

COMMON HEBREW IDIOMS ?



THIEF IN THE NIGHT

1Ths. 5:2-5 *For you yourselves know full well that the day of **Yahveh will come just like a thief in the night.*** 3 *While they are saying, "Peace and safety!" then destruction will come upon them suddenly like labor pains upon a woman with child, and they will not escape. **But you, brethren, are not in darkness, that the day would overtake you like a thief;** 5 **for you are all sons of light and sons of day. We are not of night nor of darkness;** "*

Rev. 3:3 *"Remember therefore what you have received and heard; and keep it, and repent. If therefore you will not wake up, **I will come like a thief,** and you will not know at what hour I will come upon you."*

Rev. 16:15 *("Behold, **I am coming like a thief.** Blessed is the one who stays awake and keeps his garments, lest he walk about naked and men see his shame.")*

"Thief in the night" is a Hebrew idiom. To help visualize this day of Yeshua coming like a thief in the night (idiom), I must relate a practice of the High Priest in the days of the Temple. During that time there was always one priest assigned specifically to keep the fire under the altar burning throughout the night, so that when the morning oblation sacrifices were ready, the fire would be stoked up and hot. Sometimes the High Priest would check up on the priest who was supposed to be looking after the fire. If he caught him sleeping, he would take coals from the fire, put them in an ash tray and sprinkle them around the priest sleeping on duty. He would sprinkle hot coals on the outside edge of his garment and then retreat. As the coals burned away the linen garment, the priest would get nice and warm, then awake, scared, on fire, and embarrassed.

The Christians who think they don't have to follow Torah are like the priest, all warm and cozy before the fire comes. Only the fire they will experience will not go out. This lesson never needed repeating. Yeshua is the High Priest and when He comes back it will be like a thief in the night. We are to be His priests looking after His Temple within us. We must always be sure that the fire in us never dies out. Yeshua comes back as a thief in the night only for those who don't know His Word (Torah). All His priests are to be alert and ready at all times, making sure they are always pursuing His Torah. This revelation can also be related to the parable of the ten virgins. (see also Matt. 24:42-51, Jer. 2:26, Luke 12:39, 2Pet. 3:10, Rev. 3:3, 16:15)

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