

~PIGEON (180)

[Hebrew, *yoh-nah'*, *goh-zal'*, Greek, *pe-ri-ste-ra'*]

- As noted under the heading **DOVE**, the same Hebrew word, *yoh-nah'*, is applied to both the dove and the **pigeon**. Similarly, in English the distinction between the two birds is not sharply defined, although the name pigeon is usually applied to the larger types and especially to those that are domesticated and thus nonmigrating. Like the dove, the pigeon is a stout-bodied, short-legged bird with smooth and compact plumage.

See Also DOVE

- As a rule, Bible translations render the Hebrew *yoh-nah'* as **pigeon** only in texts involving sacrifices, in which **turtledoves**, Hebrew, *to-rim'*, are also regularly mentioned.

- The expression, **young pigeon(s)**, [NW, KJ, RS in Hebrew is literally son(s) of a, or the pigeon. Along with turtledoves, pigeons were acceptable for sacrificial use in burnt offerings

- However, if his offering as a burnt offering to Yehowah is from the fowls, then he must present his offering from the turtledoves or the young **pigeons**. (**Leviticus 1:14**)

- A pair could be presented by those too poor to afford a female lamb or kid for a guilt offering.

- And it must occur that in case he becomes guilty as respects one of these things, then he must confess in what way he has sinned. (**Leviticus 5:5**)

- And he must bring his guilt offering to Yehowah for his sin that he has committed, namely, a female from the flock, a female lamb or a female kid of the goats, for a sin offering, and the priest must make an atonement for him for his sin. (**Leviticus 5:6**)

- If, though, he cannot afford enough for a sheep, then he must bring as his guilt offering for the sin that he has committed two turtledoves or two young **pigeons** to Yehowah, one for a sin offering and one for a burnt offering. (**Leviticus 5:7**)

- A **pigeon**, or else a **turtledove**, as a sin offering was to accompany the offering of a young ram in a woman's purification rites following delivery of a child unless she lacked the ability to present the ram, in which case **two young pigeons** were acceptable
- Then at the fulfilling of the days of her purification for a son or for a daughter she will bring a young ram in its first year for a burnt offering and a **young pigeon** or a turtledove for a sin offering to the entrance of the tent of meeting to the priest. (**Leviticus 12:6**)
- And he must present it before Yehowah and make atonement for her, and she must be clean from the source of her blood. This is the Law about her who bears either a male or a female. (**Leviticus 12:7**)
- But if she cannot afford enough for a sheep, she must then take **two turtledoves** or **two young pigeons**, one for a burnt offering and one for a sin offering, and the priest must make atonement for her, and she must be clean. (**Leviticus 12:8**)
- As was the case in Mary's purification following the birth of Jesus.
- Also, when the days for purifying them according to the Law of Moses came to the full, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to Yehowah. (**Luke 2:22**)
- Just as it is written in Yehowah's Law: Every male opening a womb must be called holy to Yehowah. (**Luke 2:23**)
- And to offer sacrifice according to what is said in the Law of Yehowah: A pair of turtledoves or **two young pigeons**. (**Luke 2:24**)
- And a pair of either **pigeons** or **turtledoves** was to be included in the purification offerings of a person who had recovered from a running discharge
- Now in case the one having a running discharge would become clean from his running discharge, he must then count for himself seven days for his purification, and he must wash his garments and bathe his flesh in running water, and he must be clean.

(Leviticus 15:13)

- And on the eighth day he should take for himself two turtledoves or **two young pigeons**, and he must come before Yehowah to the entrance of the tent of meeting and give them to the priest. **(Leviticus 15:14)**
- However, if she has become clean from her running discharge, she must also count for herself seven days, and afterward she will be clean. **(Leviticus 15:28)**
- And on the eighth day she should take for herself two turtledoves or two young **pigeons**, and she must bring them to the priest at the entrance of the tent of meeting. **(Leviticus 15:29)**
- They were also acceptable in connection with the Nazirites cleansing from defilement.
- And on the eighth day he should bring **two turtledoves** or **two young pigeons** to the priest to the entrance of the tent of meeting. **(Numbers 6:10)**
- While many families among the Jews doubtless had their own **pigeons**, the expression, Now if he does not have the means for two turtledoves or **two young pigeons**, evidently indicates that they were often purchased for sacrificial purposes.
- Now if he does not have the means for **two turtledoves** or **two young pigeons**, then he must bring as his offering for the sin he has committed the tenth of an ephah of fine flour for a sin offering. He must not put oil upon it and he must not place frankincense upon it, for it is a sin offering. **(Leviticus 5:11)**
- The **Hebrew** term *goh-zal'*, used in the account of Abraham's offering when Yehowah concluded with Abram a covenant, is understood to refer to **a young pigeon**.
- In turn he said to him; Take for me a three year old heifer and a three year old shegoat and a three year old ram and a turtledove and a young **pigeon**. **(Genesis 15:9)**
- On that day Yehowah concluded with Abram a covenant, saying; To your seed I will give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates. **(Genesis 15:18)**

- This is because of the constant association of the **pigeon** with the turtledove in sacrifices prescribed in the Law later given to Israel. The same Hebrew word is rendered, **fledgling** in,
- Just as an eagle stirs up its nest, hovers over its **fledglings**, spreads out its wings, takes them, carries them on its pinions. (**Deuteronomy 32:11**)
- A **pigeon** doubtless formed part of the earlier sacrifice by Noah, since that sacrifice included some of all the clean flying creatures.
- And Noah began to build an altar to Yehowah and to take some of all the clean beasts and of all the clean flying creatures and to offer burnt offerings upon the altar. (**Genesis 8:20**)
- The provision of the Law in making optional the use of either young **pigeons** or turtledoves was a helpful arrangement for the Jews, inasmuch as most turtledoves migrated from the land of Israel during the winter months, while the nonmigratory pigeons were available the year round.
- The **pigeon** is a strong, swift flier, able to reach speeds of over 80 kilometers/hour (50 miles/hour). Its homing instinct caused it to be used for carrying messages from early times.
- Unlike human navigators who must use chronometers and sextants to determine their position, homing **pigeons** almost instantly know by sensing the earth's magnetic field and from the position of the sun which direction to fly, even though released in strange territory hundreds of kilometers from their homesite. They automatically allow for the movement of the sun across the sky so that the angle of their flight does not err.
- As common as chickens in many parts of the earth, **pigeons** differ from domestic fowl not only in their flying ability but also in their structure and in the fact that they are monogamous. Different from the rooster, the faithful male **pigeon** aids the female in building the nest and in incubating the eggs.
- **Pigeons** differ from all other birds in their distinct manner of feeding their young with **pigeons milk**, a curdlike substance produced within the parents crop. Young **pigeons**, called squabs, are commonly used as food in many lands.

