

As hostilities in Gaza increase the handwriting is on the wall. Israel is undergoing a baptism of fire. The land of milk and honey is experiencing events of Biblical proportion. Fire and brimstone are raining down on Gaza. Israel has announced an eye for an eye response and plan for Gaza to permanently bite the dust.

Israel will no longer be treated as a scapegoat. Since the warring parties will never see eye to eye, there will be no rest for the wicked in Gaza. With the United Nations at wit's end, Israel's response to this point is only a drop in the bucket. Condemnation is pouring in from the four corners of the earth as many see the IDF leading lambs to the slaughter.

The IDF is now prepared to go the extra mile and provide the kiss of death to Hamas terrorists. No longer prepared to be the good Samaritan, they are ready to serve the terriorist's heads on a platter. It's now the eleventh hour for Gaza, and since they threw the first stone, they are about to reap what they sowed.

Will these actions put the people of Gaza back on the straight and narrow, or will their actions finally be the millstone around their neck that fulfills the prophecy that those who live by the sword will die by the sword? Is Armageddon upon us?

If one looks deeper into this report, from a Biblical perspective, what becomes clear?

Before we proceed I have a confession to make. I'm the one who wrote these previous comments, and it wasn't done to illustrate the conflict in Israel.

Rather the teaching tonight is about language. Specifically, how Biblical language can permeate English and provide us with phrases and sayings we use in everyday speech.

Say What?

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The Bible is still the world's all-time best-selling book with 5 billion copies sold. A distant second is **"Quotations from Chairman Mao** Tse-Tung," at 1.1 billion copies, followed by the Quran with 800 million.

The Bible's influence on culture and everyday language has endured for thousands of years, transcending generations, civilizations and cultures across the globe.

Its impact on society continues to this day, demonstrated in part by common sayings that originate from Scripture.

Biblically-rooted sayings endure since most people are unaware of the degree to which the Bible is woven into our modern lexicon.

It's important to note, the current meaning of each phrase does not necessarily align to its original context or intention. Definitions provided represent modern use which has shifted for many with time.

Let's look at some of the sayings found in today's **English language that** have a deep rooting in the Old Testament Bible.

If you find this teaching interesting, we can continue with a second teaching of those phrases that have their source in the New Testament.

Definition: A lighthearted remark when someone turns on a light.

Let There Be Light

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Genesis 1:3 (NIV) "And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light."

Definition: Something desired, but not permitted.

Forbidden Fruit

Genesis 2:16-17 (NIV) "And the Lord God commanded the man, "You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it you will certainly die."

Definition: By one's own labor or hard work.

By The Sweat Of Your Brow

Genesis 3:19 (NIV) "By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you will return."

Definition: Most commonly said at funerals, it is a reference to the cycle of life. We come from the ground, and return to it at death.

Ashes To Ashes, Dust To Dust

Genesis 3:19 (NIV) "By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you will return."

Definition: To deny responsibility for the whereabouts or actions of another.

Am I My Brother's Keeper?

Genesis 4:9 (NIV) "Then the LORD said to Cain, 'Where is your brother Abel?' 'I don't know,' he replied. 'Am I my brother's keeper?"

Definition: An informal phrase meaning sleep.

The Land Of Nod

Genesis 4:16 (NIV) "So Cain went out from the LORD's presence and lived in the land of Nod, east of Eden."

Definition: Someone or something that is extremely old.

As Old As Methodeselah

Genesis 5:25-27 (NIV) "When Methuselah had lived 187 years, he became the father of Lamech. After he became the father of Lamech, Methuselah lived 782 years and had other sons and daughters. Altogether, Methuselah lived a total of 969 years, and then he died."

Definition: The threat of hell and eternal torment raining down from the heavens.

Fire And Brimstone

Genesis 19:24 (KJV) "Then the LORD rained upon Sodom and upon Gomorrah brimstone and fire from the LORD out of heaven;"

Psalm 11:6 (KJV) "Upon the wicked he shall rain snares, fire and brimstone, and an horrible tempest: this shall be the portion of their cup."

Definition: An uncultured and narrow-minded person.

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Genesis 21:32 (NIV) "After the treaty had been made at Beersheba, Abimelek and Phicol the commander of his forces returned to the land of the Philistines."

Judges 13:1 (NIV) "Again the Israelites did evil in the eyes of the Lord, so the Lord delivered them into the hands of the Philistines for forty years."

Definition: A desirable place of abundance.

Land Of Milk And Honey

Exodus 3:8 (NIV) "So I have come down to rescue them from the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land into a good and spacious land, a land flowing with milk and honey--the home of the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites."

Leviticus 20:24 (NIV) "But I said to you, 'You will possess their land; I will give it to you as an inheritance, a land flowing with milk and honey.' I am the LORD your God, who has set you apart from the nations." Numbers 13:27 (NLT) "This was their report to Moses: 'We entered the land you sent us to explore, and it is indeed a bountiful country—a land flowing with milk and honey. Here is the kind of fruit it produces.'"

