

~DEVOTED THING (1145)

[Hebrew, *che'rem*, Arabic, *haram*, forbidden thing]

- Canaanites
- Gibeonites
- Assyrian Failure
- Other Mention

• In his dealings with the nation of Israel, Yehowah God decreed that certain things, persons, or even entire cities be placed under a sacred ban, thereby restricting them from any common or profane use. Koehler and Baumgartner define *che'rem* as a thing or person devoted to destruction or sacred use and therefore secluded from profane use, and the causative form of the verb *cha-ram'* as banish by banning, seclude from society and life, devote to destruction. [Lexicon in Veteris Testamenti Libros, Leiden, 1958, p. 334]

• Such devoted things in a sense, therefore, became taboo for the Israelites. The related word in Arabic retains a similar meaning till this day. To the Arab Muslims, the sacred territory of Mecca and Medina is considered *haram*, and the *harim* of a sheik has long been forbidden ground to all persons other than the master of the harem or his eunuchs.

• It was in the declaration of the Law that sacred banning was first expressed.

• One who sacrifices to any gods but Yehowah alone is to be **devoted to destruction**. (Exodus 22:20)

• We read: One who sacrifices to any gods but Yehowah alone is to be **devoted to destruction** a form of *cha-ram'*. This decree was applied impartially against the Israelites themselves, as in the case of the idolatry carried on at Shittim that resulted in the death of some 24,000 of the nation.

• Now Israel was dwelling in Shittim. Then the people started to have immoral relations with the daughters of Moab. (Numbers 25:1)

• And the women came calling the people to the sacrifices of their gods, and the people began to eat and to bow down to their gods. (Numbers 25:2)

- So Israel attached itself to the Baal of Peor, and the anger of Yehowah began to blaze against Israel. (**Numbers 25:3**)
- Hence Yehowah said to Moses; Take all the head ones of the people and expose them to Yehowah toward the sun, that the burning anger of Yehowah may turn back from Israel. (**Numbers 25:4**)
- Then Moses said to the judges of Israel; Each one of you kill his men who have an attachment with the Baal of Peor. (**Numbers 25:5**)
- But, look! A man of the sons of Israel came, and he was bringing near to his brothers a Midianite woman before Moses eyes and before the eyes of all the assembly of the sons of Israel, while they were weeping at the entrance of the tent of meeting. (**Numbers 25:6**)
- When Phinehas the son of Eleazar the son of Aaron the priest caught sight of it, he at once got up from the midst of the assembly and took a lance in his hand. (**Numbers 25:7**)
- Then he went after the man of Israel into the vaulted tent and pierced both of them through, the man of Israel and the woman through her genital parts. At that the scourge was halted from upon the sons of Israel. (**Numbers 25:8**)
- And those who died from the scourge amounted to twenty-four thousand. (**Numbers 25:9**)
- The possession of a thing **devoted** to destruction could also make the possessor subject to such ban. Thus, concerning the religious images of the nations of Canaan, God warned the Israelites;
- The graven images of their gods you should burn in the fire. You must not desire the silver and the gold upon them, nor indeed take it for yourself, for fear you may be ensnared by it, for it is a thing detestable to Yehowah your God. (**Deuteronomy 7:25**)
- And you must not bring a detestable thing into your house and actually become a thing **devoted to destruction** like it. You should thoroughly loathe it and absolutely detest it, because it is something devoted to destruction. (**Deuteronomy 7:26**)

- The sacred ban did not always mean destruction. Articles, animals, and even fields could be **devoted** to Yehowah and thus become holy items for sacred use by the priesthood or in temple service.
- However, persons who came under sacred ban were to be put to death without fail. No **devoted thing** was redeemable at any price, and this was a major distinction between a **devoted thing** and something otherwise sanctified.
- And the field when it goes out in the Jubilee must become something holy to Yehowah, as a field that is **devoted**. The possession of it will become the priests. (**Leviticus 27:21**)
- Only no sort of **devoted thing** that a man might devote to Yehowah for destruction out of all that is his, whether from mankind or beasts or from the field of his possession, may be sold, and no sort of devoted thing may be bought back. It is something most holy to Yehowah. (**Leviticus 27:28**)
- No **devoted person** who might be **devoted to destruction** from among mankind may be redeemed. He should be put to death without fail. (**Leviticus 27:29**)
- But if the sanctifier of it would at all buy the field back, he must then give a fifth of the money of the estimated value in addition to it, and it must stand fast as his. (**Leviticus 27:19**)
- And if it is among the unclean beasts and he must redeem it according to the estimated value, he must then give a fifth of it in addition to it. But if it should not be bought back, it must then be sold according to the estimated value. (**Leviticus 27:27**)
- And every tenth part of the land, out of the seed of the land and the fruit of the tree, belongs to Yehowah. It is something holy to Yehowah. (**Leviticus 27:30**)
- And if a man wants to buy any of his tenth part back at all, he should give a fifth of it in addition to it. (**Leviticus 27:31**)
- Every **devoted thing** in Israel should become yours. (**Numbers 18:14**)

