

~PUBLIC INSTRUCTOR (500)

[Greek - gram-ma-teus']

- One who has been educated in a particular field of knowledge and who teaches others publicly. The expression, public instructor, is translated from the Greek word *gram-ma-teus'*. The New English Bible renders this, teacher, Knox uses the expressions, scholar and man of learning. A footnote in the New World Translation reads, learned person.
- Then he said to them; That being the case, every **public instructor**, when taught respecting the kingdom of the heavens, is like a man, a householder, who brings out of his treasure store things new and old. (Matthew 13:52) Footnote
- For this reason, here I am sending forth to you prophets and wise men and **public instructors**. Some of them you will kill and impale, and some of them you will scourge in your synagogues and persecute from city to city. (Matthew 23:34)
- The same Greek word is usually rendered, **scribe**, but to make clear that it is not the Jewish religious group known as the scribes to which reference is being made, the expression, **public instructor**, is used in the New World Translation when the passage refers to Jesus own disciples.
- When Jesus was on earth, the **scribes**, *gram-ma-teis'*, were men versed in the Law and teachers of the people, but they had become corrupted by traditions of men and pagan doctrines.
- The term **scribes** was used toward them more as a title, designating them as a class, rather than having to do with their original copyist duties.
- Jesus came to bear witness to the truth. To get the Good News of the Kingdom preached, he prepared his disciples to be teachers, **public instructors**, respecting the Kingdom of God.
- He magnified their office and the importance of listening to their teaching when he spoke of them as **public instructors**, he likened each of them to a learned man having a veritable treasure store from which to draw.

- Then he said to them; That being the case, every **public instructor**, when taught respecting the kingdom of the heavens, is like a man, a householder, who brings out of his treasure store things new and old. (**Matthew 13:52**)
- These he sent forth to Israel, but Israel's own **scribes** did not discern the treasures that God, through these men, was holding out to them.
- On the contrary, they opposed the **public instruction** and took part in scourging, persecuting, and killing Jesus and his associate public instructors, thereby proving themselves to be **false instructors**.
- Nevertheless, many persons of Israel and of the nations were taught by Jesus **instructed ones**, and in turn, they themselves became public instructors in God's Word.
- For this reason, here I am sending forth to you prophets and wise men and **public instructors**. Some of them you will kill and impale, and some of them you will scourge in your synagogues and persecute from city to city. (**Matthew 23:34**)
- Go therefore and make disciples of people of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. (**Matthew 28:19**)
- **Teaching** them to observe all the things I have commanded you. And, look! I am with you all the days until the conclusion of the system of things. (**Matthew 28:20**)
- Under the Law, the Levites were charged with seeing that the people received **public instruction**.
- And in order to teach the sons of Israel all the regulations that Yehowah has spoken to them by means of Moses. (**Leviticus 10:11**)
- Then you must do in accordance with the word that they will hand down to you from that place which Yehowah will choose, and you must be careful to do according to all that they instruct you. (**Deuteronomy 17:10**)
- In accordance with the Law that they will point out to you, and according to the judicial decision that they will say to you, you

should do. You must not turn aside from the word that they will hand down to you, to the right or to the left. (**Deuteronomy 17:11**)

- And in the third year of his reigning he sent for his princes, namely, Ben-hail and Obadiah and Zechariah and Nethanel and Micaiah, to teach in the cities of Judah. (**2 Chronicles 17:7**)
- And with them the Levites, Shemaiah and Nethaniah and Zebadiah and Asahel and Shemiramoth and Jehonathan and Adonijah and TobiYah and Tob-Adonijah the Levites, and with them Elishama and Jehoram the priests. (**2 Chronicles 17:8**)
- And they began teaching in Judah, and with them there was the book of Yehowah's Law, and they kept going around through all the cities of Judah and teaching among the people. (**2 Chronicles 17:9**)
- Moses the Levite, as mediator of the Law covenant, and later, Joshua of the tribe of Ephraim, as leader of the nation, were **public instructors** of God's people.
- And now, O Israel, listen to the regulations and the judicial decisions that I am teaching you to do, in order, that you may live and may indeed go in and take possession of the land that Yehowah the God of your forefathers is giving you. (**Deuteronomy 4:1**)
- And Joshua the son of Nun was full of the spirit of wisdom, for Moses had laid his hand upon him, and the sons of Israel began to listen to him and they went doing just as Yehowah had commanded Moses. (**Deuteronomy 34:9**)
- There proved to be not a word of all that Moses had commanded that Joshua did not read aloud in front of all the congregation of Israel, together with the women and the little ones and the alien residents who walked in their midst. (**Joshua 8:35**)
- Likewise, the judges and the faithful kings gave **instructions** in the Law when they heard and judged cases and when they presided on occasions having to do with worship.
- At that time Solomon proceeded to congregate the older men of Israel, all the heads of the tribes, the chieftains of the fathers, of

the sons of Israel, to King Solomon at Jerusalem, to bring up the ark of the covenant of Yehowah out of the City of David, that is to say, Zion. (1 Kings 8:1)

