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BIT, BITS

Mules and horses must be led with a **bit** and bridle.

- **Psalm 32:9:** "Be ye not as the horse, or as the mule, which have no understanding: whose mouth must be held in with bit and bridle, lest they come near unto thee."

James said that horses are controlled by putting **bits** in their mouths. By turning their mouth people can turn the whole horse.

- **James 3:3:** "Behold, we put bits in the horses' mouths, that they may obey us; and we turn about their whole body."

BRIDLES, BRIDLE, BRIDLETH

God compared the way He was going to force Sennacherib to turn back to putting a **bridle** into his lips and forcing him to turn around.

- **2 Kings 19:28:** "Because thy rage against me and thy tumult is come up into mine ears, therefore I will put my hook in thy nose, and my bridle in thy lips, and I will turn thee back by the way by which thou camest."

God said that no one can put a **bridle** on the leviathan.

- **Job 41:13:** "Who can discover the face of his garment? or who can come to him with his double bridle?"

Mules and horses must be led with a bit and **bridle**.

- **Psalms 32:9:** "Be ye not as the horse, or as the mule, which have no understanding: whose mouth must be held in with bit and bridle, lest they come near unto thee."

In ancient times, **bridles** were used to correct donkeys.

- **Proverbs 26:3:** "A whip for the horse, a bridle for the ass, and a rod for the fool's back."

When the Lord comes, there will be a **bridle** in the jaws of the people which causes them to error.

- **Isaiah 30:27-28:** "Behold, the name of the Lord cometh

from far, burning with his anger, and the burden thereof is heavy: his lips are full of indignation, and his tongue as a devouring fire: And his breath, as an overflowing stream, shall reach to the midst of the neck, to sift the nations with the sieve of vanity: and there shall be a bridle in the jaws of the people, causing them to err."

During the tribulation era, God will pour out His wrath upon the earth. Outside the city of Jerusalem, there will be so much blood shed that for the space of 1,600 hundred furlongs, blood will reach up to the **bridles** of horses. (Sixteen hundred furlongs is 200 miles.)

- **Revelation 14:19-20:** "And the angel thrust in his sickle into the earth, and gathered the vine of the earth, and cast it into the great winepress of the wrath of God. And the winepress was trodden without the city, and blood came out of the winepress, even unto the horse bridles, by the space of a thousand and six hundred furlongs."

MANGER

When Jesus was born, Mary laid Him in a **manger**. (This is because there was no room for them in the inn.)

- **Luke 2:7:** "And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn."

The fact that Jesus was wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a **manger** was important because it uniquely identified Him as the Messiah.

- **Luke 2:12:** "And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger."

The shepherds found Jesus lying in a **manger**.

- **Luke 2:16:** "And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger."

MUZZLE

Under the Mosaic Law, the Israelites could not **muzzle** the ox when it treaded out the corn.

- **Deuteronomy 25:4:** "Thou shalt not muzzle the ox when he treadeth out the corn."

The "don't **muzzle** the ox" verse applies to more than just financial payments. It also applies to honor.

- **1 Timothy 5:17-18:** "Let the elders that rule well be counted worthy of double honour, especially they who labour in the word and doctrine. For the scripture saith, Thou shalt not muzzle the ox that treadeth out the corn. And, The labourer is worthy of his reward."

SADDLE, SADDLED, SADDLES

After God commanded Abraham to offer Isaac as a human sacrifice, Abraham **saddled** his donkey.

- **Genesis 22:3:** "And Abraham rose up early in the morning, and saddled his ass, and took two of his young men with him, and Isaac his son, and clave the wood for the burnt offering, and rose up, and went unto the place of which God had told him."

Under the Mosaic Law, if a man had a running issue out of his flesh, then any **saddle** that he rode upon was unclean.

- **Leviticus 15:9:** "And what saddle soever he rideth upon that hath the issue shall be unclean."

