


END-TIMES ISSUES



#92

Commandment #5 –
The importance of honor (1).

GOD DOESN'T TELL US TO
KNOW ALL THE END-TIME DETAILS.
HE TELLS US TO **BE READY.**

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1

TODAY WE ARE LOOKING AT: THE FIFTH COMMANDMENT

"Honor your father and your mother, ..."
Exodus 20:12a / Deuteronomy 5:16a (NIV)

What does the word "HONOR" mean?

- This word, referring to one's *attitude toward parents*, is also used to describe one's *attitude toward God*.
- The Hebrew word used here (translated as "honor") has a wide range of meanings, from very literal, to figures of speech, which are applied to different situations in different ways. The way it applies *here* shows that it is a seriously important matter.

2

WORDS

can have a wide range of meanings.

This represents a list of approximately 165 definitions of the word "run" – including verbs, nouns, adjectives, and word phrases.

This example can be found at the online version of the Merriam-Webster dictionary. (Some dictionaries have more definitions.)

CONTEXT usually makes it easy to know which meaning applies.

3

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Run across the street. ✓ Run a factory. ✓ Run up a large phone bill. ✓ Run a fever. ✓ Run for election. ✓ Run low on fuel. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Run into a friend. ✓ Run into a car. ✓ A run in a stocking. ✓ Run something on a computer. ✓ A run of maple sap (for syrup). ✓ Run out of time.
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Occasionally, **WORDS** can have two *opposite* (contradictory) meanings!

Again, **CONTEXT** usually makes it easy to know which meaning applies.

<p>Strike</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To hit something. 2. To fail to hit something (in baseball). 	<p>Overlook</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To supervise or watch over. 2. To ignore, neglect or fail to notice.
<p>Dust</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To sprinkle fine powder onto something. 2. To wipe fine powder off of something. 	<p>Buckle</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To fasten or hold together something. 2. To give way or collapse (like a bridge).
<p>Sanction</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To approve of something. 2. To punish or prevent something. 	

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WHY mention this issue of "WORD MEANINGS"??

- ⇒ Just like with *English* words, there can be different meanings for the original Hebrew and Greek words found in the Bible (though none are as complex as some of our English words).
- ⇒ Just like with *English* words, context usually makes it easy to know which meaning applies.

This leaves us with some practical considerations:

- ✓ We can't always rely on just *one* definition to explain every occurrence of a specific word. Context won't permit it!
- ✓ In *different* contexts, the *same* original-language word may be translated with *different* English words.
- ✓ Even in a *single* passage, English *synonyms* may allow a passage to be translated in different ways (all of them meaning nearly the same thing).

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HOW did all this happen??

It started at Babel (Genesis 11:1-9), when God confused the languages and scattered the people across the whole earth.

- This was a *judgment* against the people, because of their sin against God, and their refusal to obey him.
- This was also an *act of mercy*, because another worldwide devastating judgment would not be needed at that time. (One is coming in the future.)

That is why it is called Babel, for there **the LORD confused the language** of the whole world, and from that place **the LORD scattered them** over the face of all the earth.

Genesis 11:9 (BSB)

- As the people spread out, their individual languages would further develop, often in different ways and with different complexities, as new situations and experiences were encountered.

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HEBREW developed...

- Part of the Semitic language family.
- *Simple* grammatical structure; words based mainly on 3-letter roots (from which various related word forms would be developed).
- A more limited vocabulary; high use of symbolism, using concrete terms to express abstract concepts.
- Best for devotional expression and for conveying spiritual ideas in a vivid manner. [A good example: the Psalms.]

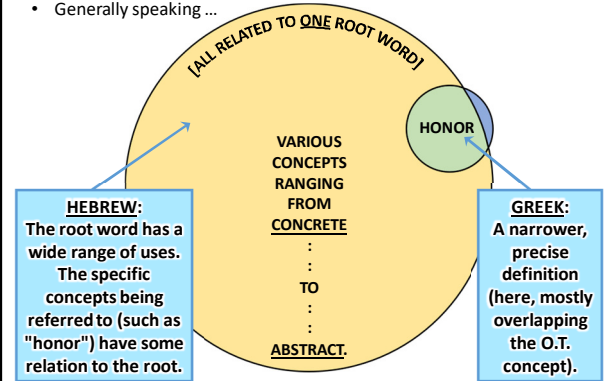
GREEK developed...

