

# Word Study H2564 *chemar* slime

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## Introduction

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### H2564 *chemar*<sup>KJC 3</sup> slime<sup>(pits) 3</sup>

#### חמר

From [H2560](#); *bitumen* (as *rising* to the surface): - slime (-pit).

KJC: **slime, 2**, [Gen 11:3](#), [Exo 2:3](#), **slimepits, 1**, [Gen 14:10](#)

### H2560 *chamar*

#### חמר

A primitive root; properly to *boil up*; hence to *ferment* (with scum); to *glow* (with redness); as denominative (from [H2564](#)) to *smear* with pitch: - daub, foul, be red, trouble.

LXX related word(s) [G5015](#) tarasso

KJC: **troubled, 3**, [Psa 46:3](#), [Lam 1:20](#), [Lam 2:11](#); **daubed, 1** [Exo 2:3](#); **foul, 1** [Job 16:16](#)

## ISBE on Slime; Slime Pits

slīm, slīm´pits (חמר, *ḥēmār*; Septuagint ἄσφαλτος, *ásphaltos*; Vulgate (Jerome's Latin Bible, 390-405 A.D.) *bitumen*; the Revised Version margin “bitumen”; compare Arabic *ḥummar*, “bitumen”; and compare חמר, *ḥōmer*, “clay,” “mortar”): In the account of the ark in [Gen 6:14](#), כפר, *kōpher* Septuagint ἄσφαλτος, *ásphaltos*; Vulgate: *bitumen*; compare Arabic *kufṛ*, “pitch”) does not necessarily denote vegetable pitch, but may well mean bitumen. The same may be said of זפת, *zepheth*, “pitch” (compare Arabic *zift*, “pitch”), in [Exo 2:3](#) and [Isa 34:9](#). The word “slime” occurs in the following passages: “And they had brick for stone, and slime had they for mortar” ([Gen 11:3](#)); “Now the vale of Siddim was full of slime pits” ([Gen 14:10](#), margin “bitumen pits”); “She took for him an ark of bulrushes, and daubed it with slime and with pitch” ([Exo 2:3](#)).

Bitumen is a hydrocarbon allied to petroleum and natural gas. It is a lustrous black solid, breaking with a conchoidal fracture, burning with a yellow flame, and melting when ignited. It is probably derived from natural gas and petroleum by a process of oxidation and evaporation, and its occurrence may be taken as a sign that other hydrocarbons are or have been present in the strata. It is found in small lumps and larger masses in the cretaceous limestone on the west side of the Dead Sea, and there is reason to believe that considerable quantities of it rise to the surface of the Dead Sea during earthquakes. In ancient times it was exported to Egypt to be used in embalming mummies. Important mines of it exist at *Hāsbeiya* near Mt. Hermon and in North Syria. Springs of liquid bituminous matter exist in Mesopotamia, where according to Herodotus and other classical writers it was used as mortar with sun-dried bricks. Various conjectures have been made as to the part played by bitumen in the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah. Diodorus Siculus calls the Dead Sea *λίμνη ἀσφαλτίτις*, *līmnē asphaltítis*, “lake of asphalt.” See SIDDIM; CITIES OF THE PLAIN.

### ISBE on Pitch

pich: The translation of the noun *לִפְר*, *kōpher*, and the verb *כָּפַר*, *kāphar*, in [Gen 6:14](#) and of the noun *זִפְת*, *zepheth*, in [Exo 2:3](#); [Isa 34:9](#). In [Gen 6:14](#) the words are the ordinary forms for “covering,” “cover,” so that the translation “pitch” is largely guesswork, aided by the Septuagint, which reads *ἄσφαλτος*, *ásphaltos*, “bitumen,” here, and by the fact that pitch is a usual “covering” for vessels. The meaning of *zepheth*, however, is fixed by the obvious Dead Sea imagery of [Isa 34:9-15](#) - the streams and land of Edom are to become burning bitumen, like the sites of Sodom and Gomorrah. In [Exo 2:3](#) *zepheth* is combined with *hēmār*, which also means bitumen ([Gen 14:10](#); see SLIME), and the distinction between the words (different consistencies of the same substance?) is not clear.

See <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Asphalt> where it describes it as a water proofing material