The day after the second set of messengers came to Balaam, he **saddled** his donkey.

- **Numbers 22:21:** "And Balaam rose up in the morning, and saddled his ass, and went with the princes of Moab."

The two donkeys that the Levite and his concubine traveled with had **saddles**.

- **Judges 19:10:** "But the man would not tarry that night, but he rose up and departed, and came over against Jebus, which is Jerusalem; and there were with him two asses saddled, his concubine also was with him."

When David fled from Jerusalem, Ziba met him with a couple

donkeys that were **saddled**.

- **2 Samuel 16:1:** "And when David was a little past the top of the hill, behold, Ziba the servant of Mephibosheth met him, with a couple of asses saddled, and upon them two hundred loaves of bread, and an hundred bunches of raisins, and an hundred of summer fruits, and a bottle of wine."

When Ahithophel saw that his counsel to Absalom wasn't followed, he **saddled** his donkey.

- **2 Samuel 17:23:** "And when Ahithophel saw that his counsel was not followed, he saddled his ass, and arose, and gat him home to his house, to his city, and put his household in order, and hanged himself, and died, and was buried in the sepulchre of his father."

When David asked Mephibosheth why he hadn't joined him when he left Jerusalem, Mephibosheth said that his servant Ziba told him he was going to **saddle** a donkey for him so he could join David. However, Ziba lied.

- **2 Samuel 19:26:** "And he answered, My lord, O king, my servant deceived me: for thy servant said, I will saddle me an ass, that I may ride thereon, and go to the king; because thy servant is lame."

After the sons of the old prophet at Bethel had **saddled** his donkey, he rode upon it.

- **1 Kings 13:13:** "And he said unto his sons, Saddle me the ass. So they saddled him the ass: and he rode thereon,"

When the man of God left after sharing a meal at the prophet's home, the old prophet at Bethel was the one who **saddled** the donkey of the man of God.

- **1 Kings 13:23:** "And it came to pass, after he had eaten bread, and after he had drunk, that he saddled for him the ass, to wit, for the prophet whom he had brought back."

After the old prophet at Bethel heard that the man of God had been killed by a lion, he told his sons to **saddle** his donkey.

- **1 Kings 13:27:** "And he spake to his sons, saying, Saddle me the ass. And they saddled him."

When the woman's son died, she **saddled** a donkey so she could go see Elisha.

- **2 Kings 4:24:** "Then she saddled an ass, and said to her servant, Drive, and go forward; slack not thy riding for me, except I bid thee."

When Jesus rode on the donkey during His triumphant entry, He wasn't sitting on a **saddle**. Instead He was sitting on the clothes of His disciples.

- **Matthew 21:7:** "And brought the ass, and the colt, and put on them their clothes, and they set him thereon."
- **Luke 19:35:** "And they brought him to Jesus: and they cast their garments upon the colt, and they set Jesus thereon."

WHIP, WHIPS

The young men who grew up with Rehoboam advised him to tell the Israelites that his father Solomon had chastised them with **whips**, but he would chastise them with scorpions.

- **1 Kings 12:11:** "And now whereas my father did lade you with a heavy yoke, I will add to your yoke: my father hath chastised you with whips, but I will chastise you with scorpions."
- **2 Chronicles 10:11:** "For whereas my father put a heavy yoke upon you, I will put more to your yoke: my father chastised you with whips, but I will chastise you with scorpions."

When Jeroboam and the Israelites returned to Rehoboam on the third day, Rehoboam told them that his father Solomon had chastised them with **whips**, and he would chastise them with scorpions. (This was not well received.)

- **1 Kings 12:14:** "And spake to them after the counsel of the young men, saying, My father made your yoke heavy, and I will add to your yoke: my father also chastised you with whips, but I will chastise you with scorpions."
- **2 Chronicles 10:14:** "And answered them after the advice of the young men, saying, My father made your yoke heavy, but I will add thereto: my father chastised you with whips, but I will chastise you with scorpions."

