

~MINISTER (1499)

[Hebrew, *mesha-reth'*, Greek, *di-a'ko-nos*]

- Yehowah's Angelic Ministers
- The Tribe Of Levi
- Prophets
- Jesus Christ
- Christian Ministers
- Ministerial Servants In The Congregation
- Earthly Rulers
- False Ministers

• This term is translated from the Hebrew word *mesha-reth'* and the Greek *di-a'ko-nos*. The Hebrew term is a participle form of the verb *sha-rath'*, meaning, wait upon or minister to a superior, and is used in a secular or a religious sense.

• And Joseph kept finding favor in his eyes and **waited upon** him continually, so that he appointed him over his house, and all that was his he gave into his hand. (**Genesis 39:4**)

• At that particular time Yehowah separated the tribe of Levi to carry the ark of Yehowah's covenant, to stand before Yehowah for **ministering** to him and to bless in his name until this day. (**Deuteronomy 10:8**)

• Concerning the word *di-a'ko-nos*, D. Edmond Hiebert wrote in **Bibliotheca Sacra**: It has been held that the term is a compound of the preposition *di-a'*, meaning through, and the noun *ko'nis*, dust, so that the term denotes one who **hurries through the dust** to carry out his service.

• But this suggested derivation is not generally accepted today. More probably the verbal root was *di-e'ko*, **to reach from one place to another**, akin to the verb *di-o'ko*, **to hasten after, to pursue**.

• Then the root idea is one who reaches out with diligence and persistence to render a service on behalf of others.[1983, Vol. 140, p. 153]

• In Hebrew and Greek these words and their related forms are applied to both male and female.

• With that he called his attendant **who waited upon** him and said;

- Send this person away from me, please, to the outside, and lock the door behind her. (**2 Samuel 13:17**)
- Now upon her there was a striped robe, for that was the way the daughters of the king, the virgins, used to dress with sleeveless coats. So his **waiter** proceeded to lead her clear outside, and he locked the door behind her. (**2 Samuel 13:18**)
 - And the girl was beautiful in the extreme, and she came to be the king's nurse and **kept waiting upon him**, and the king himself had no intercourse with her. (**1 Kings 1:4**)
 - Accordingly Bath-sheba went in to the king in the interior room, and the king was very old, and Abishag the Shunammite was **waiting upon** the king. (**1 Kings 1:15**)
 - Who has indeed adequately qualified us to be **ministers** of a New Covenant, not of a written code, but of spirit, for the written code condemns to death, but the spirit makes alive. (**2 Corinthians 3:6**)
 - I recommend to you Phoebe our sister, who is a **minister** of the congregation that is in Cenchreae. (**Romans 16:1**)
 - Joshua was Moses **minister**, or, attendant, from his young manhood on.
 - Then Joshua the son of Nun, the minister of Moses from his young manhood on, responded and said; My lord Moses, restrain them! (**Numbers 11:28**)
 - And it came about after the death of Moses the servant of Yehowah that Yehowah proceeded to say to Joshua the son of Nun, the minister of Moses. (**Joshua 1:1**) Footnote
 - Elisha's attendant was called his minister and waiter.
 - However, his **waiter** said; How shall I put this before a hundred men? To this he said; Give it to the people that they may eat, for this is what Yehowah has said; There will be an eating and a having of leftovers. (**2 Kings 4:43**)
 - When the minister of the man of the true God rose early to get up, and went out, why, there a military force was surrounding

the city with horses and war chariots. At once his attendant said to him; Alas, my master! What shall we do? (**2 Kings 6:15**)

- **Kings and princes had their royal attendants or ministers.**
- **And it came about that as soon as Jehu had entered into controversy with the house of Ahab, he got to find the princes of Judah and the sons of the brothers of Ahaziah, ministers of Ahaziah, and he proceeded to kill them. (**2 Chronicles 22:8**)**
- **Then the kings attendants, his ministers, said; Let them seek young women, virgins, beautiful in appearance, for the king. (**Esther 2:2**)**
- **Then the king said; What honor and great thing has been done to Mordecai for this? To this the kings **attendants**, his ministers, said; Nothing has been done with him. (**Esther 6:3**)**
- **Some of whom **waited** on the royal tables.**
- **When the queen of Sheba got to see all the wisdom of Solomon and the house that he had built. (**1 Kings 10:4**)**
- **And the food of his table and the sitting of his **servants** and the **table service** of his **waiters** and their attire and his drinks and his burnt sacrifices that he regularly offered up at the house of Yehowah, then there proved to be no more spirit in her. (**1 Kings 10:5**)**
- **When the queen of Sheba got to see Solomon's wisdom and the house that he had built. (**2 Chronicles 9:3**)**
- **And the food of his table and the sitting of his servants and the table service of his **waiters** and their attire and his drinking service and their attire, and his burnt sacrifices that he regularly offered up at the house of Yehowah, then there proved to be no more spirit in her. (**2 Chronicles 9:4**)**

•• **Yehowah's Angelic Ministers**

- **Yehowah God created the angels in their tens of millions, all of whom he has under his control, and whom he doubtless can call by name, as he does the numberless stars.**

- He is counting the number of the stars, all of them he calls by their names. (**Psalms 147:4**)
- These serve him as his **ministers**, doing his will in the universe.
- Bless Yehowah, O you angels of his, mighty in power, carrying out his word, by listening to the voice of his word. (**Psalms 103:20**)
- Bless Yehowah, all you armies of his, you ministers of his, doing his will. (**Psalms 103:21**)
- The psalmist says of Yehowah that he makes his angels spirits, his ministers a devouring fire.
- Making his angels spirits, this **ministers** a devouring fire. (**Psalms 104:4**)
- They are described as spirits for public service, sent forth to minister for those who are going to inherit salvation.
- But with reference to which one of the angels has he ever said; Sit at my right hand, until I place your enemies as a stool for your feet? (**Hebrews 1:13**)
- Are they not all spirits for public service, sent forth to minister for those who are going to inherit salvation? (**Hebrews 1:14**)
- Angels **ministered** to Jesus Christ in the wilderness, after he had defeated Satan's attempts to cause him to deviate from obedience to Yehowah
- Then the Devil left him, and, look! Angels came and began to **minister** to him. (**Matthew 4:11**)
- Also an angel appeared, strengthening him when he was praying in Gethsemane.
- Then an angel from heaven appeared to him and strengthened him. (**Luke 22:43**)
- In the prophet Daniel's vision, wherein someone like a son of man was given indefinitely lasting rulership over all peoples and

languages, millions of angels are shown to be ministering about the throne of the Ancient of Days.

