

~TURTLEDOVE (154)

[Hebrew, *tor, tohr*, Greek, *try-gon*]

- A small wild pigeon, usually with strong migratory habits. The Hebrew name evidently imitates the plaintive cry of *tur-r-r tur-r-r* made by the bird.
- The varieties of **turtledove** most frequently found in Palestine are the **common turtledove**, *Streptopelia turtur*, and the **collared turtledove**, *Streptopelia decaocta*, the latter so named from a narrow black collar at the back of the neck.
- Another variety, the palm turtledove or **laughing dove**, *Streptopelia senegalensis*, has steadily extended its range in Israel in recent decades.
- The **turtledove** is mentioned in;
- Even the stork in the heavens, it well knows its appointed times, and the **turtledove** and the swift and the bulbul, they observe well the time of each ones coming in. But as for my people, they have not come to know the judgment of Yehowah. (**Jeremiah 8:7**)
- Among the birds that observe well the time of each ones coming in, evidently **indicating annual migration**.
- Reference must be to the common **turtledove**, since the others found in Palestine do not migrate but stay there all year round. The common turtledove was an unerring harbinger of spring in Palestine, arriving there from the South in early April and making its voice heard in the land.
- Blossoms themselves have appeared in the land, the very time of vine trimming has arrived, and the voice of the **turtledove** itself has been heard in our land. (**Song of Solomon 2:12**)
- A shy, gentle bird, the **turtledove** relies on speedy flight as a means of escaping its enemies.
- Do not give to the wild beast the soul of your **turtledove**. Do not forget the very life of your afflicted ones forever. (**Psalms 74:19**)

- During their season **turtledoves** are quite abundant throughout Palestine, and since they feed on grain, seeds, and clover, they are easily captured by ground snares. Abraham included a turtledove in his offering at the time Yehowah concluded a covenant with him.
- 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](#))
- So he took all these to himself and cut them in two and put each part of them so as to match the other, but the birds he did not cut in pieces. ([Genesis 15:10](#))
- The sun was now setting and a dense darkness came and, look! A smoking furnace and a fiery torch that passed in between these pieces. ([Genesis 15:17](#))
- 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](#))
- And thereafter the Mosaic Law either specified or allowed for the use of **turtledoves** in certain sacrifices and purification rites.
- 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](#))
- 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](#))
- 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](#))
- 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)

- 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)**
- And two **turtledoves** or two young pigeons, according as he may have the means, and the one must serve as a sin offering and the other as a burnt offering. **(Leviticus 14:22)**
- And he must render up the one of the **turtledoves** or of the young pigeons for which he may have the means. **(Leviticus 14:30)**
- 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)**
- And the priest must offer them, the one as a sin offering and the other as a burnt offering, and the priest must make atonement for him before Yehowah concerning his running discharge. **(Leviticus 15:15)**
- 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)**
- And the priest must make the one a sin offering and the other a burnt offering, and the priest must make atonement for her before Yehowah concerning her unclean running discharge. **(Leviticus 15:30)**
- And the priest must make the one a sin offering and the other a burnt offering, and the priest must make atonement for her before Yehowah concerning her unclean running discharge. **(Leviticus 15:30)**
- And the priest must handle one as a sin offering and the other as a burnt offering and make atonement for him, since he has sinned because of the dead soul. Then he must sanctify his head on that day. **(Numbers 6:11)**

- Mary offered either two **turtledoves** or two young pigeons at the temple following Jesus birth.
- 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**)

See Also DOVE

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