

1.28.19 – Naked Verses part III

The following is a Word Study of Strong's Concordance reference # H6172

This Hebrew word occurs 54 times in the Bible and is translated nakedness 50 times in the KJV. The transliteration is *`ervah*. Strong's definition: "nudity, literally (especially the pudenda) or figuratively (disgrace, blemish):--nakedness, shame, unclean(-ness)". I am going to group some of the verses because the context is similar. Basically, this Hebrew word tells us that the verse is not talking about simply being naked.

Lev 18:6 None of you shall approach to any that is near of kin to him, to uncover their nakedness: H6172 I am the LORD.

Lev 18:7 The nakedness H6172 of thy father, or the nakedness H6172 of thy mother, shalt thou not uncover: she is thy mother; thou shalt not uncover her nakedness. H6172

Lev 18:8 The nakedness H6172 of thy father's wife shalt thou not uncover: it is thy father's nakedness. H6172

Lev 18:9 The nakedness H6172 of thy sister, the daughter of thy father, or daughter of thy mother, whether she be born at home, or born abroad, even their nakedness H6172 thou shalt not uncover.

Lev 18:10 The nakedness H6172 of thy son's daughter, or of thy daughter's daughter, even their nakedness H6172 thou shalt not uncover: for theirs is thine own nakedness. H6172

Lev 18:11 The nakedness H6172 of thy father's wife's daughter, begotten of thy father, she is thy sister, thou shalt not uncover her nakedness. H6172

Lev 18:12 Thou shalt not uncover the nakedness H6172 of thy father's sister: she is thy father's near kinswoman.

Lev 18:13 Thou shalt not uncover the nakedness H6172 of thy mother's sister: for she is thy mother's near kinswoman.

Lev 18:14 Thou shalt not uncover the nakedness H6172 of thy father's brother, thou shalt not approach to his wife: she is thine aunt.

Lev 18:15 Thou shalt not uncover the nakedness H6172 of thy daughter in law: she is thy son's wife; thou shalt not uncover her nakedness. H6172

Lev 18:16 Thou shalt not uncover the nakedness H6172 of thy brother's wife: it is thy brother's nakedness. H6172

Lev 18:17 Thou shalt not uncover the nakedness H6172 of a woman and her daughter, neither shalt thou take her son's daughter, or her daughter's daughter, to uncover her nakedness; H6172 for they are her near kinswomen: it is wickedness.

Lev 18:18 Neither shalt thou take a wife to her sister, to vex her, to uncover her nakedness, H6172 beside the other in her life time.

Lev 18:19 Also thou shalt not approach unto a woman to uncover her nakedness, H6172 as long as she is put apart for her uncleanness.

Lev 20:11 And the man that lieth with his father's wife hath uncovered his father's nakedness: H6172 both of them shall surely be put to death; their blood shall be upon them.

Lev 20:17 And if a man shall take his sister, his father's daughter, or his mother's daughter, and see her nakedness, H6172 and she see his nakedness; H6172 it is a wicked thing; and they shall be cut off in the sight of their people: he hath uncovered his sister's nakedness; H6172 he shall bear his iniquity.

Lev 20:18 And if a man shall lie with a woman having her sickness, and shall uncover her nakedness; H6172 he hath discovered her fountain, and she hath uncovered the fountain of her blood: and both of them shall be cut off from among their people.

Lev 20:19 And thou shalt not uncover the nakedness H6172 of thy mother's sister, nor of thy father's sister: for he uncovereth his near kin: they shall bear their iniquity.

Lev 20:20 And if a man shall lie with his uncle's wife, he hath uncovered his uncle's nakedness: H6172 they shall bear their sin; they shall die childless.

Lev 20:21 And if a man shall take his brother's wife, it is an unclean thing: he hath uncovered his brother's nakedness; H6172 they shall be childless.