Deuteronomy 6:3 (NIV) "Hear, Israel, and be careful to obey so that it may go well with you and that you may increase greatly in a land flowing with milk and honey, just as the LORD, the God of your ancestors, promised you."

Definition: A reference to the scale of a large natural disaster or cataclysmic event so vast it draws comparisons to **biblical** accounts of devastation.

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The Plagues of Egypt **Exodus 7:14-11:10**

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Definition: A principle of compensation by which a person is punished in equal portion to the harm they have caused another.

An Eye For An Eye, A Tooth For Tooth

Exodus 21:23-25 (NIV) "But if there is serious injury, you are to take life for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot, burn for burn, wound for wound, bruise for bruise."

Leviticus 24:19-20 (NIV) "Anyone who injures their neighbor is to be injured in the same manner: fracture for fracture, eye for eye, tooth for tooth. The one who has inflicted the injury must suffer the same injury."

Definition: An unwise pracio

pursuit or idolization

Golden Calf

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Exodus 32:2-4 (NIV) "Aaron answered them, 'Take off the gold earrings that your wives, your sons and your daughters are wearing, and bring them to me.' So all the people took off their earrings and brought them to Aaron. He took what they handed him and made it into an idol cast in the shape of a calf, fashioning it with a tool. Then they said, 'These are your gods, Israel, who brought you up out of Egypt."

Definition: A person who takes the blame for another's mistakes.

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Leviticus 16:10 (NIV) "But the goat chosen by lot as the scapegoat shall be presented alive before the Lord to be used for making atonement by sending it into the wilderness as a scapegoat."

Definition: A reminder to nourish the soul.

Man Does Not Live On Bread Alone

Deuteronomy 8:3 (NIV) "He humbled you, causing you to hunger and then feeding you with manna, which neither you nor your ancestors had known, to teach you that man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD."

Definition: Something or someone cherished, usually above others.

Apple Of My Eye

Deuteronomy 32:10 (NIV) "In a desert land he found him, in a barren and howling waste. He shielded him and cared for him; he guarded him as the apple of his eye,"

Zechariah 2:8 (NIV) "For this is what the Lord Almighty says: "After the Glorious One has sent me against the nations that have plundered you for whoever touches you touches the apple of his eye."

Definition: Admiration for someone who shares the same opinion or interests. A kindred spirit.

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1 Samuel 13:14 (NIV) "But now your kingdom will not endure; the Lord has sought out a man after his own heart and appointed him ruler of his people, because you have not kept the Lord's command."

Definition: A description for a once-great person or entity that has since diminished in stature or respect.

How The Mighty Have Fallen

2 Samuel 1:25 (NIV) "How the mighty have fallen in battle! Jonathan lies slain on your heights."

Definition: The false suggestion that someone said or meant something else.

Put Words In One's Mouth

2 Samuel 14:3 (NIV) "Then go to the king and speak these words to him." And Joab put the words in her mouth."

Definition: A call to take courage and be strong.

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1 Kings 2:2 (NLT) "I am going where everyone on earth must someday go. Take courage and be a man."

Definition: An immoral and troublesome woman.

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1 Kings 16:31 (NLT) "And as though it were not enough to follow the sinful example of Jeroboam, he married Jezebel, the daughter of King Ethbaal of the Sidonians, and he began to bow down in worship of Baal."

Definition: To resolve personal problems or organize business affairs.

Put Your House In Order

2 Kings 20:1 (NIV) "In those days Hezekiah became ill and was at the point of death. The prophet Isaiah son of Amoz went to him and said, "This is what the LORD says: Put your house in order, because you are going to die; you will not recover."

Isaiah 38:1 (NIV) "In those days Hezekiah became ill and was at the point of death. The prophet Isaiah son of Amoz went to him and said, "This is what the LORD says: Put your house in order, because you are going to die; you will not recover."

Definition: Extremely thin. Emaciation.

Nothing But Skin And Bones

Job 19:20 (NIV) "I am nothing but skin and bones; I have escaped only by the skin of my teeth."

Definition: Very narrow margin (i.e. time, efficiency or competency) of completion.

By The Skin Of Your Teeth

Job 19:20 (NIV) "I am nothing but skin and bones; I have escaped only by the skin of my teeth."

Definition: The core reason for something.

The Root Of The Matter

Job 19:28 (KJV) "But ye should say, Why persecute we him, seeing the root of the matter is found in me?"

Definition: Equal consideration of two opposing views.

Weighed In The Balance

Job 31:6 (NLT) "Let God weigh me on the scales of justice, for he knows my integrity."

Daniel 5:27 (KJV) "Tekel; Thou art weighed in the balances, and art found wanting."

Definition: Something powerful and monstrous in size (i.e. a creature, multinational corporation, etc.).

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Job 40:15 (NLT) **"Take a look** at Behemoth, which I made, just as I made you. It eats grass like an ox."

Definition: An intense longing for something lost (typically related to love), exhibited by feelings of sorrow, despair, stress and grief.

Broken Heart

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Psalms 34:18 (KJV) "The Lord is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit."

Definition: Stop existing or living. Die.

Bite The Dust

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Psalms 72:9 (ESV) "May desert tribes bow down before him, and his enemies lick the dust!"

