

# THE HEBREW KEY

## #21 – How Does God Destroy His Enemies?

### Psalm 5:6

You destroy those who speak lies; Adonai abhors the bloodthirsty and deceitful man.

### Psalm 21:10

You will destroy their descendants from the earth, and their offspring from among the children of man.

### Leviticus 26:6

“I will give peace in the land, and you shall lie down, and none shall make you afraid. And (a) I will eliminate **evil beasts** from the land, and (b) the sword shall not go through your land.”

חיה רעה

(*chayah ra'ah*)

### Isaiah 11:6-9

The **wolf** shall dwell with the lamb, and the **leopard** shall lie down with the young goat, and the calf and the **young lion** and the fattened calf together, and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the **bear** shall graze, their young shall lie down together and the **lion** shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the **cobra**, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the **viper's** den. They shall not hurt or destroy in all My holy mountain, for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of Adonai as the waters cover the sea.

### Leviticus 26:6

“I will give peace in the land, and you shall lie down, and none shall make you afraid. And (a) I will eliminate evil beasts from the land, and (b) **the sword shall not go through your land.**”

### Isaiah 2:4

He shall judge between the nations and shall decide disputes for many peoples. And they shall beat their **swords** into plowshares, and their **spears** into pruning hooks. Nation shall not lift up **sword** against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore.

### Psalm 2:2-3

**The kings of the earth** set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against Adonai and against his Messiah, saying, “Let us burst Their bonds apart and cast away Their cords from us.”

### Revelation 17:1-2 / 18:9

Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and said to me, “Come, I will show you the judgment of the great whore who is seated on many waters, with whom **the kings of the earth** have committed sexual immorality, and with the wine of whose sexual immorality the dwellers on earth have become drunk.” ... And **the kings of the earth**, who committed sexual immorality and lived in luxury with her, will weep and wail over her when they see the smoke of her burning.

### Revelation 19:19

And I saw the beast and **the kings of the earth** with their armies gathered to make war against Him who was sitting on the horse and against His army.

### Revelation 21:2, 9-11a

And I saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband... Then came one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues and spoke to me, saying, “Come, I will show you the Bride, the wife of the Lamb.” And he carried me away in the spirit to a great, high mountain, and showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God, having the glory of God.

### Revelation 21:23-25

And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and its lamp is the Lamb. By its light will the nations walk, and **the kings of the earth** will bring their glory into it, and its gates will never be shut by day – and there will be no night there.

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## Words of “Destruction”

(Framed words are from R' Samson Raphael Hirsch's notes in *The Etymological Dictionary of Hebrew Words*.)

אָבַד

(*avad*)

*Lose valuable possession*

1: disappearing 2: ruining; perishing 3: losing hope of independence  
4: lost item 5: destruction

Occurs 187x

**Exodus 10:7** Then Pharaoh's servants said to him, “How long shall this man be a snare to us? Let the men go, that they may serve Adonai their God. Do you not yet understand that Egypt is ruined [אָבַד]?” (1st app of אָבַד)

**Deuteronomy 26:5** “And you shall make response before Adonai your God, ‘A wandering [אָבַד] Aramean was my father. And he went down into Egypt and sojourned there, few in number, and there he became a nation, great, mighty, and populous.’”

**Leviticus 26:38** And you shall perish [אָבַד] among the nations, and the land of your enemies shall eat you up.

**Leviticus 6:3** “... or has found something lost [אָבַד] and lied about it, swearing falsely-- in any of all the things that people do and sin thereby...” [Root of the word “Abaddon” [אָבַדוֹן]]

The word אָבַד is used six times in the curses against Israel. (Deut. 28-30)

חָרַם

(*charam*)

*Segregate; keep separate*

1: segregating; netting 2: destroying; separating from life 3: net made of joined strands 4: sickle 5: flattened bone; sunken nasal bone

Occurs 102x

**Exodus 22:20** “Whoever sacrifices to any god, other than Adonai alone, shall be devoted [חרם] (to destruction). [1st app.]

**Leviticus 21:18** For no one who has a blemish shall draw near, a man blind or lame, or one who has a mutilated [חרם] face or a limb too long,

**Leviticus 27:21** But the field, when it is released in the jubilee, shall be a holy gift to Adonai, like a field that has been devoted [חרם]. The priest shall be in possession of it.

**Leviticus 27:28 (3x)** “But no devoted thing that a man devotes [חרם] to Adonai, of anything that he has devoted [חרם], whether man or beast, or of his inherited field, shall be sold or redeemed. Every devoted [חרם] thing is most holy to Adonai.

**Deuteronomy 7:26 (2x)** And you shall not bring an abominable thing into your house and become devoted [חרם] (to destruction) like it. You shall utterly detest and abhor it, for it is devoted [חרם] to destruction.

[Used 14x in Joshua 6:17-21 and the story of Achan (Joshua 7).]