- As for you people, only keep away from the thing **devoted to destruction**, for fear you may get a desire and you do take some of the thing **devoted to destruction** and do constitute the camp of Israel a thing **devoted to destruction** and bring ostracism upon it. (**Joshua 6:18**)
- But all the silver and the gold and the articles of copper and iron are something holy to Yehowah. Into the treasure of Yehowah it should go. (**Joshua 6:19**)
- And they burned the city with fire and everything that was in it. Only the silver and the gold and the articles of copper and iron they gave to the treasure of Yehowah's house. (**Joshua 6:24**)
- The grain offering and the sin offering and the guilt offering, they are the ones who will eat them. And every **devoted** thing in Israel, theirs it will become. (**Ezekiel 44:29**)
- And anyone that did not come in three days time according to the counsel of the princes and the older men, all his goods would be put under a ban and he himself be separated from the congregation of the exiled people. (**Ezra 10:8**)

·· Canaanites

- It was in the conquest of Canaan that this sacred banning reached its greatest prominence. Prior to the official entry into the land, when the Canaanite king of Arad attacked Israel down in the Negeb, Yehowah approved the Israelites vow to **devote the cities of his kingdom to destruction**.
- Now the Canaanite the king of Arad, who dwelt in the Negeb, got to hear that Israel had come by the way of Atharim, and he began to fight with Israel and carry away some of them as captives. (**Numbers 21:1**)
- Consequently Israel made a vow to Yehowah and said; If you will without fail give this people into my hand, I shall also certainly **devote their cities to destruction**. (**Numbers 21:2**)
- So Yehowah listened to Israel's voice and gave the Canaanites over, and they **devoted them** and their cities **to destruction**. Hence they called the name of the place Hormah. (**Numbers 21:3**)

- **Following their attacks on Israel, the kingdoms of Sihon and Og, East of the Jordan, next came under ban, resulting in the **destruction of all persons in their cities** and the preservation of only the domestic animals and other spoil.**

- **At this Yehowah said to me; See, I have started to abandon Sihon and his land to you. Start to take possession of his land. (Deuteronomy 2:31)**

- **When Sihon came on out, he and all his people, to meet us in battle at Jahaz. (Deuteronomy 2:32)**

- **Then Yehowah our God abandoned him to us, so that we defeated him and his sons and all his people. (Deuteronomy 2:33)**

- **And we went capturing all his cities at that particular time and devoting every city to **destruction**, men and women and little children. We left no survivor. (Deuteronomy 2:34)**

- **Only the domestic animals did we take as plunder for ourselves, together with the spoil of the cities that we had captured. (Deuteronomy 2:35)**

- **Then we turned and went up by the way of Bashan. At this Og the king of Bashan came on out, he and all his people, to meet us in battle at Edrei. (Deuteronomy 3:1)**

- **So Yehowah said to me; Do not be afraid of him, for I shall certainly give him and all his people and his land into your hand, and you must do to him just as you did to Sihon the king of the Amorites, who was dwelling in Heshbon. (Deuteronomy 3:2)**

- **Accordingly Yehowah our God gave into our hand also Og the king of Bashan and all his people, and we kept striking him until he had no survivor remaining. (Deuteronomy 3:3)**

- **And we went capturing all his cities at that particular time. There proved to be no town that we did not take from them, sixty cities, all the region of Argob, the kingdom of Og in Bashan. (Deuteronomy 3:4)**

- **All these were cities fortified with a high wall, doors and bar,**

aside from very many rural towns. ([Deuteronomy 3:5](#))

- However, we **devoted** them **to destruction**, just as we had done to Sihon the king of Heshbon, in **devoting** every city to destruction, men, women and little children. ([Deuteronomy 3:6](#))
- And all the domestic animals and the spoil of the cities we took as plunder for ourselves. ([Deuteronomy 3:7](#))
- Later, on the Plains of Moab, just before the crossing of the Jordan by the Israelites, Yehowah reemphasized the vital need for clean worship and the avoidance of all corrupting influences.
- He decreed that seven nations in the Promised Land were to be placed under sacred ban and that their idolatrous populations were to be **devoted to destruction** by the Israelites, who were to act as his executioners.
- When Yehowah your God at last brings you into the land to which you are going so as to take possession of it, he must also clear away populous nations from before you, the Hittites and the Girgashites and the Amorites and the Canaanites and the Perizzites and the Hivites and the Jebusites, seven nations more populous and mighty than you are. ([Deuteronomy 7:1](#))
- And Yehowah your God will certainly abandon them to you, and you must defeat them. You should without fail devote them to destruction. You must conclude no covenant with them nor show them any favor. ([Deuteronomy 7:2](#))
- And you must form no marriage alliance with them. Your daughter you must not give to his son, and his daughter you must not take for your son. ([Deuteronomy 7:3](#))
- For he will turn your son from following me, and they will certainly serve other gods, and Yehowah's anger will indeed blaze against you, and he will certainly annihilate you in a hurry. ([Deuteronomy 7:4](#))
- On the other hand, this is what you should do to them; Their altars you should pull down, and their sacred pillars you should break down, and their sacred poles you should cut down, and their graven images you should burn with fire. ([Deuteronomy 7:5](#))

