

## ~PORTENT (613)

[Hebrew, *moh-pheth'*, Greek, *te'ras*]

- Something that presages future situations or events, also, a marvel. The Hebrew word *moh-pheth'* generally carries the idea of a miracle, as in the miracles performed through Moses and Aaron in Egypt.
- However, in some cases the term is definitely used in the sense of a portent, as with regard to the prophet or dreamer who offers a sign or portent, to be fulfilled in the future, to lend support to his prophecy.
- In case a prophet or a dreamer of a dream arises in your midst and does give you a sign or a **portent**. (**Deuteronomy 13:1**)
- And the sign or the **portent** does come true of which he spoke to you, saying; Let us walk after other gods, whom you have not known, and let us serve them. (**Deuteronomy 13:2**)
- You must not listen to the words of that prophet or to the dreamer of that dream, because Yehowah your God is testing you to know whether you are loving Yehowah your God with all your heart and all your soul. (**Deuteronomy 13:3**)
- The **portent**, Hebrew *moh-pheth'*, might be a miraculous act manifesting divine power, as when the altar of Jeroboam was ripped apart by God, portending the still future and greater execution of his adverse judgment regarding that altar and those serving at it.
- And here there was a man of God that had come out of Judah by the word of Yehowah to Bethel, while Jeroboam was standing by the altar to make sacrificial smoke. (**1 Kings 13:1**)
- Then he called out against the altar by the word of Yehowah and said; O altar, altar, this is what Yehowah has said; Look! A son born to the house of David, whose name is Josiah! And he will certainly sacrifice upon you the priests of the high places that are making sacrificial smoke upon you, and mens bones he will burn upon you. (**1 Kings 13:2**)
- And he gave a **portent** on that day, saying; This is the **portent** of

which Yehowah has spoken; Look! The altar is ripped apart, and the fatty ashes that are upon it will certainly be spilled out. (**1 Kings 13:3**)

- And it came about that, as soon as the king heard the word of the man of the true God that he had called out against the altar in Bethel, Jeroboam at once thrust out his hand from off the altar, saying; You men, grab hold of him! Immediately his hand that he had thrust out against him became dried up, and he was not able to draw it back to himself. (**1 Kings 13:4**)
- And the altar itself was ripped apart so that the fatty ashes were spilled out from the altar, according to the **portent** that the man of the true God had given by the word of Yehowah. (**1 Kings 13:5**)
- The fulfillment some 300 years later at;
- When Josiah turned, he got to see the burial places that were there in the mountain. So he sent and took the bones from the burial places and burned them upon the altar, that he might make it unfit for worship, according to Yehowah's word that the man of the true God had proclaimed, who proclaimed these things. (**2 Kings 23:16**)
- Then he said; What is the gravestone over there that I am seeing? At this the men of the city said to him; It is the burial place of the man of the true God that came from Judah and proceeded to proclaim these things that you have done against the altar of Bethel. (**2 Kings 23:17**)
- So he said; Let him rest. Do not let anyone disturb his bones. Consequently they let his bones alone along with the bones of the prophet that had come from Samaria. (**2 Kings 23:18**)
- And also all the houses of the high places that were in the cities of Samaria that the kings of Israel had built to cause offense Josiah removed, and he went on to do to them according to all the doings that he had done at Bethel. (**2 Kings 23:19**)
- Accordingly he sacrificed all the priests of the high places that were there upon the altars and burned human bones upon them. After that he returned to Jerusalem. (**2 Kings 23:20**)

