

~WORM (59)

[Hebrew, *toh-le-`ah' or toh-la'`ath*]

- Any of a great variety of slender crawling or creeping animals, usually having soft bodies and being legless or virtually so. In Scripture, **worm** often appears to denote the larval stage of insects, particularly maggots.
- But they did not listen to Moses. When some men would leave some of it until the morning, it would breed **worms** and stink, so that Moses became indignant at them. (**Exodus 16:20**)
- Accordingly they saved it up until the morning, just as Moses had commanded, and it did not stink nor did **maggots** develop in it. (**Exodus 16:24**)
- Down to Sheol your pride has been brought, the din of your stringed instruments. Beneath you, **maggots** are spread out as a couch, and **worms** are your covering. (**Isaiah 14:11**)
- And they will actually go forth and look upon the carcasses of the men that were transgressing against me, for the very **worms** upon them will not die and their fire itself will not be extinguished, and they must become something repulsive to all flesh. (**Isaiah 66:24**)
- At other times the reference is not to maggots but to **worms** that feed on vegetation.
- Vineyards you will plant and certainly cultivate, but you will drink no wine and gather nothing in, because the **worm** will eat it up. (**Deuteronomy 28:39**)
- But the true God appointed a **worm** at the ascending of the dawn on the next day, that it should strike the bottle-gourd plant, and it gradually dried up. (**Jonah 4:7**)
- The term, **worm**, also appears in an illustrative setting. Bildad disparagingly spoke of man as a **worm**.
- How much less so mortal man, who is a maggot, and a son of man, who is a **worm**! (**Job 25:6**)

- **And it was foretold that the Messiah would be viewed as a reproach and despicable, as a worm.**
- **But I am a worm, and not a man, a reproach to men and despicable to the people. (Psalms 22:6)**
- **Yehowah God referred to Israel as a worm, a lowly and helpless creature, seemingly at the mercy of anyone passing by. But Yehowah assured the Israelites of his help and encouraged them not to be afraid.**
- **Do not be afraid, you worm Jacob, you men of Israel. I myself will help you, is the utterance of Yehowah, even your Repurchaser, the Holy One of Israel. (Isaiah 41:14)**