In ancient times, **whips** were used to correct horses.

- **Proverbs 26:3:** "A whip for the horse, a bridle for the ass,

and a rod for the fool's back."

The city of Nineveh was full of the sound of **whips**. (In other words, it was a city of great oppression.)

- **Nahum 3:2:** "The noise of a whip, and the noise of the rattling of the wheels, and of the prancing horses, and of the jumping chariots."

YOKE, YOKED, YOKES, YOKEFELLOW

When Esau begged Isaac to bless him, Isaac said that when he had dominion he would break his brother's **yoke** from off his neck.

- **Genesis 27:40:** "And by thy sword shalt thou live, and shalt serve thy brother; and it shall come to pass when thou shalt have the dominion, that thou shalt break his yoke from off thy neck."

When God freed the Israelites from slavery in Egypt, He broke the **yoke** that was upon them so they could stand upright.

- **Leviticus 26:13:** "I am the LORD your God, which brought you forth out of the land of Egypt, that ye should not be their bondmen; and I have broken the bands of your yoke, and made you go upright."

Under the Mosaic Law, the red heifer that the Israelites were to take and use for purification had to be one that had never been **yoked**.

- **Numbers 19:2:** "This is the ordinance of the law which the LORD hath commanded, saying, Speak unto the children of Israel, that they bring thee a red heifer without spot, wherein is no blemish, and upon which never came yoke:"

Under the Mosaic Law, if a murder victim was found but no one knew who the murderer was, a heifer had to be offered as a sacrifice to atone for the murder. However, the animal had to

be a heifer that had never been **yoked**.

- **Deuteronomy 21:3:** "And it shall be, that the city which is next unto the slain man, even the elders of that city shall take an heifer, which hath not been wrought with, and which hath not drawn in the yoke;"

Under the Mosaic Law, an ox couldn't be **yoked** with a donkey.

- **Deuteronomy 22:10:** "Thou shalt not plow with an ox and an ass together."

Moses warned the Israelites that if they didn't obey all of God's commandments then He would put a **yoke** of iron on their neck.

- **Deuteronomy 28:48:** "Therefore shalt thou serve thine enemies which the LORD shall send against thee, in hunger, and in thirst, and in nakedness, and in want of all things: and he shall put a yoke of iron upon thy neck, until he have destroyed thee."

The pagan priests and diviners of the Philistines told them to take two cows that had never been **yoked**, which had calves that they were nursing, and use them to return the Ark of the Covenant to the Israelites.

- **1 Samuel 6:7:** "Now therefore make a new cart, and take two milch kine, on which there hath come no yoke, and tie the kine to the cart, and bring their calves home from them:"

When King Saul heard the news about Nahash the Ammonite

coming against the inhabitants of Jabesh, he took a **yoke** of oxen and hewed them into pieces.

- **1 Samuel 11:7:** "And he took a yoke of oxen, and hewed them in pieces, and sent them throughout all the coasts of Israel by the hands of messengers, saying, Whosoever cometh not forth after Saul and after Samuel, so shall it be done unto his oxen. And the fear of the LORD fell on the people, and they came out with one consent."

A half an acre of land is called an area of land that a **yoke** of oxen might plow.

- **1 Samuel 14:14:** "And that first slaughter, which Jonathan and his armourbearer made, was about twenty men, within as it were an half acre of land, which a yoke of oxen might plow."

Solomon put a heavy **yoke** upon the Israelites.

- **1 Kings 12:4:** "Thy father made our yoke grievous: now therefore make thou the grievous service of thy father, and his heavy yoke which he put upon us, lighter, and we will serve thee."
- **2 Chronicles 10:4:** "Thy father made our yoke grievous: now therefore ease thou somewhat the grievous servitude of thy father, and his heavy yoke that he put upon us, and we will serve thee."

Jeroboam and all of Israel asked Rehoboam to lighten the heavy **yoke** that Solomon had put upon them.

- **1 Kings 12:4:** "Thy father made our yoke grievous: now

therefore make thou the grievous service of thy father, and his heavy yoke which he put upon us, lighter, and we will serve thee."

- **2 Chronicles 10:4:** "Thy father made our yoke grievous: now therefore ease thou somewhat the grievous servitude of thy father, and his heavy yoke that he put upon us, and we will serve thee."

When Jeroboam and all of Israel told Rehoboam that they would serve him if he lightened the heavy **yoke** that Solomon had put upon them, he didn't immediately say yes. Instead he said he needed to think about it.

- **1 Kings 12:5:** "And he said unto them, Depart yet for three days, then come again to me. And the people departed."

When Jeroboam and the Israelites returned to Rehoboam on the third day, Rehoboam told them that his father Solomon had made their yoke **heavy**, and he would make things even worse.

- **1 Kings 12:14:** "And spake to them after the counsel of the young men, saying, My father made your yoke heavy, and I will add to your yoke: my father also chastised you with whips, but I will chastise you with scorpions."
- **2 Chronicles 10:14:** "And answered them after the advice of the young men, saying, My father made your yoke heavy, but I will add thereto: my father chastised you with whips, but I will chastise you with scorpions."

When Elijah found Elisha, Elisha was plowing with twelve

yoke of oxen, and he was with the twelfth animal.

- **1 Kings 19:19:** "So he departed thence, and found Elisha the son of Shaphat, who was plowing with twelve yoke of oxen before him, and he with the twelfth: and Elijah passed by him, and cast his mantle upon him."

Job had 500 **yoke** of oxen.

- **Job 1:3:** "His substance also was seven thousand sheep, and three thousand camels, and five hundred yoke of oxen, and five hundred she asses, and a very great household; so that this man was the greatest of all the men of the east."

After God rescued Job out of his affliction, he had 1,000 **yoke** of oxen.

- **Job 42:12:** "So the LORD blessed the latter end of Job more than his beginning: for he had fourteen thousand sheep, and six thousand camels, and a thousand yoke of oxen, and a thousand she asses."

God was going to use the Messiah to break the **yoke** of the burden of the people.

- **Isaiah 9:4:** "For thou hast broken the yoke of his burden, and the staff of his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, as in the day of Midian."

The Assyrian (the antichrist) wouldn't be allowed to oppress the Jews for long. God was going to destroy his **yoke** and bring him to an end.

- **Isaiah 10:27:** "And it shall come to pass in that day, that his burden shall be taken away from off thy shoulder, and his yoke from off thy neck, and the yoke shall be destroyed because of the anointing."

The Babylonians laid a heavy **yoke** upon those who were very old.

- **Isaiah 47:6:** "I was wroth with my people, I have polluted mine inheritance, and given them into thine hand: thou didst shew them no mercy; upon the ancient hast thou very heavily laid thy yoke."

Fasting can break every **yoke**.

- **Isaiah 58:6:** "Is not this the fast that I have chosen? to loose the bands of wickedness, to undo the heavy burdens, and to let the oppressed go free, and that ye break every yoke?"

God said that He had broken the **yoke** that was upon the Jews a long time ago. (This seems to be a reference to the time He freed them from slavery in Egypt.)

- **Jeremiah 2:20:** "For of old time I have broken thy yoke, and burst thy bands; and thou saidst, I will not transgress; when upon every high hill and under every green tree thou wanderest, playing the harlot."

Jeremiah said that although the great men of Jerusalem knew the way of the Lord, they had broken His **yoke**. They refused to walk in His ways and had rejected Him.

- **Jeremiah 5:5:** "I will get me unto the great men, and will speak unto them; for they have known the way of the LORD, and the judgment of their God: but these have altogether broken the yoke, and burst the bonds."

God commanded Jeremiah to make **yokes** and put them upon his neck.(The Lord was going to use this to send a message to the nations about Babylon.)