- Or it might be just an unusual action performed by someone, as when Isaiah went naked and barefoot to portend the circumstances due to come on Egypt and Ethiopia at the hands of the king of Assyria
- And Yehowah went on to say; Just as my servant Isaiah has walked about naked and barefoot three years as a sign and a **portent** against Egypt and against Ethiopia. ([Isaiah 20:3](#))
- So the king of Assyria will lead the body of captives of Egypt and the exiles of Ethiopia, boys and old men, naked and barefoot, and with buttocks stripped, the nakedness of Egypt. ([Isaiah 20:4](#))
- And they will certainly be terrified and be ashamed of Ethiopia their looked-for hope and of Egypt their beauty. ([Isaiah 20:5](#))
- And the inhabitant of this coastland will be certain to say in that day; There is how our looked-for hope is, to which we fled for assistance, in order to be delivered because of the king of Assyria! And how shall we ourselves escape? ([Isaiah 20:6](#))
- Or when Ezekiel made a hole in the wall, likely the wall of his residence, and took out his luggage through it as a **portent** of the exile facing Judah.
- Before their eyes, bore your way through the wall, and you must do the bringing out through it. ([Ezekiel 12:5](#))
- Before their eyes you will do the carrying on the shoulder itself. During the darkness you will do the bringing out. You will cover your very face that you may not see the earth, because a **portent** is what I have made you to the house of Israel. ([Ezekiel 12:6](#))
- And I proceeded to do just the way that I had been commanded. My luggage I brought out, just like luggage for exile, in the daytime, and in the evening I bored my way through the wall by hand. During the darkness I did the bringing out. On my shoulder I did the carrying, before their eyes. ([Ezekiel 12:7](#))
- And the word of Yehowah continued to occur to me in the morning, saying; ([Ezekiel 12:8](#))
- Son of man, did not those of the house of Israel, the rebellious house, say to you; What are you doing? ([Ezekiel 12:9](#))

- Say to them; This is what the Sovereign Lord Yehowah has said; As regards the chieftain, there is this pronouncement against Jerusalem and all the house of Israel who are in the midst of them (**Ezekiel 12:10**)
- Say, I am a **portent** for you. Just as I have done, that is the way it will be done to them. Into exile, into captivity they will go. (**Ezekiel 12:11**)
- And I proceeded to speak to the people in the morning, and my wife gradually died in the evening. So I did in the morning just as I had been commanded. (**Ezekiel 24:18**)
- And the people kept saying to me; Will you not tell us what these things have to do with us, that you are doing? (**Ezekiel 24:19**)
- Then I said to them; The very word of Yehowah has occurred to me, saying; (**Ezekiel 24:20**)
- Say to the house of Israel; This is what the Sovereign Lord Yehowah has said; Here I am profaning my sanctuary, the pride of your strength, the thing desirable to your eyes and the object of your souls compassion, and your sons and your daughters whom you people have left behind, by the sword they will fall. (**Ezekiel 24:21**)
- And you will have to do just as I have done. Mustaches you will not cover over, and the bread of men you will not eat. (**Ezekiel 24:22**)
- And your headdress will be on your heads, and your sandals be upon your feet. You will not beat yourselves nor will you weep, and you will have to rot away in your errors, and you will actually groan over one another. (**Ezekiel 24:23**)
- And Ezekiel has become for you a **portent**. In accord with all that he has done, you will do. When it comes, you will also have to know that I am the Sovereign Lord Yehowah. (**Ezekiel 24:24**)
- And as for you, O son of man, will it not be in the day of my taking away from them their fortress, the beautiful object of their exultation, the thing desirable to their eyes and the longing of their soul, their sons and their daughters, that (**Ezekiel 24:25**)

- In that day there will come to you the escaped one for making the ears hear? (**Ezekiel 24:26**)
- In that day your mouth will be opened to the escaped one, and you will speak and be mute no longer, and you will certainly become to them a **portent**, and they will have to know that I am Yehowah. (**Ezekiel 24:27**)
- Since a **portent** is a sign pointing to future things or circumstances, one writer may employ the word *moh-pheth'*, **portent**, or miracle, while another uses *'ohth*, **sign**, to describe the same thing.
- In those days Hezekiah fell sick to the point of dying, and he began to pray to Yehowah. So He talked to him, and a **portent** He gave him. (**2 Chronicles 32:24**)
- Meantime, Hezekiah said to Isaiah; What is the sign that Yehowah will heal me and I shall certainly go up on the third day to the house of Yehowah? (**2 Kings 20:8**)
- To this Isaiah said; This is the sign for you from Yehowah that Yehowah will perform the word that he has spoken; Shall the shadow actually go forward ten steps of the stairs or should it go back ten steps? (**2 Kings 20:9**)
- A **sign** may serve as a guide or indicator for the present, as well as for the future, whereas a **portent** relates primarily to the **future**. The designating of something as a **sign** stresses that it has **significance**, whether for the present or the future. Its being called a **portent** stresses its significance as relating to the future.
- Thus, when referring to;
- And I will give **portents** in the heavens and on the earth, blood and fire and columns of smoke. (**Joel 2:30**)
- Which foretold **portents** plural of the Hebrew *moh-pheth'*, in the heavens and on the earth, the apostle Peter spoke of **portents** plural of the Greek, *te'ras*, in heaven above and **signs** plural of *se-mei'on* on earth.
- But Peter stood up with the eleven and raised his voice and made this utterance to them; Men of Judea and all you inhabitants of Jerusalem, let this be known to you and give ear to my sayings.

