

# Word Studies

## “Trials and Temptations”

There's always a bit of confusion in the use of the biblical terms trials and temptations. The words are used synonymously of trial such as suffering, or temptation to commit sin. Trials can refer to persecution, or disease, or affliction, or imprisonment, or suffering loss, or enticement to do evil. They mean the same thing. The difference is in the purpose and author of the test, trial, temptation, or trouble.

**Satan** = tempts, trips, torments, to destroy faith  
**God** = tries, tests, proves, to strengthen faith by fire

### TRIAL

Job 9:23 If the scourge slay suddenly, he will laugh at the **trial** of the innocent.

Ezekiel 21:13 Because *it is a trial*, and what if *the sword* condemn even the rod? it shall be no *more*, saith the Lord GOD.

2 Corinthians 8:2 How that in a **great trial of affliction** the abundance of their joy and their deep poverty abounded unto the riches of their liberality.

Hebrews 11:36 And others had **trial of cruel mockings** and scourgings, yea, moreover of bonds and imprisonment:

1 Peter 1:7 That the **trial of your faith**, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:

1 Peter 4:12 ¶ Beloved, think it not strange concerning the **fiery trial** which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you:

### 3984 πειρα peira pi'-rah – Hebrews 11:36

from the base of 4008 (through the idea of piercing); n f

AV-assay+2983 1, trial 1; 2

- 1) a trial, experience, attempt
- 2) to attempt a thing, to make trial of a thing or of a person
- 3) to have a trial of a thing
- 4) to experience, learn to know by experience

### 4451 πυρωσις purosos poo'-ro-sis – 1 Peter 4:12

from 4448; n f

AV-burning 2, fiery trial 1; 3

- 1) a burning
  - 1a) the burning by which metals are roasted and reduced
  - 1b) by a figure drawn from a refiners fire
- 1b1) calamities or trials that test the character

### 1383 δοκιμιον dokimion dok-im'-ee-on – 1 Peter 1:7, 2 Cor. 8:2

a presumed derivative of 1382; n n

AV-trying 1, trial 1; 2

- 1) the proving
- 2) that by which something is tried or proved, a test

## Old Testament

### **0974 בָּחַן *bachan baw-khan'* – Ezekiel 21:13**

a primitive root; v

AV-try 19, prove 7, examine 1, tempt 1, trial 1; 29

1) to examine, try, prove

1a) (Qal)

1a1) to examine, scrutinise

1a2) to test, prove, try (of gold, persons, the heart, man of God)

1b) (Niphal) to be tried, proved

1c) (Pual) to make a trial

### **04531 מָסָה *maccah mas-saw'* – Job 9:23 (generally the OT word for trial, tempt)**

from 05254; n f

AV-temptation 4, trial 1; 5

1) despair, test

1a) despair

1b) testing, proving, trial

## **TEMPTATION**

### **3986 πειρασμός *peirasmos pi-ras-mos'* – Matthew 6:13, Matthew 26:41, Acts 20:19, 1 Corinthians 10:13, 1 Timothy 6:9, Hebrews 3:8, James 1:2, James 1:12, 1 Peter 1:6, 2 Peter 2:9, Revelation 3:10**

AV-temptation 19, temptations 1, try 1; 21

1) an experiment, attempt, trial, proving

1a) trial, proving: the trial made of you by my bodily condition, since condition served as to test the love of the Galatians toward Paul (#Ga 4:14)

1b) the trial of man's fidelity, integrity, virtue, constancy

1b1) an enticement to sin, temptation, whether arising from the desires or from the outward circumstances

1b2) an internal temptation to sin

1b2a) of the temptation by which the devil sought to divert Jesus the Messiah from his divine errand

1b4) adversity, affliction, trouble: sent by God and serving to test or prove one's character, faith, holiness

1c) temptation (i.e. trial) of God by men

# TEMPT/ TEMPTED

## Old Testament

05254 נָסָה *nacah naw-saw'* - Exodus 17:7 they tempted the Lord, Numbers 14:22 tempted the Lord 10 times, Psalms 78:18 the Lord, Psalms 78:56 the Lord, Psalms 95:9 the Lord, Psalms 106:14 the Lord

a primitive root; v

AV-prove 20, tempt 12, assay 2, adventure 1, try 1; 36

1) to test, try, prove, tempt, assay, put to the proof or test

## New Testament

3985 πειράζω *peirazo pi-rad'-zo* – Matthew 4:1 Jesus was led into wilderness to be tempted by the devil. 1 Corinthians 10:13, Hebrews 2:18 tempted above what are able, Galatians 6:1 tempter has tempted you, James 1:13-14 not tempted of God from 3984; v

AV-tempt 29, try 4, entice, tempter 2, prove 1, assay 1, examine 1, go about 1;

1) to try whether a thing can be done

1a) to attempt, endeavour

2) to try, make trial of, test: for the purpose of ascertaining his quantity, or what he thinks, or how he will behave himself

3) to try or test one's faith, virtue, character, by enticement to sin

## Trouble/ Tribulation/ Turmoil

Job 3:26 I was not in safety, neither had I rest, neither was I quiet; yet trouble came.