- **Jeremiah 27:2:** "Thus saith the LORD to me; Make thee bonds and yokes, and put them upon thy neck,"

God commanded Jeremiah to deliver the **yokes** he had made to the kings of Edom, Moab, Ammon, Tyre, and Zidon (to let them know that God was giving them over to the Babylonians, who would rule over them).

- **Jeremiah 27:2-3:** "Thus saith the LORD to me; Make thee bonds and yokes, and put them upon thy neck, And send them to the king of Edom, and to the king of Moab, and to the king of the Ammonites, and to the king of Tyrus, and to the king of Zidon, by the hand of the messengers which come to Jerusalem unto Zedekiah king of Judah;"

God used the **yokes** that Jeremiah made to illustrate the fact that He required the nations to submit to the authority of the king of Babylon.

- **Jeremiah 27:8:** "And it shall come to pass, that the nation and kingdom which will not serve the same Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon, and that will not put their neck under the yoke of the king of Babylon, that nation will I punish, saith the LORD, with the sword, and

with the famine, and with the pestilence, until I have consumed them by his hand."

God said that He would allow nations to remain in their land if they brought their neck under the **yoke** of the king of Babylon.

- **Jeremiah 27:11:** "But the nations that bring their neck under the yoke of the king of Babylon, and serve him, those will I let remain still in their own land, saith the LORD; and they shall till it, and dwell therein."

God used Jeremiah to tell Zedekiah that if he brought his neck under the **yoke** of the king of Babylon and served him and his people, then he would live. (Zedekiah refused.)

- **Jeremiah 27:12:** "I spake also to Zedekiah king of Judah according to all these words, saying, Bring your necks under the yoke of the king of Babylon, and serve him and his people, and live."

The events of Jeremiah 28 happened in the same year that God commanded Jeremiah to make **yokes** and send them to kings.

- **Jeremiah 28:1:** "And it came to pass the same year, in the beginning of the reign of Zedekiah king of Judah, in the fourth year, and in the fifth month, that Hananiah the son of Azur the prophet, which was of Gibeon, spake unto me in the house of the LORD, in the presence of the priests and of all the people, saying,"

When Jeremiah faithfully proclaimed the word of God and

commanded the kings of nations to submit to the **yoke** of Babylon, a false prophet named Hananiah arose from among the Jews who contradicted him. Hananiah used the name of the Lord to lie and claim that God had broken Babylon.

- **Jeremiah 28:1-2:** "And it came to pass the same year, in the beginning of the reign of Zedekiah king of Judah, in the fourth year, and in the fifth month, that Hananiah the son of Azur the prophet, which was of Gibeon, spake unto me in the house of the Lord, in the presence of the priests and of all the people, saying, Thus speaketh the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, saying, I have broken the yoke of the king of Babylon."

Hananiah did more than just lie in the name of the Lord and claim that God had broken the **yoke** of the king of Babylon. He also took the **yoke** from Jeremiah (which God commanded him to make) and broke it.

- **Jeremiah 28:10:** "Then Hananiah the prophet took the yoke from off the prophet Jeremiah's neck, and brake it."

Hananiah lied in the name of God and claimed that God was going to break the **yoke** of Nebuchadnezzar within two full years.

- **Jeremiah 28:11:** "And Hananiah spake in the presence of all the people, saying, Thus saith the LORD; Even so will I break the yoke of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon from the neck of all nations within the space of two full years. And the prophet Jeremiah went his way."

It seems that Hananiah's false prophecies were strengthening

the **yoke** that God had put upon the nations, to force them to serve Babylon. Hananiah's rebellion and lies were making things worse. Babylon's yoke of wood was being replaced with a yoke of iron that couldn't be broken.

- **Jeremiah 28:13:** "Go and tell Hananiah, saying, Thus saith the LORD; Thou hast broken the yokes of wood; but thou shalt make for them yokes of iron."

