

Questions and Answers

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<http://messianicradio.podbean.com>

Hi Michael,

Thank you for your question, “**what do Kidneys represented in the Hebrew Bible?**”.

Kidney or in Hebrew: **כליה** transliterated: Kilyah were considered the seat of emotions. This is not so clear in the various translations, as they translated it differently.

Here the most important references, please note that in the Hebrew Older Testament it uses the word (כליתי) **כליה** - pronounced **kil-yaw** (emphasis on the last syllable, is always in the feminine and in the plural), it is curious that no translation consistently translate it as kidney. The same translation uses reins, heart, mind and soul; this is with all translations both new and old. With one exception that is all the references in Leviticus are consistent translated as kidney, I am sure there is a good reason.

Please note here are the most important references not all (excluding those that only mentioned the animal kidneys on the altar). And I have included a most insightful passage from the Keil & Delitzsch Commentary on Lev 4:3-12.

While you asked “what do Kidneys represented in the Hebrew Bible”, I have also added one New Testament reference as the meaning is the same, the Greek word νεφρός – pronounced **nephros**, has the same figurative meaning namely the inmost or the *mind*. And remember that all the New Testament was written by Jews, (with the possible exception of the writings of Luke).

Hope that this satisfies your quest of knowledge on kidneys.

All references are from the ASV:

Job 19:27 Whom I, even I, shall see, on my side, And mine eyes shall behold, and not as a stranger. My heart is consumed within me.

Psalms 7:9 O let the wickedness of the wicked come to an end, but establish thou the righteous: For the righteous God trieth the minds and hearts.

Psalms 16:7 I will bless JHVH, who hath given me counsel; Yea, my heart instructeth me in the night seasons.

Psalms 26:2 Examine me, O JHVH, and prove me; Try my heart and my mind.

Psalms 73:21 For my soul was grieved, And I was pricked in my heart:

Psalms 139:13 For thou didst form my inward parts: Thou didst cover me in my mother's womb.

Proverbs 23:16 Yea, my heart will rejoice, When thy lips speak right things.

Isaiah 49:4 But I said, I have labored in vain, I have spent my strength for nought and vanity; yet surely the justice *due* to me is with JHVH, and my recompense with my God.

Jeremiah 11:20 But, O JHVH of hosts, who judgest righteously, who triest the heart and the mind, I shall see thy vengeance on them; for unto thee have I revealed my cause.

Jeremiah 12:2 Thou hast planted them, yea, they have taken root; they grow, yea, they bring forth fruit: thou art near in their mouth, and far from their heart.

Jeremiah 20:12 But, O Jehovah of hosts, that triest the righteous, that seest the heart and the mind, let me see thy vengeance on them; for unto thee have I revealed my cause.

Revelation 2:23 And I will kill her children with death; and all the churches shall know that I am he that searcheth the reins and hearts: and I will give unto each one of you according to your works.

<QUOTE>

Keil & Delitzsch Commentary on Leviticus 4:3-12:

“Now, if the flesh of the victim represented the body of the offerer as the organ of his soul, the fat portions inside the body, together with **the kidneys, which were regarded as the seat of the tenderest and deepest emotions**, can only have set forth the better part or inmost kernel of the man, the *ἔσω ἄνθρωπος* (Romans 7:22; Ephesians 3:16). By burning the fat portions upon the altar, the better part of human nature was given up in symbol to the purifying fire of the Holy Spirit of God, that it might be purified from the dross of sin, and ascend in its glorified essence to heaven, for a sweet savour unto the Lord (Leviticus 4:31).”

<END- QUOTE>

Hoping that the Bible verses and the insightful comments from the Keil and Delitzsch commentary combined give you a better insight to kidneys in the Bible.

Blessings in Jesus the Lord of the World, *Yeshua Adon Olam*

Paul

Tools for Digging Deeper: Bible Program

Esword: <http://www.e-sword.net>

Bible Translation is the ASV & HOT
Commentary: Keil & Delitzsch

Commentary on the Old Testament by
Johann Keil & Franz Delitzsch.

**Both the translations and the
commentary are modules in E-Sword.**



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