- Part of the Indo-European language family.
- A more *complex* grammatical structure; with many word endings that indicate grammatical function.
- Much larger vocabulary; tendency to have very precise definitions.
- Best for expressing complex theological ideas in the language of the people. [A good example: the book of Romans.]

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In terms of the word "honor":

- Generally speaking ...



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The value of knowing this:

- The New Testament concept, as used in Scripture, was adopted primarily from the Old Testament concept, by means of the Septuagint (a Greek translation of the Old Testament, written about two or three centuries before Christ).
- This means that we learn the most about the concept of "honor" from the Old Testament (Hebrew) concept – and the root word from which it originated.
- This *Hebrew* word concept has a wide range of meanings – ranging from very literal, to figures of speech, which are applied to different situations in different ways.
- The way it applies *here* (referring to *parents*) shows that it is a seriously important matter.

TIME TO FIND OUT!

Some people try to use *one* definition to define every use of a word in Scripture, ignoring the influence of context. We can't do this and get accurate results!

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For those interested in the original languages.

כָּבֵד (kābēd, verb); כְּבוֹד (kābōwd, noun) Strong's #'s 3513 and 3519.

- [Hebrew] (These are the two most important words related to the "kbd" root.) The basic concept has to do with weight or heaviness. There are many figurative uses that may communicate a wide range of things, either good or bad.

τιμάω (timaō, verb); τιμή (timē, noun) Strong's #'s 5091 and 5092.

- [Greek] Primarily a focus on honor, value, esteem, dignity. The range of meanings is very small, compared to the Hebrew concept.

δοξάζω (doxazō, verb); δόξα (doxa, noun) Strong's #'s 1392 and 1391.

- [Greek] Primarily a focus on glory, honor, praise.

[In both languages: Synonyms may be found that are sometimes used to express similar concepts (just like in English).]

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THE OLD TESTAMENT CONCEPT.

The basic root word has to do with weight or heaviness.

- It can be *physical weight or heaviness*.
 - ✓ Eli was a *heavy* person – 1 Samuel 4:18.
 - ✓ Bound with *heavy* chains, symbolizing Jeremiah's situation – Lamentations 3:7.
- It can refer to the *liver*, as the heaviest *organ inside the body* – Exodus 29:13; Proverbs 7:23.

We will look at some of the different ways this word is used. (Most occurrences in the Bible are related to honor and glory.)

We will attempt to describe the various definitions in a way that illustrates the connection to the root word. The Hebrew *speakers* would *not* have been mentally reviewing these definitions when they were speaking – any more than we typically do when speaking in *our* language!

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- Applied to a group, it can refer to large (= "heavy") *size or quantity*.
 - ✓ An example of quantity: A *great* swarm of flies filled the land of Egypt (one of the plagues against the Egyptians) – Exodus 8:24.

- Something that is heavy may be difficult to move. So the word can refer to *something that doesn't respond the way you would like it to*. This brings us to a *figurative* use of the word:
 - ✓ The eyes of Israel (Jacob) were not responding properly... he could barely see – Genesis 48:10 (they were "*dim*").
 - ✓ Israel (the nation) had ears that were "*dull*" – they no longer responded to God's message – Isaiah 6:10.

- Moving something heavy can be exhausting. **This leads us to activities that wear a person out** (whether or not they involve heavy objects).
 - ✓ Tedious work required by the king, described as a *heavy* yoke on the people's necks – 1 Kings 12:4, 10-11.

- It can also refer to *emotional heaviness*: burdens, difficulties, etc.
 - ✓ David describes his guilt as a *heavy burden* – Psalm 38:4.

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- What if a person has a lot of possessions? We could say he was "heavy" with belongings. This brings us to **the concept of wealth**.
 - ✓ Abraham was extremely wealthy in livestock, silver and gold – Genesis 13:2.
- Figuratively, a person's "weight" might not refer to his physical size, but to his **wealth, reputation or character, or even position of authority**. A "heavy" (figuratively) person would be considered an *important* (and often *influential*) person. **Here the word has developed into the concept of "honor" or "being honored."**
 - ✓ Samuel, the prophet, was "heavy" with importance: He was highly respected – 1 Samuel 9:6. (Some translations: "held in honor.")
 - ✓ Jabez was more honorable than his brothers – 1 Chronicles 4:9.
 - ✓ Some people think highly of (or "honor") themselves, by pretending to be something they are not – Proverbs 12:9. [Most passages describe them with other terms, such as: not wise, moral fools, boastful, proud, etc.]
 - ✓ Children are to honor their parents – Exodus 20:12, etc.

