

## ~MAGGOT (75)

[Hebrew, *rim-mah'*, Greek, *sko'lex* ]

- The larva, or wormlike stage, of an insect just after leaving the egg. The term, **maggot**, is applied particularly to the **fly larvae** found in decaying vegetable or animal matter and in living tissues. The living or putrefying material provides heat for hatching the eggs and nourishment for the **maggots**.
- **Maggots** have a legless, slender, segmented body that appears to be headless. However, with reference to the head, *The Smithsonian Series* [Vol. 5, p. 343] states:
  - The tapering end of the body is the head end, but the true head of the **maggot** is withdrawn entirely into the body. From the aperture where the head has disappeared, which serves the **maggot** as a mouth, two claw-like hooks project, and these hooks are both jaws and grasping organs to the **maggot**.
- The Scriptures allude to the fact that **maggots** subsist on dead organic matter.
- My flesh has become clothed with **maggots** and lumps of dust, my skin itself has formed crusts and dissolves. (**Job 7:5**)
- To the pit I shall have to call out, You are my father! To the **maggot**, My mother and my sister! (**Job 17:14**)
- Together in the dust they will lie down and **maggots** themselves will form a cover over them. (**Job 21:26**)
- The womb will forget him, the **maggot** will sweetly suck him, the will be remembered no more. And unrighteousness will be broken just like a tree. (**Job 24:20**)
- Down to Sheol your pride has been brought, the din of your stringed instruments. Beneath you, **maggots** are spread out as a couch, and worms are your covering. (**Isaiah 14:11**)
- The miraculous manna, if saved by the Israelites until the morning of the next day, gave off a repulsive odor and developed

worms or **maggots**, except the manna stored up on the sixth day and saved over for the Sabbath.

- But they did not listen to Moses. When some men would leave some of it until the morning, it would breed worms and stink, so that Moses became indignant at them. (**Exodus 16:20**)
- Accordingly they saved it up until the morning, just as Moses had commanded, and it did not stink nor did **maggots** develop in it. (**Exodus 16:24**)
- In mentioning the **maggot** in connection with Gehenna, Jesus evidently was alluding to the dump outside the city of Jerusalem where fires consumed the refuse and where worms or **maggots** subsisted on decaying matter near, but not in, the fire.
- Where their **maggot** does not die and the fire is not put out. (**Mark 9:48**)
- And they will actually go forth and look upon the carcasses of the men that were transgressing against me, for the very worms upon them will not die and their fire itself will not be extinguished, and they must become something repulsive to all flesh. (**Isaiah 66:24**)

### **See Also GEHENNA**

- The word **maggot** was employed by Bildad to denote someone of little account.
- How much less so mortal man, who is a **maggot**, and a son of man, who is a worm! (**Job 25:6**)