

“circumcise” and “circumcision” in the Bible

Hebrew, *molah*, “circumcision,” only Exodus 4.26 in the Masoretic Text

Hebrew, *mol*, “to circumcise”

Genesis: chapter 17, 11x; 21.4; chapter 34, 5x

Exodus 12,44, 48: any slave who has been purchased may eat of it after he has been circumcised... ***If a foreigner who resides with you wants to celebrate the passover to YHWH, all his males shall be circumcised***; then he may draw near to celebrate it; he shall be regarded as a native of the land. But no uncircumcised person shall eat of it

Leviticus 12.3: “On the eighth day the flesh of [your male son] foreskin shall be circumcised.

Deuteronomy 10.16: “Circumcise, then, the ***foreskin of your heart***, and do not be stubborn any longer.”

Deuteronomy 30.6: “YHWH your God will ***circumcise your heart*** and the heart of your descendants, so that you will love YHWH your God with all your heart and with all your soul, in order that you may live.

Joshua: 5.3-7: all male Israelites circumcised

Jeremiah: 4.4: “Circumcise yourselves to YHWH, remove the ***foreskin of your hearts***, O people of Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem, or else my wrath will go forth like fire, and burn with no one to quench it, because of the evil of your doings.”

9.25-26: The days are surely coming, says YHWH, when I will attend to all those who are circumcised only in the foreskin: Egypt, Judah, Edom, the Ammonites, Moab, and all those with shaven temples who live in the desert. For all these nations are uncircumcised, and all the house of Israel is ***uncircumcised in heart***.

Greek, *peritomē*, “circumcision”

John: 7.22-23: Moses gave you circumcision (it is, of course, not from Moses, but from the patriarchs), and you circumcise a man on the sabbath. If a man receives circumcision on the sabbath in order that the law of Moses may not be broken, are you angry with me because I healed a man's whole body on the sabbath?

Acts 7.8: “Then he gave him the covenant of circumcision.”

Acts 10.45; 11.2: [current context]

Romans: 15x

Galatians 2.7ff: [Paul's witness to the Acts 15 “conference”]

Galatians 5.6, 11-12: For ***in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision counts for anything; the only thing that counts is faith working through love***.... But my friends, why am I still being persecuted if I am still preaching circumcision? In that case the offense of the cross has been removed. I wish those who unsettle you would castrate themselves!

Galatians 6.15: ***For neither circumcision nor uncircumcision is anything; but a new creation is everything!***

Ephesians 2.11: So then, remember that at one time you Gentiles by birth, called “the uncircumcision” by those who are called “the circumcision” --a physical circumcision made in the flesh by human hands—

Philippians 3.3-5: "For it is we who are the circumcision, who worship in the Spirit of God and boast in Christ Jesus and have no confidence in the flesh-- even though I, too, have reason for confidence in the flesh. If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel"

Colossians 2.11: In him also you were circumcised with **a spiritual circumcision**, by putting off the body of the flesh in the circumcision of Christ

Colossians 3.11: In that renewal there is **no longer Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised**, barbarian, Scythian, slave and free; but Christ is all and in all!

Colossians 4.11: These are the only ones of the circumcision among my co-workers for the kingdom of God, and they have been a comfort to me.

Greek, *peritemnō*, "to circumcise," matching the Hebrew above

1 Maccabees 1.60-63: "According to the decree, **they put to death the women who had their children circumcised, and their families and those who circumcised them**; and they hung the infants from their mothers' necks. But many in Israel stood firm and were **resolved in their hearts not to eat unclean food**. They chose to die rather than to be defiled by food or to profane the holy covenant; and they did die. [cf. 2 Maccabees 6.10]

Luke: 1.59: On the eighth day they came to circumcise the child, and they were going to name him Zechariah after his father.

2.21: After eight days had passed, it was time to circumcise the child; and he was called Jesus

John: 7.22-23: Moses gave you circumcision (it is, of course, not from Moses, but from the patriarchs), and you circumcise a man on the sabbath. If a man receives circumcision on the sabbath in order that the law of Moses may not be broken, are you angry with me because I healed a man's whole body on the sabbath?

1 Corinthians 7.18: "Was anyone at the time of his call already circumcised? Let him not seek to remove the marks of circumcision. Was anyone at the time of his call uncircumcised? Let him not seek circumcision."

Galatians 5.2-3: I, Paul, am telling you that if you let yourselves be circumcised, Christ will be of no benefit to you. Once again I testify to every man who lets himself be circumcised that he is obliged to obey the entire law.

Galatians 6.12-13: It is those who want to make a good showing in the flesh that try to compel you to be circumcised--only that they may not be persecuted for the cross of Christ. Even the circumcised do not themselves obey the law, but they want you to be circumcised so that they may boast about your flesh.

Colossians 2.11: In him also you were circumcised with **a spiritual circumcision**, by putting off the body of the flesh in the circumcision of Christ;