- **I kept on beholding until there were thrones placed and the Ancient of Days sat down. His clothing was white just like snow, and the hair of his head was like clean wool. His throne was flames of fire, its wheels were a burning fire. (Daniel 7:9)**
- **There was a stream of fire flowing and going out from before him. There were a thousand thousands that kept ministering to him, and ten thousand times ten thousand that kept standing right before him. The Court took its seat, and there were books that were opened. (Daniel 7:10)**
- **I kept on beholding at that time because of the sound of the grandiose words that the horn was speaking; I kept on beholding until the beast was killed and its body was destroyed and it was given to the burning fire. (Daniel 7:11)**
- **But as for the rest of the beasts, their rulerships were taken away, and there was a lengthening in life given to them for a time and a season. (Daniel 7:12)**
- **I kept on beholding in the visions of the night, and, see there! With the clouds of the heavens someone like a son of man happened to be coming, and to the Ancient of Days he gained access, and they brought him up close even before that One. (Daniel 7:13)**
- **And to him there were given rulership and dignity and kingdom, that the peoples, national groups and languages should all serve even him. His rulership is an indefinitely lasting rulership that will not pass away, and his kingdom one that will not be brought to ruin. (Daniel 7:14)**

•• The Tribe Of Levi

- **After the Israelites were delivered from Egypt, and when the nation was organized under the Law covenant, Yehowah chose the males of the tribe of Levi as his special ministers.**
- **Bring the tribe of Levi near, and you must stand them before Aaron the priest, and they must minister to him. (Numbers 3:6)**

- Then he put before the ark of Yehowah some of the Levites as ministers, both to call to remembrance and to thank and praise Yehowah the God of Israel. (**1 Chronicles 16:4**)
- Some of them, the family of Aaron, were priests.
- And the man who will behave with presumptuousness in not listening to the priest who is standing to **minister** there to Yehowah your God or to the judge, that man must die, and you must clear out what is bad from Israel. (**Deuteronomy 17:12**)
- And the priests the sons of Levi must approach, because they are the ones Yehowah your God has chosen to **minister** to him and to bless in the name of Yehowah and at whose mouth every dispute over every violent deed should be disposed of. (**Deuteronomy 21:5**)
- And the priests were unable to stand to do their **ministering** because of the cloud, for the glory of Yehowah filled the house of Yehowah. (**1 Kings 8:11**)
- Likewise could my own covenant be broken with David my servant so that he should not come to have a son ruling as king upon his throne, also with the Levites, the priests, my **ministers**. (**Jeremiah 33:21**)
- The Levites had various duties in their **ministry**, they were caretakers of the sanctuary with all its utensils, **ministers** of the singing, and so forth.
- And they must keep their obligation to him and their obligation to all the assembly before the tent of meeting in discharging the service of the tabernacle. (**Numbers 3:7**)
- And they must take care of all the utensils of the tent of meeting, even the obligation of the sons of Israel in discharging the service of the tabernacle. (**Numbers 3:8**)
- And they came to be ministers in the singing before the tabernacle of the tent of meeting until Solomon built the house of Yehowah in Jerusalem, and they kept attending upon their service according to their commission. (**1 Chronicles 6:32**)

•• Prophets

- In addition to using all the males of the tribe of Levi, Yehowah employed others to minister to his people Israel in a special way. These were the prophets, who served only as individually appointed and commissioned by Yehowah.
- Some of these were also of the priestly line of descent, but many were from other tribes of Israel. They were messengers of Yehowah, they were sent to warn the nation when it deviated from the Law, and they sought to turn the kings and the people back to true worship.
- And Yehowah the God of their forefathers kept sending against them by means of his **messengers**, sending again and again, because he felt compassion for his people and for his dwelling. (**2 Chronicles 36:15**)
- But they were continually making jest at the **messengers** of the true God and despising his words and mocking at his prophets, until the rage of Yehowah came up against his people, until there was no healing. (**2 Chronicles 36:16**)
- From the day that your forefathers came forth out of the land of Egypt until this day, and I kept sending to you all my **servants** the prophets, daily getting up early and sending them. (**Jeremiah 7:25**)
- But they did not listen to me, and they did not incline their ear, but they kept hardening their neck. They acted worse than their forefathers! (**Jeremiah 7:26**)
- Their prophecies aided, encouraged, and strengthened righthearted ones, especially during times of spiritual and moral decay, and at times when Israel was threatened by enemies round about.
- Elisha now said; Listen, you men, to the word of Yehowah. This is what Yehowah has said; Tomorrow about this time a seah measure of fine flour will be worth a shekel, and two seah measures of barley worth a shekel in the gateway of Samaria. (**2 Kings 7:1**)
- And Isaiah the son of Amoz proceeded to send to Hezekiah, saying; This is what Yehowah the God of Israel has said; Because you have prayed to me concerning Sennacherib the king of Assyria. (**Isaiah 37:21**)

- **This is the word that Yehowah has spoken against him; The virgin daughter of Zion has despised you, she has held you in derision. Behind you the daughter of Jerusalem has wagged her head. (Isaiah 37:22)**
- **Whom have you taunted and spoken of abusively? And against whom have you lifted up your voice and do you raise your eyes on high? It is against the Holy One of Israel! (Isaiah 37:23)**
- **By means of your servants you have taunted Yehowah and you say; with the multitude of my war chariots I myself, I shall certainly ascend the height of mountainous regions, the remotest parts of Lebanon, and I shall cut down its lofty cedars, its choice juniper trees. And I shall enter its final height, the forest of its orchard. (Isaiah 37:24)**
- **I myself shall certainly dig and drink waters, and I shall dry up with the soles of my feet all the Nile canals of Egypt. (Isaiah 37:25)**
- **Have you not heard? From remote times it is what I will do. From bygone days I have even formed it. Now I will bring it in. And you will serve to make fortified cities become desolate as piles of ruins. (Isaiah 37:26)**
- **And their inhabitants will be feeble-handed, they will simply be terrified and ashamed. They must become as vegetation of the field and green tender grass, grass of the roofs and of the terrace before the east wind. (Isaiah 37:27)**
- **And your sitting quiet and your going out and your coming in I well know, and your exciting yourself against me. (Isaiah 37:28)**
- **Because your exciting yourself against me and your roaring have come up into my ears. And I shall certainly put my hook in your nose and my bridle between your lips, and I shall indeed lead you back by the way by which you have come. (Isaiah 37:29)**
- **And this will be the sign for you; There will be an eating this year of the growth from spilled kernels, and in the second year grain that shoots up of itself, but in the third year sow seed, you people, and reap, and plant vineyards and eat their fruitage. (Isaiah 37:30)**