- For you are a holy people to Yehowah your God. It is you Yehowah your God has chosen to become his people, a special property, out of all the peoples that are on the surface of the ground. ([Deuteronomy 7:6](#))
- And you must consume all the peoples whom Yehowah your God is giving to you. Your eye must not feel sorry for them, and you must not serve their gods, because that will be a snare to you. ([Deuteronomy 7:16](#))
- And Yehowah your God will certainly push these nations away from before you little by little. You will not be allowed to finish them off quickly, for fear the wild beasts of the field may multiply against you. ([Deuteronomy 7:22](#))
- And Yehowah your God will indeed abandon them to you and rout them with a great rout, until they are annihilated. ([Deuteronomy 7:23](#))
- And he will certainly give their kings into your hand, and you must destroy their names from under the heavens. Nobody will take a firm stand against you, until you have exterminated them. ([Deuteronomy 7:24](#))
- The graven images of their gods you should burn in the fire. You must not desire the silver and the gold upon them, nor indeed take it for yourself, for fear you may be ensnared by it, for it is a thing detestable to Yehowah your God. ([Deuteronomy 7:25](#))
- And you must not bring a detestable thing into your house and actually become a thing **devoted to destruction** like it. You should thoroughly loathe it and absolutely detest it, because it is something devoted to destruction. ([Deuteronomy 7:26](#))
- Only faraway cities not of these nations were to be given the option of seeking peace, but those nations designated by God as **devoted to destruction** were to be annihilated, in order, that they may not teach you to do according to all their detestable things, which they have done to their gods, and you may indeed sin against Yehowah your God.
- In case you draw near to a city to fight against it, you must also announce to it terms of peace. ([Deuteronomy 20:10](#))

- **And it must occur that if it gives a peaceful answer to you and it has opened up to you, it must even occur that all the people found in it should become yours for forced labor, and they must serve you. (Deuteronomy 20:11)**
- **But if it does not make peace with you, and it actually makes war with you and you have to besiege it. (Deuteronomy 20:12)**
- **Yehowah your God also will certainly give it into your hand, and you must strike every male in it with the edge of the sword. (Deuteronomy 20:13)**
- **Only the women and the little children and the domestic animals and everything that happens to be in the city, all its spoil you will plunder for yourself, and you must eat the spoil of your enemies, whom Yehowah your God has given to you. (Deuteronomy 20:14)**
- **That is the way you will do to all the cities very far away from you that are not of the cities of these nations. (Deuteronomy 20:15)**
- **It is only of the cities of these peoples that Yehowah your God is giving you as an inheritance that you must not preserve any breathing thing alive. (Deuteronomy 20:16)**
- **Because you should without fail devote them to destruction, the Hittites and the Amorites, the Canaanites and the Perizzites, the Hivites and the Jebusites, just as Yehowah your God has commanded you. (Deuteronomy 20:17)**
- **In order, that they may not teach you to do according to all their detestable things, which they have done to their gods, and you may indeed sin against Yehowah your God. (Deuteronomy 20:18)**
- **The sparing of any of them would lead inevitably to infection and contamination by their false religions. Their extermination could serve to preserve the lives of the Israelites themselves, but, of greater importance, it would maintain the purity of the worship of the Universal Sovereign, Yehowah God.**
- **The same ban was to apply to any apostatizing member of their families or to the future inhabitants of any of the Israelite cities that might be established in the Promised Land.**

- **In case your brother, the son of your mother, or your son or your daughter or your cherished wife or your companion who is like your own soul, should try to allure you in secrecy, saying; Let us go and serve other gods, whom you have not known, neither you nor your forefathers. (Deuteronomy 13:6)**
- **Some of the gods of the peoples who are all around you, the ones near you or those far away from you, from one end of the land to the other end of the land. (Deuteronomy 13:7)**
- **You must not accede to his wish or listen to him, nor should your eye feel sorry for him, nor must you feel compassion, nor cover him protectively. (Deuteronomy 13:8)**
- **But you should kill him without fail. Your hand first of all should come upon him to put him to death, and the hand of all the people afterward. (Deuteronomy 13:9)**
- **And you must stone him with stones, and he must die, because he has sought to turn you away from Yehowah your God, who has brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slaves. (Deuteronomy 13:10)**
- **Then all Israel will hear and become afraid, and they will not do anything like this bad thing again in your midst. (Deuteronomy 13:11)**
- **In case you hear it said in one of your cities, which Yehowah your God is giving you to dwell there. (Deuteronomy 13:12)**
- **Good-for-nothing men have gone out from your midst that they may try to turn away the inhabitants of their city, saying; Let us go and serve other gods, whom you have not known. (Deuteronomy 13:13)**
- **You must also search and investigate and inquire thoroughly, and if the thing is established as the truth, this detestable thing has been done in your midst. (Deuteronomy 13:14)**
- **You should without fail strike the inhabitants of that city with the edge of the sword. Devote it and everything that is in it, and its domestic animals, to destruction at the edge of the sword. (Deuteronomy 13:15)**