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- When **applied to God, the "weight" of his importance** exceeds all of creation. *This is the most common focus of the word*. It is used to describe God's *character*, his very *presence*, and everything about him... as well as the attitude we must have toward him. In both Old and New Testaments, the concept will often be translated as "glory" (or a related word); but it involves the *same* Hebrew and Greek words that are translated as "honor" in other passages.
 - ✓ People being told to honor God – Psalm 22:23; people will do it – Isaiah 25:3; Psalm 50:15.
 - ✓ Examples of *how* to honor God: With one's wealth – Proverbs 3:9; with thank offerings – Psalm 50:23.
 - ✓ God is the "King of glory" – Psalm 24:10.
 - ✓ His glory is visible in creation – Psalm 19:1.
 - ✓ The light (or brightness) of God's presence in the temple (and elsewhere) is called the "glory of the LORD" – 2 Chronicles 7:1.
 - ✓ David said he would glorify God's name forever – Psalm 86:12.

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THE NEW TESTAMENT CONCEPT.

Almost exclusively focusing on the concepts of honor and glory.

>> We have room for only a few *random* examples. <<

- **Honor related to people.**
 - ✓ Parents must be honored – Ephesians 6:2.
 - ✓ Certain individuals in the church were to be honored by others – 1 Timothy 5:17; Philippians 2:26.
 - ✓ Honor the king (i.e., government officials) – 1 Peter 2:17.
 - ✓ Honor one another – Romans 12:10.
 - ✓ God will honor those who do good – Romans 2:10.

In the Greek world, the idea of "opinion" was included; but in Scripture, the Old Testament concept (the "weightiness" of honor and glory) was carried over and used in the New Testament.

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>> Only a few *random* examples. <<

- **Honor/glory related to Jesus.**
 - ✓ Before creation existed, he shared glory with the Father – John 17:4.
 - ✓ He glorified the Father by obeying him on earth – John 17:3.
 - ✓ He will return in great glory – Matthew 24:30.
 - ✓ People in Ephesus held Jesus' name in high honor – Acts 19:17.
- **Honor/glory related to God.**
 - ✓ To him be honor and glory forever – 1 Timothy 1:17.
 - ✓ We were created in God's image. But because of sin, we now *fail* in our obligation to live-up-to the standard of his glory – Romans 3:23.
 - ✓ Stephen (while dying) saw the glory of God – Acts 7:55.

"Honor" and "glory" – These English words overlap; and in some passages, either word will fit. In the New Testament, the *phrase* "honor and glory" occurs several times (using *both* Greek words related to this issue). In such a case, the one word will often focus more on an *individual's character*, and the other word more on other people's *recognition of that character*.

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- **Honor/glory related to eternity.** >> Only a few *random* examples. <<
 - ✓ God has chosen to glorify us – Romans 8:30.
 - ✓ Our bodies will be raised in glory – 1 Corinthians 15:43.
 - ✓ We will be glorified – and even in eternity, the "honor/glory" concept will be associated with the concept of *weight!*

For our momentary light affliction is producing for us an absolutely incomparable eternal **weight of glory**.

2 Corinthians 4:17 (CSB)

- ✓ Our sufferings *now* are related to the glory we will have *then*, when we will share in Jesus' glory – Romans 8:17-18.
- (But it's not just about us!)
- ✓ The radiance of God's glory will give light to the New Jerusalem – Revelation 21:23.
 - ✓ To God *belongs* glory – Revelation 19:7; and the glory and honor of the nations will be brought into the city of God – Revelation 21:26.

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WHAT SHOULD WE CONCLUDE?