- **And those who escape of the house of Judah, those who are left remaining, will certainly take root downward and produce fruitage upward. (Isaiah 37:31)**
- **For out of Jerusalem a remnant will go forth and those who escape out of Mount Zion. The very zeal of Yehowah of armies will do this. (Isaiah 37:32)**
- **Therefore this is what Yehowah has said concerning the king of Assyria; He will not come into this city, nor will he shoot an arrow there, nor confront it with a shield, nor cast up a siege rampart against it. (Isaiah 37:33)**
- **By the way by which he came he will return, and into this city he will not come, is the utterance of Yehowah. (Isaiah 37:34)**
- **And I shall certainly defend this city to save it for my own sake and for the sake of David my servant. (Isaiah 37:35)**
- **And the angel of Yehowah proceeded to go forth and strike down a hundred and eighty-five thousand in the camp of the Assyrians. When people rose up early in the morning, why, there all of them were dead carcasses. (Isaiah 37:36)**
- **Hence Sennacherib the king of Assyria pulled away and went and returned and took up dwelling in Nineveh. (Isaiah 37:37)**
- **And it came about that as he was bowing down at the house of Nisroch his god, Adrammelech and Sharezer, his own sons, struck him down with the sword, and they themselves escaped to the land of Ararat. And Esar-haddon his son began to reign in place of him. (Isaiah 37:38)**

See Also PROPHET

- **Their prophecies also pointed to Jesus Christ and the Messianic Kingdom.**
- **At that I fell down before his feet to worship him. But he tells me; Be careful! Do not do that! All I am is a fellow slave of you and of your brothers who have the work of witnessing to Jesus. Worship God, for the bearing witness to Jesus is what inspires prophesying. (Revelation 19:10)**

- **John the Baptizer did an outstanding work, turning the heart of fathers back toward sons, and the heart of sons back toward fathers as he prepared the way for Yehowah's representative, the Lord Jesus Christ.**

- **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)**

- **For all, the Prophets and the Law, prophesied until John. (Matthew 11:13)**

- **And if you want to accept it, he himself is Elijah who is destined to come. (Matthew 11:14)**

- **To give knowledge of salvation to his people by forgiveness of their sins. (Luke 1:77)**

- **Because of the tender compassion of our God. With this compassion a daybreak will visit us from on high. (Luke 1:78)**

- **To give light to those sitting in darkness and deaths shadow, to direct our feet prosperously in the way of peace. (Luke 1:79)**

- **The prophets did not minister only to their contemporaries, for the apostle Peter writes to Christians.**

- **Concerning this very salvation a diligent inquiry and a careful search were made by the prophets who prophesied about the undeserved kindness meant for you. (1 Peter 1:10)**

- **They kept on investigating what particular season or what sort of season the spirit in them was indicating concerning Christ when it was bearing witness beforehand about the sufferings for Christ and about the glories to follow these. (1 Peter 1:11)**

- **It was revealed to them that, not to themselves, but to you, they were ministering the things that have now been announced to**

you through those who have declared the Good News to you with Holy Spirit sent forth from heaven. Into these very things angels are desiring to peer. (**1 Peter 1:12**)

•• Jesus Christ

- Jesus Christ is Yehowah's chief **minister**, *di-a'ko-nos*. He became a **minister** of those who are circumcised in behalf of God's truthfulness, so as to verify the promises He made to their forefathers, also, that the nations might glorify God for his mercy. Therefore, on him nations will rest their hope.
- For I say that Christ actually became a minister of those who are circumcised in behalf of God's truthfulness, so as to verify the promises He made to their forefathers. (**Romans 15:8**)
- And that the nations might glorify God for his mercy. Just as it is written: That is why I will openly acknowledge you among the nations and to your name I will make melody. (**Romans 15:9**)
- And again he says; Be glad, you nations, with his people. (**Romans 15:10**)
- And again; Praise Yehowah, all you nations, and let all the peoples praise him. (**Romans 15:11**)
- And again Isaiah says; There will be the root of Jesse, and there will be one arising to rule nations, on him nations will rest their hope. (**Romans 15:12**)
- Jesus appointment was from Yehowah himself. When he presented himself for baptism, the heavens were opened up, the account says, and he, John the Baptizer, saw descending like a dove God's spirit coming upon him, Jesus. Look! Also, there was a voice from the heavens that said; This is my Son, the beloved, whom I have approved.
- After being baptized Jesus immediately came up from the water, and, look! The heavens were opened up, and he saw descending like a dove God's spirit coming upon him. (**Matthew 3:16**)
- Look! Also, there was a voice from the heavens that said; This is my Son, the beloved, whom I have approved. (**Matthew 3:17**)

- In his pre-human existence Jesus had served Yehowah for untold ages, but here he entered upon a new **ministry**. Jesus proved he was indeed God's **minister**, serving both God and his fellowmen. Consequently, in the synagogue of his hometown of Nazareth, Jesus was able to take the scroll of Isaiah and read what is now

- The spirit of the Sovereign Lord Yehowah is upon me, for the reason that Yehowah has anointed me to tell Good News to the meek ones. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to those taken captive and the wide opening of the eyes even to the prisoners. (**Isaiah 61:1**)

- To proclaim the year of goodwill on the part of Yehowah and the day of vengeance on the part of our God, to comfort all the mourning ones. (**Isaiah 61:2**)

- The spirit of the Sovereign Lord Yehowah is upon me, for the reason that Yehowah has anointed me to tell Good News to the meek ones. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to those taken captive and the wide opening of the eyes even to the prisoners, to proclaim the year of goodwill on the part of Yehowah. Then he went on to say to those assembled, Today this scripture that you just heard is fulfilled.