- And all its spoil you should collect into the middle of its public square, and you must burn in the fire the city and all its spoil as a whole offering to Yehowah your God, and it must become a heap of ruins to time indefinite. It should never be rebuilt. **(Deuteronomy 13:16)**
- And nothing at all should stick to your hand of the thing made sacred by ban, in order, that Yehowah may turn from his burning anger and may indeed give you mercy and he may certainly show you mercy and multiply you, just as he has sworn to your forefathers. **(Deuteronomy 13:17)**
- West of the Jordan, Jericho was the first city **devoted to destruction**, with nothing being preserved except the metal articles for temple use. Because of her faith, **Rahab** and her family were granted **exemption from the ban**.
- In spite of Joshua's strong warning that failure to observe the ban could result in the whole nations being devoted to destruction, Achan took some of the banned articles and thus made himself a thing devoted to destruction. Only his death relieved the entire nation from coming under the same ban.
- And the city must become a thing **devoted to destruction**, it with everything that is in it belongs to Yehowah. Only Rahab the prostitute may keep on living, she and all who are with her in the house, because she hid the messengers whom we sent out. **(Joshua 6:17)**
- As for you people, only keep away from the thing **devoted to destruction**, for fear you may get a desire and you do take some of the thing **devoted to destruction** and do constitute the camp of Israel a thing devoted to destruction and bring ostracism upon it. **(Joshua 6:18)**
- But all the silver and the gold and the articles of copper and iron are something holy to Yehowah. Into the treasure of Yehowah it should go. **(Joshua 6:19)**
- In turn Yehowah said to Joshua; Get up, you! Why is it that you are falling upon your face? **(Joshua 7:10)**
- Israel has sinned, and they have also overstepped my covenant

- that I laid as a command upon them, and they have also taken some of the thing **devoted to destruction** and have also stolen and also kept it secret and have also put it among their own articles. (**Joshua 7:11**)
- And the sons of Israel will not be able to rise up against their enemies. The back is what they will turn before their enemies, because they have become a thing **devoted to destruction**. I shall not prove to be with you again unless you annihilate the thing **devoted to destruction** out of your midst. (**Joshua 7:12**)
 - Get up! Sanctify the people, and you must say; Sanctify yourselves tomorrow, for this is what Yehowah the God of Israel has said; A thing **devoted to destruction** is in your midst, O Israel. You will not be able to rise up against your enemies until you people have removed the thing **devoted to destruction** from your midst. (**Joshua 7:13**)
 - And you must present yourselves in the morning, tribe by tribe, and it must occur that the tribe that Yehowah will pick will come near, family by family, and the family that Yehowah will pick will come near, household by household, and the household that Yehowah will pick will come near, able-bodied man by able-bodied man. (**Joshua 7:14**)
 - And it must occur that the one picked with the thing **devoted to destruction** will be burned with fire, he and all that belongs to him, because he has overstepped the covenant of Yehowah and because he has committed a disgraceful folly in Israel. (**Joshua 7:15**)
 - Joshua, and all Israel with him, now took Achan the son of Zerah and the silver and the official garment and the bar of gold and his sons and his daughters and his bull and his ass and his flock and his tent and everything that was his and they brought them up to the low plain of Achor. (**Joshua 7:24**)
 - Then Joshua said; Why have you brought ostracism upon us? Yehowah will bring ostracism upon you on this day. With that all Israel went pelting him with stones, after which they burned them with fire. Thus they stoned them with stones. (**Joshua 7:25**)
 - And they proceeded to raise up over him a big pile of stones,

down to this day. At this Yehowah turned away from his hot anger. That is why the name of that place has been called Low Plain of Achor, down to this day. (**Joshua 7:26**)

·· Gibeonites

- Thereafter, numerous cities were **devoted** to destruction.
- And Joshua did not draw back his hand with which he stretched out the javelin until he had **devoted** all the inhabitants of Ai **to destruction**. (**Joshua 8:26**)
- Only the domestic animals and the spoil of that city Israel plundered for themselves, according to Yehowah's word that he had laid in command upon Joshua. (**Joshua 8:27**)
- And Joshua captured Makkedah on that day and went striking it with the edge of the sword. As for its king, he **devoted** him and every soul that was in it **to destruction**. He let no survivor remain. So he did to the king of Makkedah just as he had done to the king of Jericho. (**Joshua 10:28**)
- Then Joshua and all Israel with him passed on from Makkedah to Libnah and warred against Libnah. (**Joshua 10:29**)
- Accordingly Yehowah gave it also and its king into Israel's hand, and they went striking it and every soul that was in it with the edge of the sword. They did not let a survivor remain in it. So they did to its king just as they had done to the king of Jericho. (**Joshua 10:30**)
- Next Joshua and all Israel with him passed on from Libnah to Lachish and went camping against it and warring upon it. (**Joshua 10:31**)
- Accordingly Yehowah gave Lachish into Israel's hand so that they captured it on the second day, and they went striking it and every soul that was in it with the edge of the sword, according to all that they had done to Libnah. (**Joshua 10:32**)
- It was then that Hiram the king of Gezer went up to help Lachish. So Joshua struck him and his people until he had let not a survivor of his remain. (**Joshua 10:33**)

