

The Doctrine of N^etsîyb¹

Topics		
The Root Verb	BDB Definitions	Gesenius Definitions
Occurrences in Scripture		Conclusions
Charts, Maps and Doctrines		
	N ^e tsîyb in Scripture	

Preface: The word n^etsîyb is found in several interesting places in Scripture—primarily in the historical books of the nation Israel (Samuel, Kings and Chronicles). Since this is its first use, I thought we should perhaps take a better look at it.

1. The root verb for n^etsîyb is nâtsab (נָצַב) [pronounced *naw-TSAH^BV*], which means *to station oneself, to take one's stand, to stand up, to set something upright, to erect*. This appears to be the root for a great many words. Strong's #5324 BDB #662.
2. Masculine noun: n^etsîyb (נָצַב) [pronounced *n^eTZEE^BV*]. Strong's #5333 BDB #662.
 - a. BDB definitions:
 - i. *Pillar, post*
 - ii. *Prefect, deputy*
 - iii. Also, apparently, *a garrison, a post*
 - b. Gesenius definitions:
 - i. *One set over, a prefect, a leader*
 - ii. *Something placed or set;*
 - (1) hence, *a statue, an idol*
 - (2) *A military station, a garrison*. This appears to be the most common use of n^etsîyb.
 - c. This word is found 11 or 12 times in Scripture: Gen. 19:26 1Sam. 10:5 13:3, 4 2Sam. 8:6, 14 1Kings 4:19 1Chron. 11:16 18:13 2Chron. 8:10 17:2. These are listed **below** from the MKJV; if n^etsîyb is in the plural, then I have italicized it. 1Sam. 10:5 is the only passage where this typically is not rendered by a plural in the English, although it is plural in the Hebrew.
 - i. **Gen 19:26** *But his wife looked back from behind him, and she became a pillar of salt.* When Lot's wife looked back toward Sodom and Gomorrah, she became a *pillar* or *statue* of salt. Gen. 19:26
 - ii. **1Sa 10:5** *After that you shall come to the hill of God, where the garrison of the Philistines is. And it will happen to you when you come there to the city, even you shall meet a company of prophets coming down from the high place with a harp and a tambourine and a flute and a lyre before them. And they shall prophesy.* Samuel predicts what events will transpire in Saul's life, and one deals with Saul going back to his hometown (often mistranslated *hill of God*) and the particular place referenced is further identified in 1Sam. 10:5 as where the Philistine *garrison* is. It would be much more likely for this to be an outpost rather than a reference to an individual.
 - iii. **1Sa 13:3–4** *And Jonathan struck the garrison of the Philistines in Geba, and the Philistines heard. And Saul blew the ram's horn throughout all the land, saying, Let the Hebrews hear. And all Israel heard, saying, Saul has struck a garrison of the Philistines, and also Israel has made himself stink to the Philistines. And the people were called to Gilgal after Saul.* In 1Sam. 13:3–4, Jonathan is said to have struck down the *garrison* of Philistines (because Jonathan is under the command of Saul, it is Saul who is said to have done this in v. 4). This would appear to be an outpost, a military station or a garrison. Some do interpret this as his having taken out a

¹ Dude!

