably, I too am acting bold in it. (2 Corinthians 11:21)
- Are they Hebrews? I am one also. Are they Israelites? I am one also. Are they Abraham's seed? I am also. (2 Corinthians 11:22)
- Are they ministers of Christ? I reply like a **madman**, I am more outstandingly one. In labors more plentifully, in prisons more plentifully, in blows to an excess, in near-deaths often. (2 Corinthians 11:23)
- By Jews I five times received forty strokes less one. (2 Corinthians 11:24)
- Three times I was beaten with rods, once I was stoned, three times I experienced shipwreck, a night and a day I have spent in the deep. (2 Corinthians 11:25)
- In journeys often, in dangers from rivers, in dangers from highwaymen, in dangers from my own race, in dangers from the nations, in dangers in the city, in dangers in the wilderness, in dangers at sea, in dangers among false brothers. (2 Corinthians 11:26)
- In labor and toil, in sleepless nights often, in hunger and thirst, in abstinence from food many times, in cold and nakedness. (2 Corinthians 11:27)