The reason God put a **yoke** of iron upon the neck of the nations was so that they would serve Nebuchadnezzar.

- **Jeremiah 28:14:** "For thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; I have put a yoke of iron upon the neck of all these nations, that they may serve Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon; and they shall serve him: and I have given him the beasts of the field also."

Hananiah died in the seventh month of the same year that he broke the **yoke** from Jeremiah's neck and prophesied lies in the name of God. (This means Hananiah died three months later.) God said He was going to kill him for teaching people to rebel against Him, and He kept that promise.

- **Jeremiah 28:16-17:** "Therefore thus saith the Lord; Behold, I will cast thee from off the face of the earth: this year thou shalt die, because thou hast taught rebellion against the Lord. So Hananiah the prophet died the same year in the seventh month."

God said that one day He would break off the **yoke** that was on the neck of the Jews. (This seems to be referring to the millennium.)

- **Jeremiah 30:8:** "For it shall come to pass in that day, saith the LORD of hosts, that I will break his yoke from off thy neck, and will burst thy bonds, and strangers shall no more serve themselves of him:"

God heard Ephraim compare himself to a bull that wasn't used to being **yoked**.

- **Jeremiah 31:18:** "I have surely heard Ephraim bemoaning himself thus; Thou hast chastised me, and I was chastised, as a bullock unaccustomed to the yoke: turn thou me, and I shall be turned; for thou art the LORD my God."

When God spoke against Babylon, He said that He was going to use Israel to break in pieces the **yoke** of oxen that belonged to the husbandmen (farmers). (This seems to be referring to defeating the Babylonians.)

- **Jeremiah 51:23:** "I will also break in pieces with thee the shepherd and his flock; and with thee will I break in pieces the husbandman and his yoke of oxen; and with thee will I break in pieces captains and rulers."

There's value in being afflicted and bearing the **yoke**.

- **Lamentations 3:27:** "It is good for a man that he bear the yoke of his youth."

God said that He was going to break the **yokes** of Egypt.

- **Ezekiel 30:18:** "At Tehaphnehes also the day shall be darkened, when I shall break there the yokes of Egypt:

and the pomp of her strength shall cease in her: as for her, a cloud shall cover her, and her daughters shall go into captivity."

In the millennium, God is going to break the bands of the **yoke** that's upon His people.

- **Ezekiel 34:27:** "And the tree of the field shall yield her fruit, and the earth shall yield her increase, and they shall be safe in their land, and shall know that I am the LORD, when I have broken the bands of their yoke, and delivered them out of the hand of those that served themselves of them."

After the evil counselor (the antichrist) afflicts the multitude, God will break his **yoke** and set the multitude free.

- **Nahum 1:13:** "For now will I break his yoke from off thee, and will burst thy bonds in sunder."

We must take the **yoke** of Jesus upon us.

- **Matthew 11:29:** "Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls."

If we take the **yoke** of Jesus upon us then we will find rest for our souls.

- **Matthew 11:29:** "Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls."

The **yoke** of Jesus is easy.

- **Matthew 11:30:** "For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

In the parable of the dinner invitation, one person said he had purchased five **yoke** of oxen and had to go prove them (as if that couldn't wait until the following day).

- **Luke 14:19:** "And another said, I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I go to prove them: I pray thee have me excused."

The Jews shouldn't put the **yoke** of the law of Moses on the Gentiles when they themselves were unable to keep it.

- **Acts 15:10:** "Now therefore why tempt ye God, to put a yoke upon the neck of the disciples, which neither our fathers nor we were able to bear?"

The church must not become **yoked** with unbelievers. This means it may not form alliances with unbelievers, or work with them, or become partners with them.

- **2 Corinthians 6:14:** "Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?"

God requires strict separation between good and evil. He forbids becoming **yoked** with evil and doesn't allow

pragmatism.

- **2 Thessalonians 3:6:** "Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye withdraw yourselves from every brother that walketh disorderly, and not after the tradition which he received of us."