- Philistine prefect or deputy; however, this would be in start contrast to his great bravery exhibited in 1Sam. 14.
- iv. **2Sa 8:6** And David put ***garrisons*** in Syria of Damascus. And the Syrians became servants to David, bringing gifts. And Jehovah preserved David wherever he went. **2Sa 8:14** And he put ***garrisons*** in Edom. He put ***garrisons*** throughout all Edom, and all the men of Edom became David's servants. And Jehovah preserved David wherever he went. **1Ch 18:13** And he put ***guards*** in Edom. And all the men of Edom *became* David's servants. And Jehovah kept David safe wherever he went. David killed 22,000 Syrians and then set up *garrisons* in Syria, making them his servants who brought him tribute. He also established garrisons in Edom. 2Sam. 8:6, 14 1Chron. 18:13
 - v. **1Ki 4:19** Geber the son of Uri *was* in the land of Gilead, the land of Sihon king of the Amorites, and Og king of Bashan; and *he was the only officer* in the land;... 1Kings 4:19 is one of the very few places where *n^otsiyb* clearly refers to a *prefect* or *deputy*. There is a reference to Geber, who is called the only *prefect* in the land of Gilead.
 - vi. **1Ch 11:16** And David *was* then in the stronghold, and the Philistines ***garrison*** *was* then at Bethlehem. We find this in 1Chron. 11:16, which reads: *And David was then in the stronghold, while the garrison of the Philistines [was] then in Bethlehem.* This almost sounds like there was only was Philistine garrison at a time; however, that is by implication and not by a clear, direct statement. Furthermore, it could be that there was only one garrison at that time, but that would not mean that in previous decades there were not several throughout central Israel.
 - vii. **2Ch 8:10** And these *were* the chief of King Solomon's ***officers***, two hundred and fifty who bore rule over the people. 2Chron. 8:10 makes a reference to 250 men of Solomon who were the chiefs of *deputies* (or, *garrisons*).
 - viii. **2Ch 17:2** And *he* placed troops in all the fortified cities of Judah, and set ***troops*** in the land of Judah and in the cities of Ephraim which Asa his father had taken. Jehoshaphat placed troops and *garrisons* throughout the land of Judah in order to strengthen his control over southern Israel. 2Chron. 17:2
- d. Conclusions: What I was hoping to find was a pattern where we could easily determine that *n^otsiyb* means something specific in the singular and something specific in the plural as well. However, in the singular, I think we can reasonably state that this would rarely refer to a *guard* or an *officer* (with the exception of 1Kings 4:19). Most of the time in the singular, this appears to refer to a garrison, post or a military presence. In the plural, this appears to mean *guards*, *officers*, *soldiers* [*stationed in a particular area—generally hostile*] and possibly *garrisons*.

N^otsiyb occurs 11 times in Scripture (I italicized the plural form):

***N^otsiyb* in Scripture**

Gen 19:26 But his wife looked back from behind him, and she became a ***pillar*** of salt.

1Sa 10:5 After that you shall come to the hill of God, where the ***garrison*** of the Philistines *is*. And it will happen to you when you come there to the city, even you shall meet a company of prophets coming down from the high place with a harp and a tambourine and a flute and a lyre before them. And they shall prophesy.

1Sa 13:3–4 And Jonathan struck the ***garrison*** of the Philistines in Geba, and the Philistines heard. And Saul blew the ram's horn throughout all the land, saying, Let the Hebrews hear. And all Israel heard, saying, Saul has struck a ***garrison*** of the Philistines, and also Israel has made himself stink to the Philistines. And the people were called to Gilgal after Saul.

2Sa 8:6 And David put ***garrisons*** in Syria of Damascus. And the Syrians became servants to David, bringing gifts. And Jehovah preserved David wherever he went.

N^etsîyb in Scripture

2Sa 8:14 And he put ***garrisons*** in Edom. He put ***garrisons*** throughout all Edom, and all the men of Edom became David's servants. And Jehovah preserved David wherever he went.

1Ki 4:19 Geber the son of Uri *was* in the land of Gilead, the land of Sihon king of the Amorites, and Og king of Bashan; and *he was the only* ***officer*** in the land;...

1Ch 11:16 And David *was* then in the stronghold, and the Philistines ***garrison*** *was* then at Bethlehem.

1Ch 18:13 And he put ***guards*** in Edom. And all the men of Edom *became* David's servants. And Jehovah kept David safe wherever he went.

2Ch 8:10 And these *were* the chief of King Solomon's ***officers***, two hundred and fifty who bore rule over the people. [This is a disputed reading; however, n^etsîyb seems to be the most reasonable reading].

2Ch 17:2 And *he* placed troops in all the fortified cities of Judah, and set ***troops*** in the land of Judah and in the cities of Ephraim which Asa his father had taken.

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