

STUDY LITERATURE

Archaic Words in the Bible

Most of the so-called "archaic" words in the Bible (for example, the King James Version) can be understood by the context, while many others must be looked up in a Webster's 1828 Dictionary. The following list should serve as some help.

Biblical Word	Meaning
abjects	<i>outcasts</i>
adamant	<i>very hard stone</i>
affinity	<i>related by marriage</i>
afore	<i>before</i>
amerce	<i>fine</i>
amiable	<i>lovely</i>
anathema	<i>cursed</i>
anon	<i>immediately</i>
apothecary	<i>spice dealer</i>
assay	<i>attempt</i>
assuage	<i>restrain</i>
avouched	<i>declared</i>
beeves	<i>cattle</i>
besom	<i>broom</i>
bestead	<i>facing difficulty</i>
bewrayeth	<i>betrays</i>
blains	<i>boils, sores</i>
bowels	<i>affections</i>
bruit	<i>rumor, report</i>
buckler	<i>small shield</i>
bunches	<i>humps</i>
careless	<i>free from care, secure</i>
carriages	<i>baggage</i>
causeway	<i>paved road</i>
chamberlain	<i>household manager</i>
chapiter	<i>head of a column</i>
charger	<i>large dish</i>
chode	<i>complained</i>
churl	<i>miserly</i>
clouts	<i>rags</i>
coasts	<i>borders</i>
cockatrice	<i>Adder, cobra</i>
cockle	<i>weeds</i>
coffer	<i>box</i>
collops	<i>lumps</i>
comeliness	<i>beauty</i>
compass	<i>go around</i>
confectionaries	<i>ointment makers</i>
contemn	<i>despise</i>
convocation	<i>assembly</i>

Biblical Word	Meaning
coulter	<i>plough blade</i>
covert	<i>shelter</i>
cumbered	<i>worried</i>
cunning	<i>skill</i>
curious	<i>embroidered</i>
curious arts	<i>sorcery</i>
custom	<i>tax</i>
damsel	<i>girl</i>
daysman	<i>mediator</i>
describe	<i>divide</i>
descry	<i>search out</i>
diadem	<i>head dress, crown</i>
dispensation	<i>stewardship, distribution</i>
distaff	<i>rod for holding wool</i>
divers	<i>different</i>
divination	<i>magical prediction</i>
earnest	<i>deposit, pledge</i>
emerods	<i>swellings</i>
ensue	<i>to follow</i>
eschew	<i>avoid</i>
fain	<i>gladly</i>
fetters	<i>shackles</i>
fray	<i>frighten</i>
fret	<i>to be worried, angry</i>
froward	<i>perverse</i>
fuller	<i>cleaner of cloth</i>
garner	<i>barn</i>
gier eagle	<i>vulture</i>
gin	<i>trap</i>
greaves	<i>leg amour</i>
grisled	<i>grey</i>
hart	<i>deer</i>
helve	<i>ax handle</i>
holpen	<i>helped</i>
hosen	<i>stockings</i>
hough	<i>cut hamstrings</i>
husbandman	<i>farmer</i>
implead	<i>accuse</i>
jangling	<i>foolish talking</i>
kine	<i>cows</i>

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laden	<i>loaded</i>
laud	<i>praise</i>
leasing	<i>lying</i>
leaven	<i>yeast</i>
lewd	<i>vicious</i>
listeth	<i>chooses</i>
mammon	<i>riches</i>
maul	<i>hammer</i>
mete	<i>to measure</i>
mitre	<i>head dress</i>
muffler	<i>facial scarf</i>
murrain	<i>cattle plague</i>
noisome	<i>very hurtful</i>
pate	<i>head</i>
peradventure	<i>perhaps</i>
pilled	<i>peeled</i>
polled	<i>cut hair</i>
post	<i>mail man</i>
potsherd	<i>broken pottery</i>
pottage	<i>soup</i>
profane	<i>dishonorable</i>
proselyte	<i>convert</i>
publican	<i>tax collector</i>
pulse	<i>vegetables</i>
purtenance	<i>internal organs</i>
quaternion	<i>group of 4 guards</i>
quick	<i>alive</i>
quit	<i>behave</i>
rail	<i>boldly speak against</i>
rase	<i>destroy</i>
rereward	<i>rear guard</i>
rue	<i>a herb</i>
savour	<i>taste</i>
scall	<i>sore</i>
scrip	<i>bag</i>
seethe	<i>boil</i>
severally	<i>separately</i>
shambles	<i>meat market</i>
silverlings	<i>silver coins</i>
sleight	<i>deceitfulness</i>
sod	<i>boiled</i>
sottish	<i>foolish</i>
stay	<i>support</i>
strake	<i>streak</i>
subtil	<i>sly, cunning</i>

Biblical Word	Meaning
tabering	<i>hitting</i>
taches	<i>fastenings</i>
tell	<i>count</i>
tares	<i>weeds</i>
tire	<i>head dress</i>
traffick	<i>trade</i>
trow	<i>think</i>
usury	<i>interest</i>
vagabond	<i>fugitive</i>
vaunt	<i>boast</i>
venture	<i>at random</i>
vestments	<i>apparel</i>
vex	<i>trouble</i>
victuals	<i>food</i>
vile	<i>useless, wicked</i>
wist	<i>knew</i>
wont	<i>accustomed</i>
wot	<i>know</i>
wroth	<i>wrathful, angry</i>