**(Acts of Apostles 2:14)**

- And I will give **portents** in heaven above and **signs** on earth below, blood and fire and smoke mist. (**Acts of Apostles 2:19**)
- In the **Christian Greek Scriptures** *te'ras* is consistently used in combination with *se-me'i'on* , **sign**, both terms being used in the plural form.
- This man led them out after doing **portents** and **signs** in Egypt and in the Red Sea and in the wilderness for forty years. (**Acts of Apostles 7:36**)
- Therefore they spent considerable time speaking with boldness by the authority of Yehowah, who bore witness to the word of his undeserved kindness by granting signs and **portents** to occur through their hands. (**Acts of Apostles 14:3**)
- At that the entire multitude became silent, and they began to listen to Barnabas and Paul relate the many **signs** and **portents** that God did through them among the nations. (**Acts of Apostles 15:12**)
- Indeed, the signs of an apostle were produced among you by all endurance, and by **signs** and **portents** and powerful works. (**2 Corinthians 12:12**)
- Basically, *te'ras* refers to any act or thing exciting wonderment, hence it is properly translated, **wonders**, in some cases.
- For false Christ's and false prophets will arise and will give great signs and **wonders** so as to mislead, if possible, even the chosen ones. (**Matthew 24:24**)
- However, Jesus said to him; Unless you people see signs and wonders, you will by no means believe. (**John 4:48**)
- Where the future is more clearly involved, **portent** is more appropriate. Serving as credentials that Jesus was God's Sent One were the powerful works and **portents** and **signs** that God did through him.
- Men of Israel, hear these words; Jesus the Nazarene, a man publicly shown by God to you through powerful works and

**portents** and **signs** that God did through him in your midst, just as you yourselves know. (**Acts of Apostles 2:22**)

- The miraculous cures and resurrections he performed not only excited wonderment but also **portended** **what he would do on a greater scale in the future.**
- He that feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood has everlasting life, and I shall resurrect him at the last day. (**John 6:54**)
- Jesus in answer said to him; Because I told you I saw you underneath the fig tree do you believe? You will see things greater than these. (**John 1:50**)
- He further said to him; Most truly I say to you men, you will see heaven opened up and the angels of God ascending and descending to the Son of man. (**John 1:51**)
- For the Father has affection for the Son and shows him all the things he himself does, and he will show him works greater than these, in order, that you may marvel. (**John 5:20**)
- Do not marvel at this, because the hour is coming in which all those in the memorial tombs will hear his voice (**John 5:28**)
- Some acts were **portents** of his future activity as God's High Priest, forgiving sins and acting as Judge.
- And, look! they were bringing him a paralyzed man lying on a bed. On seeing their faith Jesus said to the paralytic; Take courage, child, your sins are forgiven. (**Matthew 9:2**)
- And, look! Certain of the scribes said to themselves; This fellow is blaspheming. (**Matthew 9:3**)
- And Jesus, knowing their thoughts, said; Why are you thinking wicked things in your hearts? (**Matthew 9:4**)
- For instance, which is easier, to say; Your sins are forgiven, or to say; Get up and walk? (**Matthew 9:5**)
- However, in order for you to know that the Son of man has authority on earth to forgive sins then he said to the paralytic; Get up, pick up your bed, and go to your home. (**Matthew 9:6**)