- And he came to Nazareth, where he had been reared, and, according to his custom on the Sabbath day, he entered into the synagogue, and he stood up to read. (**Luke 4:16**)

- So the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed him, and he opened the scroll and found the place where it was written. (**Luke 4:17**)

- Yehowah's spirit is upon me, because he anointed me to declare Good News to the poor, he sent me forth to preach a release to the captives and a recovery of sight to the blind, to send the crushed ones away with a release. (**Luke 4:18**)

- To preach Yehowah's acceptable year. (**Luke 4:19**)

- With that he rolled up the scroll, handed it back to the attendant and sat down, and the eyes of all in the synagogue were intently fixed upon him. (**Luke 4:20**)

- Then he started to say to them; Today this scripture that you

just heard is fulfilled. (Luke 4:21)

- At the time Peter preached to the first Gentile convert, Cornelius, he described Jesus course during his three and one half years of earthly ministry, calling Cornelius attention to Jesus who was from Nazareth, how God anointed him with Holy Spirit and power, and he went through the land doing good and healing all those oppressed by the Devil, because God was with him.
- Namely, Jesus who was from Nazareth, how God anointed him with Holy Spirit and power, and he went through the land doing good and healing all those oppressed by the Devil, because God was with him. (Acts of Apostles 10:38)
- Jesus literally walked throughout his assigned territory in the service of Yehowah and the people. Not only that, but he actually gave up his very soul as a ransom for others. He said; The Son of man came, not to be ministered to, but to minister and to give his soul a ransom in exchange for many.
- Just as the Son of man came, not to be ministered to, but to minister and to give his soul a ransom in exchange for many. (Matthew 20:28)

· Christian Ministers

- In his ministerial work Jesus associated with himself many others, apostles and disciples, whom he trained to carry on the same ministerial work. He sent out at first the 12, then 70 others. God's active force was also upon them, enabling them to perform many miracles.
- So he summoned his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, in order to expel these and to cure every sort of disease and every sort of infirmity. (Matthew 10:1)
- What I tell you in the darkness, say in the light, and what you hear whispered, preach from the housetops. (Matthew 10:27)
- He that receives you receives me also, and he that receives me receives him also that sent me forth. (Matthew 10:40)
- These twelve Jesus sent forth, giving them these orders. Do not go off into the road of the nations, and do not enter into a

Samaritan city. (Matthew 10:5)

- **But, instead, go continually to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. (Matthew 10:6)**
- **As you go, preach, saying; The kingdom of the heavens has drawn near. (Matthew 10:7)**
- **Cure sick people, raise up dead persons, make lepers clean, expel demons. You received free, give free. (Matthew 10:8)**
- **Do not procure gold or silver or copper for your girdle purses. (Matthew 10:9)**
- **Or a food pouch for the trip, or two undergarments, or sandals or a staff, for the worker deserves his food. (Matthew 10:10)**
- **Into whatever city or village you enter, search out who in it is deserving, and stay there until you leave. (Matthew 10:11)**
- **When you are entering into the house, greet the household. (Matthew 10:12)**
- **And if the house is deserving, let the peace you wish it come upon it, but if it is not deserving, let the peace from you return upon you. (Matthew 10:13)**
- **Wherever anyone does not take you in or listen to your words, on going out of that house or that city shake the dust off your feet. (Matthew 10:14)**
- **Truly I say to you, it will be more endurable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah on Judgment Day than for that city. (Matthew 10:15)**
- **After these things the Lord designated seventy others and sent them forth by twos in advance of him into every city and place to which he himself was going to come. (Luke 10:1)**
- **Then he began to say to them; The harvest, indeed, is great, but the workers are few. Therefore beg the Master of the harvest to send out workers into his harvest. (Luke 10:2)**
- **Go forth. Look! I am sending you forth as lambs in among**

wolves. (Luke 10:3)

- Do not carry a purse, nor a food pouch, nor sandals, and do not embrace anybody in greeting along the road. (Luke 10:4)
- Wherever you enter into a house say first; May this house have peace. (Luke 10:5)
- And if a friend of peace is there, your peace will rest upon him. But if there is not, it will turn back to you. (Luke 10:6)
- So stay in that house, eating and drinking the things they provide, for the worker is worthy of his wages. Do not be transferring from house to house. (Luke 10:7)
- Also, wherever you enter into a city and they receive you, eat the things set before you. (Luke 10:8)
- And cure the sick ones in it, and go on telling them, the kingdom of God has come near to you. (Luke 10:9)
- But wherever you enter into a city and they do not receive you, go out into its broad ways and say. (Luke 10:10)
- Even the dust that got stuck to our feet from your city we wipe off against you. Nevertheless, keep this in mind, that the kingdom of God has come near. (Luke 10:11)
- I tell you that it will be more endurable for Sodom in that day than for that city. (Luke 10:12)
- He that listens to you listens to me too. And he that disregards you disregards me too. Moreover, he that disregards me disregards also him that sent me forth. (Luke 10:16)
- **But the major work they were to perform was to preach and teach the Good News of the Kingdom of God. In fact, the miracles were primarily to give public evidence of their appointment and approval by Yehowah.**
- How shall we escape if we have neglected a salvation of such greatness in that it began to be spoken through our Lord and was verified for us by those who heard him. (Hebrews 2:3)

