

## ~TARTAK (22) (Tar'tak)

- A deity worshiped by the Avvites, whom the king of Assyria settled in the territory of Samaria after he took the Israelites of the ten-tribe kingdom into exile.
- As for the Avvites, they made Nibhaz and **Tartak**, and the Sepharvites were burning their sons in the fire to Adrammelech and Anammelech the gods of Sepharvaim. (**2 Kings 17:31**)
- According to the **Babylonian Talmud**, **Tartak** had the form of an ass. [**Sanhedrin 63b**]. Based on the conclusion that the name **Tartak** may be comparable to the Pahlavi, **Persian** word *tar-thakh*, intense darkness, hero of darkness, it has been suggested that **Tartak** may have been a demon of the lower regions.
- Aside from the brief reference to **Tartak** in the Scriptures, however, nothing can be stated with any certainty concerning the nature of this deity.