

PREFER, PREFERABLE, PREFERENCE, PREFERRED, PREFERRING

In the Old Testament, it seems that God **preferred** to be called the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, instead of by His name ("I AM").

- **Exodus 3:15:** "And God said moreover unto Moses, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, the LORD God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, hath sent me unto you: this is my name for ever, and this is my memorial unto all generations."

In the Passover, people could use either a sheep or a goat. This means the sacrifice didn't have to be a lamb (although it seems a lamb was generally used, and was **preferred**).

- **Exodus 12:5:** "Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male of the first year: ye shall take it out from the sheep, or from the goats:"

It seems the Israelites believed that cruel and oppressive slavery to people who murdered their children was **preferable** over death.

- **Exodus 14:12:** "Is not this the word that we did tell thee in Egypt, saying, Let us alone, that we may serve the Egyptians? For it had been better for us to serve the Egyptians, than that we should die in the wilderness."

It seems the Israelites **preferred** being slaves in Egypt over

being freed from slavery.

- **Exodus 16:3:** "And the children of Israel said unto them, Would to God we had died by the hand of the LORD in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the flesh pots, and when we did eat bread to the full; for ye have brought us forth into this wilderness, to kill this whole assembly with hunger."

The Israelites weren't grateful for the manna. Instead they complained about it and said they **preferred** the food from Egypt.

- **Numbers 11:6:** "But now our soul is dried away: there is nothing at all, beside this manna, before our eyes."

David (who God chose as the rightful king of Israel after rejecting Saul) decided the best thing for him to do was allow Saul to continue to reign over Israel and flee to the land of the Philistines (who were Israel's enemies). He decided that was **preferable** to bringing Saul to justice and putting an end to his evil. (By this point Saul was guilty of both the mass murder of an entire city of priests, and the genocide of the Gibeonites.)

- **1 Samuel 27:1:** "And David said in his heart, I shall now perish one day by the hand of Saul: there is nothing better for me than that I should speedily escape into the land of the Philistines; and Saul shall despair of me, to seek me any more in any coast of Israel: so shall I escape out of his hand."

David would have **preferred** it if he had been killed, and

Absalom (who was guilty of both murder and rape, and who never repented of any of those sins) would have lived.

- **2 Samuel 18:33:** "And the king was much moved, and went up to the chamber over the gate, and wept: and as he went, thus he said, O my son Absalom, my son, my son Absalom! would God I had died for thee, O Absalom, my son, my son!"

Joab told David that when he mourned over the death of Absalom, he was telling his people that he would have **preferred** it if all of his servants had been killed, and Absalom (who was an unrepentant murderer and rapist) had lived. (That was absolutely true. David would indeed have preferred that, *and actually said so*.)

- **2 Samuel 19:6:** "In that thou lovest thine enemies, and hatest thy friends. For thou hast declared this day, that thou regardest neither princes nor servants: for this day I perceive, that if Absalom had lived, and all we had died this day, then it had pleased thee well."

Ahab **preferred** prophets who prophesied good things about him instead of evil things (even though the ones who prophesied good things were lying, and the ones who prophesied evil things were telling him the truth).

- **1 Kings 22:8:** "And the king of Israel said unto Jehoshaphat, There is yet one man, Micaiah the son of Imlah, by whom we may enquire of the LORD: but I hate him; for he doth not prophesy good concerning me, but evil. And Jehoshaphat said, Let not the king say so."

God has a **preference** when it comes to music. He wants people to sing the psalms to Him, and to accompany them with the music of stringed instruments. (The psaltery was an ancient stringed instrument.) This doesn't mean God forbids using other instruments or singing other holy songs. However, when God commands people to praise Him with a harp, and when the people in Heaven are doing exactly that, we should pay attention.

- **Psalm 33:2:** "Praise the LORD with harp: sing unto him with the psaltery and an instrument of ten strings."
- **Psalm 105:2:** "Sing unto him, sing psalms unto him: talk ye of all his wondrous works."

The wicked **prefer** evil instead of good.

- **Psalm 52:3:** "Thou lovest evil more than good; and lying rather than to speak righteousness. Selah."

The wicked **prefer** lying over speaking what's right. (Some people tell lies because they love lying, not because it benefits them in some way.)

- **Psalm 52:3:** "Thou lovest evil more than good; and lying rather than to speak righteousness. Selah."

The psalmist said he wanted to **prefer** Jerusalem above his chief joy.

- **Psalm 137:6:** "If I do not remember thee, let my tongue cleave to the roof of my mouth; if I prefer not Jerusalem above my chief joy."

The watchmen of Israel **preferred** sleeping instead of doing their job and watching. (It seems God was condemning the religious leadership of Israel for not doing their jobs.)

- **Isaiah 56:10-12:** "His watchmen are blind: they are all ignorant, they are all dumb dogs, they cannot bark; sleeping, lying down, loving to slumber. Yea, they are greedy dogs which can never have enough, and they are shepherds that cannot understand: they all look to their own way, every one for his gain, from his quarter. Come ye, say they, I will fetch wine, and we will fill ourselves with strong drink; and to morrow shall be as this day, and much more abundant."

It seems dragons **preferred** living in desolate places where no people could be found.

- **Jeremiah 49:33:** "And Hazor shall be a dwelling for dragons, and a desolation for ever: there shall no man abide there, nor any son of man dwell in it."

It seems dragons **preferred** living in ruins and desolate places.

- **Jeremiah 51:37:** "And Babylon shall become heaps, a dwellingplace for dragons, an astonishment, and an hissing, without an inhabitant."

The reason Darius **preferred** Daniel was because he had an excellent spirit within him.

- **Daniel 6:1-3:** "It pleased Darius to set over the kingdom an hundred and twenty princes, which should be over the whole kingdom; And over these three presidents; of

whom Daniel was first: that the princes might give accounts unto them, and the king should have no damage. Then this Daniel was preferred above the presidents and princes, because an excellent spirit was in him; and the king thought to set him over the whole realm."

It seems demons **prefer** to possess people instead of animals. (They could have possessed the swine at any time, but instead they only did that when they were cast out of the man.)

- **Luke 8:33:** "Then went the devils out of the man, and entered into the swine: and the herd ran violently down a steep place into the lake, and were choked."

The Lord Jesus Christ is to be **preferred** over John the Baptist.

- **John 1:15:** "John bare witness of him, and cried, saying, This was he of whom I spake, He that cometh after me is preferred before me: for he was before me."

Even though Paul didn't sail from Troas to Assos and **preferred** to walk there alone, he boarded the ship at Assos and sailed with the group from that point on.

- **Acts 20:13-15:** "And we went before to ship, and sailed unto Assos, there intending to take in Paul: for so had he appointed, minding himself to go afoot. And when he met with us at Assos, we took him in, and came to Mitylene. And we sailed thence, and came the next day over against Chios; and the next day we arrived at Samos, and tarried at Trogyllium; and the next day we came to Miletus."

The wicked **prefer** idols that are made in the image of people and animals over the glory of God.

- **Romans 1:23:** "And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things."

Paul wasn't against the gift of tongues, and he also wasn't against people speaking in tongues in the church. However, he **preferred** that people prophesied because that edified the church. (Paul taught that speaking in tongues only edified the church if there was someone present who could interpret what was being said.)

- **1 Corinthians 14:5:** "I would that ye all spake with tongues but rather that ye prophesied: for greater is he that prophesieth than he that speaketh with tongues, except he interpret, that the church may receive edifying."

The apostle John had many things to tell the church, but he **preferred** to do it in person instead of by letter.

- **2 John 1:12:** "Having many things to write unto you, I would not write with paper and ink: but I trust to come unto you, and speak face to face, that our joy may be full."