These verses deal with incest and adultery. The verses at the end of Lev 18 make it very clear that the earlier verses are talking about sex. I may have used only a few of these verses to get the point across, but I wanted to show how consistently the Hebrew word is associated with sex. These verses are not a condemnation of simply being naked or seeing someone naked, they are however a clear condemnation of sex outside of marriage! To try to make these verses mean anything other than that is to take them out of context and try to make them mean what you want them to.

Gen 42:9 And Joseph remembered the dreams which he dreamed of them, and said unto them, Ye are spies; to see the nakedness H6172 of the land ye are come.

Gen 42:12 And he said unto them, Nay, but to see the nakedness H6172 of the land ye are come.

I believe that Joseph is accusing his brothers of being military spies, therefore the meaning of the Hebrew word here may be vulnerability. Basically, he was accusing them of coming to see how vulnerable the land was. If we stick with the meaning of the Hebrew word being some sort of bodily function such as sexual intercourse or relieving one's self, as we have seen other places in the Bible where performing these acts has certainly made them vulnerable. I give you God whittling Gideon's army down to 300 by watching their level of vulnerability as they drank from the stream and certainly the guy that got a spike through his head in the tent after having sex was vulnerable. We know that Joseph wasn't actually accusing them of being spies, he was most likely merely toying with them because of their past and the things they did to him, selling him into slavery and all.

Exo 20:26 Neither shalt thou go up by steps unto mine altar, that thy nakedness H6172 be not discovered thereon.

Exo 28:42 And thou shalt make them linen breeches to cover their nakedness; H6172 from the loins even unto the thighs they shall reach:

In an earlier article we dealt with the passage where the prophets were all sharing prophecy in the naked and unashamed condition that God created them to be in, but here we have a little different situation. Here we have the priests of the tabernacle and temple entering the Holy of Holies and God is trying to set them apart

from the normal every day naked condition that they would be in. So, he is basically telling them to dress up for church...lol. He is trying to make sure that they take what they're doing seriously, they are coming before God with the offerings for the sins of the people and He wants to make sure they understand the seriousness of the act.

If you consider that most false religions had some kind of sexual activity as part of the worship. God wanted His people to be different, so He ordered the genital area covered. Take notice that this only applied to the priests, so it would not be proper Biblical application to apply it to everyone else and it does lend itself to the assumption that if they needed to cover up for the task it meant that they weren't typically covered up.

Deu 23:14 For the LORD thy God walketh in the midst of thy camp, to deliver thee, and to give up thine enemies before thee; therefore shall thy camp be holy: that he see no unclean H6172 thing in thee, and turn away from thee.

This is dealing with another bodily function and in this case, He's not referring to sex. God is instructing them to do their "business" outside the camp. It is given as a command to make the camp favorable to God, but it also saved them from a lot of sickness. They ended up establishing a place outside the city for relieving one's self. See I Sam 25:22, I Sam 25:34, I Kings 14:10, I Kings 16:11, I Kings 21:21 and II Kings 9:8 for examples.

Isa 47:3 Thy nakedness H6172 shall be uncovered, yea, thy shame shall be seen: I will take vengeance, and I will not meet thee as a man.

Lam 1:8 Jerusalem hath grievously sinned; therefore she is removed: all that honoured her despise her, because they have seen her nakedness: H6172 yea, she sigheth, and turneth backward.

Eze 16:36 Thus saith the Lord GOD; Because thy filthiness was poured out, and thy nakedness H6172 discovered through thy whoredoms with thy lovers, and with all the idols of thy abominations, and by the blood of thy children, which thou didst give unto them;

Eze 16:37 Behold, therefore I will gather all thy lovers, with whom thou hast taken pleasure, and all them that thou hast loved, with all them that thou hast hated; I will even gather them round about against thee, and will discover thy nakedness H6172 unto them, that they may see all thy nakedness. H6172

Eze 23:10 These discovered her nakedness: H6172 they took her sons and her daughters, and slew her with the sword: and she became famous among women; for they had executed judgment upon her.

Eze 23:18 So she discovered her whoredoms, and discovered her nakedness: H6172 then my mind was alienated from her, like as my mind was alienated from her sister.