- Then Joshua and all Israel with him passed on from Lachish to Eglon and went camping against it and warring against it. **(Joshua 10:34)**
- And they got to capture it on that day and began to smite it with the edge of the sword, and they **devoted** every soul that was in it **to destruction** on that day, according to all that they had done to Lachish. **(Joshua 10:35)**
- Then Joshua and all Israel with him went up from Eglon to Hebron and began to war against it. **(Joshua 10:36)**
- And they got to capture it and went striking it and its king and all its towns and every soul that was in it with the edge of the sword. He did not let a survivor remain, according to all that he had done to Eglon. So he **devoted** it and every soul that was in it **to destruction**. **(Joshua 10:37)**
- Finally Joshua and all Israel with him came back to Debir and began to war against it. **(Joshua 10:38)**
- And he got to capture it and its king and all its towns, and they went striking them with the edge of the sword and devoting every soul that was in it to destruction. He did not let a survivor remain. Just as he had done to Hebron, so he did to Debir and its king, and just as he had done to Libnah and its king. **(Joshua 10:39)**
- And Joshua proceeded to strike all the land of the mountainous region and the Negeb and the Shephelah and the slopes and all their kings. He did not let a survivor remain, and everything that breathed he **devoted to destruction**, just as Yehowah the God of Israel had commanded. **(Joshua 10:40)**
- And Joshua went striking them from Kadesh-barnea to Gaza and all the land of Goshen and up to Gibeon. **(Joshua 10:41)**
- And Joshua captured all these kings and their land at one time, because it was Yehowah the God of Israel who was fighting for Israel. **(Joshua 10:42)**
- And they went striking every soul that was in it with the edge of the sword, **devoting** them **to destruction**. No breathing thing at all was left over, and he burned Hazor in the fire. **(Joshua 11:11)**

- And all the cities of these kings and all their kings Joshua captured and went striking them with the edge of the sword. He **devoted** them **to destruction**, just as Moses the servant of Yehowah had commanded. (**Joshua 11:12**)
- Concerning such cities, the record states; There proved to be no city that made peace with the sons of Israel but the Hivites inhabiting Gibeon. All the others they took by war.
- For it proved to be Yehowah's course to let their hearts become stubborn so as to declare war against Israel, in order, that he might devote them to destruction, that they might come to have no favorable consideration, but in order, that he might annihilate them, just as Yehowah had commanded Moses.
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• Assyrian Failure

- The Assyrian Sennacherib boasted that no god had been able to save the nations whom his forefathers had **devoted to destruction**.
- Who was there among all the gods of these nations that my forefathers **devoted to destruction** that proved able to deliver his people out of my hand, so that your God should be able to deliver you out of my hand? (**2 Chronicles 32:14**)
- Assyria's false gods, however, were unable to make effective such a ban on Jerusalem, and the true God Yehowah proved Sennacherib's threat to be impotent.
- Nevertheless, the very land of Judah, because of the stubbornness and rebellion of the people, did eventually become a land **devoted** by God **to destruction**, and it suffered devastation at the hands of Nebuchadnezzar.

- **The word that occurred to Jeremiah concerning all the people of Judah in the fourth year of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah, the king of Judah, that is, the first year of Nebuchadrezzar the king of Babylon. (Jeremiah 25:1)**
- **Which Jeremiah the prophet spoke concerning all the people of Judah and concerning all the inhabitants of Jerusalem, saying; (Jeremiah 25:2)**
- **From the thirteenth year of Josiah the son of Amon, the king of Judah, and down to this day, these twenty-three years the word of Yehowah has occurred to me, and I kept speaking to you people, rising up early and speaking, but you did not listen. (Jeremiah 25:3)**
- **And Yehowah sent to you all his servants the prophets, rising up early and sending them, but you did not listen, neither did you incline your ear to listen. (Jeremiah 25:4)**
- **They saying; Turn back, please, every one from his bad way and from the badness of your dealings, and continue dwelling upon the ground that Yehowah gave to you and to your forefathers from long ago and to a long time to come. (Jeremiah 25:5)**
- **And do not walk after other gods in order to serve them and to bow down to them, that you may not offend me with the work of your hands, and that I may not cause calamity to you. (Jeremiah 25:6)**
- **But you did not listen to me, is the utterance of Yehowah, to the intent that you might offend me with the work of your hands, for calamity to yourselves. (Jeremiah 25:7)**
- **Therefore this is what Yehowah of armies has said; For the reason that you did not obey my words. (Jeremiah 25:8)**
- **Here I am sending and I will take all the families of the north, is the utterance of Yehowah, even sending to Nebuchadrezzar the king of Babylon, my servant, and I will bring them against this land and against its inhabitants and against all these nations round about, and I will devote them to destruction and make them an object of astonishment and something to whistle at and places devastated to time indefinite. (Jeremiah 25:9)**

- **And I will destroy out of them the sound of exultation and the sound of rejoicing, the voice of the bridegroom and the voice of the bride, the sound of the hand mill and the light of the lamp. (Jeremiah 25:10)**
- **And all this land must become a devastated place, an object of astonishment, and these nations will have to serve the king of Babylon seventy years. (Jeremiah 25:11)**
- **So I shall profane the princes of the holy place, and I will give Jacob over as a man **devoted to destruction** and Israel over to words of abuse. (Isaiah 43:28)**
- **Babylon thereafter came in for a devoting to destruction in the full sense of the expression.**
- **Against the land of Merathaim, come up against her and against the inhabitants of Pekod. Let there be a massacre and a devoting to destruction close upon them, is the utterance of Yehowah, and do according to all that I have commanded you. (Jeremiah 50:21)**
- **There is the sound of war in the land, and a great breakdown. (Jeremiah 50:22)**
- **O how the forge hammer of all the earth has been cut down and gets broken! O how Babylon has become a mere object of astonishment among the nations! (Jeremiah 50:23)**
- **I have laid a snare for you and you have also been caught, O Babylon, and you yourself did not know it. You were found and also taken hold of, for it was against Yehowah that you excited yourself. (Jeremiah 50:24)**
- **Yehowah has opened his storehouse, and he brings forth the weapons of his denunciation. For there is a work that the Sovereign Lord, Yehowah of armies, has in the land of the Chaldeans. (Jeremiah 50:25)**
- **Come in to her from the farthest part. Open up her granaries. Bank her up, just like those making heaps, and **devote her to destruction**. May she not come to have any remaining ones. (Jeremiah 50:26)**

- **Massacre all her young bulls. May they go down to the slaughter. Woe to them, for their day has come, the time for their being given attention! (Jeremiah 50:27)**
- **This is what Yehowah has said; Here I am rousing up against Babylon and against the inhabitants of Leb-kamai a ruinous wind. (Jeremiah 51:1)**
- **And I will send to Babylon winnowers who will certainly winnow her and who will make her land empty, for they will actually prove to be against her on all sides in the day of calamity. (Jeremiah 51:2)**
- **Let the one treading his bow do no treading. And let no one raise himself up in his coat of mail. And do not you men show any compassion for her young men. Devote to destruction all her army. (Jeremiah 51:3)**
- **And he cried out with a strong voice, saying; She has fallen! Babylon the Great has fallen, and she has become a dwelling place of demons and a lurking place of every unclean exhalation and a lurking place of every unclean and hated bird! (Revelation 18:2)**
- **For because of the wine of the anger of her fornication all the nations have fallen victim, and the kings of the earth committed fornication with her, and the traveling merchants of the earth became rich due to the power of her shameless luxury. (Revelation 18:3)**
- **And I heard another voice out of heaven say; Get out of her, my people, if you do not want to share with her in her sins, and if you do not want to receive part of her plagues. (Revelation 18:4)**
- **For her sins have massed together clear up to heaven, and God has called her acts of injustice to mind. (Revelation 18:5)**
- **Render to her even as she herself rendered, and do to her twice as much, yes, twice the number of the things she did, in the cup in which she put a mixture put twice as much of the mixture for her. (Revelation 18:6)**
- **To the extent that she glorified herself and lived in shameless**

luxury, to that extent give her torment and mourning. For in her heart she keeps saying; I sit a queen, and I am no widow, and I shall never see mourning. (**Revelation 18:7**)

- That is why in one day her plagues will come, death and mourning and famine, and she will be completely burned with fire, because Yehowah God, who judged her, is strong. (**Revelation 18:8**)

•• Other Mention

- **After Israel settled in the land, the Israelites residing in Jabesh-gilead came under ban for failing to support a united action against the tribe of Benjamin in punishment for its wickedness.**

- **And they went on to say; Which one out of the tribes of Israel is it that has not come up to Yehowah at Mizpah? And, look! No one had come into the camp from Jabesh-gilead to the congregation. (**Judges 21:8**)**

- **When the people were counted, well, look! There was not a man there from the inhabitants of Jabesh-gilead. (**Judges 21:9**)**

- **Hence the assembly proceeded to send twelve thousand of the most valiant men there and to command them, saying; Go, and you must strike the inhabitants of Jabesh-gilead with the edge of the sword, even the women and the little ones. (**Judges 21:10**)**

- **And this is the thing that you should do; Every male and every woman that has experienced lying with a male you should **devote to destruction**. (**Judges 21:11**)**

- **However, they found out of the inhabitants of Jabesh-gilead four hundred girls, virgins, that had not had intercourse with a man by lying with a male. So they brought them to the camp at Shiloh, which is in the land of Canaan. (**Judges 21:12**)**

- **King Saul failed to carry out completely the terms of a ban on Amalek and its king, offering the pretext that the things preserved were to be offered in sacrifice to Yehowah. He was told that to obey is better than a sacrifice and that the kingship would now be given to another.**

- **Then Samuel said to Saul; It was I whom Yehowah sent to**

anoint you as king over his people Israel, and now listen to the voice of the words of Yehowah. (1 Samuel 15:1)

- This is what Yehowah of armies has said; I must call to account what Amalek did to Israel when he set himself against him in the way while he was coming up out of Egypt. (1 Samuel 15:2)
- Now go, and you must strike down Amalek and devote him to destruction with all that he has, and you must not have compassion upon him, and you must put them to death, man as well as woman, child as well as suckling, bull as well as sheep, camel as well as ass. (1 Samuel 15:3)
- Accordingly Saul summoned the people and took the count of them in Telaim, two hundred thousand men on foot and ten thousand men of Judah. (1 Samuel 15:4)
- And Saul proceeded to come as far as the city of Amalek and to lie in ambush by the torrent valley. (1 Samuel 15:5)
- Meanwhile Saul said to the Kenites; Go, depart, go down from the midst of the Amalekites, that I may not sweep you away with them. As for you, you exercised loving-kindness with all the sons of Israel at the time of their coming up out of Egypt. So the Kenites departed from the midst of Amalek. (1 Samuel 15:6)
- After that Saul went striking down Amalek from Havilah as far as Shur, which is in front of Egypt. (1 Samuel 15:7)
- And he got to catch Agag the king of Amalek alive, and all the other people he devoted to destruction with the edge of the sword. (1 Samuel 15:8)
- But Saul and the people had compassion upon Agag and upon the best of the flock and the herd and the fat ones and upon the rams and upon all that was good, and they did not wish to devote them to destruction. As for all the goods that were despicable and rejected, these they devoted to destruction. (1 Samuel 15:9)
- The word of Yehowah now came to Samuel, saying; (1 Samuel 15:10)
- I do regret that I have caused Saul to reign as king, because he has turned back from following me, and my words he has not