כלה

(*calah*)

*Strive to attain*

1: completing 2: striving 3: yearning 4: desiring 5: putting and end 6: destroying completely 7: kidney; organ of yearning 8: sky-blue; color of horizon 9: daughter-in-law completing family

Occurs 264x

**Genesis 2:1** Thus the heavens and the earth were finished [כלה], and all the host of them. (1<sup>st</sup> app.)

**Genesis 6:16** Make a roof for the ark, and finish [כלה] it to a cubit above, and set the door of the ark in its side. Make it with lower, second, and third decks.

**Numbers 17:10** And Adonai said to Moses, “Put back the staff of Aaron before the testimony, to be kept as a sign for the rebels, that you may make an end [כלה] of their grumblings against Me, lest they die.”

**Genesis 11:31** Terah took Abram his son and Lot the son of Haran, his grandson, and Sarai his daughter-in-law [כַּלְהָה], his son Abram's wife, and they went forth together from Ur of the Chaldeans to go into the land of Canaan, but when they came to Haran, they settled there. [A daughter-in-law “completes” the family.]

**Deuteronomy 28:32** Your sons and your daughters shall be given to another people, while your eyes look on and fail with yearning [כַּלְהָה] for them all day long, but you shall be helpless.

כרת

(*carat*)

*Cut off*

1: uprooting; destroying 2: separating; cutting off 3: cut out sex organ

Occurs 290x

**Genesis 9:11** “I establish My covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off [כרת] by the waters of the flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.” [1<sup>st</sup> app.]

**Genesis 15:18** On that day Adonai made [כרת] a covenant with Abram, saying, “To your offspring I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates.” [2<sup>nd</sup> app.]

**Genesis 17:14** “Any uncircumcised male who is not circumcised in the flesh of his foreskin shall be cut off [כרת] from his people; he has broken my covenant.” [3<sup>rd</sup> app.]

**Deuteronomy 24:1** “When a man takes a wife and marries her, if then she finds no favor in his eyes because he has found some indecency in her, and he writes her a certificate of divorce [כריתות, from כרת] and puts it in her hand and sends her out of his house, and she departs out of his house.”

נכה  
(*nachah*)

*Disable; strike blows*

1: striking 2: suffering 3: disabling 4: crippled 5: but; excluding; striking off

Occurs 472x

**Genesis 4:15** Then Adonai said to him, “Not so! If anyone kills Cain, vengeance shall be taken on him sevenfold.” And Adonai put a mark on Cain, lest any who found him should attack [מכה] him. [1<sup>st</sup> app.]

**2 Samuel 4:4** Jonathan, the son of Saul, had a son who was crippled [מכה] in his feet...

**Exodus 2:11-12** One day, when Moses had grown up, he went out to his people and looked on their burdens, and he saw an Egyptian beating [מכה] a Hebrew, one of his people. He looked this way and that, and seeing no one, he struck down [מכה] the Egyptian and hid him in the sand.

**Numbers 3:13** For all the firstborn are mine. On the day that I struck down [מכה] all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, I consecrated for my own all the firstborn in Israel, both of man and of beast. They shall be mine: I am Adonai."

**Deuteronomy 1:4** ...after he had defeated [מכה] Sihon the king of the Amorites, who lived in Heshbon, and Og the king of Bashan, who lived in Ashtaroth and in Edrei.

**Psalms 3:7** Arise, O Adonai! Save me, O my God! For you strike [מכה] all my enemies on the cheek; you break the teeth of the wicked.

**Proverbs 17:10** A rebuke goes deeper into a man of understanding than a hundred blows [מכה] into a fool.

צמת

(tzamat)

*Congeval; freeze development*

1: numbing stunning 2: hardening; making rigid 3: permanent possession; frozen as-set

Occurs 15x

**Leviticus 25:23** “The land shall not be sold in perpetuity [צמת], for the land is mine. For you are strangers and sojourners with Me.” [1<sup>st</sup> app.]

**Psalms 54:5** He will return the evil to my enemies; in your faithfulness put an end [צמת] to them.

**Psalms 119:139** My zeal consumes [צמת] me, because my foes forget your words.

**Lamentations 3:53** They have silenced me [צמת] in the pit and have placed a stone on me. [Also Job 6:17]

**Job 23:17** Yet I am not silenced [צמת] because of the darkness, nor because thick darkness covers my face.

**S.R.H.** - צמת *primarily denotes becoming frozen - i.e., not the cutting off of life, but the cessation of fluidity and movement. in Rabbinic language also, צמת denotes contraction, cauterization, the stiffening of limbs, the drawing together of the edges of a wound, etc.* [This explanation is in the context of Lev.25:23 - the sale of ancestral land.]