- **So all the men of Israel congregated themselves to King Solomon in the lunar month of Ethanim in the festival, that is, the seventh month. (1 Kings 8:2)**
- **To all the older men of Israel came, and the priests began to carry the Ark. (1 Kings 8:3)**
- **And they came bringing up the ark of Yehowah and the tent of meeting and all the holy utensils that were in the tent, and the priests and the Levites came bringing them up. (1 Kings 8:4)**
- **And King Solomon and with him all the assembly of Israel, those keeping their appointment with him, were before the Ark, sacrificing sheep and cattle that could not be counted or numbered for multitude. (1 Kings 8:5)**
- **Then the priests brought in the ark of the covenant of Yehowah to its place, to the innermost room of the house, the Most Holy, to underneath the wings of the cherubs. (1 Kings 8:6)**
- **For the cherubs were spreading out their wings over the place of the Ark, so that the cherubs kept the Ark and its poles screened over from above. (1 Kings 8:7)**
- **But the poles proved to be long, so that the tips of the poles were visible from the Holy in front of the innermost room, but they were not visible outside. And there they continue down to this day. (1 Kings 8:8)**
- **There was nothing in the Ark but the two stone tablets which Moses had deposited there in Horeb, when Yehowah had covenanted with the sons of Israel while they were coming out from the land of Egypt. (1 Kings 8:9)**
- **And it came about that when the priests came out from the holy place, the cloud itself filled the house of Yehowah. (1 Kings 8:10)**
- **And the priests were unable to stand to do their ministering because of the cloud, for the glory of Yehowah filled the house of Yehowah. (1 Kings 8:11)**

- **At that time Solomon said; Yehowah himself said he was to reside in the thick gloom. (1 Kings 8:12)**
- **I have successfully built a house of lofty abode for you, an established place for you to dwell in to time indefinite. (1 Kings 8:13)**
- **Then the king turned his face and began to bless all the congregation of Israel, while all the congregation of Israel were standing up. (1 Kings 8:14)**
- **And he went on to say; Blessed is Yehowah the God of Israel, who spoke by his own mouth with David my father, and by his own hand has given fulfillment, saying; (1 Kings 8:15)**
- **From the day that I brought my people Israel out from Egypt I have not chosen a city out of all the tribes of Israel to build a house for my name to continue there, but I shall choose David to come to be over my people Israel. (1 Kings 8:16)**
- **And it came to be close to the heart of David my father to build a house to the name of Yehowah the God of Israel. (1 Kings 8:17)**
- **But Yehowah said to David my father, For the reason that it proved to be close to your heart to build a house to my name, you did well, because it proved to be close to your heart. (1 Kings 8:18)**
- **Only you yourself will not build the house, but your son who is coming forth from your loins is the one that will build the house to my name. (1 Kings 8:19)**
- **And Yehowah proceeded to carry out his word that he had spoken, that I might rise up in the place of David my father and sit upon the throne of Israel, just as Yehowah had spoken, and that I might build the house to the name of Yehowah the God of Israel. (1 Kings 8:20)**
- **And that I might locate a place there for the Ark where the covenant of Yehowah is that he concluded with our forefathers when he was bringing them out from the land of Egypt. (1 Kings 8:21)**

- **And Solomon began standing before the altar of Yehowah in front of all the congregation of Israel, and he now spread his palms out to the heavens. (1 Kings 8:22)**
- **And he went on to say; O Yehowah the God of Israel, there is no God like you in the heavens above or on the earth beneath, keeping the covenant and the loving-kindness toward your servants who are walking before you with all their heart. (1 Kings 8:23)**
- **You who have kept toward your servant David my father that which you promised him, so that you made the promise with your own mouth, and with your own hand you have made the fulfillment, as at this day. (1 Kings 8:24)**
- **And now, O Yehowah the God of Israel, keep toward your servant David my father that which you promised him, saying; There will not be cut off a man of yours from before me to sit upon the throne of Israel, if only your sons will take care of their way by walking before me just as you have walked before me. (1 Kings 8:25)**
- **And now, O God of Israel, let your promise that you have promised to your servant David my father prove trustworthy, please. (1 Kings 8:26)**
- **But will God truly dwell upon the earth? Look! The heavens, yes, the heaven of the heavens, themselves cannot contain you, how much less, then, this house that I have built! (1 Kings 8:27)**
- **And you must turn toward the prayer of your servant and to his request for favor, O Yehowah my God, to listen to the entreating cry and to the prayer with which your servant is praying before you today. (1 Kings 8:28)**
- **That your eyes may prove to be opened toward this house night and day, toward the place of which you said; My name will prove to be there, to listen to the prayer with which your servant prays toward this place. (1 Kings 8:29)**
- **And you must listen to the request for favor on the part of your servant and of your people Israel with which they pray toward this place, and may you yourself hear at the place of your dwelling, in the heavens, and you must hear and forgive. (1 Kings**

