

Anthropology and Hamartiology 8 The Words for “Unrighteousness”
a study for the Bible Institute of Gulf Coast Baptist Church Fall 2022 by Steve Thomas

I. VARIOUS TERMS REPRESENTATIVE OF UNRIGHTEOUSNESS IN SCRIPTURE.

A. Old Testament Terms.

1. **Sin** - (chata) 2398- to sin (see above for definition) (213 times- sin in the Old Testament had a variety of uses. The meaning, as is the case with all words, is dependent on the context. Noun forms aj.x e- (chet') 2399 sin

a. Non technical usage, Judges 20:16.

b. Sin against Jehovah (A.V. “Lord”) or Elohim (A.V. “God”), forty-six times.

1) Idolatry, Ex. 23:33; 32:30-33; Hos. 13:2; cf. Ex. 20:3. 6

2) Not fulfilling God’s requirement, Num. 32:23.

3) Transgression against God’s commandment, I Sam. 15:24.

4) Disobedience to His laws, Isa. 42:24.

5) Provocation of Jehovah in the wilderness, Psa. 78:17.

6) Sin of ignorance of law, Lev. 4:2, 3, 13, 22, 27.

7) Lying to his neighbor, Lev. 6:2; cf. Ex. 20:16.

8) Stealing, Lev. 6:4, cf. Ex. 20:15.

9) Eating blood, I Sam. 14:33, 34, cf. Lev. 3:17.

10) Adultery, Lev. 20:20; cf. Ex. 20:14; II Sam. 12:13.

11) Speaking against Jehovah, Num. 21:5-7.

2. **Evil** (ra- noun) 7451; (raa- verb) 7489- evil, calamity. (Verb, 80 times; noun, 623 times).

a. Used of God bringing calamity (evil) in judgment on Israel and others.

1) Do them “hurt” (verb) for serving strange gods, Josh. 24:20.

2) Will “break” (verb) the Gentiles with a rod of iron, Psa. 2:9.

3) The Lord thought to do evil (noun- calamity) to the people, Ex. 32:14.

b. Used of the evil of man.

1) Pharaoh’s evil (calamitous) (verb) treatment of the Israelites, Ex. 5:22,23; Deut. 26:6.

2) Bring physical “harm” (verb), I Sam. 26:21.

3) The evil activity (verb) of idolatry, I Kgs. 14:9.

4) Tree of the knowledge of good and evil (calamity) (noun), Gen. 2:9,17; cf. 3:5, 22.

5) The evil (noun) done by Joseph’s brothers against him, Gen. 50:15, 17, 20.

6) Israelites did evil in the sight of Jehovah, Num. 32:13; Deut. 4:25; Judges 2:11; 3:7, 12; 4:1; 6:1; 10:6; 13:1, etc.

7) “Wickedness” of different individuals in Judah, Jer. 44:9 (five times).

3. **Perversity** (awon, noun) or (awen, noun) 5771- perversity, (depravity- used of the sin nature; which results in acts of sin) guilt, etc.; (awah, verb) 5753- to curve, twist, distort; to act perversely, be perverse. The noun is translated “iniquity” 223 times out of 230 occurrences.

- a. Men bear the consequences of their perversity (A.V. “iniquity”), Ex. 28:38, 43; Lev. 5:1, 17, 18; 16:21, 22; 17:16, etc.
- b. These were to be confessed, Lev. 26:40; Neh, 9:2, etc.
- c. These needed to be forgiven, Num. 14:18, 19, etc.
- d. The thing behind the sin, I Chron. 21:8, Jer. 14:7.
- e. David’s desire to have them blotted out, Psa. 51:9.
- f. Used in context of sins and transgression, Job 13:23; Psa. 32:5; Jer. 33:8; Ezek. 18:20; 21:24; Dan. 9:24.
- g. Christ was bruised for the perversities of Israel, Isa. 53:5, 6.