- **To start with, "honor" is a *weighty* matter!** It's serious! It *must* be done! We cannot be *light*-hearted about it!
 - ✓ God gives us no other options; and to invent one is to sin.
- **What if we *don't* honor?** Scripture gives us some of the "opposites" of honor/glory (in various situations); and *none of them are good*:
 - ✓ Shame, disgrace – Psalm 4:2; Hosea 4:7.
 - ✓ Contempt, being despised, disgrace – Isaiah 16:14; Habakkuk 2:16.
 - ✓ Suffering, affliction – Romans 8:17-18; 2 Corinthians 4:17.
 - ✓ Dishonor – 1 Corinthians 15:43; 2 Corinthians 6:8.



If we *don't* give honor where honor is due, we have sinned greatly – not only against the *person*, but against *God*, who gave us the commands!

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- In addition to honoring God and parents, **Scripture tells us to honor everyone**, at least in some manner! (Different situations may require different types of honor.)

- ✓ If we have this attitude toward others, it will influence how we treat them!

Honor all people, love the brethren, fear God, **honor** the king.

1 Peter 2:17 (LSB)

Outdo yourselves in **honoring** one another.

Romans 12:10b (BSB)

- ✓ There may be situations in which one person should be given *more* honor than another person. Here is an example to illustrate this:

The elders who direct the affairs of the church well are worthy of **double honor**, especially those whose work is preaching and teaching.

1 Timothy 5:17 (NIV)

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- The Fifth Commandment also teaches us about how we are to honor God ⇔ ⇔ ⇔ *as a Father!*

"A son honors his **father**, and a servant his master. But if I am a **father**, where is My **honor**? And if I am a master, where is your fear* of Me?" says the LORD of Hosts to you priests who despise My name.

Malachi 1:6 (BSB)

- * (Note that this word "fear" is related to the word used in Leviticus 19:3, describing the attitude that people are to have toward their parents.)

- ✓ This "father" concept involves *relationship*. It implies responsibilities both ways. If God is our Father, there are certain things *he* will do. There are also certain things we are to do. Examples of this are seen in this passage, where God rebukes Israel for abandoning him: →

"Then I said, 'How I long to make you My **sons** and give you a desirable land, the most beautiful inheritance of all the nations! I thought you would call Me '**Father**' and never turn away from following Me."

Jeremiah 3:19 (BSB)

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WHY HAVE I NEVER HEARD ABOUT THIS BEFORE?

- We may have lost our awareness of the connection between weight and glory/honor. **But we still maintain this concept in many of the expressions we use!**
- ✓ To "throw your weight around" – using authority or power in an abusive way.
- ✓ A "heavyweight" – someone who has considerable influence, experience or control in an area of expertise (politics, industry, science, etc.).
- ✓ "Weighty issues" – serious issues or topics.
- ✓ A "light topic" – less serious or important.
- ✓ "Weighing one's options/opinions" – determining which one is of greater importance or value than the others.
- ✓ If "your words carry no weight," they are untrustworthy or unimportant.
- ✓ [And many more...]

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- Even if we've never heard of this connection, honor and glory are a serious matter!**

- ✓ It's a "weighty" matter! It's not like a "puff of smoke" or "dust that blows in the wind." People are created in the "image of God," and that fact must influence our attitude toward them.
- ✓ People may deserve honor, because of the "weight" of their importance – due to wealth, moral character, reputation, power of authority, influence, etc. **Scripture tells us how we should express this honor.**
- ✓ Some people may carry *more* "weight," and deserve *more* honor – because of their *greater* accumulation of wisdom, worthiness of respect, position of authority, etc. We need to take them seriously and esteem them highly.
- ✓ Yet even people who don't "deserve" honor are to be honored in some manner – if for nothing more than the fact that God made them "in his image" (now marred by sin).

★ **According to the Fifth Commandment, this "honor" issue starts with, and applies to parents – whether or not we think they deserve it.** ★

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OUR MISSION:

- ✓ **Learn to appreciate the *seriousness* of honor** – as it applies to God, to others, and even to our parents.
- ✓ **Realize that honor is not determined by what we think a person deserves.** Humans are not perfect; and a person who we are to *honor* may be wrong in something. Yet even if we have to disagree or disobey them, *honor, as an attitude, must still be present.*

Something to think about...

In Matthew 15:3-9, Jesus links not honoring one's parents to not honoring God!

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Credits

SCRIPTURE

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