Job 5:6 ¶ Although affliction cometh not forth of the dust, neither doth trouble spring out of the ground;

Job 5:7 Yet man is born unto trouble, as the sparks fly upward.

Job 14:1 ¶ Man *that is* born of a woman *is* of few days, and full of trouble.

Job 15:24 Trouble and anguish shall make him afraid; they shall prevail against him, as a king ready to the battle.

Job 27:9 Will God hear his cry when trouble comes upon him?

Job 30:25 Did not I weep for him that was in trouble? was *not* my soul grieved for the poor?

Job 34:29 When he gives quietness, who then can make trouble? and when he hides *his* face, who then can behold him? whether *it be done* against a nation, or against a man only:

Job 38:23 Which I have reserved against the time of trouble, against the day of battle and war?

**05999 עמל `amal aw-mawl' – Job 5:7**

from 05998; n m/f

AV-labour 25, mischief 9, misery 3, travail 3, trouble 3, sorrow 2, grievance 1, grievousness 1, iniquity 1, miserable 1, pain 1,

painful 1, perverseness 1, toil 1, wearisome 1, wickedness 1; 55

1) toil, trouble, labour

**07267 רגז rogez ro'-ghez – Job 3:26, 14:1**

from 07264; n m

AV-trouble 2, troubling 1, noise 1, rage 1, fear 1, wrath 1; 7

1) agitation, excitement, raging, trouble, turmoil, trembling

1a) turmoil, disquiet, raging

1b) trembling, trepidation

**06862 צר tsar tsar or צר tsar tsawr – Job 15:24**

from 06887; adj

AV-enemy 37, adversary 26, trouble 17, distress 5, affliction 3, foes 2, narrow 2, strait 2, flint 1, sorrow 1, misc 9; 105

1) narrow, tight

2) straits, distress

3) adversary, foe, enemy, oppressor

4) hard pebble, flint

**06869 צרה tsarah tsaw-raw' – Job 27:9**

from 06862; n f

AV-trouble 44, distress 8, affliction 7, adversity 5, anguish 5, tribulation 3, adversary 1; 73

1) straits, distress, trouble

2) vexer, rival wife

**07561 רשע rasha` raw-shah' – Job 34:29**

a primitive root; TWOT-2222; v

AV-condemn 15, wickedly 10, wicked 4, departed 2, trouble 1, vexed 1, wickedness 1; 34

1) to be wicked, act wickedly

1b3) to act wickedly (in ethics and religion)

**0205 און 'aven aw-ven' – Job 5:6 = Affliction**

from to pant (hence, to exert oneself, usually in vain; n m

AV-iniquity 47, wicked(ness) 8, vanity 6, affliction 3, mischief 3, unrighteous 2, evil 1, false 1, idol 1, mourners 1, mourning 1, nought 1, sorrow 1, unjust 1, vain 1; 78

1) trouble, wickedness, sorrow

1a) trouble, sorrow

1b) wicked trouble

## New Testament – Trouble

**2347** θλιψις *thlipsis thlip'-sis* - 2 Corinthians 4:17

from [2346](#); n f

AV-tribulation 21, affliction 17, trouble 3, anguish 1, persecution 1, burdened 1, 45

1) a pressing, pressing together, pressure

2) metaph. oppression, affliction, tribulation, distress, straits

**4730** στενοχωρια *stenochoria sten-okh-o-ree'-ah* - 2 Corinthians 12:10,

from a compound of [4728](#) and [5561](#); n f

AV-distress 3, anguish 1; 4

1) narrowness of place, a narrow place

2) metaph. dire calamity, extreme affliction

**2553** κακοπαθεω *kakopatheo kak-op-ath-eh'-o* - 2 Timothy 2:9

from the same as [2552](#); v

AV-endure hardness 1, suffer trouble 1, endure affliction 1, be afflicted 1; 4

1) to suffer (endure) evils (hardships, troubles)

2) to be afflicted

**Romans 8:35** Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? *shall* tribulation, or distress [<4730>](#), or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

**2 Corinthians 6:4** But in all *things* approving ourselves as the ministers of God, in much patience, in afflictions, in necessities, in distresses [<4730>](#),

**2 Corinthians 12:10** Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses [<4730>](#) for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong.