

~INCORRUPTION (509)

[Greek, *a-phthar-si'a*]

- Corruption And Corruptibility
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• The quality of a body that is not subject to decay, ruin, or destruction. Direct references to incorruption are found only in the **Christian Greek Scriptures**. There the word translates the Greek *a-phthar-si'a*, formed of the negative prefix *a* and a form of *phthei'ro*. This latter word means, corrupt.

• Allow room for us. We have wronged no one, we have **corrupted** no one, we have taken advantage of no one. (**2 Corinthians 7:2**)

• **Spoil**

• Do not be misled! Bad associations spoil useful habits. (**1 Corinthians 15:33**)

• Hence to bring to a lower or inferior state, also **put to death** or **destroy**.

• But these men, like unreasoning animals born naturally to be caught and destroyed, will, in the things of which they are ignorant and speak abusively, even **suffer destruction** in their own course of **destruction**. (**2 Peter 2:12**)

• The adjective form Greek *a'phthar-tos*, incorruptible, is also used.

• Corruption And Corruptibility

• In considering **incorruption**, it is helpful to analyze first the use of the Greek terms for **corruption** and **corruptibility**. Keep in mind that there is a difference between a things being **corrupt** and its being **corruptible**, that is, capable of being **corrupted**.

• **Corruption** and **corruptibility** may relate both to things material and to things not material. The crown that Greek athletes sought was **corruptible**, **subject to decay, deterioration, or disintegration**.

- Moreover, every man taking part in a contest exercises self-control in all things. Now they, of course, do it that they may get a corruptible crown, but we an **incorruptible** one. (**1 Corinthians 9:25**)
- Even gold, dissoluble in aqua regia, and silver are **corruptible**.
- For you know that it was not with **corruptible** things, with silver or gold, that you were delivered from your fruitless form of conduct received by tradition from your forefathers. (**1 Peter 1:18**)
- Your gold and silver are rusted away, and their rust will be as a witness against you and will eat your fleshy parts. Something like fire is what you have stored up in the last days. (**James 5:3**)
- Boats can be **wrecked** or, literally, **corrupted through**, from the intensive form *di-a-phthei'ro*, suffering breakdown of their structural form.
- And a third of the creatures that are in the sea which have souls died, and a third of the boats were **wrecked**. (**Revelation 8:9**)
- The same **Greek** word is used with respect to the **ruining** of the earth.
- But the nations became wrathful, and your own wrath came, and the appointed time for the dead to be judged, and to give their reward to your slaves the prophets and to the holy ones and to those fearing your name, the small and the great, and to bring to ruin those **ruining** the earth. (**Revelation 11:18**)
- Man, the fleshly creature, is **corruptible**.
- And turned the glory of the **incorruptible** God into something like the image of **corruptible** man and of birds and four-footed creatures and creeping things. (**Romans 1:23**)
- in his imperfect state his body is subject to damaging diseases and eventually to dissolution in death, the body breaking down in decay.
- For David, on the one hand, served the express will of God in his own generation and fell asleep in death and was laid with his

- forefathers and did see **corruption**. (**Acts of Apostles 13:36**)
- As regards things not material, good habits can be **corrupted**, or spoiled, by bad associations
 - Do not be misled! Bad associations **spoil** useful habits. (**1 Corinthians 15:33**)
 - Men may become mentally **corrupted**, turned away from sincerity, chastity, and truth.
 - But I am afraid that somehow, as the serpent seduced Eve by its cunning, your minds might be **corrupted away** from the sincerity and the chastity that are due the Christ. (**2 Corinthians 11:3**)
 - Violent disputes about trifles on the part of men **corrupted in mind** and **despoiled** of the truth, thinking that godly devotion is a means of gain. (**1 Timothy 6:5**)
 - Now in the way that Jannes and Jambres resisted Moses, so these also go on resisting the truth, men completely **corrupted in mind**, disapproved as regards the faith. (**2 Timothy 3:8**)
 - This resulting in moral decay, a **corrupting** of the individuals personality.
 - That you should put away the old personality which conforms to your former course of conduct and which is being corrupted according to his deceptive desires. (**Ephesians 4:22**)
 - Yet these men are speaking abusively of all the things they really do not know, but all the things that they do understand naturally like the unreasoning animals, in these things they go on corrupting themselves. (**Jude 1:10**)
 - Even perfect human bodies are **corruptible**, that is, they are not beyond ruin or destruction. For this reason, the apostle Paul could say that the resurrected Jesus was thereafter destined no more **to return to corruption**
 - And that fact that he resurrected him from the dead destined no more to return to corruption, he has stated in this way, I will give you people the loving-kindnesses to David that are faithful. (**Acts of Apostles 13:34**)

- That is, never to return to life in a **corruptible** human body. Only God's action prevented the fleshly body of his Son's earthly existence from seeing **corruption** in the grave.
- He saw beforehand and spoke concerning the resurrection of the Christ, that neither was he forsaken in Hades nor did his flesh see **corruption**. (**Acts of Apostles 2:31**)
- Hence he also says in another psalm, You will not allow your loyal one to see **corruption**. (**Acts of Apostles 13:35**)
- For David, on the one hand, served the express will of God in his own generation and fell asleep in death and was laid with his forefathers and did see **corruption**. (**Acts of Apostles 13:36**)
- On the other hand, he whom God raised up did not see corruption. (**Acts of Apostles 13:37**)
- That body, however, was not preserved for the use of the resurrected Jesus, since the apostle Peter states that Jesus was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit.
- Why, even Christ died once for all time concerning sins, a righteous person for unrighteous ones, that he might lead you to God, he being put to death in the flesh, but being made alive in the spirit. (**1 Peter 3:18**)
- It thus seems evident that God disposed of that body miraculously, thereby not letting it see **ruinous decay**.

See Also BODY (Christ's Body of Flesh)

- Angels, though spirit creatures, are shown to have **corruptible** bodies, inasmuch as they are declared to be subject to destruction.
- 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**)
- Certainly if God did not hold back from punishing the angels that sinned, but, by throwing them into Tartarus, delivered them to pits of dense darkness to be reserved for judgment. (**2 Peter 2:4**)

- Now in the synagogue there was a man with a spirit, an unclean demon, and he shouted with a loud voice. ([Luke 4:33](#))
- Ah! What have we to do with you, Jesus you Nazarene? Did you come to destroy us? I know exactly who you are, the Holy One of God. ([Luke 4:34](#))

· Human Enslavement To Corruption

- While Adam, even in his perfection, had a **corruptible** body, it was only because of his rebellion against God that he came into **enslavement to corruption** and passed this condition on to all of his offspring, the human race.
- For the creation was subjected to futility, not by its own will but through him that subjected it, on the basis of hope ([Romans 8:20](#))
- That the creation itself also will be set free from enslavement to **corruption** and have the glorious freedom of the children of God. ([Romans 8:21](#))
- For we know that all creation keeps on groaning together and being in pain together until now. ([Romans 8:22](#))
- This enslavement to **corruption** results from sin or transgression
- That is why, just as through one man sin entered into the world and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men because they had all sinned. ([Romans 5:12](#))
- And produces bodily imperfection that leads to degradation, disease, aging, and death. For this reason, the one sowing with a view to the flesh reaps **corruption** from his flesh and does not gain the everlasting life promised those who sow with a view to the spirit.
- Because he who is sowing with a view to his flesh will reap corruption from his flesh, but he who is sowing with a view to the spirit will reap everlasting life from the spirit. ([Galatians 6:8](#))
- But these men, like unreasoning animals born naturally to be caught and destroyed, will, in the things of which they are ignorant and speak abusively, even suffer destruction in their own course of destruction. ([2 Peter 2:12](#))

- For they utter swelling expressions of no profit, and by the desires of the flesh and by loose habits they entice those who are just escaping from people who conduct themselves in error. (**2 Peter 2:18**)
- While they are promising them freedom, they themselves are existing as slaves of corruption. For whoever is overcome by another is enslaved by this one. (**2 Peter 2:19**)

· Attainment Of Incorruption By Christians

- As noted, the Hebrew Scriptures make no direct reference to **incorruption**, and they regularly stress the mortality of the human soul. Thus, the apostle says of Christ Jesus that he, has shed light upon life and **incorruption** through the Good News.
- But now it has been made clearly evident through the manifestation of our Savior, Christ Jesus, who has abolished death but has shed light upon life and **incorruption** through the Good News. (**2 Timothy 1:10**)
- Through Jesus, God revealed the sacred secret of his purpose to grant to anointed Christians the privilege of reigning with his Son in the heavens.
- Have no fear, little flock, because your Father has approved of giving you the kingdom. (**Luke 12:32**)
- In the house of my Father there are many abodes. Otherwise, I would have told you, because I am going my way to prepare a place for you. (**John 14:2**)
- Also, if I go my way and prepare a place for you, I am coming again and will receive you home to myself, that where I am you also may be. (**John 14:3**)
- In that he made known to us the sacred secret of his will. It is according to his good pleasure which he purposed in himself (**Ephesians 1:9**)
- For an administration at the full limit of the appointed times, namely, to gather all things together again in the Christ, the things in the heavens and the things on the earth. Yes, in him.

(Ephesians 1:10)

- In union with whom we were also assigned as heirs, in that we were foreordained according to the purpose of him who operates all things according to the way his will counsels. (**Ephesians 1:11**)
- By resurrecting their Savior Jesus Christ from the dead, God has given such Christians the living hope of, an **incorruptible** and undefiled and unfading inheritance reserved in the heavens.
- Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, for according to his great mercy he gave us a new birth to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. (**1 Peter 1:3**)
- To an **incorruptible** and undefiled and unfading inheritance. It is reserved in the heavens for you. (**1 Peter 1:4**)
- For you know that it was not with **corruptible** things, with silver or gold, that you were delivered from your fruitless form of conduct received by tradition from your forefathers. (**1 Peter 1:18**)
- But it was with precious blood, like that of an unblemished and spotless lamb, even Christ's. (**1 Peter 1:19**)
- Moreover, every man taking part in a contest exercises self-control in all things. Now they, of course, do it that they may get a **corruptible** crown, but we an **incorruptible** one. (**1 Corinthians 9:25**)
- Such ones are born again while yet in the flesh, that is, granted the position of spiritual sons of God, born of **incorruptible** reproductive seed, through the word of the living and enduring God.
- For you have been given a new birth, not by corruptible, but by **incorruptible** reproductive seed, through the word of the living and enduring God. (**1 Peter 1:23**)
- See what sort of love the Father has given us, so that we should be called children of God, and such we are. That is why the world does not have a knowledge of us, because it has not come to know him. (**1 John 3:1**)

- Everyone who has been born from God does not carry on sin, because His reproductive seed remains in such one, and he cannot practice sin, **because he has been born from God.** (1 John 3:9)
- Though dealt with by God as his spiritual sons and although having the promise of an **incorruptible** inheritance, these Christians called to the heavenly Kingdom **do not possess immortality or incorruption while yet on earth in the flesh.**
- This is seen from the fact that they are **seeking glory** and honor and **incorruptibleness by endurance in work that is good.**
- And he will render to each one according to his works. (Romans 2:6)
- Everlasting life to those who are seeking glory and honor and **incorruptibleness by endurance in work that is good.** (Romans 2:7)
- The **incorruptibleness** sought evidently does not mean merely freedom from moral corruption. By following Christ's example and by faith in his ransom sacrifice, these Christians have already, escaped from the **corruption** that is in the world through lust.
- Forasmuch as his divine power has given us freely all the things that concern life and godly devotion, through the accurate knowledge of the one who called us through glory and virtue. (2 Peter 1:3)
- Through these things he has freely given us the precious and very grand promises, that through these you may become sharers in divine nature, having escaped from the **corruption** that is in the world through lust. (2 Peter 1:4)
- They are, loving our Lord Jesus Christ in **incorruptness** and showing **incorruptness** in their teaching.
- May the undeserved kindness be with all those loving our Lord Jesus Christ in **incorruptness.** (Ephesians 6:24)
- In all things showing yourself an example of fine works, showing **uncorruptness** in your teaching, seriousness. (Titus 2:7)

- Wholesome speech which cannot be condemned, so that the man on the opposing side may get ashamed, having nothing vile to say about us. (**Titus 2:8**)
- The **incorruptibleness**, along with glory and honor, they seek by faithful endurance relates to their glorification at the time of their resurrection as actual spirit sons of God, and this is evident from Paul's first letter to the Corinthians.