Eze 23:29 And they shall deal with thee hatefully, and shall take away all thy labour, and shall leave thee naked and bare: and the nakedness H6172 of thy whoredoms shall be discovered, both thy lewdness and thy whoredoms.

Hos 2:9 Therefore will I return, and take away my corn in the time thereof, and my wine in the season thereof, and will recover my wool and my flax given to cover her nakedness. H6172

These verses are using sexual promiscuousness to illustrate how hateful idol worship is or any false religion is to God. This is not referring to family friendly nakedness, it is specific to sexual impropriety being shameful. Once again, sex outside of marriage is bad!

Deu 24:1 When a man hath taken a wife, and married her, and it come to pass that she find no favour in his eyes, because he hath found some uncleanness H6172 in her: then let him write her a bill of divorcement, and give it in her hand, and send her out of his house.

In this case the husband had found that his new wife had not been sexually pure and was not a virgin, so God was allowing him to basically have the marriage annulled. If he chose to accept her and went ahead and consummated the marriage then he would not be allowed to change his mind, if he chose to accept her he was stuck with her till death do them part. Once again the Hebrew word is dealing with sexual sin, not simple nakedness.

1Sa 20:30 Then Saul's anger was kindled against Jonathan, and he said unto him, Thou son of the perverse rebellious woman, do not I know that thou hast chosen the son of Jesse to thine own confusion, and unto the confusion of thy mother's nakedness? H6172

Eze 16:8 Now when I passed by thee, and looked upon thee, behold, thy time was the time of love; and I spread my skirt over thee, and covered thy nakedness: H6172 yea, I swore unto thee, and entered into a covenant with thee, saith the Lord GOD, and thou becamest mine.

Eze 22:10 In thee have they discovered their fathers' nakedness: H6172 in thee have they humbled her that was set apart for pollution.

These verses are dealing with sex again and not just plain being without clothes.

Isa 20:4 So shall the king of Assyria lead away the Egyptians prisoners, and the Ethiopians captives, young and old, naked and barefoot, even with their buttocks uncovered, to the shame H6172 of Egypt.

This is a textile lover's verse, it contains "naked" and "shame" in the same verse. We pointed out earlier that the Hebrew word translated naked always means without clothing, but as you can see the Hebrew word for shame is usually translated "nakedness". The shame does not apply to an individual, but to a country or countries. I do not see a way to put a body function on this verse, nor do I see it as "proof" that nakedness is a shame because the word for shame implies some body function usually sex. If we had the secular history of the area and time it would be clearer what is implied. I am learning that the Bible is clearer if you know the history of the area at the time of the writing of the passage.

Gen 9:22 And Ham, the father of Canaan, saw the nakedness H6172 of his father, and told his two brethren without.

Gen 9:23 And Shem and Japheth took a garment, and laid it upon both their shoulders, and went backward, and covered the nakedness H6172 of their father; and their faces were backward, and they saw not their father's nakedness. H6172

In light of all the verses above containing the Hebrew word and all the times that it has the meaning of some sort of sexual act, I hope that you can see by now that even though we are not given the exact details of the body function implied by the Hebrew word in this case, we can safely assume that this also had some sort of sexual component to it. I am guessing that God did not think we needed to know the exact details and could simply assume it was bad. I have read guesses from many scholars ranging from drunkenness making Noah unable to perform the act of marriage, to a homosexual act committed upon Noah, to castration of Noah by Canaan. In any event, this certainly had nothing to do with simple nakedness and I cannot believe that in the 100 or so years it took to build the ark in tropical conditions that his sons had not ever seen Noah without clothing. They all probably worked together naked while constructing the ark. If simple nakedness were the only condition for all the drama the word for nakedness would have had to have been something other than this Hebrew word and its sexual connotation.

In conclusion, this Hebrew word's meaning is not the simple act of being without clothing due to the implication of sexual involvement. Therefore, the use of this Hebrew word does not in any way condemn simple nakedness as it condemns sexual impropriety. According to the Holy Scriptures sex is to be limited to the one individual you are married to and anything outside of that is clearly prohibited.