- **And he got up and went off to his home. ([Matthew 9:7](#))**
- **At the sight of this the crowds were struck with fear, and they glorified God, who gave such authority to men. ([Matthew 9:8](#))**
- **After these things there was a festival of the Jews, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. ([John 5:1](#))**
- **Now in Jerusalem at the sheepgate there is a pool designated in Hebrew Bethzatha, with five colonnades. ([John 5:2](#))**
- **In these a multitude of the sick, blind, lame and those with withered members, was lying down. ([John 5:3](#))**
- **But a certain man was there who had been in his sickness for thirty-eight years. ([John 5:5](#))**
- **Seeing this man lying down, and being aware that he had already been sick a long time, Jesus said to him; Do you want to become sound in health? ([John 5:6](#))**
- **The sick man answered him; Sir, I do not have a man to put me into the pool when the water is disturbed, but while I am coming another steps down ahead of me. ([John 5:7](#))**
- **Jesus said to him; Get up, pick up your cot and walk. ([John 5:8](#))**
- **With that the man immediately became sound in health, and he picked up his cot and began to walk. Now on that day it was a Sabbath. ([John 5:9](#))**
- **Therefore the Jews began to say to the cured man; It is Sabbath, and it is not lawful for you to carry the cot. ([John 5:10](#))**
- **But he answered them; The very one that made me sound in health said to me; Pick up your cot and walk. ([John 5:11](#))**
- **They asked him; Who is the man that told you; Pick it up and walk? ([John 5:12](#))**
- **But the healed man did not know who he was, for Jesus had turned aside, there being a crowd in the place. ([John 5:13](#))**



- **After these things Jesus found him in the temple and said to him; See, you have become sound in health. Do not sin anymore, in order, that something worse does not happen to you. (John 5:14)**
- **The man went away and told the Jews it was Jesus that made him sound in health. (John 5:15)**
- **So on this account the Jews went persecuting Jesus, because he was doing these things during Sabbath. (John 5:16)**
- **But he answered them; My Father has kept working until now, and I keep working. (John 5:17)**
- **On this account, indeed, the Jews began seeking all the more to kill him, because not only was he breaking the Sabbath but he was also calling God his own Father, making himself equal to God. (John 5:18)**
- **Therefore, in answer, Jesus went on to say to them; Most truly I say to you, The Son cannot do a single thing of his own initiative, but only what he beholds the Father doing. For whatever things that One does, these things the Son also does in like manner. (John 5:19)**
- **For the Father has affection for the Son and shows him all the things he himself does, and he will show him works greater than these, in order, that you may marvel. (John 5:20)**
- **For just as the Father raises the dead up and makes them alive, so the Son also makes those alive whom he wants to. (John 5:21)**
- **For the Father judges no one at all, but he has committed all the judging to the Son. (John 5:22)**
- **In order, that all may honor the Son just as they honor the Father. He that does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent him. (John 5:23)**
- **Most truly I say to you, He that hears my word and believes him that sent me has everlasting life, and he does not come into judgment but has passed over from death to life. (John 5:24)**
- **Others served as evidence of his future authority and power to act against Satan and his demons, abyssing them.**

- Then they brought him a demon-possessed man, blind and dumb, and he cured him, so that the dumb man spoke and saw. ([Matthew 12:22](#))
- Well, all the crowds were simply carried away and began to say; May this not perhaps be the Son of David? ([Matthew 12:23](#))
- At hearing this, the Pharisees said; This fellow does not expel the demons except by means of Beelzebub, the ruler of the demons. ([Matthew 12:24](#))
- Knowing their thoughts, he said to them; Every kingdom divided against itself comes to desolation, and every city or house divided against itself will not stand. ([Matthew 12:25](#))
- In the same way, if Satan expels Satan, he has become divided against himself, how, then, will his kingdom stand? ([Matthew 12:26](#))
- Moreover, if I expel the demons by means of Beelzebub, by means of whom do your sons expel them? This is why they will be judges of you. ([Matthew 12:27](#))
- But if it is by means of God's spirit that I expel the demons, the kingdom of God has really overtaken you. ([Matthew 12:28](#))
- Or how can anyone invade the house of a strong man and seize his movable goods, unless first he binds the strong man? And then he will plunder his house. ([Matthew 12:29](#))
- 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](#))
  - And I saw an angel coming down out of heaven with the key of the abyss and a great chain in his hand. ([Revelation 20:1](#))
  - And he seized the dragon, the original serpent, who is the Devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years. ([Revelation 20:2](#))
  - And he hurled him into the abyss and shut it and sealed it over him, that he might not mislead the nations anymore until the thousand years were ended. After these things he must be let loose for a little while. ([Revelation 20:3](#))
  - All such acts pointed forward to his Messianic Rule as Anointed King of God's Kingdom.
  - Similarly, Jesus disciples, as witnesses of his teachings and resurrection, were backed up by God with **signs** as well as **portents** and various powerful works.
  - How shall we escape if we have neglected a salvation of such greatness in that it began to be spoken through our Lord and was verified for us by those who heard him. ([Hebrews 2:3](#))
  - While God joined in bearing witness with signs as well as **portents** and various powerful works and with distributions of Holy Spirit according to his will? ([Hebrews 2:4](#))