- **While God joined in bearing witness with signs as well as portents and various powerful works and with distributions of Holy Spirit according to his will? ([Hebrews 2:4](#))**
- **Jesus trained his disciples, both by word and by example. He taught not only publicly but also in private homes, taking the Good News directly to the people.**
- **Later, while he was reclining at the table in the house, look! many tax collectors and sinners came and began reclining with Jesus and his disciples. ([Matthew 9:10](#))**
- **After he had gone into the house, the blind men came to him, and Jesus asked them; Do you have faith that I can do this? They answered him; Yes, Lord. ([Matthew 9:28](#))**
- **Now a certain one of the Pharisees kept asking him to dine with him. Accordingly he entered into the house of the Pharisee and reclined at the table. ([Luke 7:36](#))**
- **Shortly afterwards he went journeying from city to city and from village to village, preaching and declaring the Good News of the kingdom of God. And the twelve were with him. ([Luke 8:1](#))**
- **And he entered Jericho and was going through. ([Luke 19:1](#))**
- **Now here there was a man called by the name Zacchaeus, and he was a chief tax collector, and he was rich. ([Luke 19:2](#))**
- **Well, he was seeking to see who this Jesus was, but he could not for the crowd, because he was small in size. ([Luke 19:3](#))**
- **So he ran ahead to an advance position and climbed a fig-mulberry tree in order to see him, because he was about to go through that way. ([Luke 19:4](#))**
- **Now when Jesus got to the place, he looked up and said to him; Zacchaeus, hurry and get down, for today I must stay in your house. ([Luke 19:5](#))**
- **With that he hurried and got down and with rejoicing he received him as guest. ([Luke 19:6](#))**

- From the accounts given by the writers of the Gospels, it is evident that Jesus disciples were present in many instances when he gave witness to various kinds of people, for the very conversations are recorded. According to the book of Acts, his disciples followed that example, making calls from house to house to declare the Kingdom message.
- And every day in the temple and from house to house they continued without letup teaching and declaring the Good News about the Christ, Jesus. ([Acts of Apostles 5:42](#))
- While I did not hold back from telling you any of the things that were profitable nor from teaching you publicly and from house to house. ([Acts of Apostles 20:20](#))

See Also PREACHER, PREACHING (From House to House)

- Jesus told his disciples what a true **minister** of God was, saying, The kings of the nations lord it over them, and those having authority over them are called Benefactors.
- You, though, are not to be that way. But let him that is the greatest among you become as the youngest, and the one acting as chief as the one ministering.
- For which one is greater, the one reclining at the table or the one ministering? Is it not the one reclining at the table? Then, using his own course and conduct as the example, he went on to say; But I am in your midst as the one **ministering**.
- But he said to them; The kings of the nations lord it over them, and those having authority over them are called Benefactors. ([Luke 22:25](#))
- You, though, are not to be that way. But let him that is the greatest among you become as the youngest, and the one acting as chief as the one ministering. ([Luke 22:26](#))
- For which one is greater, the one reclining at the table or the one ministering? Is it not the one reclining at the table? But I am in your midst as the one **ministering**. ([Luke 22:27](#))
- On that occasion, he forcefully demonstrated these principles, including that of humility, by washing the feet of the disciples.

- After that he put water into a basin and started to wash the feet of the disciples and to dry them off with the towel with which he was girded. (**John 13:5**)
- Jesus further pointed out to his disciples that true **ministers** of God do not accept flattering religious titles for themselves, nor do they bestow them on others.
- But you, do not you be called Rabbi, for one is your teacher, whereas all you are brothers. (**Matthew 23:8**)
- Moreover, do not call anyone your father on earth, for one is your Father, the heavenly One. (**Matthew 23:9**)
- Neither be called leaders, for your Leader is one, the Christ. (**Matthew 23:10**)
- But the greatest one among you must be your minister. (**Matthew 23:11**)
- Whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted. (**Matthew 23:12**)
- The anointed followers of the Lord Jesus Christ are spoken of as **ministers** of the Good News, as Paul was.
- Provided, of course, that you continue in the faith, established on the foundation and steadfast and not being shifted away from the hope of that Good News which you heard, and which was preached in all creation that is under heaven. Of this Good News I Paul became a **minister**. (**Colossians 1:23**)
- they are also **ministers** of a New Covenant, being in that covenant relationship with Yehowah God, with Christ as Mediator.
- Who has indeed adequately qualified us to be ministers of a New Covenant, not of a written code, but of spirit, for the written code condemns to death, but the spirit makes alive. (**2 Corinthians 3:6**)
- How much more will the blood of the Christ, who through an everlasting spirit offered himself without blemish to God, cleanse our consciences from dead works that we may render sacred

service to the living God? ([Hebrews 9:14](#))

- So that is why he is a mediator of a New Covenant, in order, that, because a death has occurred for their release by ransom from the transgressions under the former covenant, the ones who have been called might receive the promise of the everlasting inheritance. ([Hebrews 9:15](#))
- In this way they are **ministers** of God and of Christ.
- But in every way we recommend ourselves as God's **ministers**, by the endurance of much, by tribulations, by cases of need, by difficulties. ([2 Corinthians 6:4](#))
- Are they ministers of Christ? I reply like a madman, I am more outstandingly one, in labors more plentifully, in prisons more plentifully, in blows to an excess, in near-deaths often. ([2 Corinthians 11:23](#))
- Their qualification comes from God through Jesus Christ, not from any man or organization. The evidence of their ministry is not in some paper or certificate, like a letter of recommendation or authority.
- Their letter of recommendation is found in the persons whom they have taught and trained to be, like them, **ministers** of Christ. On this matter the apostle Paul says;
- You yourselves are our letter, inscribed on our hearts and known and being read by all mankind. For you are shown to be a letter of Christ written by us as ministers, inscribed not with ink but with spirit of a living God, not on stone tablets, but on fleshly tablets, on hearts.
- Are we starting again to recommend ourselves? Or do we, perhaps, like some men, need letters of recommendation to you or from you? ([2 Corinthians 3:1](#))
- You yourselves are our letter, inscribed on our hearts and known and being read by all mankind. ([2 Corinthians 3:2](#))
- For you are shown to be a letter of Christ written by us as ministers, inscribed not with ink but with spirit of a living God, not on stone tablets, but on fleshly tablets, on hearts. ([2 Corinthians 3:3](#))