8:30)

- **When a man sins against his fellowman, and he actually lays a cursing upon him to bring him under liability to the curse, and he actually comes within the curse before your altar in this house. (1 Kings 8:31)**
- **Then may you yourself hear from the heavens, and you must act and judge your servants by pronouncing the wicked one wicked by putting his way upon his own head, and by pronouncing the righteous one righteous by giving to him according to his own righteousness. (1 Kings 8:32)**
- **When your people Israel are defeated before the enemy, because they kept sinning against you, and they indeed return to you and laud your name and pray and make request for favor toward you in this house. (1 Kings 8:33)**
- **Then may you yourself hear from heaven, and you must forgive the sin of your people Israel and you must bring them back to the ground that you gave to their forefathers. (1 Kings 8:34)**
- **When heaven is shut up so that no rain occurs, because they kept sinning against you, and they actually pray toward this place and laud your name, and from their sin they turn back, because you kept afflicting them. (1 Kings 8:35)**
- **Then may you yourself hear from the heavens, and you must forgive the sin of your servants, even of your people Israel, because you teach them the good way in which they should walk, and you must give rain upon your land that you have given to your people as a hereditary possession. (1 Kings 8:36)**
- **In case a famine occurs in the land, in case a pestilence occurs, in case scorching, mildew, locusts, cockroaches occur, in case their enemy besieges them in the land of their gates, any sort of plague, any sort of malady. (1 Kings 8:37)**
- **Whatever prayer, whatever request for favor there may occur on the part of any man or of all your people Israel, because they know each one the plague of his own heart, and they actually spread out their palms to this house. (1 Kings 8:38)**
- **Then may you yourself hear from the heavens, your established**

place of dwelling, and you must forgive and act and give to each one according to all his ways, because you know his heart, for you yourself alone well know the heart of all the sons of mankind. (1 Kings 8:39)

- To the end that they may fear you all the days that they are alive upon the surface of the ground that you gave to our forefathers. (1 Kings 8:40)
- And also to the foreigner, who is no part of your people Israel and who actually comes from a distant land by reason of your name (1 Kings 8:41)
- For they shall hear of your great name and of your strong hand and of your stretched-out arm, and he actually comes and prays toward this house. (1 Kings 8:42)
- May you yourself listen from the heavens, your established place of dwelling, and you must do according to all that for which the foreigner calls to you, in order, that all the peoples of the earth may get to know your name so as to fear you the same as your people Israel do, and so as to know that your name itself has been called upon this house that I have built. (1 Kings 8:43)
- In case your people go out to the war against their enemy in the way that you send them, and they indeed pray to Yehowah in the direction of the city that you have chosen and the house that I have built to your name. (1 Kings 8:44)
- You must also hear from the heavens their prayer and their request for favor, and you must execute judgment for them. (1 Kings 8:45)
- In case they sin against you, for there is no man that does not sin, and you have to be incensed at them and abandon them to the enemy, and their captors actually carry them off captive to the land of the enemy distant or nearby. (1 Kings 8:46)
- And they indeed come to their senses in the land where they have been carried off captive, and they actually return and make request to you for favor in the land of their captors, saying; We have sinned and erred, we have acted wickedly. (1 Kings 8:47)
- And they indeed return to you with all their heart and with all

their soul in the land of their enemies who carried them off captive, and they indeed pray to you in the direction of their land that you gave to their forefathers, the city that you have chosen and the house that I have built to your name. (1 Kings 8:48)