- Indeed, fear began to fall upon every soul, and many **portents** and signs began to occur through the apostles. (**Acts of Apostles 2:43**)
- Moreover, through the hands of the apostles many signs and **portents** continued to occur among the people, and they were all with one accord in Solomon's colonnade. (**Acts of Apostles 5:12**)
- These gave evidence of God's dealings with the newly formed Christian congregation and **portended** his future use of that congregation to carry out his will and purpose.
- Most truly I say to you, He that exercises faith in me, that one also will do the works that I do, and he will do works greater than these, because I am going my way to the Father. (**John 14:12**)
- As false prophets arose in Israel, so the foretold apostasy in the Christian congregation would produce a man of lawlessness whose presence would be evidenced by the operation of Satan with every powerful work and lying signs and **portents**.
- Let no one seduce you in any manner, because it will not come unless the apostasy comes first and the man of lawlessness gets revealed, the son of destruction. (**2 Thessalonians 2:3**)
- He is set in opposition and lifts himself up over everyone who is called god or an object of reverence, so that he sits down in the temple of The God, publicly showing himself to be a god. (**2 Thessalonians 2:4**)
- Do you not remember that, while I was yet with you, I used to tell you these things? (**2 Thessalonians 2:5**)
- And so now you know the thing that acts as a restraint, with a view to his being revealed in his own due time. (**2 Thessalonians 2:6**)
- True, the mystery of this lawlessness is already at work, but only till he who is right now acting as a restraint gets to be out of the way. (**2 Thessalonians 2:7**)
- Then, indeed, the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will do away with by the spirit of his mouth and bring to

nothing by the manifestation of his presence. (2 Thessalonians 2:8)

- But the lawless ones presence is according to the operation of Satan with every powerful work and lying signs and portents. (2 Thessalonians 2:9)
- And with every unrighteous deception for those who are perishing, as a retribution because they did not accept the love of the truth that they might be saved. (2 Thessalonians 2:10)
- So that is why God lets an operation of error go to them, that they may get to believing the lie. (2 Thessalonians 2:11)
- In order, that they all may be judged because they did not believe the truth but took pleasure in unrighteousness. (2 Thessalonians 2:12)
- Thus, the evidence marshaled to support the apostate movement would not be weak or puny but would manifest Satan's might. The portents would be lying ones, however, either fraudulent on their face or deceptive as to the conclusions to which they would lead.
- Appearing to manifest God's benevolence and blessing, they would in reality divert persons from the source and path of life.
- But I am afraid that somehow, as the serpent seduced Eve by its cunning, your minds might be corrupted away from the sincerity and the chastity that are due the Christ. (2 Corinthians 11:3)
- Now what I am doing I will still do, that I may cut off the pretext from those who are wanting a pretext for being found equal to us in the office of which they boast. (2 Corinthians 11:12)
- For such men are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into apostles of Christ. (2 Corinthians 11:13)
- And no wonder, for Satan himself keeps transforming himself into an angel of light. (2 Corinthians 11:14)
- It is therefore nothing great if his ministers also keep transforming themselves into ministers of righteousness. But their end shall be according to their works. (2 Corinthians 11:15)

**See Also MIRACLES**

**See Also POWER, POWERFUL WORKS**

**See Also SIGN**