- Here the apostle shows the love and the closeness, the warm affection and care of the Christian minister, for those to whom he ministers, they being inscribed on the **ministers** heart.
- Thus, after Christ ascended into heaven, he gave gifts in men to the Christian congregation. Among these were apostles, prophets, evangelizers, shepherds, and teachers, given with a view to the readjustment of the holy ones, for ministerial work, for the building up of the body of the Christ.
- Now to each one of us undeserved kindness was given according to how the Christ measured out the free gift. (**Ephesians 4:7**)
- Wherefore he says; When he ascended on high he carried away captives, he gave gifts in men. (**Ephesians 4:8**)
- Now the expression, he ascended, what does it mean but that he also descended into the lower regions, that is, the earth? (**Ephesians 4:9**)
- The very one that descended is also the one that ascended far above all the heavens, that he might give fullness to all things. (**Ephesians 4:10**)
- And he gave some as apostles, some as prophets, some as evangelizers, some as shepherds and teachers. (**Ephesians 4:11**)
- With a view to the readjustment of the holy ones, for ministerial work, for the building up of the body of the Christ. (**Ephesians 4:12**)
- Their qualification as **ministers** is from God.
- Now through the Christ we have this sort of confidence toward God. (**2 Corinthians 3:4**)
- Not that we of ourselves are **adequately qualified** to reckon anything as issuing from ourselves, but our being adequately qualified issues from God. (**2 Corinthians 3:5**)
- Who has indeed **adequately qualified** us to be **ministers** of a New Covenant, not of a written code, but of spirit, for the written code condemns to death, but the spirit makes alive. (**2 Corinthians 3:6**)

- **The Revelation given to the apostle John pictured a great crowd, which no man was able to number, out of all nations and tribes and peoples and tongues.**
- **These are not spoken of as being, like the anointed brothers of Jesus Christ, in the New Covenant and therefore as **ministers** of it, nevertheless, they are shown to have a clean standing before God and are rendering him sacred service day and night in his temple.**
- **They are therefore ministering and can properly be called ministers of God. As both the Revelation vision and Jesus himself showed, by illustration, in the time of Christ's presence on his glorious throne, there would be such persons who would also lovingly minister to the brothers of Jesus Christ, giving them aid, attention, and assistance.**
- **After these things I saw, and, look! A great crowd, which no man was able to number, out of all nations and tribes and peoples and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, dressed in white robes, and there were palm branches in their hands. ([Revelation 7:9](#))**
- **And they keep on crying with a loud voice, saying; Salvation we owe to our God, who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb. ([Revelation 7:10](#))**
- **And all the angels were standing around the throne and the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell upon their faces before the throne and worshiped God. ([Revelation 7:11](#))**
- **Saying; Amen! The blessing and the glory and the wisdom and the thanksgiving and the honor and the power and the strength be to our God forever and ever. Amen. ([Revelation 7:12](#))**
- **And in response one of the elders said to me; These who are dressed in the white robes, who are they and where did they come from? ([Revelation 7:13](#))**
- **So right away I said to him; My lord, you are the one that knows. And he said to me; These are the ones that come out of the great tribulation, and they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. ([Revelation 7:14](#))**

- That is why they are before the throne of God, and they are rendering him sacred service day and night in his temple, and the One seated on the throne will spread his tent over them. **(Revelation 7:15)**
- 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)**

· Ministerial Servants In The Congregation

- After listing requirements for those serving as, overseers, *e-pi'sko-poi*, in the congregations, the apostle Paul lists such for those designated as, **ministerial servants**, *di-a'ko-noi*.
- That statement is faithful. If any man is reaching out for an office of overseer, he is desirous of a fine work. (1 Timothy 3:1)
- The overseer should therefore be irreprehensible, a husband of one wife, moderate in habits, sound in mind, orderly, hospitable, qualified to teach. (1 Timothy 3:2)
- Not a drunken brawler, not a smiter, but reasonable, not belligerent, not a lover of money. (1 Timothy 3:3)
- A man presiding over his own household in a fine manner, having children in subjection with all seriousness. (1 Timothy 3:4)
- If indeed any man does not know how to preside over his own household, how will he take care of God's congregation? (1 Timothy 3:5)
- Not a newly converted man, for fear that he might get puffed up with pride and fall into the judgment passed upon the Devil. (1 Timothy 3:6)
- Moreover, he should also have a fine testimony from people on the outside, in order, that he might not fall into reproach and a snare of the Devil. (1 Timothy 3:7)
- **Ministerial servants** should likewise be serious, not double-tongued, not giving themselves to a lot of wine, not greedy of dishonest gain. (1 Timothy 3:8)
- Holding the sacred secret of the faith with a clean conscience. (1 Timothy 3:9)
- Also, let these be tested as to fitness first, then let them serve as ministers, as they are free from accusation. (1 Timothy 3:10)
- Let **ministerial servants** be husbands of one wife, presiding in a fine manner over children and their own households. (1 Timothy 3:12)
- For the men who **minister** in a fine manner are acquiring for

- themselves a fine standing and great freeness of speech in the faith in connection with Christ Jesus. (1 Timothy 3:13)
- The Greek word *di-a'ko-nos* is in places translated simply **minister**.
 - This is not the way among you, but whoever wants to become great among you must be your **minister**. (Matthew 20:26)
 - And servant.
 - Then the king said to his servants; Bind him hand and foot and throw him out into the darkness outside. There is where his weeping and the gnashing of his teeth will be. (Matthew 22:13)
 - Since all Christians were **ministers**, servants of God, it is evident that the term *di-a'ko-noi* here takes on a particular sense, one related to congregational order and structure.
 - Thus, there were two bodies of men filling positions of congregational responsibility, the **overseers**, or **older men**, and the **ministerial servants**. There were generally a number of both overseers and ministerial assistants in each congregation.
 - Paul and Timothy, slaves of Christ Jesus, to all the holy ones in union with Christ Jesus who are in Philippi, along with overseers and **ministerial servants**. (Philippians 1:1)
 - However, from Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called for the **older men** of the congregation. (Acts of Apostles 20:17)
 - Pay attention to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has appointed you overseers, to shepherd the congregation of God, which he purchased with the blood of his own Son. (Acts of Apostles 20:28)
 - The list of requirements for the **ministerial servants** as compared with that for the overseers, as well as the designations for the two positions, indicates that the **ministerial servants** were **not assigned the responsibility of teaching or shepherding**, a shepherd being an overseer of sheep.
 - Teaching ability was not a prerequisite for their assignment. The designation *di-a'ko-nos* of itself indicates that these men served as assistants to the body of overseers in the congregation, their basic

responsibility being that of caring for matters of a non-pastoral nature so that the overseers might concentrate their time and attention on their teaching and shepherding activity.