carried out. And it was distressing to Samuel, and he kept crying out to Yehowah all night long. (1 Samuel 15:11)

- Then Samuel got up early to meet Saul in the morning. But report was made to Samuel, saying; Saul came to Carmel, and, look! He was erecting a monument for himself, and he then turned around and went across and descended to Gilgal. (1 Samuel 15:12)
- At length Samuel came to Saul, and Saul began to say to him: Blessed are you of Yehowah. I have carried out the word of Yehowah. (1 Samuel 15:13)
- But Samuel said; Then what does this sound of the flock in my ears mean, and the sound of the herd that I am hearing? (1 Samuel 15:14)
- To this Saul said; From the Amalekites they have brought them, because the people had compassion upon the best of the flock and of the herd, for the purpose of sacrificing to Yehowah your God, but what was left over we have **devoted to destruction**. (1 Samuel 15:15)
- At this Samuel said to Saul; Stop! And I will tell you what Yehowah spoke to me last night. So he said to him; Speak! (1 Samuel 15:16)
- And Samuel went on to say; Was it not when you were little in your own eyes that you were head of the tribes of Israel, and Yehowah proceeded to anoint you as king over Israel? (1 Samuel 15:17)
- Later Yehowah sent you on a mission and said; Go, and you must **devote** the sinners, the Amalekites, **to destruction**, and you must fight against them until you will have exterminated them. (1 Samuel 15:18)
- So why is it you did not obey the voice of Yehowah but went darting greedily at the spoil and doing what was bad in the eyes of Yehowah? (1 Samuel 15:19)
- However, Saul said to Samuel; But I have obeyed the voice of Yehowah in that I went on the mission on which Yehowah had sent me and I brought Agag the king of Amalek, but Amalek I

have **devoted to destruction**. (1 Samuel 15:20)

- And the people went taking from the spoil sheep and cattle, the choicest of them as something **devoted to destruction**, to sacrifice to Yehowah your God in Gilgal. (1 Samuel 15:21)
- In turn Samuel said; Does Yehowah have as much delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as in obeying the voice of Yehowah? Look! To obey is better than a sacrifice, to pay attention than the fat of rams. (1 Samuel 15:22)
- For rebelliousness is the same as the sin of divination, and pushing ahead presumptuously the same as using uncanny power and teraphim. Since you have rejected the word of Yehowah, he accordingly rejects you from being king. (1 Samuel 15:23)
- King Ahab was guilty of a similar action with regard to the Syrian Ben-hadad II.
 - He now said to him; This is what Yehowah has said; For the reason that you have let go out of your hand the man **devoted to me for destruction**, your soul must take the place of his soul, and your people the place of his people. (1 Kings 20:42)
- The inhabitants of Mount Seir were **devoted to destruction** by the Ammonites and Moabites.
 - And at the time that they started off with the joyful cry and praise, Yehowah set men in ambush against the sons of Ammon, Moab and the mountainous region of Seir who were coming into Judah, and they went smiting one another. (2 Chronicles 20:22)
 - And the sons of Ammon and Moab proceeded to stand up against the inhabitants of the mountainous region of Seir to **devote them to destruction** and annihilate them, and as soon as they finished with the inhabitants of Seir, they helped each one to bring his own fellow to ruin. (2 Chronicles 20:23)
- Sacred bans figure in a number of prophecies.
- Look! I am sending to you people Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and fear-inspiring day of Yehowah. (Malachi 4:5)

- And he must turn the heart of fathers back toward sons, and the heart of sons back toward fathers, in order, that I may not come and actually strike the earth with a **devoting** of it **to destruction**. **(Malachi 4:6)**
- Foretells the work of Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and fear-inspiring day of Yehowah, in order, that Yehowah may not come and actually strike the earth with a **devoting** of it **to destruction**.
- For then there will be great tribulation such as has not occurred since the world's beginning until now, no, nor will occur again. **(Matthew 24:21)**
- In fact, unless those days were cut short, no flesh would be saved, but on account of the chosen ones those days will be cut short. **(Matthew 24:22)**
- But there will be reports that will disturb him, out of the sunrising and out of the north, and he will certainly go forth in a great rage in order to annihilate and to devote many to destruction. **(Daniel 11:44)**
- Describes the symbolic king of the north going forth in great rage to annihilate and to **devote** many **to destruction**. Yehowah, because of his indignation, is described as devoting all the nations to destruction.
- For Yehowah has indignation against all the nations, and rage against all their army. He must **devote** them **to destruction**, he must give them to the slaughter. **(Isaiah 34:2)**
- And out of his mouth there protrudes a sharp long sword, that he may strike the nations with it, and he will shepherd them with a rod of iron. He treads too the winepress of the anger of the wrath of God the Almighty. **(Revelation 19:15)**
- And upon his outer garment, even upon his thigh, he has a name written, King of kings and Lord of lords. **(Revelation 19:16)**
- I saw also an angel standing in the sun, and he cried out with a loud voice and said to all the birds that fly in midheaven, Come here, be gathered together to the great evening meal of God. **(Revelation 19:17)**

