

Words Matter

Understanding biblical language

Words are important. They shape and form the way we view the biblical narrative, which then extends into how we view God and ourselves. The difficulty with understanding biblical language is that it was written in a different time and in a different language(s). Therefore, we often have to check the way we understand these concepts to ensure we comprehend what the biblical writers intended to communicate.

In this series, we will take different words and study what they truly meant to the biblical writers and the biblical audience. In understanding these things, we will get a clearer picture of who God is, who we are, and the story we're meant to live out.

Week 2

Sin

In the Hebrew (the original language of the Old Testament):

- חָטָא - hata
- חָטָאת - hatta'at

In the Greek (the original language of the New Testament):

- ἁμαρτία - hamartia
- ἁμαρτάνω - hamartano

Sin: to miss the mark

Scripture References:

Genesis 1:27

So God created mankind in his own image,
in the image of God he created them;
male and female he created them.

Matthew 22:37-40

³⁷ "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind." ³⁸ This is the first and greatest commandment. ³⁹ And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' ⁴⁰ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."

Genesis 3:6

And when the woman **saw** that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be **desired** to make one wise, she **took** of the fruit thereof, and did **eat**

Genesis 4:6-7

⁶Yahweh said to Cain, "Why are you angry? Why has the expression of your face fallen? ⁷ If you do well, won't it be lifted up? If you don't do well, sin crouches at the door. Its desire is for you, but you are to rule over it."

James 1:13-15

¹³ No one, when tempted, should say, 'I am being tempted by God'; for God cannot be tempted by evil and he himself tempts no one. ¹⁴ But one is tempted by one's own desire, being lured and enticed by it; ¹⁵ then, when that desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin, and that sin, when it is fully grown, gives birth to death. ¹⁶ Do not be deceived, my beloved.

Galatians 5:16-25

¹⁶ So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. ¹⁷ For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh. They are in conflict with each other, so that you are not to do whatever[□] you want. ¹⁸ But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. ¹⁹ The acts of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; ²⁰ idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions ²¹ and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God. ²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. ²⁴ Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. ²⁵ Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.

Matthew 1:20-21

²⁰ But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus,[□] because **he will save his people from their sins.**"

John 1:29

²⁹ The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look, the Lamb of God, **who takes away the sin of the world!**

Colossians 2:13

When you were dead in your sins, you were not set free from the sinful things of the world. But God forgave your sins and gave you new life through Christ.

Scripture Reading this Week

Romans 5-8

Study Word

ἐπιθυμία – epithymia (Greek for desires and/or passions)

Book References

The Beast That Crouches at the Door by Rabbi David Fohrman