

~NURSE (122)

[Hebrew, *meh-ne'qeth*, Greek, *tro-phos'*]

- Two kinds of nurses were employed in ancient times. The nursing woman, Hebrew, *meh-ne'qeth*.
- At that they sent off Rebekah their sister and her nurse and Abraham's servant and his men. (Genesis 24:59)
- Later Deborah the nursing woman of Rebekah died and was buried at the foot of Bethel under a massive tree. Hence he called its name Allonbacuth. (Genesis 35:8)
- Then his sister said to Pharaoh's daughter; Shall I go and specially call for you a nursing woman from the Hebrew women that she may nurse the child for you? (Exodus 2:7)
- However, Jehosheba the daughter of King Jehoram, the sister of Ahaziah, took Jehoash the son of Ahaziah and stole him from among the sons of the king that were to be put to death, even him and his nursing woman, into the inner room for the couches, and they kept him concealed from the face of Athaliah, and he was not put to death. (2 Kings 11:2)
- However, Jehoshabeath the daughter of the king took Jehoash the son of Ahaziah and stole him away from among the sons of the king that were to be put to death, and put him and his nursing woman in the inner room for the couches. And Jehoshabeath the daughter of King Jehoram, the wife of Jehoiada the priest, for she herself happened to be the sister of Ahaziah, kept him concealed because of Athaliah, and she did not put him to death. (2 Chronicles 22:11)
- And kings must become caretakers for you, and their princesses nursing women for you. With faces to the earth they will bow down to you, and the dust of your feet they will lick up, and you will have to know that I am Yehowah, of whom those hoping in me will not be ashamed. (Isaiah 49:23)
- Served as a mother's substitute for breast-feeding an infant. Deborah was such a nurse to Rebekah but later served as her maid or caretaker, continuing as a family servant even after her mistress death.

- At that they sent off Rebekah their sister and her **nurse** and Abraham's servant and his men. (**Genesis 24:59**)
- After that Isaac brought her into the tent of Sarah his mother. Thus he took Rebekah and she became his wife, and he fell in love with her, and Isaac found comfort after the loss of his mother. (**Genesis 24:67**)
- Later Deborah the **nursing** woman of Rebekah died and was buried at the foot of Bethel under a massive tree. Hence he called its name Allonbacuth. (**Genesis 35:8**)
- The other type **nurse** could be a **male Hebrew**, *'o-men'*.
- Have I myself conceived all this people? Is it I who have given them birth, so that you should say to me, Carry them in your bosom, just as the male **nurse** carries the suckling, to the soil about which you swore to their forefathers? (**Numbers 11:12**)
- And kings must become caretakers for you, and their princesses nursing women for you. With faces to the earth they will bow down to you, and the dust of your feet they will lick up, and you will have to know that I am Yehowah, of whom those hoping in me will not be ashamed. (**Isaiah 49:23**)
- Caretaker or a female, **Hebrew**, *'o-me'neth*.
- Now Jonathan, the son of Saul, had a son lame in the feet. Five years old he happened to be when the report about Saul and Jonathan came from Jezreel, and his **nurse** began to carry him and flee, but it came about that as she was running in panic to flee, he then had a fall and was lamed. And his name was Mephibosheth. (**2 Samuel 4:4**)
- A person of either sex might care for children, the sick, or older persons. The role of a **nurse** or **caretaker** was filled by aged Naomi toward her grandson Obed and by the beautiful virgin Abishag in connection with King David.
- Accordingly Boaz took Ruth and she became his wife and he had relations with her. So Yehowah granted her conception and she bore a son. (**Ruth 4:13**)

- And Naomi proceeded to take the child and to put it in her bosom, and she came to be its **nurse**. (**Ruth 4:16**)
- Then the neighbor ladies gave it a name, saying; A son has been born to Naomi. And they began to call his name Obed. He is the father of Jesse, David's father. (**Ruth 4:17**)
- Now King David was old, advanced in days, and they would cover him with garments, but he would not feel warm. (**1 Kings 1:1**)
- So his servants said to him; Let them look for a girl, a virgin, for my lord the king, and she will have to attend upon the king, that she may become his **nurse**, and she must lie in your bosom, and my lord the king will certainly feel warm. (**1 Kings 1:2**)
- And they went looking for a beautiful girl throughout all the territory of Israel, and finally found Abishag the Shunammite and then brought her in to the king. (**1 Kings 1:3**)
- And the girl was beautiful in the extreme, and she came to be the king's **nurse** and kept waiting upon him, and the king himself had no intercourse with her. (**1 Kings 1:4**)
- To the contrary, we became gentle in the midst of you, as when a nursing mother cherishes her own children. (**1 Thessalonians 2:7**)
- Paul likens himself and his companions to a **nursing** mother **Greek, *tro-phos***, thus emphasizing that they were gentle toward the Macedonian believers.