- That you may eat the fleshy parts of kings and the fleshy parts of military commanders and the fleshy parts of strong men and the fleshy parts of horses and of those seated upon them, and the fleshy parts of all, of freemen as well as of slaves and of small ones and great. ([Revelation 19:18](#))
- And I saw the wild beast and the kings of the earth and their armies gathered together to wage the war with the one seated on the horse and with his army. ([Revelation 19:19](#))
- And the wild beast was caught, and along with it the false prophet that performed in front of it the signs with which he misled those who received the mark of the wild beast and those who render worship to its image. While still alive, they both were hurled into the fiery lake that burns with sulphur. ([Revelation 19:20](#))
- But the rest were killed off with the long sword of the one seated on the horse, which sword proceeded out of his mouth. And all the birds were filled from the fleshy parts of them. ([Revelation 19:21](#))
- The triumphant daughter of Zion is said to **devote**, by a ban, the unjust profit and the resources of the enemy peoples to the true Lord of the whole earth.
- Get up and thresh, O daughter of Zion, for your horn I shall change into iron, and your hoofs I shall change into copper, and you will certainly pulverize many peoples, and by a ban you will actually **devote to Yehowah** their unjust profit, and their resources to the true Lord of the whole earth. ([Micah 4:13](#))
- It is foretold that Jerusalem, delivered from all her enemies, will be inhabited and that henceforth there will occur no more any **banning to destruction**.
- And people will certainly inhabit her, and there will occur no more any banning to destruction, and Jerusalem must be inhabited in security. ([Zechariah 14:11](#))
- And no more will there be any curse. But the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and his slaves will render him sacred service. ([Revelation 22:3](#))

- **These scriptures all serve to emphasize the divine statement at;**
- **And you well know that Yehowah your God is the true God, the faithful God, keeping covenant and loving-kindness in the case of those who love him and those who keep his commandments to a thousand generations. ([Deuteronomy 7:9](#))**
- **But repaying to his face the one who hates him by destroying him. He will not hesitate toward the one who hates him, he will repay him to his face. ([Deuteronomy 7:10](#))**
- **And you well know that Yehowah your God is the true God, the faithful God, keeping covenant and loving-kindness in the case of those who love him and those who keep his commandments to a thousand generations, but repaying to his face the one who hates him by destroying him.**
- **He will not hesitate toward the one who hates him, he will repay him to his face. God's Son, who gave his life as a ransom, declared,**
- **He that exercises faith in the Son has everlasting life, he that disobeys the Son will not see life, but the wrath of God remains upon him. ([John 3:36](#))**
- **The cursed goats of the prophetic parable at;**
- **When the Son of man arrives in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit down on his glorious throne. ([Matthew 25:31](#))**
- **And all the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another, just as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. ([Matthew 25:32](#))**
- **And he will put the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on his left. ([Matthew 25:33](#))**
- **Then the king will say to those on his right; Come, you who have been blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the founding of the world. ([Matthew 25:34](#))**
- **For I became hungry and you gave me something to eat; I got thirsty and you gave me something to drink. I was a stranger**

- and you received me hospitably. (**Matthew 25:35**)
- Naked, and you clothed me. I fell sick and you looked after me. I was in prison and you came to me. (**Matthew 25:36**)
 - Then the righteous ones will answer him with the words; Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty, and give you something to drink? (**Matthew 25:37**)
 - When did we see you a stranger and receive you hospitably, or naked, and clothe you? (**Matthew 25:38**)
 - When did we see you sick or in prison and go to you? (**Matthew 25:39**)
 - And in reply the king will say to them; Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me. (**Matthew 25:40**)
 - Then he will say in turn, to those on his left; Be on your way from me, you who have been cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the Devil and his angels. (**Matthew 25:41**)
 - For I became hungry, but you gave me nothing to eat, and I got thirsty, but you gave me nothing to drink. (**Matthew 25:42**)
 - I was a stranger, but you did not receive me hospitably, naked, but you did not clothe me, sick and in prison, but you did not look after me. (**Matthew 25:43**)
 - Then they also will answer with the words, Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison and did not minister to you? (**Matthew 25:44**)
 - Then he will answer them with the words; Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did not do it to one of these least ones, you did not do it to me. (**Matthew 25:45**)
 - And these will **depart into everlasting cutting-off**, but the righteous ones into everlasting life. (**Matthew 25:46**)
 - Are clearly such persons upon whom the wrath of God remains and who are therefore **devoted to everlasting destruction**.

· In the **Septuagint** the word *che'rem* is generally translated by the Greek *a-na'the-ma*.

See Also CURSE

See Also VOW