

Word Study H5414 *nathan* give, put

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This is a very common word, but what got my attention by looking at the WordStudy® definition was that it had been categorized into three parts. The first part, to give as an “exchange of tangible property”, got my attention because of the legal concept *quid pro quo* (something for something). This is most important when honoring your sacred contract with YHVH by bringing a “presentation of an offering to the Lord”.

H5414 *nathan* ^{KJC 1,984} give, put

נָתַן

A verb meaning to give, to place. This verb is used approximately two thousand times in the Old Testament; therefore, it is understandable that it should have a broad semantic range. However, it is possible to identify three general categories of semantic variation:

1. to **give**, whether it be **the exchange of tangible property** ([Gen 3:6](#); [Exo 5:18](#)); the **production of fruit** ([Psa 1:3](#)); the **presentation of an offering to the Lord** ([Exo 30:14](#)); the passing on of knowledge and instruction ([Pro 9:9](#)); the granting of permission ([Gen 20:6](#)). Often, God provides either preservation ([Lev 26:4](#); [Deu 11:14-15](#); [Jer 45:5](#)); or plague ([Exo 9:23](#)).
2. This Hebrew word also means **to put, to place**, or something literally placed: the luminaries in the sky ([Gen 1:17](#)); God's bow in the clouds ([Gen 9:13](#)); the ark on a cart ([1Sa 6:8](#)); the abomination in the temple. It could also be something figuratively placed: an obstacle ([Eze 3:20](#)); God's Spirit ([Isa 42:1](#)); reproach ([Jer 23:40](#)); curses ([Deu 30:7](#)).
3. The word can also mean **to make** or **to constitute**, such as the prohibition against making incisions in one's flesh ([Lev 19:28](#)); God making Abraham into a father of many nations ([Gen 17:5](#)); or Solomon making silver as stones ([1Ki 10:27](#)).