Definition: An exhausted state of worry or distress.

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Psalm 107:27 (NIV) "They reeled and staggered like drunkards; they were at their wits' end."

Definition: A child's attitude and behavior will deteriorate if you do not adequately punish wrongdoing.

Spare The Rod, Spoil The Child

Proverbs 13:24 (NIV) "Whoever spares the rod hates their children, but the one who loves their children is careful to discipline them."

Definition: The principle of having too much pride or confidence will cause foolish mistakes.

Pride Comes Before A Fall

Proverbs 16:18 (NIV) "Pride goes before destruction, a haughty spirit before a fall."

Definition: An idiom for the monotony of life. It's all been experienced, seen, created and done before.

There's Nothing New Under The Sun

Ecclesiastes 1:9 (NIV) "What has been will be again, what has been done will be done again; there is nothing new under the sun."

Definition: There is a right time or period for everything.

For Everything There is A Season

Ecclesiastes 3:1 (ESV) "For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven"

Definition: A jovial call for others to enjoy themselves and make the most of the moment (usually at a party or celebration).

Eat, Drink, And Be Merry

Ecclesiastes 8:15 (KJV) "Then I commended mirth, because a man hath no better thing under the sun, than to eat, and to drink, and to be merry: for that shall abide with him of his labor the days of his life, which God giveth him under the sun."

Definition: A blemish. A small imperfection or flaw that diminishes the quality of the whole.

Fly In The Ointment

Ecclesiastes 10:1 (KJV) "Dead flies cause the ointment of the apothecary to send forth a stinking savor: so doth a little folly him that is in reputation for wisdom and honor."

Definition: A lighthearted phrase to withhold the source of information.

A Little Birdie Told Me

Ecclesiastes 10:20 "Never make light of the king, even in your thoughts. And don't make fun of the powerful, even in your own bedroom. For a little bird might deliver your message and tell them what you said."

Definition: The length and breath (far reaches) of the globe.

Four Corners Of The Earth States of the States

Isaiah 11:12 (ESV) "He will raise a signal for the nations and will assemble the banished of Israel, and gather the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth."

Definition: An addition, action or effort that seems very insignificant in comparison to the whole.

Drop In A Bucket

Isaiah 40:15 (NIV) "Surely the nations are like a drop in a bucket; they are regarded as dust on the scales; he weighs the islands as though they were fine dust."

Definition: To concur. Agree.

See Eye To Eye

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Isaiah 52:8 (KJV) "Thy watchmen shall lift up the voice; with the voice together shall they sing: for they shall see eye to eye, when the LORD shall bring again Zion."

Definition: The principle that those who do wrong will lack peace and tranquility. Sometimes used in jest to explain why a person must work.

No Rest For The Wicked

Isaiah 57:21 (NIV) "There is no peace," says my God, "for the wicked."

Definition: A call to wake up, get out of bed and start the day.

Rise And Shine

Isaiah 60:1 (ESV) "Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you."

Definition: Innocent and naive to the dangers ahead.

Like A Lamb Led To The Slaughter

Jeremiah 11:19 (NLT) "I was like a lamb being led to the slaughter. I had no idea that they were planning to kill me!"

Isaiah 53:7 (NLT) "He was oppressed and treated harshly, yet he never said a word. He was led like a lamb to the slaughter. And as a sheep is silent before the shearers, he did not open his mouth."

Definition: To suggest a person or creature cannot Vallow change its essential nature.

Can A Leopard Change His Spots?

Jeremiah 13:23 (NIV) "Can an Ethiopian change his skin or a leopard its spots? Neither can you do good who are accustomed to doing evil."

Definition: Someone who is bitter about something unobtainable.

Sour Grapes

Ezekiel 18:2 (NLT) "Why do you quote this proverb concerning the land of **Israel: 'The parents have** eaten sour grapes, but their children's mouths pucker at the taste'?"

Definition: A serious and often hidden character flaw.

Feet Of Clay

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Daniel 2:31-33 (NIV) "Your Majesty looked, and there before you stood a large statue-an enormous, dazzling statue, awesome in appearance. The head of the statue was made of pure gold, its chest and arms of silver, its belly and thighs of bronze, its legs of iron, its feet partly of iron and partly of baked clay."

Definition: An idiom for imminent peril.

Writing Is On The Vall

Daniel 5:5-6 (NIV) "Suddenly the fingers of a human hand appeared and wrote on the plaster of the wall, near the lampstand in the royal palace. The king watched the hand as it wrote. His face turned pale and he was so frightened that his legs became weak and his knees were knocking."

Definition: The far reaches of the world. Extreme effort to overcome difficulties.

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Zechariah 9:10 (NIV) "I will take away the chariots from **Ephraim and the war-horses from** Jerusalem, and the battle-bow will be broken. He will proclaim peace to the nations. His rule will extend from sea to sea and from the River to the ends of the earth."

I'm sure we can find more of these references in the Old Testament, but let's call this a wrap.

I trust you found this teaching to be informative, interesting, and fun way to look at the Bible's impact on our modern daily language.