4. **Transgress** (pesha, noun) 6588, or (pasha, verb)- transgress, transgression, rebel, rebellion. (A.V. noun-“transgression” 84 times out of 93 occurrences; verb- “transgress” 18 times, “transgressor” nine times, “rebelled” six times, “revolt” six times, “offend” once- out of 93 occurrences). (Also cf. the verb (avaar) 5674- to pass over- used in a wide variety of ways including “transgression.” cf. II Kgs. 18:12; Jer. 34:18; Dan. 9:11; I Sam. 2:24).

- a. Transgressions needed to be pardoned, Ex. 23:21.
- b. Transgressions needed to be forgiven and blotted out, Ex. 34:7; Psa. 51:1.
- c. Transgression accompanied sin, Lev. 16:16,21; Psa. 25:7; Amos 5:12; (they sinned by transgressing, Jer. 33:8- used with #s 1 and 3).
- d. Transgression needed to be confessed, Psa. 32:5.
- e. Christ was wounded for Israel’s transgressions, Isa. 53:5, cf. vs. 12. f. Israel transgressed against God, I Kgs. 8:50; Jer. 2:29.

5. **Wicked** 7562 (resha, noun- masculine) or 7564 (risha, noun- feminine); 7563 (rasha, adjective); (rasha, verb)- wicked, wickedness, to act wickedly. (The adjective is translated “wicked” 251 times out of 262 occurrences; the masculine noun is translated “wickedness” 25 times out of 30 occurrences; The feminine noun “wickedness” 14 times out of 15 occurrences; the verb translates the concept “to do wickedly” 17 times out of 34 occurrences).

- a. To sin is to do wickedly, Dan. 9:5,15.
- b. Korah and his cohorts were wicked men and consumed in their sins, Num. 16:26.
- c. Murderers are wicked men, II Sam. 4:11.
- d. The wicked (A.V. “ungodly”) are contrasted with the righteous, Psa. 1:1, 4, 5, 6. (Also cf. “ungodly” in Job 16:11; 34:18; Psa. 3:7; 73:12).
- e. The wicked transgress, Psa. 36:1; Prov. 29:16.

f. The wicked have perversities (# 3) and sins (# 1), Prov. 5:22, (cf. 10:16); Psa. 141:4; Isa. 13:11; Ezek. 3:19; 18:20, 24; 33:8, 12; Jer. 14:20.

g. The work of the wicked is deceitful, Prov. 11:18; as well as their thoughts, 12:5; desires the calamity of his neighbor, 21:10; his ways are evil, Ezek. 33:11.

6. **Iniquity** (ewen- noun) 205- trouble, vanity, affliction. (A.V.- “iniquity” 47 times; “vanity” seven times, “wickedness” seven times, etc. out of 78 occurrences). (Cf. “workers of iniquity” 19 times; “works of ...” four times).

a. Connected to trouble (A.V. “perverseness), Num. 23:21.

b. Workers of “iniquity”, i.e. vanity, Job 34:8,22; Psa. 94:4 etc.

c. Goes together with mischief and falsehood, Psa. 7:14.

d. Words of “iniquity” and deceit, Psa. 36:3; devises “mischief”, 36:4; Mic. 2:1; speak “vanity”, Isa. 58:9; Zech. 10:2.

e. Heart may devise “wicked”, i.e. vain, imaginations, Prov. 6:18.

7. **Trespass** (asham, masculine noun) 816 (asheem, adjective) 818; (ashaam,verb) 816- trespass, offence, guilt.

a. “Guiltiness” (A.V.), Gen. 26:10.

b. “Trespass offering” for sins, Lev. 5:7, 15, 16, 18, 19. (34 times out of 44 occurrences).

c. “Trespass” used with the term sin, Lev. 19:22. (six times out of 44 occurrences).

d. The verb carries the idea of being guilty, Lev. 4:13, 27; as a result of sin, Lev. 6:4. (13 times out of 32 occurrences) (“trespass,” four times; “offend,” 8 seven times; “destroy,” six times, in the sense of bear the guilt).