- An example of the principle governing this arrangement may be found in the action of the apostles when problems arose as to the distribution **literally, the service, *di-a-ko-ni'a*** of food supplies made daily to those Christians in need at Jerusalem.

- Stating that it would not be pleasing for them to leave the word of God to concern themselves with administration of material food problems, the apostles instructed the disciples to search out for yourselves seven certified men from among you, full of spirit and wisdom, that we may appoint them over this necessary business, but we shall devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry *di-a-ko-ni'ai* of the word.

- Now in these days, when the disciples were increasing, a murmuring arose on the part of the Greek-speaking Jews against the Hebrew-speaking Jews, because their widows were being overlooked in the daily distribution. (**Acts of Apostles 6:1**)

- So the twelve called the multitude of the disciples to them and said; It is not pleasing for us to leave the word of God to distribute food to tables. (**Acts of Apostles 6:2**)

- So, brothers, search out for yourselves seven certified men from among you, full of spirit and wisdom, that we may appoint them over this necessary business. (**Acts of Apostles 6:3**)

- But we shall devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word. (**Acts of Apostles 6:4**)

- And the thing spoken was pleasing to the whole multitude, and they selected Stephen, a man full of faith and Holy Spirit, and Philip and Prochorus and Nicanor and Timon and Parmenas and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch. (**Acts of Apostles 6:5**)

- And they placed them before the apostles, and, after having prayed, these laid their hands upon them. (**Acts of Apostles 6:6**)

- This was the principle, but it does not necessarily hold that the seven men selected were, in this case, not qualified as **older men, *pre-sby'te-roi***, for this was not a normal or regular situation but a special

problem that had arisen, one of a rather delicate nature due to the feeling that discrimination existed because of nationality.

- Since it affected the entire Christian congregation, it was a matter calling for spirit and wisdom, and thus the seven men selected may, in fact, have been in a spiritual sense older men.
- But they were now taking on temporarily an assignment of work such as that which **ministerial servants** might normally handle. It was business that was **necessary** but not of the same importance as the **ministry** of the word.
- The apostles showed their proper evaluation of matters in this action, and it may be expected that the bodies of overseers in the congregations that developed outside of Jerusalem would follow their example in assigning duties to the **ministerial servants**.
- There were doubtless many matters of a more material, routine, or mechanical nature that required attention, perhaps including the purchase of material for copying the Scriptures or even the copying itself.
- The qualifications to be met by the ministerial assistants provided standards that would protect the congregation from any legitimate accusation as to its selection of men for particular duties, thus maintaining a right standing with God and a clean reputation among outsiders.
- Also, let these be tested as to fitness first, then let them serve as **ministers**, as they are free from accusation. (1 Timothy 3:10)
- The qualifications governed morality, conduct, and spirituality and, where observed, would bring into service men who were sensible, honest, conscientious, and reliable.
- Those who **ministered** in a fine manner would acquire for themselves a fine standing and great freeness of speech in the faith in connection with Christ Jesus.
- For the men who **minister** in a fine manner are acquiring for themselves a fine standing and great freeness of speech in the faith in connection with Christ Jesus. (1 Timothy 3:13)

·· **Earthly Rulers**

- **God has permitted the governments of this world to operate until his due time to bring them to an end, after which Christ's Kingdom will rule the earth undisputedly.**
- **And in the days of those kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that will never be brought to ruin. And the kingdom itself will not be passed on to any other people. It will crush and put an end to all these kingdoms, and it itself will stand to times indefinite. (Daniel 2:44)**
- **And I saw the heaven opened, and, look! A white horse. And the one seated upon it is called Faithful and True, and he judges and carries on war in righteousness. (Revelation 19:11)**
- **His eyes are a fiery flame, and upon his head are many diadems. He has a name written that no one knows but he himself. (Revelation 19:12)**
- **And he is arrayed with an outer garment sprinkled with blood, and the name he is called is The Word of God. (Revelation 19:13)**
- **Also, the armies that were in heaven were following him on white horses, and they were clothed in white, clean, fine linen. (Revelation 19:14)**
- **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)**
- **During the time of their tolerated rule, they perform many services for the people, such as the building of roads, operation of schools, police and fire departments, and other services.**
- **They also have laws to punish thieves, murderers, and other lawbreakers. Therefore, as they perform these services and justly carry out these laws, they are **ministers**, *di-a'ko-noi* of God.**
- **If anyone, even a Christian, violates such laws, the punishment he receives at the hands of the government is in an indirect way from God, for God is against all wickedness.**
- **Also, if the government protects the Christian from violators of the law, it is acting as a minister of God. It follows that if the ruler misuses his authority and acts against God, he is responsible and must answer to God for it.**
- **If such wicked ruler tries to get the Christian to act in violation of God's law, then he is not acting as God's **minister** and will receive punishment from God.**
- **Let every soul be in subjection to the superior authorities, for there is no authority except by God, the existing authorities stand placed in their relative positions by God. (Romans 13:1)**
- **Therefore he who opposes the authority has taken a stand against the arrangement of God, those who have taken a stand**

against it will receive judgment to themselves. (**Romans 13:2**)

- For those ruling are an object of fear, not to the good deed, but to the bad. Do you, then, want to have no fear of the authority? Keep doing good, and you will have praise from it. (**Romans 13:3**)
- For it is God's **minister** to you for your good. But if you are doing what is bad, be in fear, for it is not without purpose that it bears the sword, for it is God's **minister**, an avenger to express wrath upon the one practicing what is bad. (**Romans 13:4**)

• False Ministers

- There are men who claim to be **ministers** of God but who are hypocrites, actually **ministers** of Satan fighting against God. The apostle Paul had to contend with such ones who were troubling the congregation in Corinth.
- Of them, he said;
- For such men are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into apostles of Christ. (**2 Corinthians 11:13**)
- And no wonder, for Satan himself keeps transforming himself into an angel of light. (**2 Corinthians 11:14**)
- It is therefore nothing great if his ministers also keep transforming themselves into **ministers** of righteousness. But their end shall be according to their works. (**2 Corinthians 11:15**)
- The appearance of such **false ministers** was foretold many times in the Scriptures. Paul told the overseers of the congregation at Ephesus that after his going away, oppressive wolves would enter in among the congregation and would not treat the flock with tenderness, they would speak twisted things to draw away the disciples after themselves.
- I know that after my going away oppressive wolves will enter in among you and will not treat the flock with tenderness. (**Acts of Apostles 20:29**)
- And from among you yourselves men will rise and speak twisted things to draw away the disciples after themselves. (**Acts of Apostles 20:30**)