שחת

(shachat)

*Corrupt; degenerate irreversibly*

1: corrupting 2: ruining; reversing prosperity 3: causing physical disfigurement 4: calamity 5: pit designed to impede 6: social deterioration

Occurs 165x

**Genesis 6:11, 13** Now the earth was corrupt [שחת] in God's sight, and the earth was filled with violence... And God said to Noah, "I have determined to make an end of all flesh, for the earth is filled with violence through them. Behold, I will destroy [שחת] them with the earth." (1<sup>st</sup> app.) [שחת appears 5x in 6:11-17]

**Genesis 13:10** And Lot lifted up his eyes and saw that the Jordan Valley was well watered everywhere like the garden of Adonai, like the land of Egypt, in the direction of Zoar. (This was before Adonai destroyed [שחת] Sodom and Gomorrah.)

**Exodus 8:24** And Adonai did so. There came great swarms of flies into the house of Pharaoh and into his servants' houses. Throughout all the land of Egypt the land was ruined [שחת] by the swarms of flies.

**Psalms 7:15** He makes a pit, digging it out, and falls into the hole [שחת] that he has made.

**S.R.H** – שחת denotes 'ruin' in the sense of 'corruption', not 'destruction.' מושחת ruins a healthy, sound condition.

שדד

(shadad)

*Ravage; destroy mechanically*

1: laying waste; ravaging 2: slaying 3: stealing

Occurs 62x

**Judges 5:27** Between her feet he sank, he fell, he lay still. Between her feet he sank, he fell. Where he sank, there he fell – dead [שדד]. [1<sup>st</sup> app.]

**Isaiah 33:1** Ah, you destroyer [שודד, shodeid], who yourself have not been destroyed [שדד], you traitor, whom none has betrayed! When you have ceased to destroy [שדד], you will be destroyed [שדד]. And when you have finished betraying, they will betray you. [4x in this verse]

**Jeremiah 4:30** And you, O desolate one [שדוד, shadued], what do you mean that you dress in scarlet, that you adorn yourself with ornaments of gold, that you enlarge your eyes with paint? In vain you beautify yourself. Your lovers despise you; they seek your life.

**Psalms 17:9** From the wicked who despoil [שדד] me, my deadly enemies who surround me.



**Psalm 91:6** Nor the pestilence that stalks in darkness, nor the destruction that lays waste [שמד] at noon.

שמד  
(*shamad*)

*Exterminate; destroy completely and irreversibly*

1: destroying 2: exterminating

Occurs 91x

**Genesis 34:30** Then Jacob said to Simeon and Levi, “You have brought trouble on me by making me stink to the inhabitants of the land, the Canaanites and the Perizzites. My numbers are few, and if they gather themselves against me and attack me, I shall be destroyed [שמד], both I and my household.” [1<sup>st</sup> app.]

**Leviticus 26:30** And I will destroy [שמד] your high places and cut down your incense altars and cast your dead bodies upon the dead bodies of your idols, and my soul will abhor you. [2<sup>nd</sup> app.]

**Numbers 33:52** Then you shall drive out all the inhabitants of the land from before you and destroy all their figured stones and destroy all their metal images and demolish [שמד] all their high places. [3<sup>rd</sup> app.]

**Deuteronomy 4:26** I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that you will soon utterly perish [שמד] from the land that you are going over the Jordan to possess. You will not live long in it but will be destroyed [שמד].

**Amos 9:8** “Behold, the eyes of the Lord Adonai are upon the sinful kingdom, and I will destroy [שמד] it from the surface of the ground, except that I will not destructively [שמד] destroy [שמד] the house of Jacob,” declares Adonai. [3x]

**Zechariah 12:9** And on that day I will seek to destroy [שמד] all the nations that come against Jerusalem.

[32% of the occurrences (29x) of שמד occur in Deuteronomy in God’s many warnings to Israel not to break covenant with Him.]

תָּמַם

(*tamam*)

*Cease; require nothing more*

1: being perfect 2: ending 3: integrity 4: innocence 5: wholeness 6: perfect medium

Occurs 160x

**Genesis 6:9** These are the generations of Noah. Noah was a righteous man, blameless [תָּמַם] in his generation. Noah walked with God.

**Genesis 17:1** When Abram was ninety-nine years old Adonai appeared to Abram and said to him, “I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless [תָּמַם].”

**Genesis 47:15** And when the money was all spent [תָּמַם] in the land of Egypt and in the land of Canaan, all the Egyptians came to Joseph and said, “Give us food. Why should we die before your eyes? For our money is no more.”

**Deuteronomy 2:14-16** And the time from our leaving Kadesh-barnea until we crossed the brook Zered was thirty-eight years, until the entire generation, that is, the men of war, had perished [תָּמַם] from the camp, as Adonai had sworn to them. For indeed the hand of Adonai was against them, to destroy them from the camp, until they had perished [תָּמַם]. So as soon as all the men of war had perished [תָּמַם] and were dead from among the people...

**Ezekiel 22:15** I will scatter you among the nations and disperse you through the countries, and I will consume [תָּמַם] your uncleanness out of you.