8. **Mischief** (amaal, masculine noun) 5999- labor, mischief, trouble.

a. Those who plow in perversity sow in trouble (“wickedness”) reap in the same, Job 4:8.

b. Travails with vanity (#6) and conceived trouble (A.V. “mischief”) and brought forth falsehood, Psa. 7:14.

c. God does not look favorably on trouble (A.V. “iniquity”, note other terms for unrighteousness in the verse), Hab. 1:13.

9. **Unfaithful** (ma’aal, verb) 4603; (maa’aal) 4604- to be treacherous, unfaithful, done covertly by stealth; unfaithful, treacherous. (A.V. -“trespass 23 times out of 35 occurrences; transgress, etc. twelve times.

a. The verb is translated “trespass,” etc.- to commit a trespass, Lev. 5:15. (goes on to sin in ignorance; this treachery is a trespass (# 7).

b. The Jews trespassed against God, Lev. 26:40; Num. 5:6; Ezek. 39:26; the land sinned by trespassing, Ezek. 14:13.

10. **Injustice** (awaal, verb) 5765; (awel, masculine noun) 5766, cf. 5767- to distort, turn away, to perform injustice; violent deeds of injustice, injustice in general. (A.V.- “iniquity” 36 times out of 53 occurrences; wicked, nine times; unjust, three times.

- a. The unjust knoweth no shame, Zeph. 3:5.
- b. Used of unjust judgment, Psa. 82:2. 1

11. **Backslide** (mishbah) 4878- turn back, return, a falling away, backslide.

- a. Israel’s backsliding in returning back into idolatry, Jer.3:8.
- b. The people of Jerusalem slid back by backsliding, Jer. 8:5.

12. **Sin of Ignorance** (shagaag, verb) 7683; (shegagah, feminine noun) 7684; (shagah) 7686- go astray, sin ignorantly, inadvertently; a sin of error, committed through inadvertence. Only in the O. T. under law.

- a. Sin through ignorance brought guilt, Lev. 4:13.
- b. To make the blind wander out of the way, Deut. 27:18.

13. **Foolishness** (iweleth, feminine noun) 200- foolishness, folly. (A.V.- “foolishness” ten times out of 25 occurrences, folly 13 times.

- a. Connected to sins, Psa. 69:5.
- b. Descriptive of the speech of fools, Prov. 15:2, 14
- c. Such a man perverts his way, Prov. 19:3.

14. **Treacherously** (bagaadth, verb) 898- act or deal treacherously. (A.V.- “treacherously,” etc. 28 times out of 46 occurrences, “transgression,” etc. 13 times).

- a. “The treacherous dealer dealeth treacherously,” Isa. 21:2; 24:16; 33:1.
- b. Connected with being a “transgressor” (#3), Isa. 48:8.
- c. The divided kingdoms, Israel and Judah were behaving treacherously against Jehovah, Jer. 5:11, cf. Jer. 3:20; Hos. 5:7; 6:7.

15. **Pervert** (awah- verb) 5753- to bend, curve, twist, distort, to act perversely, to pervert, make crooked. (A.V.- “perversity” five times out of 16 occurrences, “iniquity” four times).

- a. David sinned and had “done wickedly,” II Sam. 24:17, cf. I Kgs. 8:47; II Chron. 6:37; Job 33:27; Psa. 33:27; 106:6; Dan. 9:5.
- b. Used of idolatry, Jer. 3:21.

16. **Abomination** (toebah, noun) 8441- abomination, something abominable, disgusting.

- a. To Jehovah, Prov. 3:32; 11:1, 20.
- b. Of idolatry, I Kgs. 14:24; II Kgs. 16:3; 21:3; Ezra 9:1; Ezek. 16:2.