- **Paul also warned of such apostate ones in his letters.**
- **Let no one seduce you in any manner, because it will not come unless the apostasy comes first and the man of lawlessness gets revealed, the son of destruction. (2 Thessalonians 2:3)**
- **He is set in opposition and lifts himself up over everyone who is called, god, or an object of reverence, so that he sits down in the temple of The God, publicly showing himself to be a god. (2 Thessalonians 2:4)**
- **Do you not remember that, while I was yet with you, I used to tell you these things? (2 Thessalonians 2:5)**
- **And so now you know the thing that acts as a restraint, with a view to his being revealed in his own due time. (2 Thessalonians 2:6)**
- **True, the mystery of this lawlessness is already at work, but only till he who is right now acting as a restraint gets to be out of the way. (2 Thessalonians 2:7)**
- **Then, indeed, the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will do away with by the spirit of his mouth and bring to nothing by the manifestation of his presence. (2 Thessalonians 2:8)**
- **But the lawless ones presence is according to the operation of Satan with every powerful work and lying signs and portents. (2 Thessalonians 2:9)**
- **And with every unrighteous deception for those who are perishing, as a retribution because they did not accept the love of the truth that they might be saved. (2 Thessalonians 2:10)**
- **So that is why God lets an operation of error go to them, that they may get to believing the lie. (2 Thessalonians 2:11)**
- **In order, that they all may be judged because they did not believe the truth but took pleasure in unrighteousness. (2 Thessalonians 2:12)**
- **However, the inspired utterance says definitely that in later**

- periods of time some will fall away from the faith, paying attention to misleading inspired utterances and teachings of demons. (**1 Timothy 4:1**)
- **By the hypocrisy of men who speak lies, marked in their conscience as with a branding iron. (1 Timothy 4:2)**
 - **Forbidding to marry, commanding to abstain from foods which God created to be partaken of with thanksgiving by those who have faith and accurately know the truth. (1 Timothy 4:3)**
 - **The reason for this is that every creation of God is fine, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving. (1 Timothy 4:4)**
 - **For it is sanctified through God's word and prayer over it. (1 Timothy 4:5)**
 - **But know this, that in the last days critical times hard to deal with will be here. (2 Timothy 3:1)**
 - **For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, self-assuming, haughty, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, disloyal. (2 Timothy 3:2)**
 - **Having no natural affection, not open to any agreement, slanderers, without self-control, fierce, without love of goodness. (2 Timothy 3:3)**
 - **Betrayers, headstrong, puffed up with pride, lovers of pleasures rather than lovers of God. (2 Timothy 3:4)**
 - **Having a form of godly devotion but proving false to its power, and from these turn away. (2 Timothy 3:5)**
 - **For from these arise those men who slyly work their way into households and lead as their captives weak women loaded down with sins, led by various desires. (2 Timothy 3:6)**
 - **Always learning and yet never able to come to an accurate knowledge of truth. (2 Timothy 3:7)**
 - **For there will be a period of time when they will not put up with the healthful teaching, but, in accord with their own desires, they**

- will accumulate teachers for themselves to have their ears tickled. ([2 Timothy 4:3](#))
- **And they will turn their ears away from the truth, whereas they will be turned aside to false stories. ([2 Timothy 4:4](#))**
 - **Peter described them;**
 - **However, there also came to be false prophets among the people, as there will also be false teachers among you. These very ones will quietly bring in destructive sects and will disown even the owner that bought them, bringing speedy destruction upon themselves. ([2 Peter 2:1](#))**
 - **Furthermore, many will follow their acts of loose conduct, and on account of these the way of the truth will be spoken of abusively. ([2 Peter 2:2](#))**
 - **Also, with covetousness they will exploit you with counterfeit words. But as for them, the judgment from of old is not moving slowly, and the destruction of them is not slumbering. ([2 Peter 2:3](#))**
 - **And Jesus Christ himself foretold their existence and destruction.**
 - **Another illustration he set before them, saying; The kingdom of the heavens has become like a man that sowed fine seed in his field. ([Matthew 13:24](#))**
 - **While men were sleeping, his enemy came and oversowed weeds in among the wheat, and left. ([Matthew 13:25](#))**
 - **When the blade sprouted and produced fruit, then the weeds appeared also. ([Matthew 13:26](#))**
 - **So the slaves of the householder came up and said to him, Master, did you not sow fine seed in your field? How, then, does it come to have weeds? ([Matthew 13:27](#))**
 - **He said to them; An enemy, a man, did this. They said to him; Do you want us, then, to go out and collect them? ([Matthew 13:28](#))**
 - **He said; No, that by no chance, while collecting the weeds, you**

uproot the wheat with them. ([Matthew 13:29](#))

- Let both grow together until the harvest, and in the harvest season I will tell the reapers, First collect the weeds and bind them in bundles to burn them up, then go to gathering the wheat into my storehouse. ([Matthew 13:30](#))
- Then after dismissing the crowds he went into the house. And his disciples came to him and said; Explain to us the illustration of the weeds in the field. ([Matthew 13:36](#))
- In response he said; The sower of the fine seed is the Son of man. ([Matthew 13:37](#))
- The field is the world. As for the fine seed, these are the sons of the kingdom, but the weeds are the sons of the wicked one. ([Matthew 13:38](#))
- And the enemy that sowed them is the Devil. The harvest is a conclusion of a system of things, and the reapers are angels. ([Matthew 13:39](#))
- Therefore, just as the weeds are collected and burned with fire, so it will be in the conclusion of the system of things. ([Matthew 13:40](#))
- The Son of man will send forth his angels, and they will collect out from his kingdom all things that cause stumbling and persons who are doing lawlessness. ([Matthew 13:41](#))
- And they will pitch them into the fiery furnace. There is where their weeping and the gnashing of their teeth will be. ([Matthew 13:42](#))
- At that time the righteous ones will shine as brightly as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let him that has ears listen. ([Matthew 13:43](#))

See Also MAN OF LAWLESSNESS