

## ~TORMENT (180)

[Greek, *ba-sa-ni'zo*]

- The Greek word *ba-sa-ni'zo*, and related terms, occurs over 20 times in the Christian Greek Scriptures.
- It basically meant, test by the proving stone, *ba'sa-nos*, and, by extension, examine or question by applying torture.
- Lexicographers point out that in the Christian Greek Scriptures it is used with the sense of, **vexing with grievous pains, being harassed, distressed.**
- And, look! They screamed, saying; What have we to do with you, Son of God? Did you come here to **torment** us before the appointed time? (**Matthew 8:29**)
- At the sight of Jesus he cried aloud and fell down before him, and with a loud voice he said; What have I to do with you, Jesus Son of the Most High God? I beg you, do not **torment** me. (**Luke 8:28**)
- And she was pregnant. And she cries out in her pains and in her agony to give birth. (**Revelation 12:2**)
- The Bible used *ba-sa-ni'zo* in a number of instances. For example, a manservant afflicted with paralysis was terribly **tormented**, **NW**, or **racked with pain**, **NE**, by it.
- And saying; Sir, my manservant is laid up in the house with paralysis, being terribly **tormented**. (**Matthew 8:6**)
- And the report about him went out into all Syria, and they brought him all those faring badly, distressed with various diseases and **torments**, demon-possessed and epileptic and paralyzed persons, and he cured them. (**Matthew 4:24**)
- Also, Lot **used to torment his soul**, **RO**, or **was vexed**, **MO**, **RS**, by the lawless deeds of the people of Sodom.
- For that righteous man by what he saw and heard while dwelling among them from day to day was **tormenting** his righteous soul

by reason of their lawless deeds. (2 Peter 2:8)

- The word is even used in regard to the difficult progress of a boat.
- By now the boat was many hundreds of yards away from land, being hard put to it by the waves, because the wind was against them. (Matthew 14:24)
- And when he saw them being hard put to it in their rowing, for the wind was against them, about the fourth watch of the night he came toward them, walking on the sea, but he was inclined to pass them by. (Mark 6:48)
- The Greek noun *ba-sa-ni-stes'* occurring at;
- With that his master, provoked to wrath, delivered him to the jailers, until he should pay back all that was owing. (Matthew 18:34)
- Is rendered, **jailers**, in some translations, AT, FN, NW
- However, he was not willing, but went off and had him thrown into prison until he should pay back what was owing. (Matthew 18:30)
- And **tormentors** or **torturers** in others. AS, KJ, JB

**Torture** was sometimes used in prisons to obtain information.

- The military commander ordered him to be brought into the soldiers quarters and said he should be examined under scourging, that he might know fully for what cause they were shouting against him this way. (Acts of Apostles 22:24)
- Immediately, therefore, the men that were about to examine him with torture withdrew from him, and the military commander became afraid on ascertaining that he was a Roman and that he had bound him. (Acts of Apostles 22:29)
- Which shows that this was done, although *ba-sa-ni'zo* is not used here, so *ba-sa-ni-stes'* came to be applied to jailers. Regarding its use at

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- The **International Standard Bible Encyclopaedia** observed: **Probably the imprisonment itself was regarded as torment, as it doubtless was, and the tormentors need mean nothing more than jailers.** [Edited by J. Orr, 1960, Vol. V, p. 2999] Thus, the mentioning in;
- And the Devil who was misleading them was hurled into the lake of fire and sulphur, where both the wild beast and the false prophet already were, and they will be **tormented** day and night forever and ever.
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- Of ones who will be **tormented day and night forever and ever** evidently indicates that they will be in a condition of restraint. That a condition of restraint can be spoken of as **torment** is indicated by the parallel accounts at;
- And, look! They screamed, saying; What have we to do with you, Son of God? Did you come here to **torment** us before the appointed time? (**Matthew 8:29**)
- And they kept entreating him not to order them to go away into the abyss. (**Luke 8:31**)

### **See Also LAKE OF FIRE**

- Some commentators have pointed to Biblical instances of the word, **torment**, to support the teaching of eternal suffering in fire. However, as just indicated, there is Scriptural reason to believe that.
- And the Devil who was misleading them was hurled into the lake of fire and sulphur, where both the wild beast and the false prophet already were, and they will be **tormented day and night forever and ever.** (**Revelation 20:10**)

- Does not have that sense. In fact,
- And death and Hades were hurled into the lake of fire. This means the second death, the lake of fire. (**Revelation 20:14**)
- Shows that **the lake of fire** in which the **torment** occurs, actually means, **the second death**. And though Jesus spoke of a certain rich man as, **existing in torments**.
- And in Hades he lifted up his eyes, he existing in **torments**, and he saw Abraham afar off and Lazarus in the bosom position with him. (**Luke 16:23**)
- For I have five brothers, in order, that he may give them a thorough witness, that they also should not get into this place of **torment**. (**Luke 16:28**)
- As the article **LAZARUS** shows, Jesus was **not describing the literal experience of a real person** but, rather, was setting forth an **illustration**.
- Revelation provides a number of other instances where **torment** clearly has an illustrative or symbolic sense, as is evident from context.

### See Also **LAZARUS 2**

- And it was granted the locusts, not to kill them, but that these should be **tormented** five months, and the torment upon them was as torment by a scorpion when it strikes a man. (**Revelation 9:5**)
- And those dwelling on the earth rejoice over them and enjoy themselves, and they will send gifts to one another, because these two prophets **tormented** those dwelling on the earth. (**Revelation 11:10**)
- 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**)
- While they stand at a distance because of their fear of her **torment** and say; Too bad, too bad, you great city, Babylon you

**strong city, because in one hour your judgment has arrived!**  
**(Revelation 18:10)**