B. New Testament Terms.

1. **Sin** (hamartia, feminine noun) 266- sin; (hamartolos) 268- sinner; (hamartema, noun) 265- a sin, result of an act; (hamartano, verb) 264- to sin.

- a. Definition, I Jn. 3:4 (see Greek above).
- b. Sin is unrighteous, cf. I Jn. 5:17 above.
- c. All are under sin, Rom. 3:9; cf. Eph. 2:1.

- d. All have a sin nature dwelling within, Rom. 7:17, 20, 23.
- e. All (Jew and Gentile) have sinned, Rom. 3:23.
- f. The wages of the sin (nature) is death, Rom. 6:23; Jas. 1:15.
- g. Salvation is from sin, Mt. 1:21. (Here of Jews).
- h. Sins need to be forgiven.

- 1) Only God forgives sin, Mk. 2:5, 7, 9, 10; cf. Lk. 7:47-49; Acts 13:38.

- 2) To the Jews, Mt. 9:2, 5, 6.

- 3) To the Church.

- a) Judicially, Col. 1:14.

- b) In a family sense, I Jn. 1:9.

- i. Christ dealt with the problem of sin.

- 1) As the Lamb of God, Jn. 1:29; cf. II Cor. 5:21.

- 2) Christ came to save sinners, I Tim. 1:15.

- 3) Christ died for our sins, I Cor. 15:3; cf. Gal. 1:4.

- 4) Christ died for sinners, Rom. 5:8.

- 5) Christ purged our sins, Heb. 1:3; cf. 9:26, 28; 10:12; I Pet. 2:24; 3:18; Rev. 1:5.

- 6) The blood of Christ keeps on cleansing us from all sin, I Jn. 1:7.

- 7) Sin needs to be confessed to God.

- a) Jews during the earthly ministry of the Lord Jesus, Mt. 3:6.

- b) The Church for forgiveness on a family level, I Jn. 1:9.

2. **Lawlessness** (anomia, feminine noun) 458- lawlessness; (anomos) 459- without law, a lawless one; (anomos, adverb) 459- lawlessly.

- a. Definition: Lawlessness is acting as if God has no requirements or restrictions. The lawlessness is the sin, I Jn. 3:4. (See above).

- b. The law was made for lawless people, I Tim. 1:9.

- c. Lawlessness (A.V. "iniquity") needs to be forgiven, Rom. 4:7.

- d. Christ gave Himself to redeem us from lawlessness (A.V. "iniquity"), Tit. 2:14.

3. **Trespass** (paraptoma- neuter noun- result of an action) 3900- trespass, offence; (parapipto, verb) 3895- to fall alongside, to deviate, to fall away.

- a. Definition: A trespass is a falling alongside, an offence.

- b. Through Adam's trespass (A.V. "offence") many died spiritually, Rom. 5:15, 17, 18; Eph. 2:1,5; Col. 2:13 (A.V. "sins" in Eph. 2:5 and Col. 2:13). 10

- c. Trespasses can overtake a Christian before he sins, Gal. 6:1.

- d. Trespasses need to be forgiven.

- 1) Under law, Mk. 11:25,26.

- 2) Under grace, Eph. 1:7. (A.V. "sins").

e. Christ was delivered over because of our trespasses (A.V. “offences”), Rom. 4:25.

4. **Transgression** (parabasis, feminine noun) 3847- a going over, transgression; (parabates, masculine first declension noun) 3848 (parabaino, verb) 3845- to go over, to go alongside, to transgress.

a. Definition: Transgression is a crossing over a line, a rule.

b. Adam transgressed when he sinned, Rom. 5:14; cf. I Tim. 2:14

c. Law was added because of transgression, Gal. 3:19.

d. A transgressor (A.V. “breaker”) was one who crossed over the line and broke the law, Rom. 2:25, 27.

e. Transgression is not possible under grace, Rom. 4:15.

