

SINFULNESS AND WICKEDNESS

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A LOOK AT SOME DIFFERENCES

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INTRODUCTION.

In this paper, racial differences are not being considered as that is another entirely different subject. This is because the Bible treats Israel as being different to all the other races as a "set apart" race. In order to show the differences we will first set out a list of the various parts the Law of God is comprised of.

1. MISHMERETH [79 occurrences]...FROM MISHMAR [22 times..."in ward"]. First mention Gen.26:5...to Abraham]...Translated 50 times as charge, 3 times as ordinance, and otherwise as keep, watch, office, ward and to be kept.
2. TOWRAH...or TORAH [H8451...219 occurrences]....First mention Gen.26:5...to Abraham...Translated as 216 times as Law, with 1 other translation.
3. CHUQQA [H2708...105 occurrences] First mention Gen.26:5...to Abraham...Translated 77 times as statute and 22 times as ordinance.
5. MITSVAH [H4687-181 occurrences]...First mention Gen.26:5...to Abraham. Translated as 173 times commandments, 4 times as precept with three other translations.
6. TSEDAQAH [H6666...157 occurrences]...First mention Gen.14:6 about Abraham. Translated 128 times as righteousness, 15 times as justice, with four other translations.

Today, there is a conception that there are two groups of people on earth, namely the saved and the unsaved. This springs essentially from the "once saved, saved forever" concept which allows for no other group. Before we go any further, let us look some scriptural definitions of "The Wicked".

7. MISHPAT [H4941..412 occurrences]...First mention Gen.18:19 referring to Abraham's descendants...Translated 294 times as judgments, 39 times as manner, 18 times as right, 11 times as ordinance and 25 other ways!
8. CHOQ [H2706..126 occurrences]...First mention Gen.47:22 in connection with Joseph.... Translated as 87 times as statute, 9 times ordinance, as Law [as over the land of Egypt], and 14 other various words. It is first used about appointed land portions. It generally refers to various boundaries.

The first six are mentioned initially in connection with Abraham. We are told:

Gen. 26:5 *"Because that Abraham obeyed my voice, and kept my charge, my commandments, my Statutes and my Laws -[towrah]"*.

The last two are the two things that God gave exclusively to Israel.

Psalm 147:19-20 *"He hath showed his word unto Jacob, and his statutes unto Israel. He hath not dealt so with any nation, and for his judgements, they [i.e. the the nations] have not known them."*

This verse is both limiting and specific and relates exclusively to Israel as a race.

-The "word" here is "dabar", or the spoken word.

-"Statutes" here is "*choq*" which relates to commands in the sense of a specific direction, charge, instruction, boundary or limitation.

-"Judgements" here is "*mishpat*" which relates to a judicial verdict pronounced by God. It is strongly connected to justice.

The Ten Commandments that were given to Israel as a covenant are "*dabar*", or spoken by God to the subject addressed.

Deut. 4:13 *"And He declared to you [i.e. Israel] his covenant, which he commanded you to perform, even ten commandments [dabar]: and he wrote them on two tables of stones".*

The ten commandments were made a covenant, made by God through Moses to Israel. The Ten Commandments are "*dabar*", not "*choq*" nor "*mishpat*". In the next verse, Deut. 4:14, Moses was commanded to teach these statutes and judgements to Israel. We are then told that this is why other nations would think and know that Israel was a great and a wise race. Here racial separation is demonstrated! But, this paper is concerned with God's people only.

THINGS THAT ARE DIFFERENT.

The average churchgoer might read about:

1. "sin and iniquity", or
2. "sin and uncleanness", or
3. "sin and blasphemy"

.....without noting that the "and" in the middle of each phrase indicates that there is something different about the units in each pair. Then he might read Biblical words like "*unrighteousness*", "*wickedness*", "*lawlessness*", "*transgression*", "*rebellion*" and other words that normally do not register as to what the differences are. This is not helped by inconsistent translations. Thus, the general acceptance has become that they are all the same thing and that all are treated by God the same. This is not so.

Before we go into this, it would be better to give an outline of the differences between "sinfulness" and "wickedness" as it refers to God's people. The essential difference might be shown up by saying, "All Christians are sinful, but all are not wicked".

Before we look at some words in the original languages, as an outline we will see that:

SIN refers to error, failure and missing the mark.

WICKEDNESS refers to evil, wrong, breaking down, doing harm, being actively bad. At this point we will not separate the words into parts of speech.

| | <u>First use</u> | <u>Strong's</u> | <u>Occurrences.</u> | <u>Subject</u> |
|------------|------------------|-----------------|---------------------|--|
| rasha | 'Gen. 18:23 | 756 | 329 | Abraham talking about destroying the righteous with the wicked |
| ra' | Gen.2:9 | 7451 | 665 | Tree of good and evil |
| ra'a' | Gen.19:7 | 7489 | 93 | Spoiled...good for nothing...Sodom |
| resha' | Deut.9:27 | 7562 | 30 | Moses...about Israel's sin |
| 'aven | Num.23:21 | 205 | 82 | About Baalim not finding iniquity in Israel. |
| 'avon | Gen.4:13 | 5771 | 236 | Cain's punishment |
| mirsha'ath | 2 Chron.24:7 | 4849 | 1 | A wicked woman |
| mezimmah | Job.21:7 | 4209 | 22 | Job speaking |
| beliya'al | Deu.13:3 | 1100 | 27 | Children of Belial |
| 'avval | Job 18:21 | 5767 | 5 | |
| chet' | Gen. 41:92 | 399 | 33 | Pharoah's faults Penalty |
| shagah | Lev.4:13 | 7 | 686 | 20 Israel...sins of ignorance |
| 'ashmah | Lev.4:3 | 817 | 19 | Israel...sin |
| chata' | Gen.20:6 | 2398 | 239 | Pharoah's sinning |
| chata'ah | Gen.29:6 | 2401 | 9 | Abimeliech's sin |
| chatta'ah | Gen.4:72 | 403 | 296 | "sin lieth at the door" |

The Main Words In Greek:

SIN [*hamartolos and hamartia*] refers to "missing the mark" or to err. This may be because of doing or be not doing something God says. All Christians have sinfulness because they are not fully perfect. "If we say we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His Word is not in us"-[1 John 1:10].

WICKEDNESS [*poneros and poneria*] refers to depravity, malice and being hurtful to the Kingdom of God, and includes speaking or thinking evil of people. In addition it refers to professing Christians who are fornicators, extortioners, idolators and the covetous -[1 Cor. 5:10].

| First use | | Strong's | Occurrences | Subject |
|-----------|-------------|----------|-------------|-------------------------------------|
| hamartia | Matt.1:4266 | 266 | 174 | To save His people from their sins. |

| | | | | |
|-----------|------------|------|----|--|
| hamartano | Matt.18:15 | 264 | 43 | Brother trespassing against you |
| poneros | Matt.5:11 | 4190 | 76 | Say all manner of evil against you |
| kakos | Matt.4:24 | 2556 | 67 | Brought to Him many sick |
| anomos | Mark 15:28 | 459 | 18 | Numbered among the transgressors. |
| adikia | Luke 13:27 | 93 | 25 | Depart from me all ye workers of iniquity. |