- **You must also hear from the heavens, your established place of dwelling, their prayer and their request for favor, and you must execute judgment for them. (1 Kings 8:49)**
- **And you must forgive your people who had sinned against you and all their transgressions with which they transgressed against you, and you must make them objects of pity before their captors and they must pity them. (1 Kings 8:50)**
- **For they are your people and your inheritance, whom you brought out from Egypt, from inside the iron furnace. (1 Kings 8:51)**
- **That your eyes may prove to be opened to the request for favor of your servant and to the request for favor of your people Israel, by listening to them in all for which they call to you. (1 Kings 8:52)**
- **For you yourself separated them as your inheritance out of all the peoples of the earth, just as you have spoken by means of Moses your servant when you were bringing our forefathers out from Egypt, O Sovereign Lord Yehowah. (1 Kings 8:53)**
- **And it came about that, as soon as Solomon finished praying to Yehowah with all this prayer and request for favor, he rose up from before the altar of Yehowah, from bending down upon his knees with his palms spread out to the heavens. (1 Kings 8:54)**
- **And he began to stand and bless all the congregation of Israel with a loud voice, saying; (1 Kings 8:55)**
- **Blessed be Yehowah, who has given a resting-place to his people Israel according to all that he has promised. There has not failed one word of all his good promise that he has promised by means of Moses his servant. (1 Kings 8:56)**
- **May Yehowah our God prove to be with us just as he proved to be with our forefathers. May he neither leave us nor forsake us. (1 Kings 8:57)**

- So as to incline our heart to himself to walk in all his ways and to keep his commandments and his regulations and his judicial decisions, which he gave in command to our forefathers. (**1 Kings 8:58**)
- And may these words of mine with which I have made request for favor before Yehowah prove to be near to Yehowah our God by day and night, that he may execute judgment for his servant and judgment for his people Israel as it may require day by day. (**1 Kings 8:59**)
- To the end that all the peoples of the earth may know that Yehowah is the true God. There is no other. (**1 Kings 8:60**)
- And your heart must prove to be complete with Yehowah our God by walking in his regulations and by keeping his commandments as at this day. (**1 Kings 8:61**)
- After that the king went up to the house of Yehowah, and also all the men of Judah and all the inhabitants of Jerusalem with him, and also the priests and the prophets and all the people, from small to great, and he began to read in their ears all the words of the book of the covenant that had been found in the house of Yehowah. (**2 Kings 23:2**)
- An outstanding example of a **public instructor** is the priest Ezra, who, with Nehemiah's support, conducted a program of public instruction for the Israelites repatriated from Babylon.
- He read the Law and organized the Levites for the performance of their duties of **explaining the Law to the people**, **putting of meaning into it**, and **giving understanding in the reading**, thereby **instructing** the people.
- And all the people proceeded to gather themselves as one man at the **public** square that was before the Water Gate. Then they said to Ezra the copyist to bring the book of the Law of Moses, which Yehowah had commanded Israel. (**Nehemiah 8:1**)
- Accordingly Ezra the priest brought the Law before the congregation of men as well as of women and of all intelligent enough to listen, on the first day of the seventh month. (**Nehemiah 8:2**)

- And he continued to read aloud from it before the **public** square that is before the Water Gate, from daybreak till midday, in front of the men and the women and the other intelligent ones, and the ears of all the people were attentive to the book of the Law. (**Nehemiah 8:3**)
- And Ezra the copyist kept standing upon a wooden podium, which they had made for the occasion, and there were standing alongside him Mattithiah and Shema and Anaiah and Uriah and Hilkiah and Maaseiah to his right hand, and at his left Pedaiah and Mishaël and Malchijah and Hashum and Hash-baddanah, Zechariah and Meshullam. (**Nehemiah 8:4**)
- And Ezra proceeded to open the book before the eyes of all the people, for he happened to be above all the people, and as he opened it all the people stood up. (**Nehemiah 8:5**)
- Then Ezra blessed Yehowah the true God, the great One, at which all the people answered, Amen! Amen! With the lifting up of their hands. They then bowed low and prostrated themselves to Yehowah with their faces to the earth. (**Nehemiah 8:6**)
- And Jeshua and Bani and Sherebiah, Jamin, Akkub, Shabbethai, Hodiah, Maaseiah, Kelita, Azariah, Jozabad, Hanan, Pelaiah, even the Levites, were explaining the Law to the people, while the people were in a standing position. (**Nehemiah 8:7**)
- And they continued reading aloud from the book, from the Law of the true God, it being expounded, and there being a putting of meaning into it, and they continued giving understanding in the reading. (**Nehemiah 8:8**)
- And Nehemiah, that is, the Tirshatha, and Ezra the priest, the copyist, and the Levites who were instructing the people proceeded to say to all the people; This very day is holy to Yehowah your God. Do not mourn or weep. For all the people were weeping as they were hearing the words of the Law. (**Nehemiah 8:9**)