5. **Unrighteousness** (adikia, feminine noun) 93; (adikos, masculine noun) 94; (adikos, adverb) 95; (adikema, neuter noun) 92; (adikeo, verb) 91- unrighteous, unrighteousness, to be unrighteous, behave wrong.

a. Definition: Unrighteousness, is that which is not right, that which fails to conform to God’s absolute standard of righteousness.

b. Unrighteousness is made up of many bad things, Rom. 1:29f.

c. Unrighteousness shares the same quality as sin and is the larger term, I Jn. 5:17.

d. Men suppress the truth by unrighteousness, Rom. 1:18.

e. The unrighteous will not inherit the Kingdom of God (salvation), I Cor. 6:9.

f. Unrighteousness brings penalty.

1) A quality of God’s wrath, Rom. 1:18; 2:8.

2) Brings its own reward, II Pet. 2:13.

3) The unrighteous are reserved unto a day of judgment to be punished, II Pet. 2:9. g. Christ suffered for sin as the righteous One suffered for the unrighteous, I Pet. 3:18.

h. The grace believer and unrighteousness.

1) Can yield members of the body as implements of unrighteousness that can be carried out in sin, Rom. 6:13.

2) Need to be cleansed from all unrighteousness, I Jn. 1:9.

6. **Malignant evil** (poneria- feminine noun) 4189; (poneros, adjective) 4190- evil, malignant evil.

a. Definition: This is one who lacks in character who wants to drag others into the same behavior. (Cf. evil fruit, Mt. 7:17, ruins other fruit). It is unrighteous, Rom. 1:29.

b. The kind of thing an evil man brings forth out of his malignantly evil treasure, Mt. 12:35; Lk. 6:45.

c. Can be thoughts that come out from the heart, Mt. 15:19.

- d. Deeds that come from within a man, Mk. 7:22, 23.
- e. Need to be delivered from this evil, Mt. 6:13; Lk. 11:4.
- f. Men's deeds are evil, Jn. 3:19, cf. 7:7; Col. 1:21; II Jn. 11.
- g. Christians are to abhor such evil, Rom. 12:9.
- h. Christians are to abstain from the very appearance of evil, I Th. 5:22.
- i. The Lord is faithful to establish the believer and keep him from the evil one, II Thess. 3:3, cf. II Tim. 4:18.

7. **Bad** (kakos, adjective) 2556; (kakia, feminine noun) 2549; (kakos, adverb); 2560; (kakoo, verb) 2561- bad, lacking in character.

- a. A quality or act that constitutes one to be less than they ought to be, to be lacking in character.
- b. This evil is unrighteous, Rom. 1:29, 30.
- c. Can be thoughts, Mk. 7:21.
- d. Can be deeds, Acts 9:13; III Jn. 11.
- e. Is worthy of judgment, Rom. 2:9.
- f. The Christian is to be simple, i.e. without mixture, in this evil, Rom. 16:19.

8. **Ungodliness** (asebeia, feminine noun) 763; (asebes, neuter noun) 765; (asebeo, verb) 764- ungodliness, ungodly, to act ungodly.

- a. Definition: Not giving to God what is due Him in conduct. A lack of the manifestation of the life of God by activity.
- b. Ungodly equated with sinners, Jude 15; I Pet. 4:18 (G# rule).
- c. Brings wrath and judgment, Rom. 1:18; II Pet. 3:7.
- d. Christ died for the ungodly, Rom. 5:6.
- e. Christians are declared righteous from ungodly, Rom. 4:5.
- f. Christians are to say no to ungodliness, Tit. 2:12.

9. **Disobedient** (apeithes, neuter noun) 545; (apeitheo, verb) 544- unpersuaded, disobedient, to be un-persuaded, to be disobedient.

- a. Definition: To be un-persuaded; to refuse to believe and obey, disobedience.
- b. The unbelievers are sons of disobedience, Eph. 2:2.
- c. Disobedience brings God's wrath, Eph. 5:6; Jn. 3:36.