· Raised To Immortality And Incorruption

- Christ Jesus entered into **immortality** upon his resurrection from the dead, thereafter possessing, an indestructible life.
- This manifestation the happy and only Potentate will show in its own appointed times, he the King of those who rule as kings and Lord of those who rule as lords. (**1 Timothy 6:15**)
- The one alone having immortality, **Yehowah God**, who dwells in unapproachable light, whom not one of men has seen or can see. To him be honor and might everlasting. Amen. (**1 Timothy 6:16**)
- And it is still more abundantly clear that with a similarity to Melchizedek there arises another priest. (**Hebrews 7:15**)
- Who has become such, not according to the Law of a commandment depending upon the flesh, but according to the power of an indestructible life. (**Hebrews 7:16**)
- For in witness it is said; You are a priest forever according to the manner of Melchizedek. (**Hebrews 7:17**)
- As the exact representation of the very being of his Father, who is the **incorruptible** God.
- He is the reflection of his glory and the exact representation of his very being, and he sustains all things by the word of his power, and after he had made a purification for our sins he sat down on the right hand of the Majesty in lofty places. (**Hebrews 1:3**)
- Now to the King of eternity, **incorruptible**, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen. (**1 Timothy 1:17**)

- The resurrected Jesus also enjoys **incorruptibility**.
- United with Jesus in the likeness of his resurrection, his joint heirs also are resurrected not merely to everlasting life as spirit creatures but to immortality and **incorruption**.
- Having lived, served faithfully, and died in corruptible human bodies, they now receive **incorruptible** spirit bodies, as Paul clearly states at
 - So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown in corruption, it is raised up in **incorruption**. (1 Corinthians 15:42)
 - It is sown in dishonor, it is raised up in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised up in power. (1 Corinthians 15:43)
 - It is sown a physical body, it is raised up a spiritual body. If there is a physical body, there is also a spiritual one. (1 Corinthians 15:44)
 - It is even so written: The first man Adam became a living soul. The last Adam became a life-giving spirit. (1 Corinthians 15:45)
 - Nevertheless, the first is, not that which is spiritual, but that which is physical, afterward that which is spiritual. (1 Corinthians 15:46)
 - The first man is out of the earth and made of dust, the second man is out of heaven. (1 Corinthians 15:47)
 - As the one made of dust is, so those made of dust are also, and as the heavenly one is, so those who are heavenly are also. (1 Corinthians 15:48)
 - And just as we have borne the image of the one made of dust, we shall bear also the image of the heavenly one. (1 Corinthians 15:49)
 - However, this I say, brothers; That flesh and blood cannot inherit God's kingdom, neither does corruption inherit **incorruption**. (1 Corinthians 15:50)
 - Look! I tell you a sacred secret. We shall not all fall asleep in

death, but we shall all be changed. (1 Corinthians 15:51)

- In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, during the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised up **incorruptible**, and we shall be changed. (1 Corinthians 15:52)
- For this which is corruptible must put on **incorruption**, and this which is mortal must put on immortality. (1 Corinthians 15:53)
- But when this which is corruptible puts on **incorruption** and this which is mortal puts on **immortality**, then the saying will take place that is written; Death is swallowed up forever. (1 Corinthians 15:54)
- **Immortality** therefore evidently refers to the quality of the life they enjoy, its endlessness and indestructibility, whereas **incorruption** apparently relates to the organism or body that God gives them, one that is inherently beyond decay, ruin, or destruction.
- It therefore appears that God grants them the power to be self-sustaining, not dependent upon outside sources of energy as are his other creatures, fleshly and spirit. This is a stirring evidence of God's confidence in them.
- Such independent and **indestructible existence**, however, does not remove them from God's control, and they, like their Head Christ Jesus, continue subject to their Fathers will and directions.
- But each one in his own rank. Christ the firstfruits, afterward those who belong to the Christ during his presence. (1 Corinthians 15:23)
- Next, the end, when he hands over the kingdom to his God and Father, when he has brought to nothing all government and all authority and power. (1 Corinthians 15:24)
- For he must rule as king until God has put all enemies under his feet (1 Corinthians 15:25)
- As the last enemy, death is to be brought to nothing. (1 Corinthians 15:26)
- For God subjected all things under his feet. But when he says that all things have been subjected, it is evident that it is with

the exception of the one who subjected all things to him. (**1 Corinthians 15:27**)

- But when all things will have been subjected to him, then the Son himself will also subject himself to the One who subjected all things to him, that God may be all things to everyone. (**1 Corinthians 15:28**)

See Also IMMORTALITY

See Also SOUL