10. **Amiss** (parakoe, feminine noun) 3876; (parakouo, verb) 3878- a hearing alongside (amiss), disobedience, to hear aside or amiss, to be disobedient.

- a. Definition: A failure to listen to what God says resulting in disobedience.

- b. Through Adam's disobedience the many were made sinners, Rom. 5:19.

11. **Unfaithful** (apistia, feminine noun) 570; (apistos, adjective) 571; (apisteo, verb) 569- unbelief, unfaithful, unfaithfulness, to be unfaithful, not dependable.

- a. Definition: A refusal or failure to take God at His word.

- b. Can have a malignantly evil heart of unbelief, Heb. 3:12
 - c. Paul persecuted the Church ignorantly in unbelief, I Tim. 1:13.
- 12. **Err** (plane, feminine noun) 4106; (planos, masculine noun) 4108; (planoo, verb) 4105- to err, to be led astray.
 - a. Definition: Deception that causes one to be led astray morally or doctrinally,
 - b. Men will deceive and be deceived, II Tim. 3:13.
 - c. We can deceive ourselves, I Jn. 1:8.
 - d. We can be deceived by others, I Jn. 2:26; 3:7.
- 13. **Worthless** (phaulos, adjective) 5337- worthless (A.V. “evil”). 12
 - a. The one practicing worthless things hates the light, Jn. 3:20.
 - b. There is a resurrection to judgment for those who have practiced worthless things, Jn. 5:29.
 - c. Worthless speech, Tit. 2:8.
 - d. Worthless work, Jas. 3:16, cf. II Cor. 5:10 (textual problem).
- 14. **Rotten** (sapos, adjective) 4550- rotten, putrid (A.V. “corrupt communication”), Eph. 4:29, elsewhere of rotten trees or fruit, Mt. 7:17, 18; 12:23; Lk. 6:43; bad fish, Mt. 13:48.
 - 15. **Blasphemy** (blasphemia, feminine noun) 988; (blasphemos, adjective) 989; (blasphemeo, verb) 987- blasphemy, attributing things to a person that are not true of that person; to speak reproachfully.
 - a. God and His Word can be blasphemed, Rom. 2:24; Tit. 2:5; Jas. 2:7.
 - b. Christians are to put away this kind of activity, Eph. 4:31.
- 16. **Idolatry** (edololatrea, feminine noun) 1495; (eidolon, neuter noun) 1497- worship of idols; an idol.
 - a. Idolatry is a work of the flesh, Gal. 5:20; Col. 3:5.
 - b. Christians are to flee from idolatry, I Cor. 10:14.
 - c. Christians are to keep themselves from idols, I Jn. 5:21.
- 17. **Profane** (bebelos, adjective) 952; (bebeloo, verb) 953- accessible, permissible to be trodden upon, profane; to profane.
 - a. Used of men who are profane, I Tim. 1:9; Heb. 12:16.
 - b. Used of Jewish myths, I Tim. 4:7.
 - c. To be avoided and shunned, I Tim. 6:20; II Tim. 2:16.
- 18. **Unclean** (koinos, adjective) 2839; (koinoo, verb) 2840- common, in a bad sense- unclean; to render unclean, to defile.
 - a. To the one who reckons something to be common or unclean, it is unclean, Rom. 14:14.
 - b. The things that come out of a man defile or make him unclean, Mt. 15:11, 18; Mk. 7:15, 18, 20, 23.

19. **Abomination** (bdelugma, neuter noun) 946; (bdeluktos, adjective) 946; (bdelusso, verb) 948- a foul loathsome detestable thing, abomination; abominable, detestable; to render foul, to cause to be abhorred.

a. Those are defiled who deny God and who are disobedient, Tit. 1:16.

b. Those who are unbelieving and will stand before the Great White Throne to be cast into the Lake of Fire, Rev. 21:8.